

Regular Town Board Meeting December 28, 2021

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

Roll Call: Supervisor Votra, Councilwoman Tremper, Councilman Cook, Councilman Sweeney, Councilman Demo, Highway Superintendent Hart, Maintenance Supervisor Ryan Jacot Town Clerk Maguire

Others Present: Lester E. Gale Jr., Legislator Rick Perkins, Milt DeGraw, Elbridge E. Randall

A motion was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilman Cook to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on November 23, 2021, as submitted by the Town Clerk.

All in favor.

Legislator Report:

Legislator Rick Perkins gave a brief update on the activity of the Board of Legislators. There were 49 resolutions passed and 10 modifications to the budget. There were 29 contracts signed and approximately 9 vacant were filled. The 2022 budget was passed with a decrease from last year. The removal of the trees along the top of the dugway to open up the view was discussed. Councilman Cook expressed his appreciation for the reconstruction of the Twin Bridges which will benefit the townships of Parishville and Hopkinton.

Code Enforcement Officer Report:

Supervisor Votra read the Code Enforcement report aloud as- submitted by Code Enforcement Officer Burl. No questions were offered.

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

All in favor.

Assessor's Report:

Supervisor Votra read the Assessor report aloud as submitted by Assessor Burl. No questions were offered.

A motion was made by Councilman Cook and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to accept the Assessor's report as given by Assessor Burl.

All in favor.

Water District Report:

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

All in favor.

Recreation Report:

Maintenance Supervisor Ryan Jacot reported a busy month getting lights and mats in the old fire station so it can be utilized. The skating rink has been flooded and is ready for cold weather. The windstorm last week created a few problems with some downed trees and he thanked the Highway Department for their help with the cleanup.

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

All in favor.

PARC

Councilwoman Tremper reported that there is not much going on with PARC right now. Bitty Basketball will be starting after the first of the year and a Rock'N'Skate will hopefully take place once the rink is up and running.

A motion was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to approve the PARC report as given by Councilwoman Tremper.

All in favor.

Business:

1. *A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Cook to reappoint Robert White for a 5-year term on Parishville Zoning Board.

All in favor.

2. *A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Cook to reappoint Evan Harper for a 5-year term on Parishville Zoning Board.

All in favor.

3. *A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilman Cook to reappoint Michael Tremper for a 5-year term on Parishville Zoning Board.

All in favor.

4. *A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Cook to advertise for the vacancy on the BAR created by the expiration of Elbridge E. Randall's term. Mr. Randall has decided to not request reappointment after serving 20 years on the Board of Assessment Review. The Town Board appreciates his years of service on this board. This vacancy will be filled at the January meeting.

All in favor.

5. *A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to adopt Resolution 07-2021 as follows:

**Resolution 07-2021
Town of Parishville**

**St. Lawrence County
CALLING UPON
GOVERNOR KATHERINE HOCHUL TO REMEMBER HOW THE PEOPLE OF
OGDENSBURG AND ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HELPED NEW YORK STATE
AND TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION TO CLOSE
OGDENSBURG CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

WHEREAS, in the late 1980s, New York State faced a major crisis with severe prison overcrowding across New York State, and

WHEREAS, State officials faced major opposition from residents of New York City and Long Island who protested plans to locate prisons in their regions of the State, and

WHEREAS, at a time when most communities flatly refused to accept a prison in their midst, the residents of the City of Ogdensburg offered to assist the State of New York in their time of need and accepted a prison on the grounds of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center which became Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, and

WHEREAS, for almost forty (40) years, New York has seen the wisdom of that decision by enjoying the benefits of a well-run facility where employees and inmates are safer than those in downstate facilities, and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2010, former New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo personally told the citizens of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County, while he was marching in the Seaway Festival Parade, that he felt the State of New York owed a debt of gratitude to the citizens of the Maple City for accepting a prison at a time when other communities across the State were protesting and objecting to the location of prisons in New York City, Long Island, and elsewhere, and

WHEREAS, then Candidate Cuomo promised that if he were elected governor, he would keep Ogdensburg Correctional Facility open because the community had set an example for other communities across the State of New York by working hand in hand with the Department of Corrections to provide a safe place where inmates could be treated with dignity and respect while they serve their sentences, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Ogdensburg once again helped the State of New York in the late 1980s when New York City faced a severe jail crisis and Ogdensburg agreed to accept the construction of Riverview Correctional Facility at a time when the citizens of the largest city in the State were again refusing to allow the construction of a new jail to house their own citizens who were facing dangerous conditions in the overcrowded and dangerous jail system in the New York Metropolitan area, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Gouverneur agreed in 1990 to accept a medium security prison, and later agreed to help the State of New York provide facilities for some of its most troubled inmates by agreeing to accept the construction of a Secure Housing Unit, within the facility, to provide a safe place where people could serve their sentences, and

WHEREAS, the prisons in Northern New York have demonstrated they are less costly to operate than downstate prisons, result in fewer injuries to staff and inmates, are more efficient in terms of operations and a cost-effective way to provide this important service to the people of the State of New York,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Parishville, St. Lawrence County, calls upon Governor Katherine Hochul to remember how the people of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County helped New York State and to reconsider the decision to close Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Katherine Hochul, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Patricia Ritchie, Senator Dan Stec,

Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, and the leaders of the New York State Senate and Assembly.

Supervisor Votra- Aye
Councilwoman Tremper- Aye
Councilman Cook- Aye
Councilman Sweeney- Aye
Councilman Demo- Aye

Resolution Adopted.

6. A motion was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to approve the meeting dates for 2022 as follows:

2022 PARISHVILLE TOWN BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

JANUARY 4 – ORGANIZATIONAL-5 PM
JANUARY 25- 5 PM
FEBRUARY 22- 5 PM
MARCH 29- 5 PM—(5th Tuesday)
APRIL 26- 5 PM
MAY 24 – 5 PM
JUNE 28- 5 PM
JULY 26- 5 PM
AUGUST 23- 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 27- 5 PM
OCTOBER 25- 5 PM
NOVEMBER 22- 5 PM
DECEMBER 27 - 5 PM

All in favor.

7. A motion was made to approve the submitted Jurisdictional Annex for the Town of Parishville that identifies the important information for the municipality that will be included in the St. Lawrence County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

All in favor.

Highway Report:

Highway Superintendent Hart reported a typical December with plowing, sanding and cutting up trees from the wind storms this month.

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.

Recreation Committee Report:

Councilwoman Tremper reported

A motion was made by Council and seconded by Council to accept the Recreation Committee report as given by Councilwoman Tremper.

Bills:

A motion was made by Council and seconded by Council to accept the bills as follows:

1. General Account Bills – \$21,287.90
2. Highway Account Bills – \$35,241.10

3. Water District No. 1 Bills - \$2,621.30
4. Payrolls:
 - Payroll #48 - 11/27/21 (General \$4,282.88, Highway \$12,409.80, Water \$ 86.00)
 - Payroll #49 - 12/04/21 (General \$4,282.88, Highway \$11,935.64, Water \$ 86.00)
 - Payroll #50 - 12/11/21 (General \$8,626.59, Highway \$10,833.37, Water \$464.92)
 - Payroll #51 - 12/18/21 (General \$4,510.02, Highway \$11,817.50, Water \$ 86.00)
 - Payroll #52 - 12/25/21 (General \$8,448.57, Highway \$13,658.39, Water \$487.91)

All in favor.

Privilege of the Floor:

Milt DeGraw inquired about parking in front of the old fire station. Supervisor Votra stated that parking there would be fine.

The Verizon issue was on White Hill was discussed and it is recommended that residents file a complaint with the Public Service Commission website. There is a committee of County Legislators looking into high-speed internet in that area and other areas in need as well.

Judge Gale swore in Supervisor Votra, Town Clerk Maguire, Councilman Cook, Councilman Demo and Highway Superintendent Hart for their next 4 year term.

A motion was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilman Cook to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 PM.

All in favor.

Meeting Dates:

January 04, 2022 @ 5:00 PM-Organizational Meeting

January 25, 2022 @ 5:00 PM- Regular Meeting

Auditors: Councilman Sweeney and Councilman Demo

Connie Maguire
Town Clerk