

**Regular Town Board Meeting  
December 28, 2023**

Supervisor Votra opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5 PM.

**Roll Call:** Supervisor Votra, Councilwoman Tremper, Councilman Cook, Councilwoman Jacot, Councilman Demo, Highway Superintendent Hart, Code Enforcement Officer and Sole Assessor David Burl, Maintenance Supervisor Ryan Jacot Town Clerk Maguire

**Others Present:**

Elbridge E. Randall, Legislator Rick Perkins, John Laneve, Joseph McGill, Kurstin Jacot

*A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Demo to accept the minutes as presented by Town Clerk Maguire from the November 28,2023 meeting.

*All in favor.*

**Legislator Report:**

Legislator Perkins submitted his written report from the meeting of the St. Lawrence County Legislators held on December 04, 2023. He read this report aloud and asked if there were any questions or comments from anyone in attendance. Councilman Cook asked if there were any policies in place for the solar panels being placed on prime farmland. Legislator Perkins said there is nothing prohibiting them from being placed on private property, but they try to discourage them from being placed on agricultural land.

**Code Enforcement Officer Report:**

Code Enforcement Officer Burl reported a fairly slow month. Mr. Burl submitted a written report and he asked if there were any questions.

*A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilman Cook to accept the Code Enforcement Officer report as submitted by Code Enforcement Officer Burl and to be kept on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

*All in favor.*

**Assessor's Report:**

Sole Appointed Assessor reported a few address changes, property transfers and 6 new Agricultural Commitments. Assessor Burl attended mandatory education in Canton this month. The data collection for the property reevaluation is on schedule and is 73% collected. There were 71 property sales recorded for the year.

*A motion* was made by Councilman Cook and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to accept the Assessor's report as given by Assessor Burl and to be kept on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

*All in favor.*

**Historian Report:**

Town Historian Joseph McGill reported that this is a slow time for the museum. He has done a few genealogy searches for people as they request them. Mr. McGill and

Councilman Demo went into the museum to address a few electrical issues that needed to be addressed. Supervisor Votra reported that the scheduled asbestos abatement has started by Bronze Contracting and Hyde Stone has ordered the furnace equipment and materials that will be needed to heat the museum. They are being paid this month, so the money will come out of this year's budget as planned. The heat source will be propane.

**Water District Report:**

*A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilman Cook to accept the Water District report as submitted by DANC.

*All in favor.*

**Recreation Report:**

Maintenance Supervisor Ryan Jacot reported that there has been clean up and maintenance done at the park and in the buildings. A new heater for the gator has been purchased and installed which will make working outside with it possible.

*A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilman Cook to accept the Recreation report as given by Maintenance Supervisor Ryan Jacot.

*All in favor.*

**Recreation Committee Report:**

Councilwoman Tremper reported that biddy basketball is still going on and a few games have been played and more are being scheduled. There is a winter ball scheduled for K-4 later next month. The condition of the old fire station was discussed briefly and the fact that it should not be used for groups or events because of the ongoing problems there.

*A motion* was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilman Demo to accept the Recreation Committee report as given by Councilwoman Tremper.

**Business:**

1. On behalf of the Town Board and the Town of Parishville, Supervisor Votra wished Councilman Sweeney well. This is Councilman Sweeney's last board meeting as he is completing his second four-year term. His dedication to the community is appreciated. Councilman Sweeney said he enjoyed his time on the Town Board and will be available if he is needed for any help or assistance.
2. Supervisor welcomed newly elected Town Councilwoman Kurstin Jacot to the Town Board. She will start next week at the Organizational meeting.
3. Supervisor Votra informed the Town Board that he contacted Town Attorney Linden regarding the old fire station. Apparently, something got overlooked by someone, somewhere and the actual possession of the building has not been turned over to the Town. An appraisal of the building needs to be done first. An appraisal firm has been contacted and it should be completed in the next few weeks.
4. Supervisor Votra has been in contact with the New York Justice Court System. He has had discussions with newly elected Judge Sisto about the need for armed court security. It has been with firearms training are the requirements for this appointed position. Retired Sheriff's Deputy Al Huckle is interested in the job. He provides security for the Town of Potsdam Court and would be a 4-hour-per-month job at \$25 per hour. This is anticipated to start on February 1, 2024. Supervisor Votra

asked if the board wanted to wait to think about it and act on it at next week's meeting. The board discussed this change and the need for more security. *A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Demo to hire Al Huckle as Amed Courtroom Guard at a rate of \$25 per hour effective February 1, 2024.

*All in favor.*

**Correspondence:**

1. Letter received from New York State Department of Transportation stating they received the resolution passed at last month's meeting requesting the speed zone change on State Highway 72, They will forward this request to their safety engineer to investigate further.
2. Letter received from ADK Fragrance Farm, located in Parishville. They are planning a large 3-day Total Eclipse Event in Parishville with the help of a \$100,000.00 grant they have received. Legislator Perkins stated that this will be a huge tourist event for St. Lawrence County.

**Highway Report:**

Highway Superintendent Hart reported a slow month for plowing and sanding. They have been cutting brush and working on dirt roads. They also have been working on the boiler system at the highway garage and working on various machinery. The boiler system needs quite a bit of work and may be quite expensive to repair.

*A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to accept the Highway report as given by Highway Superintendent Hart.

*All in favor.*

**Bills:**

*A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to accept the bills as follows:

1. General Account Bills – \$47,276.73
2. Highway Account Bills – \$12,135.86
3. Water District No. 1 Bills - \$1,758.69
4. Payrolls:  
Payroll 52 – 12/23/23 (General \$9,452.72, Highway \$11,256.42, Water \$908.51)  
Payroll 51 – 12/16/23 (General \$4,358.30, Highway \$11,028.97, Water \$ 90.84)  
Payroll 50 – 12/09/23 (General \$9,764.50, Highway \$12,060.51, Water \$359.83)  
Payroll 49 – 12/02/23 (General \$4,447.12, Highway \$ 9,724.95, Water \$ 90.84)

**Privilege of the Floor:**

John Laneve from the White Hill Road asked about the no littering signs that were agreed to be purchased and put up. Highway Superintendent Hart purchased signs that stated, "No Littering". Mr. Laneve would like signs that say "Please no littering.. We live here" Mr. Hart told Mr. Laneve that most of the road that he is talking about is in the Town of Hopkinton and he suggested that he go to their town meeting to see if they would be willing to put up a few signs. Mr. Laneve said that he was not aware that part of the

White Hill Road was in Hopkinton and he would go there and address the situation with them as well.

*A motion* was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 PM.

*All in favor.*

**Meeting Dates:**

**Organizational Meeting- January 04, 2024 @ 5:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting-January 23, 2024 @ 5 PM**

**Auditors:**

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Connie Maguire  
Town Clerk