

## **Regular Town Board Meeting February 28, 2023**

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:** Legislator Rick Perkins, John Parmeter, Milt DeGraw, Elbridge E. Randall, Lester E. Gale, Jr., Kimberly Sochia, Justin Sochia, Luke Zimmer

*A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilman Cook to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on January 24, 2023 as submitted by the Town Clerk.  
*All in favor.*

**Legislator Report:**

Legislator Rick Perkins read aloud his submitted report from the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the St. Lawrence County Legislators. No comments or questions were offered.

*A motion* was made by Councilman Cook and seconded by Councilman Demo to accept the report as given by Legislator Perkins.

*All in favor.*

**Code Enforcement Officer Report:**

The Code Enforcement Report was tabled due to Code Enforcement training in Lake Placid.

**Assessor's Report:**

The Assessor's Report was tabled due to Code Enforcement training in Lake Placid.

**Water District Report:**

*A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to accept the Water District report as submitted by DANC.

*All in favor.*

Councilwoman Tremper gave an update on the water project on the bridge. The bid is out right now and the prebid meeting is tomorrow morning. The bids are due on this project by March 16<sup>th</sup> with the bid opening at 4 PM. The bid will be awarded at the March meeting of the Town Board. The Town of Parishville received AARPA grant monies through St. Lawrence County for \$150,000.00 to offset the cost of this project. Legislator Perkins commended the Town Board for getting their paperwork completed correctly to receive these funds. There were other applicants who were denied for various reasons.

**Recreation Report:**

Maintenance Supervisor Ryan Jacot that despite the warm weather this month, there is ice at the rink right now. He has been able to get out and clean up the park a little bit to get a head start on spring 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.*

**Recreation Committee Report:**

Councilwoman Tremper reported the Valentine Dance that was held was well attended. There have been a few open gym days held and more may be scheduled.

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

*All in favor.*

**Business:**

1. *A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to approve the examination and accuracy of the submitted Court records for fiscal year 2022.  
*All in favor.*
2. The new Transfer Station vehicle stickers were shown to the Board members. These stickers will be available free of charge to all taxpayers in the Town of Parishville. They may be obtained at the Transfer Station or Town Clerk's Office with proof of taxpayer status.
3. *A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to reappoint Timothy Zellweger to the Board of Assessment Review Board for a 5-year term to expire on 09/30/2027.  
*All in favor.*
4. *A motion* was made by Councilman Cook and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to appoint Frank Sisto to fulfill the vacated Board of Assessment Review Board of Eric Alan which will expire on 09/30/2024.  
*All in favor.*
5. *A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilman Cook to enter into a 2-year Intermunicipal Agreement with the towns of Hopkinton, Stockholm, Brasher, Pierrepont, Lawrence and Potsdam.  
*All in favor.*
6. *A motion* was made by Councilman Cook and Councilwoman Tremper to approve the annual contract with the Parishville Hilltopper's in the amount of \$3,500.00.  
*All in favor.*
7. *A motion* was made by Councilman Demo and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to approve the annual contract with the Potsdam Public Library in the amount of \$2,000.00.  
*All in favor.*
8. There was discussion on the future use of the old fire station. The building is old and has a lot of issues that will need to be addressed if it is to continue to be used as

a recreation center. The cost of repair and maintenance needs to be weighed against the cost of a new addition to the existing Park building. Councilman Sweeney offered that when the firemen used the building, there were septic issues when there were just a few people using the building. It is not set up to accommodate large crowds with lots of bathroom use. It was also discussed that the roof is not in good shape and there have been lots of problems over the winter trying to keep it dry inside for use. Councilwoman Tremper will look into getting more information for next month's board meeting about the feasibility of a remodel of the existing building at the park to accommodate use as a "rec center". This will be discussed further at next week's meeting. Applying for available funding will be considered. Councilman Demo indicated that he had contacted a school board member regarding the use of the "blue gym" at the school. It was relayed to him that there is no reason why a request for a weekly program could not be accommodated at the school, where the facilities are adequate. A one-time event, such as a dance or clinic could be canceled easily if there was a leak or septic problem at the old fire station.

**Correspondence:**

1. A letter from Courtney Stone requesting the use of the old fire station to be used for a gymnastic program was received. This was discussed and agreed upon, that this would not be feasible at this time, with the condition of the building.
2. A letter from Makayla Zimmer regarding an incident at the ice rink, with her child being injured by a hockey puck was received. This was discussed at length with the Zimmer's and the Town Board and the need for more supervision was suggested. The enforcement of the use of hockey helmets and the use of the pads to divide the ice rink in two parts was encouraged. One side would be for free skate and the other would be used for the kids who want to play hockey. Maintenance Supervisor Ryan Jacot will be sure to inform his staff of the enforcement of the rules to safeguard the safety of all the person's at the ice rink facility.

**Highway Report:**

Highway Superintendent Hart reported his department has been busy with the usual winter tasks such as plowing, sanding and machinery repairs. Mr. Hart has priced a new grader and the prices have increased significantly so that will be put on hold for now. The purchase of a new pickup truck was discussed. The State contract is with Chevrolet and could take more than 6 months to be ordered and then there is no guarantee of the availability of one. Mr. Hart has found a Dodge ¾ ton truck in stock at Blevin's motors. *A motion* was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to approve the purchase of a new ¾ ton Dodge pickup truck, in the amount of \$55,327.50 from the Highway Reserve Fund. This will be paid prior to the audit of next month's meeting.

*All in favor.*

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

*All in favor.*

**Bills:**

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

1. General Account Bills – \$290,743.94
2. Highway Account Bills – \$71,198.77
3. Water District No. 1 Bills - \$2,054.57
4. Payrolls:
  - Payroll #05 – 01/28/23 (General \$ 5,236.97, Highway \$12,956.54, Water \$248.44)
  - Payroll #06 – 02/04/23 (General \$10,613.26, Highway \$14,118.10, Water \$ 90.84)
  - Payroll #07 – 02/11/23 (General \$ 4,971.55, Highway \$11,867.91, Water \$ 82.35)
  - Payroll #08 – 02/18/23 (General \$ 8,432.25, Highway \$11,979.47, Water \$ 72.12)
  - Payroll #09 – 02/25/23 (General \$ 5,192.61, Highway \$13,048.89, Water \$ 90.84)

*All in favor.*

**Privilege of the Floor:**

Milt DeGraw from the AMVETS Post 265 informed everyone present that their organization is looking into leasing the Fire Hall on the Rutman Road for a year trial. They plan on keeping it business as usual with the ball fields and Italian Dinners. They are also looking into the logistics of having Bingo games and are looking forward to working with the community.

Kim Sochia asked if the Girl’s Varsity Softball team could use the old fire station for pitching and catching drills until they are able to practice outside. The number of girls would be small. This was approved with the agreement that they will wear clean shoes on the mats and try to limit the use of the bathrooms.

John Parmeter inquired about the town considering the Homestead Act. He had little information on it, so Assessor Burl will be asked about it when he returns.

*A motion* was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilman Cook to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM.

*All in favor.*

**Meeting Dates:**

**March 28, 2023 @ 5 PM**

**Auditors:** Councilman Sweeney and Councilman Demo

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Connie Maguire  
Town Clerk