

The regular meeting of the Town Board was held on February 13, 2024, at the Hermon Town Hall.

Present was Supervisor Arthur Baker.

Council Sheri Smith, Robert LaClair Jr.

Absent John Reed and Kathy Carpenter.

Also present were Chris Stransky, Larry Denesha, Shain Brunet, Ronnie Perrin, Brent McAdam, Sharon Brunet, Kim Matthews, Chris Velez, Michael McQuade, Duane Taylor, Jacinda Barney, Kate and John Stransky, Jeff Sykes, Eileen Lloyd, Steve Allen, Government student Chelsea Matthews.

Clarkson College students/Seniors (Professor Backus) Liam Gilden, Miles Hall, Quinn Risen, Anwasha Das, Michael Quinn, Connor Chamber, Troy McDonald.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance said by all. Minutes of the previous meeting as submitted were approved on motion by Robert LaClair Jr. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.

Welcome to everyone.

#### **County Legislator Larry Denesha-February 2024**

At the SLC Legislators meeting, several Resolutions were passed.

- “Modifying the 2023 Budget for SLC Treasurers Office for additional sales tax distribution”- \$3,025,000.00
- “Modifying the 2024 Budget for Department of Highways for paving projects and authorizing an additional 44.35 miles of paving.”
- 2024 Budget included 34.88 miles to be paved. This resolution adds the additional 44.35 miles for a total of 79.23 miles.
- SLC has 573 miles of highway and has generally paved approximately 30 miles annually. 2022 & 2023 had an additional 10 each year (Fund Balance)
- Passed Resolution “Opposing a proposal in the NYS Governors Executive Budget to remove the “Save Harmless Clause”, Allowing cuts to Foundation Aid and Disproportionately affecting certain School Districts in St. Lawrence County.
- RVRDA Grant applications due by April 15(max application\$20K) community development, environmental improvements
- St. Lawrence County IDA 315-379-9806 [www.slcida.com/rvrda](http://www.slcida.com/rvrda)
- Emergency Services Building renovations, closure of Pearl Street from State Street to entrance of Community Bank-(February 15)
- Project kick-off meeting with contractors on Thursday February 1.
- 19% Fund Balance as of January 22
- Clifton-Fine Hospital conversion from Critical Access to Rural Emergency Hospital. Presentation \_Tom Sauter on January 29
- Proposal to open a Satellite DSS Office in Gouverneur. Currently over past 2 years, have opened satellites in Ogdensburg, Massena & Star Lake (at Clifton Fine Hospital). Decentralization of services will allow a greater number of citizens with increased accessibility to services.

- School Resource Officer-SRO discussion on February 13 (currently Hermon Dekalb, Edwards Knox & Heuvelton)

## **RESOLUTION 1-2024**

**Robert LaClair Jr. made a motion in support of an increase for SLC Legislators in funding for Office of Aging. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.**

### **Officers Reports**

#### **Supervisor Arthur Baker**

Governor wanting to close two state prisons-Gouverneur and Ogdensburg. Supervisors around the area is asking all Towns to do up a Resolution to oppose the closures.

**Robert LaClair Jr. made a motion to do Resolution 2-2024; in an effort of not closing Gouverneur and Ogdensburg prisons, with a provision that ALL New York State prisons remain open and will need to do resolutions as needed. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.**

Town of Hermon is selected for a free study-Drinking Water Source Protection. Supervisor Baker said he'd get ahold of Anthony Young for some answers.

Chris called Joe at the Health Department-will get back to him with some questions and answers.

1<sup>st</sup> Water Committee Meeting held on February 10 with Dekalb.

#### **Highway Superintendent Shain Brunet**

- Plowed and sanded 33 times.
- Cut and cleared trees from windstorm with the help of the fire department.
- Run and share generator at pump house during power outage.
- Helped county highway with clearing trees off road.
- The pickup plow is repaired and back in service, savings of \$4000 by repairing and not buying new.
- Master switches installed on heavy equipment and trucks for insurance purposes.
- Mandy trained to run plow truck with Brent.
- Christmas ornaments were taken down with the help of Dekalb with their safety basket.
- Changed 3 door locks at town barn with passcode tracking.
- Changed front wheel bearing on the 1-ton pickup.
- Repaired pickup sander with new module.
- Repaired steering column on tractor.
- Cutting and chipping brush on Jonesville Road.
- Approved by supervisor to hire full time MEO, Matt Holly was hired and will start on 2/26/2024.

#### **Chris Stransky-Water Report January 2024**

Total Discharge 3,926,000

Total Pumped	2,524,700
Hermon	1,959,300
Dekalb	565,400

Worked on the NYS Water Withdrawal; SPEDES; and the Dekalb/Hermon Agreement.

Also need to get Board Approval for purchases with the Pee Wee Association Grant monies.

**The Town Board made the motion to allow Chris to make the purchases on behalf of the Pee Wee Association. All in favor and motion carried.**

**\*Sheri Smith had to leave the meeting to go to work.**

Eileen Lloyd asked the question of who owned the property where the flag pole and monument used to be. It was explained it was previously owned by the Village at the time of Dissolution. Possibly now the current owner. The monument was moved and a new flag and pole are in McBrier Park now.

Clarkson college students from Professor Backus senior class are here to give a presentation with 4 possible solutions about some uses they have researched and explored into how it could benefit the Town of Hermon from having a fifth spring.

Liam Gilde, Miles Hall, Quinn Risen, Anwasha Das, Michael Quinn, Connor Chamber, Troy McDonald.

Connor is Team Leader, and they have 4 possible ideas-solutions.

- 1. Liam-A Bottling Plant-Town of Hermon owned and operated. This would create jobs.**
- 2. Michael-Bulk Sales- a million-gallon tank for storage and transportation. Could distribute to local schools, breweries, any commercial demand for water.**
- 3. Quinn Risen-Bulk sales-neighboring towns, possible Recreation Center/Fitness, summer camps.**
- 4. Miles Hall-Fish Hatchery**
- 5. Troy McDonald-2 schools in the immediate area, Hermon-Dekalb and Edwards-Knox, they both have wells and a pool at Edwards-Knox.**

Town Board meeting Closed at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully,

Karen Wayering

Town Clerk

The Town Board held a Board Meeting on February 27, 2024; to finish up the regular meeting that was held on February 13 at the Hermon Town offices at 6:00 p.m.

Present was Supervisor Arthur Baker.

Council Robert LaClair Jr., John Reed, Kathy Carpenter and Sheri Smith.

Also present were: Chris Stransky, Shain Brunet, Brent McAdam, John and Kate Stransky, Kim Matthews, Penny Blandin, Dawn Daniels, Jacinda Barney, Amy and Bob Smith, Sharon Brunet, Veronica Lamb, Ed Carpenter

**Kathy Carpenter made the motion to pay the monthly bills. Seconded by Robert LaClair Jr. All in favor and carried.**

**Resolution 3-2024 for payment application #1 for TJ Fiacco. Robert LaClair made motion. Seconded by John Reed. All in favor and carried.**

Supervisor Baker was asked by Marlene Carvel about the money for Hermon and Dekalb Senior Citizens. There is \$500.00 in the budget.

Library discussion was held.

**Robert LaClair Jr. made the motion to have Barton & Loguidice to put it all out for bid on first phase of the library project, 155,000. grant money. Seconded by John Reed. All in favor and carried.**

Supervisor Baker closed the meeting. Kathy Carpenter made the motion to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Seconded by John Reed.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wayering

Town Clerk