

State of New York  
County of Lewis  
Town of Watson

November 8, 2023

The regular meeting was called to order on November 8, 2023 at 6:31pm by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

Town Officials present:

Supervisor: Jeffrey Hoch

Councilpersons present: Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Gerry Crowell, Vicki Roy

Town Clerk: Michelle Ward

HWY Superintendent: Steve Skiff

CPA: Scott Lawrence

Citizens present: Bill Hunt, Bill and Judi Houppert, Carol Leviker, Dawn Pelo

Meeting was started by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Supervisor Jeff Hoch.

#### Public Hearing

Public Hearing to finalize the Preliminary Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024. A Preliminary Budget has been completed and is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk in Watson, where it is available for inspection by any interested parties during regular business hours. Pursuant to Section 113 of Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following Town Officials are hereby specified: Supervisor: \$22,880.00, Town Councilmen: \$4,680.00x4, Town Clerk: \$21,840.00, Town Justice: \$11,752.00, Hwy Superintendent: \$54,000.00.

Motion made to open public hearing at 6:32pm for the Preliminary Budget by Gerry Crowell and seconded by Jeff Lyng.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

The Board stated to citizens that there has been an increase in the budget due to fire protection services, insurances, offices salaries, ambulance services, zoning grant and increase cost of highway equipment.

No questions were voiced during this public hearing time.

Motion made to close public hearing at 7:12pm by Gerry Crowell and seconded by Jeff Lyng.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman. Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Gerry Crowell to accept the Final Budget for 2024.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman. Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

The final budget for 2024 will be posted on the Town website and copies will be available from the Town clerk in the Town office building during regular business hours.

## Agenda guests/ Open Floor Discussion

Dawn Pelo addressed the Town Board with a complaint about her neighbor's animals, fences, signs and streamers. She asked what, if anything can be done. She stated that the neighbor's fence is not very nice to look at and is not very sturdy. She also stated that the animals are not being taken care of properly. She stated that she has called the Town of Watson's Codes enforcement officer and he stated that the fence law within the Town is vague with not much restrictions.

The Town Board addressed the fence law and stated that it needs to be discussed with the Planning Board. This will be tabled.

## Financials

Scott Lawrence was here and reviewed the financials for October 2023. Any questions voiced were answered.

## Minutes

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Gerry Crowell to accept the October 11, 2023 Town Board Meeting Minutes and the Budget Meeting Minutes October 27, 2023.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

## Highway

Steve stated that the CHIPS form for reimbursement has been completed and sent.

There has been a V-plow installed on the new truck.

The engineer for the Bailey Road Bridge spoke with Steve and asked if the Town wants to continue with the current bridge plan and re-apply in the future for a potential grant from the DEC to cover the excessive costs due to the previous flooding. The State recommends that we continue with the project and apply for a grant when the next one becomes available.

Next step with the bridge project is to have some boring done. The cost is \$44,000.00, which the Town will be responsible for 5% (\$2,200.00) of. The Town Board approved this step and Steve will contact them to proceed.

The highway garage is in need of some repairs/updating. Steve has compiled a list of obvious things that need replacing or fixed. He addressed it with the Board. It was suggested that he get quotes from an engineer about this project. This is tabled until quotes can be obtained.

## Water

Hydrant Flushing has been completed and the valves have been turned.

In regards to the potential water dispenser that was discussed potentially being installed at the Town Barn is has been put on hold due to pricing.

## New Business

The Town Board has decided to join RACOG. Some of the services include: IT consultant for website and e-mail services, staff resources and grant writing. A letter will be sent to RACOG.

The Town Board has come to a decision in regards to the abandonment of the Bradish Road. They have decided to keep the road and maintain it. Steve will evaluate it and see what it need for road maintenance and tree trimming.

A motion was made to keep the road by Vicki Roy and seconded by Jeff Lyng.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#### Planning Board

Meeting held first Wednesday of each month.

Meeting minutes posted to the town website: [www.townofwatsonny.com](http://www.townofwatsonny.com)

#### Zoning Board

Meeting held the second Monday of each month.

Meeting minutes posted to the town website: [www.townofwatsonny.com](http://www.townofwatsonny.com)

#### Monthly Abstracts

Abstracts: November

General Fund – Voucher 267-290 - \$14,256.94

Highway – Voucher 110-119 - \$3,815.52

Water District – Voucher – 14-15 - \$14,222.90

Watson Water O & M – Voucher 63-69 - \$4,930.51

Bond Anticipation Note – Voucher 2-6 - \$58,194.88

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Gerry Crowell to accept November abstracts.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#### Monthly Reports

Monthly report for October 2023 for Town Clerk and Dog Fund was submitted by Michelle Ward, Town Clerk.

Monthly Justice report for October 2023 was submitted by Donald Regetz, Town Justice.

Motion made by Jeff Lyng and seconded by Vicki Roy to accept reports.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

#### Executive Session

Motion made by Gerry Crowell and seconded by Shawn Freeman to go into executive session for personnel discussion at 8:10pm.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Motion made by Shawn Freeman and seconded by Gerry Crowell to come out of executive session at 9:18pm.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Motion made by Vicki Roy and seconded by Jeff Lyng to adjourn meeting at 9:19pm.

Ayes: Jeff Hoch, Gerry Crowell, Jeff Lyng, Shawn Freeman, Vicki Roy

Nays: None

Motion Carried

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Michelle Ward, Town Clerk

Next Regular Meeting: December 13, 2023