

**Minutes of the Town of Johnsbury Regular Board Meeting May 18, 2010
Held at 7:00pm at the Town of Johnsbury Library, North Creek, NY**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Johnsbury held on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 7:00pm at the Town Library, North Creek, NY Supervisor Goodspeed called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and the pledge to the flag was led by Councilman Frank Morehouse, Jr.

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

Guests: On attached list

RESOLUTION NO. 100

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution, and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse, to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2010 regular Town Board meeting as written. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

RESOLUTION NO. 101

Mr. Morehouse presented the following resolution, and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault, to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2010 regular Town Board meeting as written. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. A letter from Mr. Vincent Schiavone requesting that the Town Board reappoint him as a member of the Youth Committee.
2. A letter from Mrs. Harriet Allen suggesting that the Town Board do away with curbside trash collection as it is too expensive for the taxpayers in the Town of Johnsbury.
3. A letter from the Youth Committee requesting that the Town Board allow the extension of the Summer Youth Program by one hour on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to create time for swimming lessons without losing sports time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Supv. Goodspeed explained that he and Mr. Arsenault had met with Highway Superintendent Daniel Hitchcock to discuss Highway issues; Highway Supt. Hitchcock was called away and the meeting was cut short following a brief discussion of the loss of the bridge crossing Johnson Brook on Harrington Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

Supv. Goodspeed reminded the Town Board that due to a massive flooding event that the Town had suffered the loss of the bridge crossing Johnson Brook on Harrington Road; he has discussed this problem with Highway Superintendent Daniel Hitchcock and Engineer James Hutchins and there appear to be three possible options to resolve the issue. The three options

appear to the replacement of the current bridge at the current location, at an estimated cost of \$160,000.00 to \$250,000.00; to close off Harrington Road at the crossing of Johnson Brook; and finally, to reconfiguring the Harrington Road connection to State Route 8 in a manner which will avoid crossing Johnson Brook and eliminate the need for a bridge. Supv. Goodspeed suggested that the Town Board conduct an informational and discussion session at the June 15, Town Board meeting and asked if the Town Board wished to approve advertising in the North Creek News-Enterprise to notify the public.

RESOLUTION NO. 102

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution, and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse, to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for one week in the North Creek News Enterprise that the Town Board will conduct an information/discussion/input session to be held on June 15, at the Town Hall (Library) at 7:00 pm at the start of the regular Town Board meeting to discuss possible solutions to the loss of the bridge crossing Johnson Brook on Harrington Road. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed explained that the Town had received a request from Front Street Mountain Development for water access from the North Creek Water District; the information has been forwarded to the Town Attorney, the engineer for the North Creek Water District and involved New York State agencies for review. Supv. Goodspeed said that the Town Board had not received the reviews back as of yet and could not move on the Front Street request at this time; he added that he expects that action may be taken at the June 1, regular Town Board meeting or possibly at the meeting of June 15, at the latest.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that the amendments to the North Creek Water District regulations which he had planned to deliver to the Town Board at this meeting were still being reviewed and consolidated at this time; he added that he expects to have the regulations to the Town Board either before or at the next Town Board meeting June 1, 2010 and he hopes that the Town Board will move on them as soon as possible..

Supv. Goodspeed explained that the Town Board had put the garbage collection out to bid at the May 4, Town Board meeting; he added that some bidders may be able to have some savings through exemptions. Supv. Goodspeed said that some residents want curbside recycling collection back as soon as possible, some do not want the curbside recycling collection back and others want all curbside collections ended, both recycling and garbage. Supv. Goodspeed suggested that curbside recycling could be provided by the Town once per month in the Town. Supv. Goodspeed suggested that the Town be divided into four quadrants and each quadrant be collected once per month. This monthly collection could be "paid" for at no additional taxpayer cost by closing the transfer station on Tuesdays and possibly on Wednesdays. Mr. Vanselow noted that he had spoken with Highway Superintendent Daniel Hitchcock about researching the cost of the Town performing the collection; Supv. Goodspeed said that this could be looked into. Mr. David Bulmer asked how other communities dealt with this issue; Supv. Goodspeed replied that there were many different ways of dealing with the issue.

Mr. Lee and Mrs. Alice Armstrong, along with Mrs. Margaret Prashaw complained that the cost of trash tickets was too high; Supv. Goodspeed said that there had been a \$75,000.00 shortfall in the refuse budget line and that money from other budget lines had to be moved to pay the shortfall. Mr. William Russell added that some people are tearing the trash tickets in half or using some other method to make the tickets go further for less; Mrs. Rose Russell suggested that there be a less expensive ticket for smaller bags Mr. Lee Armstrong said that he used to work seven days per week for the Town. Ms. Kelly Nettle said that trash seemed to be a huge component of the budget and that the question of priority was included; Supv. Goodspeed said that it would be hard to let the collection go. Mr. Vanselow said that if the residents went to a private hauler and the Town got out of the collection that less trash would go to the Town compactor and their would be less need for the bag stickers. Secretary Cherie Ferguson said that it might be cheaper to the residents to have a private hauler; Supv. Goodspeed said that he would try to find the cost a private hauler would charge versus delivery to the transfer station. Mr. Paul Logue said that Springer Waste Management does its own recycling. Mr. Robert Nettle asked if the transfer station would do enough business to make it financially reasonable; Supv. Goodspeed said that he expected that there would still be a lot of commercial use.

The cost of the trash removal was asked; Supv. Goodspeed replied that the collection cost fifty-five thousand dollars annually plus the cost to remove the trash to Hudson Falls. Mr. Nettle said that the Town was paying eight thousand six hundred dollars this month for trash removal. Supv. Goodspeed said that the annual total cost was approximately one hundred and seventy thousand dollars; this includes the collection, hauling of both trash and recycling to Hudson Falls and a part of the wages for Victor Dunkley. Mr. Nettle asked if there was any revenue from the recycling; Supv. Goodspeed replied that currently there was not; Mr. Vanselow added that there used to be money from recycling. Sect. Cherie Ferguson said that tin cans now brought two dollars per ton. Mr. Morehouse asked if a scale to allow payment based on weight. Supv. Goodspeed replied that it had been looked into, but it isn't a good fit; the employees don't want to handle cash and they need to move around the site which would be more difficult if they had to stay at a scale. Supv. Goodspeed said that he would look into possible charges for private haulers and look for the costs requested from Highway Supt. Hitchcock by Mr. Vanselow for the June 1 Town Board meeting. Mr. Lee Armstrong suggested doing away with the collection as it would save a lot of money.

Supv. Goodspeed said that here was a performance bond requirement in the current bid specifications to assure collection by the successful bidder; he had suggested that the cost of the bonding would simply be added to the amount of the bid and noted that the requirement has not been enforced for nineteen years. Supv. Goodspeed said that eh had polled the Town Board to determine if the bonding requirement should be removed and the majority had approved removing the bonding requirement from the specifications. Mr. Vanselow wanted to discuss the removal; he suggested requiring a bond equal to one month of the contract. Mr. Arsenaault and Supv. Goodspeed said that they saw no value in requiring the bond. Mr. Robert Nettle asked if the hauler was paid following the collection; Supv. Goodspeed replied that this was correct. Mr. Nettle said that this appeared to offer some safety; Supv. Goodspeed agreed. Supv. Goodspeed said that the removal of the bonding requirement might encourage more bidders in the same way that it is hoped that the removal of the compactor truck will lead to more bidders.

RESOLUTION NO. 103

Supv. Goodspeed presented the following resolution, and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to retroactively authorize the polled response of the Town Board to remove the performance bond or letter of credit requirement in the bid specifications for the garbage collection bid. With 3 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-3 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Goodspeed) Nays – 1 (Vanselow).

NEW BUSINESS

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that there was survey information for them in their packets regarding a property in the Town of Johnsbury for their review.

Supv. Goodspeed informed the Town Board that a number of complaints have been received regarding the cemeteries in the Town of Johnsbury; Supv. Goodspeed added that he has spoken with Parks and Building Superintendent Matt Olden to discuss the mowing of the cemeteries. Currently, Supt. Olden is mowing in Union Cemetery; there have been no employees available from Warren County Youth Employment; Supv. Goodspeed reminded the Town Board that he had issued a memo to Parks/Buildings Supt. Matt Olden that there was no funding for overtime in the budget and that any use of overtime needed prior approval from his office. Supv. Goodspeed said that there may be funding to hire one additional employee for mowing for the three weeks until Memorial Day Weekend at a cost of approximately one thousand dollars. It is expected that Union, Bates and two or three more of the smaller cemeteries can be mowed by Memorial Day Weekend. Mr. Lee Armstrong said that the cemeteries in the Town are in bad shape; he added that some nearby Towns' cemeteries are very well kept up. Mr. William Russell agreed that the condition of the cemeteries is poor and asked that the Town put some topsoil in the cemeteries; he showed the Town Board a computer slideshow of pictures taken earlier in the day at Bates Cemetery. Mr. Russell pointed out juniper bushes which need to be trimmed and cleared and noted that some graves have sunken down by twelve to fifteen inches.

Ms. Kelly Nettle asked how the cemeteries became a Town expense; Supv. Goodspeed explained that when the cemetery association is gone that the municipality becomes responsible for some maintenance, including mowing. Supv. Goodspeed added that when the cemeteries look bad it appears that the town doesn't care about itself and its past. Mr. Armstrong said that he used to work as a mower and later took care of his family cemetery plots, but he is physically unable to do so any longer. Mr. Paul Logue asked the scope of the mowing; Supv. Goodspeed replied that it could reasonably take four to five people mowing in a crew all summer. Supv. Goodspeed said that the Town could place an article in the newspaper seeking volunteers. Mr. Russell said that many headstones need to be set back up; Mrs. Judy Brown said that the Youthworks group is coming again this summer and they may be able to assist with the cemetery work as it is a good project. Mr. David Bulmer asked if state or county prisoners were available for work of this type; Supv. Goodspeed replied that the Town of Johnsbury is outside the travel distance limit and Warren County has determined that it is too costly to oversee the prisoners. Mr. Bulmer suggested a volunteer day for work in the cemeteries; Mr. Russell agreed that this would be good and he suggested that Supv. Goodspeed speak to Highway Supt. Hitchcock about topsoil for the cemeteries. Mr. Vanselow said that the weather can derail the plans for mowing or working.

Supv. Goodspeed asked if the Town Board wished to act upon the request read earlier in the meeting from Mr. Vincent Schiavone to be reappointed to the Youth Committee for a term to expire May 10, 2015.

RESOLUTION NO. 104

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow to reappoint Mr. Vincent Schiavone to the Town of Johnsbury Youth Committee, for a term to expire May 10, 2015. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Supv. Goodspeed asked if Ms. Kelly Nettle could add any information to the request by the Johnsbury Youth Committee to extend the duration of the Summer Youth Program by one hour on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to allow for the inclusion of additional swimming instruction. Ms. Nettle explained that the Youth Committee was seeking approval of the extension of hours and that the Committee did not envision the added hours requiring an additional expense to the Town; she added that as noted in the letter that the Youth Committee has found a certified swimming instructor. Supv. Goodspeed replied that the hire must be made by the Town following an advertisement for the position. Supv. Goodspeed asked if the Town Board wished to act upon the request from the Johnsbury Youth Committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 105

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution, and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Morehouse to grant conceptual approval to extend the duration of the Summer Youth Program by one hour on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to allow for the inclusion of additional swimming instruction, and further, to authorize the advertisement of the position of swimming instructor for the Summer Youth Program. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays – 0

Supv. Goodspeed noted that there was no monthly report of the Zoning Enforcement Officer, Christopher May, for the month of April 2010.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. Judy Brown, coordinator of the master gardener group working in the butterfly or memorial garden in the Ski Bowl Park requested that the Town Board allow her to create a compost pile for working in the garden in the park; she would like to site it across Dump Road from the garden. Mr. Robert Nettle pointed out that there was already a compost pile in the transfer station which would supply the gardeners' needs. Accounts Clerk Candace Lomax and Secretary Cherie Ferguson explained that the transfer station is often locked at the time the volunteer gardeners are working and allowing the compost pile to be sited outside the transfer station area would provide easier use and access.

RESOLUTION NO. 106

Supv. Goodspeed presented the following resolution, and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to allow the construction of a compost pile by the master gardener group working in the butterfly/memorial garden in the Ski Bowl Park, under the coordination of Mrs.

Judy Brown; said compost pile to be situated across Dump Road from the butterfly/memorial garden in Ski Bowl Park. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

Mrs. Judy Brown asked if a small group of her classmates from the Johnsborg Central School Class of 1970 could camp near the swimming area in the Ski Bowl Park; Supv. Goodspeed noted that the experience of the Town with the White Water Derby had been positive and was in favor of allowing the camping to occur. Mr. Robert Nettle asked if the same regulations as those in force for the White Water Derby would be in force; Supv. Goodspeed said that they would be and said that a copy of the regulations would be given to Mrs. Brown. Mr. Nettle asked about toilet facilities; Mrs. Brown said that the campers would agree to use the toilets facilities in the pavilion.

RESOLUTION NO. 107

Supv. Goodspeed presented the following resolution, and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Vanselow to allow camping near the swimming area by a small group from the Johnsborg Central School Class of 1970 on the weekend of July 31 through August 1, and further, that the regulations covering the activity would be the same as those in force for the camping allowed during the 2010 White Water Derby. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays - 0

RESOLUTION NO. 108

Mr. Vanselow presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault that the following certified bills which have been reviewed by the board members be paid: General Fund- Warrant #9G/Claims #192-211; Highway Fund- Warrant #9H/Claims #103-119; North Creek Water Dist.- Warrant #9W/Claims#34-39; Capital Projects Fund- Warrant #3CPF/Claim #3; Library Fund-Warrant #5L/Claims#31-39. With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays -0

A motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Mr. Arsenault with a second from Mr. Vanselow at 8:10 pm With 4 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes-4 (Arsenault, Morehouse, Vanselow, Goodspeed) Nays -0

The next regular Town Board meeting will be held at 7:00pm on June 1, 2010 at the Wevertown Community Center, Wevertown, NY

Prepared by William Rawson, Town Clerk