

State of New York
 County of Lewis
 Town of Watson

The Organizational Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 by Deputy Supervisor Michael Hanno.

Town Officials Present:

Supervisor: Vacant Seat
 Deputy Supervisor: Michael Hanno
 Councilmen: Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Incumbant Vicki Roy – Absent
 Town Clerk: Christina Merry
 Hwy Superintendent: Stephen Skiff, Jr.

Town Residents attending: Bill & Judi Houppert

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Supervisor Michael Hanno.

Motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hoch to accept the December Minutes as read.

Ayes: Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno.

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Croghan Fire Dept.: Steve Monnat and Warren Shaw came to give a short presentation on the calls they responded to in the Township. They responded to 6 calls, 2 were ATV accidents, 1 involved a boat, and in 2 years they only had 1 fire call. Their budget is about \$141,000, expenses are about \$130,000. They do one fundraiser a year, participate in coldwater rescue, do have trained EMT's.

Lowville Fire Dept: Joe Austin, Fire Chief, along with his Assistant Chiefs, Jerry Nortz, and Anthony Martin gave a short video presentation of training someone needs to go through to become a Volunteer Fireman. Discussed their services, they have recently purchased battery operated jaws of life. For the year 2021 – responded to a total of 214 Fire calls – 55 of which were in the Town. Also, had number of other calls that they responded to in the Township, Have worked with Highway Superintendent, Steve Skiff with our water system, and want to do so again in the spring to determine usage in case of a structure fire, and if tankers will be needed also.

The Board thanked both Departments for coming and giving a presentation.

Tom Turck was given the floor, to pass pictures of his tub, sink and shower curtain and the discoloration since being on the Watson Water as well as being broke out and itchy. He stated he unhooked the Watson Water and went back to his well water for a few weeks, recommended by his Dr. Discussion followed, and Mr. Turck will come to the February meeting to discuss if he is better, and what if anything can be done.

Scott Lawrence, CPA was given the floor. Needs some paperwork for the AUD report. Chris & Mike will work together to get the these items to him. Discussed an hourly wage for Data Collector, Court Clerk, and Deputy Clerk.

Regarding some of the Organization Items, it was decided to do this at the next meeting when the new Council Member will be present.

Resignation: Gerald Crowell submitted his resignation effective January 3, 2022.

Motion was made by Councilman Hoch, seconded by Councilman Lyng to accept his resignation.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Mike Hanno

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Supervisor applications: Have only received one, from Councilman Hoch for Supervisor.

Motion was made by Councilman Hanno, seconded by Councilman Lyng to appoint Jeff Hoch as Supervisor until the next General Election in November.

Ayes: Jeff Lyng, Mike Hanno, Jeff Hoch

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hanno to accept Jeff Hoch's resignation as Councilman effective 01/12/2022.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Town Clerk's position: Have received 4 applications. Will conduct interviews, but will wait until next week to schedule, so new Council Member Vicki Roy can be involved.

Motion was made by Councilman Hoch, seconded by Councilman Lyng to appoint Shawn Freeman as Councilman until the next general election in November, 2022.

Councilman position now empty. Shawn Freeman is interested in the position.

Motion was made by Councilman Hoch, seconded by Councilman Lyng to appoint Shawn Freeman to fill this position until the next general Election in November, 2022.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Volunteer Transportation Contract – was budgeted for the increase for 2022.

Motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hoch to accept and sign the Contract.

Ayes: Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Ambulance Contract: This increase was also budgeted for 2022.

Motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hoch to accept and sign this contract.

Ayes: Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

There was some discussion about the upcoming Highway Union Contract. Will be working on this in the near future.

Deputy Supervisor Hanno suggested making a change to the Organizational Meeting to the first workday after the New Year. Will discuss more later.

Highway Report: superintendent Skiff reported that the Truck should be beginning to be built tomorrow, January 13, 2022, then will be sent to Viking. His office floor and painting came to about \$1,100, less than quoted. Would like to do the lunchroom also. There was a water leak for approximately a week, losing 25,000 -35,000 gallons per day, found the source of the leak, and shut the water off at the curb stop. Resident had shut valve off under trailer, froze and when it thawed, the pipe was broken. Resident doesn't currently live there. Waiting for paperwork from the County regarding the Bridge repair, should have that by next meeting.

Town Justice: Justice Regetz discussed his year-end report. Asked if any questions. Also, he explained that the December Monthly Report was incomplete as there is a deposit missing. He has spoken to the Justice Dept., and is working to resolve this matter.

A motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hoch to accept the Justice's monthly report and end of year report.

Ayes: Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch, Mike Hanno

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Town Clerk's monthly report and year end report was submitted and examined.

Motion was made by Councilman Hoch, seconded by Councilman Hanno to accept the Town Clerk's monthly and year end reports.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Jeff Lyng, Mike Hanno

Nays: None

Motion so carried.

Monthly Bills:

BAN: Vouchers # 1-2 - \$279,206.32

Water Fund: Voucher # 1 - 21.64

Watson Water O & M - Vouchers # 1 - 10 - \$1,292.49

General Fund - Vouchers # 1 - 38 - \$112,012.17

Highway Fund - Vouchers # 1 -10 - \$19,047.10

Motion to pay the bills was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by Councilman Hanno.

Ayes: Mike Hanno, Jeff Lyng, Jeff Hoch

Nays: None

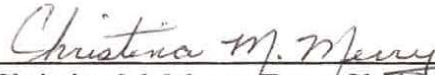
Motion so carried.

Discussed the pay rate for the Data Collector, Court Clerk, and Town Clerk Deputy. Discussion and suggestion was a 3% increase for the Data Collector and Court Clerk. Decided as the Town Clerk Deputy had only been working a few months to not raise her hourly pay at this time. Data Collector will be at \$15.45 and Court Clerk will be at \$15.97 per hour.

A motion was made by Councilman Lyng, seconded by councilman Hoch to adjourn at 10:12pm.

All in favor.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:30pm.


Christina M. Merry, Town Clerk