

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsbury Organizational Meeting January 5, 2010  
Held at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury held on Thursday January 5, 2010 at 7:02PM at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY. Supervisor Goodspeed called the meeting to order at 7:02PM and the pledge to the flag was led by Councilman Arnold Stevens.

Roll call showed the following persons present: Supv. Sterling Goodspeed; Town Councilmen/ Eugene Arsenault, Arnold Stevens, Frank Morehouse, Jr. and Ronald Vanselow; Town Clerk/ William Rawson.

Guests: On attached list

Supv. Goodspeed announced that the oaths of office for the newly elected officials would be administered at this time; the Town Clerk administered the oaths of office to the following present, recently elected officers: Supervisor Sterling T. Goodspeed; Councilmen Arnold F. Stevens and Ronald G. Vanselow; Town Clerk William E. Rawson. The oaths were administered with the assistance of Secretary Cherie Ferguson.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1**

Mr. Morehouse presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2009 regular Town Board Meeting as written. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. A letter from Town of Johnsbury Superintendent of Highways Daniel Hitchcock informing the Town Board that he was appointing Donald Moore as his Deputy Superintendent of Highways.
2. A letter for Town of Johnsbury Town Clerk William Rawson informing the Town Board that he was appointing Jo Ann Smith as his Deputy Town Clerk.

Supv. Goodspeed explained that this is the organizational meeting for the year of 2010 and that there were several annual resolutions and appointments which would be done at this time.

Supv. Goodspeed made the following appointments for 2010:

- |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Budget Officer:                | Supervisor Sterling T. Goodspeed |
| 2. Deputy Supervisor:             | Eugene Arsenault                 |
| 3. Secretary to the Supervisor:   | Cherie Ferguson                  |
| 4. Town Historian:                | Jo Ann Smith                     |
| 5. Registrar of Vital Statistics: | William Rawson                   |

**RESOLUTION NO. 2**

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault that the Town of Johnsbury Zoning Enforcement Officer will be Christopher May for the year of 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that he was not willing to appoint William Mosher as Animal Control Officer; Mr. Vanselow suggested advertising to fill the vacancy. Mr. Peter Heid said that according to NYS law an individual cannot collect disability and work another job at the same time; Mr. Paul Heid added that this could be a large liability issue to the Town to hire a person on disability. Mr. Peter Heid said that insurance people have explained that working while on disability is illegal.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 3

Mr. Vanselow presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Supv. Goodspeed that the Town of Johnsbury Town Board authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for two weeks in the North Creek News Enterprise, for letters of interest in filling a vacancy in the position of Animal Control Officer for the year of 2010. With 3 members voting in favor and 2 opposed the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-3 (Goodspeed, Stevens, Vanselow) Nays - 2 (Arsenault, Morehouse)

#### RESOLUTION NO. 4

Mr. Morehouse presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens that the Town of Johnsbury Attorney for the Town of Johnsbury will be J. Anthony Jordan for the year of 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 5

Mr. Vanselow presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse to appoint Dr. John Ruggie as Town of Johnsbury Health Officer for a term to begin January 1, 2010 and end on December 31, 2014. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed explained that as a result of a change in Town Law in 2007 that the Town Clerk may appoint the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Town Clerk; Town Clerk William Rawson notifies the Town Board that he appoints Jo Ann Smith as 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Town Clerk for the year of 2010 and as Registrar appoints Jo Ann Smith as Deputy Registrar for 2010 through December 31, 2011. Supv. Goodspeed asked that the Town Board acknowledge these appointments by resolution.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 6

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to acknowledge the appointment of Jo Ann Smith as 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Town Clerk for the year of 2010 and as Deputy Registrar for 2010 through December 31, 2011. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed noted that Superintendent of Highways Daniel Hitchcock has notified the Town Board of appointing Donald Moore as Town of Johnsbury Deputy Superintendent of Highways for 2010.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 7

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second

from Mr. Morehouse to acknowledge the appointment of Donald Moore as Deputy Superintendent of Highways for 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays – 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 8

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to designate the following handicapped accessible polling place in the Town of Johnsbury for the year of 2010:

District # 1: Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY

District # 2: Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY

District # 3: Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY

With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 9

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to designate the North Creek News-Enterprise as the official newspaper for the Town of Johnsbury for the year of 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 10

Mr. Morehouse presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to designate the following banks as official depositories for the Town of Johnsbury for the year of 2010:

Community Bank, N.A., North Creek, NY

T.D. Bank North, Warrensburg, NY

Glens Falls National Bank, Warrensburg, NY

With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0 Abstained -1 (Arsenault)

#### RESOLUTION NO. 11

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to adopt the salaries of elected and appointed officials as per the final adopted budget for 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 12

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse to set the compensation for mileage for Town Business at 45 cents per mile for the year of 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays-0

Supv. Goodspeed noted that as a result of the recent audit of the Town tax collection procedures, the NYS Comptroller's Office said that the Deputy Town Clerk Jo Ann Smith should be added to the Town Officers Bond, as she is involved in the tax collection process.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 13

Mr. Morehouse presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to adopt the Town Officers Bond for the year of 2010, with the addition of Deputy Town Clerk Jo Ann Smith. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 14

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow to authorize the payment in advance of audit of claim for Public Utility Services and Postage for the year of 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 15

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse to authorize the Supervisor to extend the unexpended balances in their respective accounts for the purpose of encumbering monies during the year of 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 16

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to authorize Town Officers to purchase necessary supplies to carry on official duties, in amounts not to exceed the budget during the year of 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 17

Mr. Morehouse presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Supv. Goodspeed to authorize the Supervisor to pay the annual dues of the N.Y.S. Association of Towns and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, when due during the year of 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 18

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse to authorize the Town Clerk to publish, in two issues, a summary of the 2009 Annual Report of the Supervisor of the Town of Johnsburg. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 19

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse to authorize the placing of Town monies in interest bearing accounts when this can be done without interfering with the operation of Town government. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### RESOLUTION NO. 20

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow to schedule as follows two regular Town Board meetings per month in 2010, except in April, where there is only one scheduled meeting:

<b>Town of Johnsbury</b>			
<b>Town Board Meetings for 2010</b>			
January	5	---	Wevertown
January	19	---	Library
February	2	---	Wevertown
February	16	---	Library
March	2	---	Wevertown
March	16	---	Library
Only one meeting in April!!!			
April	20	---	Library
May	4	---	Wevertown
May	18	---	Library
June	1	---	Wevertown
June	15	---	Library
July	6	---	Wevertown
July	20	---	Library
August	3	---	Wevertown
August	17	---	Library
September	7	---	Wevertown
September	21	---	Library
October	5	---	Wevertown
October	19	---	Library
November	4	---	Wevertown (Thurs)
November	16	---	Library
December	7	---	Wevertown
December	21	---	Library

**Regular meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.  
First & Third Tuesdays (unless noted)**

With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed handed out a list of appointments to Standing Committees for the year of 2010. Supv. Goodspeed noted that he has added a new committee to deal with insurance and assigned Mr. Morehouse and Mr. Vanselow to that committee. Supv. Goodspeed asked that the Town Board members review the committee appointments before adopting them.

**RESOLUTION NO. 21**

Mr. Morehouse presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to adopt the following Town Board Standing Committees:

**2010 STANDING COMMITTEE  
JOHNSBURG TOWN BOARD**

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>
Highway	Gene Arsenault Arnold Stevens
Solid Waste Management	Gene Arsenault Arnold Stevens
Fire	Gene Arsenault Frank Morehouse, Jr.
Water	Frank Morehouse, Jr. Ron Vanselow
Planning & Zoning	Gene Arsenault Ron Vanselow
Buildings, Parks & Recreation	Arnold Stevens Ron Vanselow
Cemeteries	Frank Morehouse, Jr. Arnold Stevens
Library	Frank Morehouse, Jr. Arnold Stevens
Chester Coordination	Ron Vanselow Arnold Stevens
Energy & Lighting	Ron Vanselow Frank Morehouse, Jr.
Johnsburg Pride Coordination	Frank Morehouse, Jr. Gene Arsenault
Cable TV	Ron Vanselow Arnold Stevens
Personnel	Ron Vanselow Frank Morehouse, Jr.
Insurance	Ron Vanselow Frank Morehouse, Jr.

With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### NEW BUSINESS

Supv. Goodspeed requested that the Town Board authorize the use of a copy of the Supervisor's Annual Report to the Comptroller in lieu of accounting as had been done in previous years.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 22

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to authorize the use of a copy of the Supervisor's Annual Report to the New York State Comptroller in lieu of accounting for the year of 2010. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the monthly report of the Zoning Enforcement Officer, Christopher May, for the month of December 2009, was in the Town Board members' packets.

Supv. Goodspeed distributed the Supervisor's Monthly Report, for the month of December 2009, to the members of the Town of Johnsbury Town Board.

Supv. Goodspeed noted that the Annual Report from the Town Historian, Mrs. Jo Ann Smith, for the year of 2009, was in the Town Board members' packets.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Secretary Cherie Ferguson asked about the designation of delegates to the NYS Association of Towns and Villages meeting; Supv. Goodspeed replied that there was no plan to send delegates to the meeting.

Mrs. Kelly Nettle asked about the status of the letter of support from the Town regarding the grant for the Johnsbury Emergency Squad building construction; Supv. Goodspeed replied that the letter was being drafted by the Town Attorney in the form of a memo of understanding.

Mrs. Nettle said that she was concerned about the Ski Bowl Park grant bids time running out and the prices increasing after the end of January; Supv. Goodspeed replied that he does not see the Town being able to fund the bids at this time. Supv. Goodspeed said that both NYS and Warren County are in financial crisis and he does not want to use contingency funds at a time of such unpredictability. Supv. Goodspeed added that he is not sure that NYS will be making reimbursement payments on grants at the previous rate. Mr. Vanselow asked what the time frame of reimbursement was expected to be; Mrs. Nettle replied that Ms. Jepson from the NYS Office of Parks and Historic Preservation had indicated a period of between three and six months; Supv. Goodspeed said that he expected the six months time period to be the minimum length of time.

Mr. Paul Heid noted that both the cost and the negative environmental effects of Warren County using approximately 4500 tons of road salt. Mr. Paul Heid noted that by using less salt that Warren County would save money and benefit Lake George fishing. Mr. William Heid also noted that Warren County DPW crews plowed Garnet Lake Road

three times during the last storm which had produced only two or three inches of snow; the county needs to stop spending money hand over fist.

Mr. Paul Heid asked why Highway Supt. Hitchcock had plowed a portion of Coulter Road which was normally a seasonal road and also not plowing Harvey Road to the snowmobile parking area. He added that the Town just spent a great deal of money to repair the transmission of the loader and now it is being driven on the road which is not what the transmission is designed for.

Mr. Peter Heid said that the employee which had been laid off had done a good job for the Town and asked that he be given a letter of recommendation; Supv. Goodspeed said that he had verbally assured the man that a letter of recommendation would be provided upon request.

Supv. Goodspeed explained that Warren County had borrowed about eight million dollars to cover payroll through the end of January; he added that uncollected taxes will probably amount to four million dollars. Mr. Vanselow asked about the last round of cuts prior to the passage of the county budget. Supv. Goodspeed said that the Board of Supervisors cut about one hundred thousand dollars; in his opinion, the cuts were not actual money. Supv. Goodspeed noted that there have been some substantial changes in the county operation; the process is now more open and the finance and budget committees now have a majority of town supervisors who prepare town budgets and not at-large supervisors, who do not. Supv. Goodspeed added that there would probably be a further round of budget cuts which will result in a loss of service to the residents. Supv. Goodspeed said that Warren County was exploring a class action lawsuit with several counties to attack unfunded mandates from the state government. (Mr. Vanselow left the meeting at 7:40pm) Supv. Goodspeed added that the county was looking into a rotating department by department layoff to save money and other ways to cut costs. Supv. Goodspeed expects that 2010 will be the worst year.

Mr. Paul Heid noted his opposition to the proposal to raise the sales tax, as it would cost him more than the property tax increase; Supv. Goodspeed said that he did not agree. (Mr. Vanselow returned to the meeting at 7:43)

Mrs. Kelly Nettle questioned the re-evaluation of the value of the Town of Johnsbury by the NYS Office of Real Property Tax; Supv. Goodspeed replied that the NYS Office of Real Property Tax had looked at the valuation of the Town of Johnsbury and decided that the town was worth fifteen percent more than it was currently valued at. This enlarges the portion of the Warren county tax to be paid by Town of Johnsbury property owners and it increases the Town of Johnsbury portion of the sales tax distribution. Supv. Goodspeed believed that NYS Office of Real Property Tax had made the decision based upon the improvements at ORDA and the Ski Bowl Park. Mrs. Nettle asked if this was strictly a NYS Office of Real Property Tax decision; Supv. Goodspeed replied that it was; he added that the high end properties in the Town of Johnsbury real estate market did not fall in Johnsbury, Hague and Bolton as in the southern end of Warren County. Supv. Goodspeed said that while he would like to see the Town of Johnsbury go to full valuation that he did not believe that the Town could afford to do so without additional funding from the state and county. Supv. Goodspeed said that it would probably be about two years before the funding would be available again. Mrs. Nettle asked about federal funding; Supv. Goodspeed replied that he did not believe that there would be any federal funding for such a project.

Mr. Peter Heid asked if the Town Board had authorized the plowing of the seasonal



portion of Coulter Road; he added that Highway Supt. Hitchcock had said that he could not plow to the snowmobile parking in North River, but opened the seasonal section of Coulter Road which is narrower. Supv. Goodspeed replied that he had not heard of this before, but that he would look into it; Mr. Peter Heid asked that Supv. Goodspeed get back to him before the next Town Board meeting.

Mr. Robert Nettle asked if the Town had authorized a name for the old (red) pavilion which ORDA had renovated and was calling the Ski Bowl Lodge; Mr. Nettle added that he believed that the building should be named by the Town and not by ORDA. Supv. Goodspeed said that ORDA Mt. Manager Mike Pratt had said that it was better to have a name for advertising purposes. Supv. Goodspeed said that he was not surprised that it did not have a name. Mr. Peter Heid suggested that the Town use a contest to pick the name, possibly through the newspaper.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 23

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Supv. Goodspeed that the following certified bills which have been reviewed by the board members be paid: General Fund- Warrant #1G/Claims #1-9; Highway Fund- Warrant #1H/Claims #1-6; North Creek Water Dist.- Warrant #1W/Claim#1. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

A motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Mr. Stevens with a second from Mr. Arsenault at 8:15pm. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-5 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Stevens, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

The meeting was closed at 8:15pm.

The next regular Town Board meeting will be held at 7:00pm on January 19, 2010 at the Town Hall (Library), North Creek, NY. Prior to the Town Board meeting the Town Board will walk through the renovated pavilion with ORDA Mt. Manager Mike Pratt at 6:45pm.

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Prepared by William Rawson, Town Clerk