

# November 19, 2024

## Town Board Meeting

In Attendance: Kevin Bean – Supervisor Jim Williams – Councilman  
Paul Heid – Councilman Anna Bowers – Councilwoman  
Arnold Stevens – Councilman Jean Comstock – Town Clerk

1. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Matt Byrne
2. Call to Order the Town Board Meeting at 7:00PM

Before we get started, I'd like to change things a little, please let the Board have their discussions and then raise your hand if you'd like to address a discussion, please come down to the podium and speak into the microphone; we're having trouble with those on live stream hearing the conversations.

3. Resolution to Acknowledge the Changes from the Preliminary Budget to the Adopted Budget. Supervisor – I recused myself from that discussion re: the Supervisor increase, but I do have to vote on the Budget. Ms. Bowers – Supervisor position increase, there have been some really good comments; we need to have a plan going forward, let's have discussions prior to with a plan. Mr. Webb – HHHN not in this Resolution? Supervisor – it will be null and void as of 12/31/24; Mr. Stevens meeting with his folks, maybe use it for home visits and rides to appointments.

**RESOLUTION # 207 – 24**

Mr. Heid made a Motion to acknowledge and approve the changes from the Preliminary Budget to the Adopted Budget and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

4. Resolution for Adoption of Final Budget

**RESOLUTION # 208 – 24**

Mr. Williams made a Motion to approve the adoption of the Final Budget and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

5. Approval of Minutes from the November 7, 2024 Meeting

**RESOLUTION # 209 – 24**

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to accept the Minutes from the November 7, 2024 Town Board Meeting and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Heid. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

6. Resolution for Occ Tax Awards – Ms. Bowers – read the Resolution; only businesses to bring business to Town should be awarded monies; info to Greg Tomb by 12/1/24 as additional advertisers; much more structure around this moving forward; the Committee does hard work and a lot of time thinking and discussing all applications; Mr. Williams – who approves the award, Greg Tomb, we're giving him the option to approve? Ms. Bowers – it would have to go before the Occ Tax Committee; Supervisor – I'm just not sure; Mr. Williams – I think there's a work around here; when I started coming to Board Meetings there didn't seem to

be any rhyme or reason to the Occ Tax awards; a year ago there was no committee so no awards were given; they went through the County and Town guidelines with a metrics for scoring; I'm uncomfortable with changing the recommendation, because we've approved the metrics as a Board for them to do it; I would be open to approving with no changes to the Resolution, with applications coming to the committee directly by 12/1/24 for the committee to decide; if we're directing more towards advertising, we need to give them the tools to do this; Ms. Bowers – the Committee is not tasked with awarding the money, we as elected officials are, we can make changes and recommendations; I agree with some of what you were saying; if all (except Gore) get the \$525, and I'd agree to not take anymore on; Supervisor – we'll go with it as is, but Front Street doesn't need Occ Tax money this needs to be tightened up; Ms. Bowers – are we comfortable adding the Wolf Den? Mr. Williams – hours by the committee were spent on this and we're voting on it in 10 minutes; Mr. Williams – Mr. Stevens do you have any memory of Occ Tax being denied or changes being made? Mr. Stevens – yes, I can't remember specifics, but yes it has occurred. Peter Horvath – how did this information get out? This information was sent out to all on the mailing list; North Creek Farmers Market was not on the list; Supervisor Bean – please speak with me after the meeting. Matt Byrne – I will only say that I would like to see more businesses get money for advertising; I'm OK with the cap, as long as the Board is involved in making that decision; I don't see short-term rentals helping. Judy Brown – Occ Tax is supposed to bring more tourism to the area, that's the goal of it, others are attractions, there's a good chance it will work as we want it to. Mr. Williams – we can vote as is and have a deadline with an abbreviated application; no cap, do another Resolution.

**RESOLUTION # 210 – 24**

Mr. Heid made a Motion to approve the Occ Tax request as written with a “not to exceed \$4,200” and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Williams. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

7. Approval of Authorization to Proceed with ordering the fire doors for TPCC – Pete Olesheski indicated this has been on the books for a long time; Board was made aware then; I'd like to rectify; gone to great lengths to get quotes; we've looked at wooden and metal; decided to keep with the wooden door (5); doors can be in within 3 weeks and we can get it done; previous Board approved \$10,000 and I'd like to get this off the books.

**RESOLUTION # 211 – 24**

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve the Authorization to Proceed with ordering the five (5) new fire doors for TPCC and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Heid. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

8. Resolution to Appoint William Welch to Special Building Projects – Mr. Williams – he is our ZEO, part-time, skilled carpenter, has been his trade, fully insured; bids for installation were done by Pete Olesheski – over \$3,000 for installation for the five doors; between Willie's skill and help from a Town employee we can get it done for about \$400.

**RESOLUTION # 212 – 24**

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to appoint William Welch to Special Building Projects and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Paul Heid. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

9. Resolution for the Highway Department to purchase a tandem truck – out of equipment reserve; Fred Comstock – tandem replacement – 2008 to be replaced, a lot of repairs, rusting, not working; if we order it now it will be a year before it gets here; Mr. Williams Procurement Procedure followed; subject to Permissive Referendum; Mr. Heid – this has been long discussed, money set aside, money can collect interest in that year? Fred Comstock – yes; Mr. Williams – money was put into the reserve fund for this purpose by previous Board's; setting this aside to be sure fleet is getting turned over; good solid financial work.

**RESOLUTION # 213 – 24**

Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the purchase of a new tandem for the Highway Department and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

10. Board Discussion re: Solid Waste and Transfer Station – Mr. Williams – we have a Solid Waste Committee that started in January for ways to improve solid waste and transfer station and make recommendations; we started with free household waste, off set with C&D from previous Supervisor; what comes up short is the hauling costs which have escalated and staffing for the transfer station; we wanted to look at and analyze numbers and see what they were saying and the impact the free household garbage had; we've seen a reduction in C&D and an increase in household trash and a decrease in recycling; no incentive to recycle if you can just throw away for free; as we looked at the numbers and wanted to create a solid waste system that was fair and equitable to all users; we hadn't disposed of tires in a very long time; with the work of the Committee we came up with another option and a less expensive cost; we're at a point now that the Board needs to think and decide and answer questions on the direction we're going; if we continue with free trash, the tax payers bear the brunt of the removal of that trash; if we turn it into a user fee, then there's an incentive to recycle more; compost your coffee grinds; it becomes a Board philosophical discussion; Ms. Bowers – was it in the budget as a revenue? Mr. Williams – yes. Ms. Bowers – it's a moot point then; C&D at .15/lb; what about household? Ms. Bowers – we need to get a letter out to folks stating it's coming; Mr. Heid – I pay to have garbage pick-up, I'm subsidizing the free garbage; hope to shame people to recycle more; Town Clerk – were the \$75.00 cards that had been given out previously taken into consideration during this process – Mr. Williams – no. Mr. Stevens – are the scales up and running? Pete Olesheski – the 4' scale would be used for minimal bags; they need to be calibrated by the County; we're in the queue to have them certified with the next week or two; Town Clerk – we need to get this information out; Mr. Williams – as a Committee we discussed this – 40 lb. bag of trash – it would be \$6.00; pricing wise it's going back to where it was. Pete Olesheski – do a floor resolution; Ms. Bowers – what was the rate for household trash - .15/lb; Ms. Bowers – if that's what was in the budget and the numbers used then that's what we have to go with; Pete Hoskins – I Chair the Committee - .15 is consistent with areas around us; we needed to get away from a very arbitrary weighing process; 80% of waste is C&D and household trash; we've researched everything by weight; maybe we could do the \$75 card again; we're getting rid of Waste Management, the County will be hauling for us and saving; Pete Olesheski – I agree with the Town Clerk, let's get the information out; we can look at other things another time; all to be done January 1, 2025 - .15/lb for C&D and household garbage; Floor Resolution for this; Mr. Stevens – what if I have \$20 in my hand? Pete Olesheski – purchase cards/stickers from Town Hall; we've discussed taking cash up there, and it will continue to be discussed; logistically it's a security issue, ton of extra work for Town Clerk – it goes through her; set the rates today – we need to get all in a room to get the letter together for the Board approval. Pete Hoskins – ads in the paper; do a press

release; Town Clerk – when the letter is done, I'll send it to Thom Randall for a press release; Pete Olesheski – the committee has been fantastic to work with. Ms. Zimmerman – can we just clarify the Resolution is still not charging for recyclables? Supervisor Bean – all of that stays the same.

**RESOLUTION # 214 – 24**

A Floor Resolution was brought up to charge .15 for household trash starting January 1, 2025. Mr. Stevens made a Motion to approve the charge of .15 for household trash, starting January 1, 2025 and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

11. In Appreciation of Michael Wilson – Supervisor Bean read the Acknowledgement.

12. Committee Reports

Mr. Heid

- Solid waste has already been discussed.
- Meeting this week with Highway Committee

Ms. Bowers

- Marketing – 5:30 this Thursday; Bob Palero doing the race has reached out to the committee;
- Childcare – working to get a meeting with County EDC for any help with the survey;
- Website – Danae, Joann and Jean looking at the behind the scenes to make sure all will be working good.
- Comprehensive Plan – Committee is having their final meeting of the year on 12/9/24. Prior to the Board voting on the Comp Plan, there will need to be a 90-day public comment period.
- Planning & Zoning – Erwin Morris and Rick Bennett – new members of ZBA
- Occ Tax – updating application for Spring round and apply on line, to make it easier.

Supervisor Bean

- Marketing – Adam Bailey and Northern Forest – TOJ granted \$150,000 for the three towns (Chestertown and Horicon) to do a marketing campaign; thank you it's been a collaborative effort for a few years now.

Mr. Williams

- Dump road – work done last week, removed trees, removed fence and posts; great collaborative effort to improve the area; replacing some spruce and birch trees; thanks to all involved in that.
- Sewer – bids now being opened on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 2:00PM at Tannery Pond.

Mr. Stevens

- Johnsbury Seniors Committee tomorrow morning; looking for some valuable input.

13. Warrants

**RESOLUTION # 215 – 24**

Ms. Bowers made a Motion to approve the Warrants and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Mr. Heid. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| GENERAL FUND              | \$ 90,752.76  |
| HIGHWAY FUND              | \$ 250,519.92 |
| WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT | \$ 2,835.00   |
| LIBRARY FUND              | \$ 6,184.54   |
| WATER DISTRICT            | \$ 1,716.88   |
| TRUST & AGENCY            | \$ 26.56      |
| TOTAL                     | \$ 352,158.66 |

14. Privilege of the Floor

- Amy Sabattis – curious with the Transfer Station – can we get a container for clothing; composting – call Cooperative Extension – we’ll teach you how to maintain it.
- Cheryl Gillespie – the Outreach Center also takes in clothes; Ms. Sabattis – it was 60 years worth of clothing.
- Judy Brown – addressing clothing – it gets sorted at the Outreach Center and the remainder of it goes towards Prospect School; we use what we can here; ad in Adk Life – it’s less expensive than a regular ad being a community ad.

15. Motion to Adjourn

**RESOLUTION # 216 – 24**

Mr. Heid made a Motion to Adjourn the Town Board Meeting at 8:17PM and moved its passage with a Second Motion from Ms. Bowers. With the following Members voting in favor of the Resolution, it is carried. Ayes – 5 (Bean, Bowers, Heid, Stevens, Williams); Nays – 0.

Prepared by:

*Jean M. Comstock*

Jean M. Comstock  
Town Clerk

**NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 3,  
2024 AT 7:00PM  
AT TANNERY POND AND VIA LIVESTREAM**