

**Town of Johnsbury Executive Session 6:00 PM and
Regular Meeting of the Town Board
Tannery Pond, 3496 St Rt 8 Johnsbury, NY 12843 and Zoom Meeting
August 24, 2021 7:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2172603617>

Meeting ID: 217 260 3617

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

PRESENT: Andrea Hogan – Supervisor
Eugene Arsenault – Councilman
Arnold Stevens – Councilman
Laurie Arnheiter – Councilwoman
Justin Gonyo – Councilman
Kate Lorah - Town Clerk

6:00 pm Executive Session adjourned at 6:45 pm. No action taken.

Supervisor Hogan called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 and the Pledge to the Flag was led by Donna Welsh.

Approval of Minutes July 20, 2021 meeting

RESOLUTION #145-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2021 meeting. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Correspondence:

- Thank you from Adirondack Community Outreach Center for Town support

- Letter of interest for JYC School Year Activities Director from Kate Hartley
- Letter of interest for Winter Activities Director from Ann Dingman

New Business:

- **New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways Training and Motel – Fred Comstock**

RESOLUTION #146-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to approve expenses for Fred Comstock to attend New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways Training not to exceed \$1300. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo)
Nays – 0

- Highway Superintendent's update

Mr. Comstock spoke about current projects the Highway Department is working on, including Streetscape. Also, after heavy rains, Harvey Road was in need of repair, partly due to more traffic being detoured from 13th Lake Road. Warren County assisted with repairs. The Highway Garage is slated for an insurance inspection Wednesday, August 25, and Mr. Comstock is confident that it will go well.

- **Phone reimbursement for employees**

Resolution #112-21 approved reimbursing employees who use their personal phones for work \$25 per month. Ms. Hogan has since learned of other employees who fall into this category.

RESOLUTION #147-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve reimbursing Fred Comstock, Mike Dunkley and Dave Cavanagh (who use their personal phones for work) \$25 per month. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

• School Speed Zone

RESOLUTION #148-21

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FOR A SCHOOL ZONE
ALONG MAIN STREET BETWEEN THE DRIVEWAYS OF JOHNSBURG CENTRAL
SCHOOL**

RESOLUTION NO.: 148-21

INTRODUCED BY: Mr. Gonyo

SECONDED BY: Ms. Arnheiter

WHEREAS, the Johnsbury Town Board and Town Highway Superintendent support a lowering of the speed limit between the driveway entrances of Johnsbury Central School along Main Street in the Town of Johnsbury from 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour from 7am to 6pm on school days,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Johnsbury Town Board hereby requests that the maximum speed limit between the driveway entrances of Johnsbury Central School along Main Street in the Town of Johnsbury be lowered from 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour from 7am to 6pm on school days for safety reasons, and

BE IT FURTHER,

RESOLVED, in accordance with Vehicle and Traffic Law §1622, that the Town Board further authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor's Office to forward a certified copy of this Resolution and any other necessary documentation to the New York State

Department of Transportation and/or Warren County Depart of Public Works for the purpose of studying and establishing a lower maximum speed limit between the driveway entrances of Johnsburg Central School along Main Street and take any other needed action to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

Duly adopted this 24th day of August, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES : 5

NOES : 0

ABSENT: 0

With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

• Change Court Records Review from quarterly to annual

RESOLUTION #149-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to approve changing the Court Records Review from quarterly to annual. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

• Hire JYC School Year Activities Director

RESOLUTION #150-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to hire Kate Hartley as JYC School Year Activities Director. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- **Hire Winter Activities Director**

RESOLUTION #151-21

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to hire Ann Dingman as JYC Winter Activities Director. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- **Report on EMS**

Joe Connelly gave an update on EMS services thus far this year, including comparisons of calls and revenue to 2019 and 2020. Although revenue is up \$16K from 2020 to date, he predicts a shortfall at year's end. Johnsburg EMS is doing all Minerva calls now with Minerva doing in-kind service until Johnsburg EMS can get to the call. A successful fundraiser enabled the district to purchase defibrillators, which are kept by EMS staff and are scattered throughout the Hamlets.

- **Resolution to ratify and approve completion of paperwork for ARPA funds to Town**

RESOLUTION #152-21

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to ratify and approve completion of paperwork by Supervisor Hogan for ARPA (Stimulus) funds to the Town. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- **Water District update**

On August 11, National Grid had a power line come down and it involved

the water department building at the Peaceful Valley storage tank. Charlie investigated and found the electric surge had started a fire, so he called the fire department. The department came and the fire was extinguished. The building will have to be repaired.

The building houses the controls, so in the meantime Charlie is manually controlling the pumps. Because of manual operation which can cause pressure drops, the fire hydrants had to be taken out of service. The fire department is aware of this and will not depend on them as their source of water.

Repairs to the building will be covered by insurance, and the radio equipment will be evaluated tomorrow.

Charlie brought up the fact that the roof on the building needs to be replaced, and his estimate is \$5000.

RESOLUTION #153-21

Ms. Arnheiter presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to approve the repair on the water department building off Peaceful Valley Road, not to exceed \$5000. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Old Business:

- Report from Ann Dingman on 2021 Youth Program

Ann Dingman sent the following summary of JYC 2021 activities:

August 18, 2021

To: The Johnsborg Town Board and Youth Committee Members

From: Ann Dingman

The Youth Program had another successful year, although the attendance was down significantly for a variety of reasons.

1. The school ran a summer school program.
2. We had no daily bus route.

3. Rebuilding the program after missing the summer of 2020 will take time.
4. The enrollment in Johnsbury Central School continues to decline.

Following the Department of Health Covid-19 rules, slight changes were made to the daily format of the summer program. The children were divided into two age groups. All children were able to enjoy all aspects; fields, courts and pavilion, of the park but rarely did they overlap. Almost all children remained outside the entire six weeks, even for arts & crafts. Although more difficult, the counselors did an excellent job following the new (for Covid) format.

Children attending the summer program:

Twenty-two - age nine and younger
Thirty-three - age ten and older

In addition four teens worked as counselors.

Seventeen older children from the morning program attended the glassblowing classes donated by Gregory Tomb.

Fourteen children participated in the Sunday ski lessons offered by Gore Mountain. Seven children attended the cross country ski lessons held at the Ski Bowl. Eleven of the skiers did not attend the summer program.

Sixty-six children participated in the youth program activities in 2021.

- Update on Tannery Pond repairs and upgrades

At the advice of our insurance agent, the Town put in a claim for the two broken pumps on the HVAC system. We have a quote for \$84,250 to replace the two pumps and to add the MERV filter. That does not include making any of the ductwork larger which was suggested by the engineer.

The insurance company inspected this morning – they have not determined if the work will be covered. There is a potential rebate of \$14,500.

The Board had expressed the use of ARPA funds for this project. Ms. Hogan is asking if the Board still feels the same. Mr. Gonyo added that the MERV filters are COVID related.

For the electronic upgrades the Town has received \$5000 from the Cloudsplitter Foundation and \$1000 from Community Funds for Gore Mountain Region. We have an ask into the Glens Falls Foundation and will be submitting to the Pearsall Foundation.

- Update on Tannery Pond Futures Committee

Mr. Arsenault attended another meeting of the Futures Committee and continues to be impressed with the dedication and performance of the committee.

Donna Welsh said the Futures committee has formed several committees: the steering committee, fundraising, legal and government, artistic vision, marketing and communications, finance, buildings and grounds, and strategic planning, which will be primarily the executive committee. The Futures Committee has access to advice on moving forward and is considering hiring a consultant.

Tannery Pond Center Board met and decided to become, along with the Steering Committee of the Future's Committee, the new non-profit moving forward.

- **RFP for Red Barn**

One bid was received for demolition of the Red Barn.

RESOLUTION #154-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to accept the estimate from Jim Jones for demolition of the Red Barn in the amount of \$32,500. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- **Budget amendments**

RESOLUTION #155-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve the budget amendments submitted by Emily Sargent, bookkeeper. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

- Budget discussion

Ms. Hogan said she will bring the Tentative Budget to the next meeting, but would like the Board's opinion on potentially breaking the tax cap. The Board had mixed reactions, and will discuss after seeing the Tentative Budget.

Ms. Hogan stated that the decision has been made by Warren County to stop both congregate meals and the meals-on-wheels programs. The Board all agreed that this is a poor decision for the Senior population.

RESOLUTION #156-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to draft a letter from the Town to Warren County opposing the decision to stop both congregate meals and the meals-on-wheels programs. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

RESOLUTION #157-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Arsenault to ratify the 2021 Senior Transport Agreement with Warren-Hamilton Counties Community Action Agency which ends December 31, 2021. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Committee Reports:

Parks – Mr. Stevens reported that a large crowd at the Black Hole blocked the road, obstructing other visitors. The Parks Department and the Sheriff's office will be making more frequent passes through the area to prevent this from recurring.

Planning and Zoning – Ms. Arnheiter said that people are regularly asking about solar farms and that she would like to have a public meeting to discuss this. Ms. Hogan said she will check with the APA and speak with Danae Tucker (ZEO) to go ahead with this idea.

ZEO, Animal Control, and Assessor reports

In Board packets.

Supervisor’s Monthly Report

RESOLUTION #158-21

Mr. Stevens presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Gonyo to approve the Supervisor’s monthly report. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays – 0

Approval of Warrants

General Fund (Total \$69,415.67)
Highway Fund (Total \$53,523.98)
Library Fund (Total \$2019.07)
EMS (Total \$146,940.00)
Water District (\$18,024.39)
Trust and Agency (\$509.00)
Total all warrants \$290,432.11

RESOLUTION #159-21

Mr. Arsenault presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Mr. Stevens to approve the warrants. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays - 0

Privilege of the Floor

Bob Nettle asked why the discussion with the fire departments had to be an Executive Session. Ms. Hogan read from Open Meetings Law the reasons to hold an executive session.

Christian Holt asked why the electric bills for the Kellogg Building are so high. Ms. Hogan explained that partly it was because of improvements and partly due to usage.

Motion to adjourn

RESOLUTION #160-21

Mr. Gonyo presented the following resolution and moved its passage with a second from Ms. Arnheiter to adjourn. With 5 members voting in favor the resolution is declared carried. Ayes – 5 (Hogan, Arsenault, Stevens, Arnheiter, Gonyo) Nays - 0

Next meeting Tuesday, September 7, 2021 7 pm
Tannery Pond, 3496 St Rt 8 Johnsbury, NY 12843 and
Online Zoom Meeting

Prepared by:

Kathleen C. Lorah