

**Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting  
February 6, 2019**

<These minutes may be subject to Town Board review>

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on February 6, 2019 at 1:00 pm at the Town Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

**PRESENT:**

- Jay Skellie..... Supervisor
- Mike Nolan..... Councilman (Absent)
- Travis Rea..... Councilman
- Carol Rich..... Councilwoman
- Edward Rouse..... Councilman
- Tammy Skellie-Gilbert..... Town Clerk
- Sean Carney..... Highway Superintendent
- Noel Hanf..... Planning Board Chair
- Donna Nolan..... Budget Officer
- Sharon Dunn..... CARES

**Also Present:** Betsy Ehrenfreund, Christine Eldred (Eagle Press)

**1:01 PM PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2019**

Supervisor Skellie open the public hearing regarding Local Law #1 of 2019 and welcomed comments from the public. The purpose of this local law is to provide a partial exemption from real property taxes to qualified residents of the Town of Jackson who are sixty-five years or older by increasing the annual income cap. If passed, this law would replace Local Law #1 of 1996 and would triple the number of residents who qualify for the exemption. There were no comments from the public and the hearing closed at 1:05 pm.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Elizabeth “Betsy” Ehrenfreund was present to request that the Town take ownership of MacEhren Way. Mrs. Ehrenfreund and her late husband have owned the road for decades. In that time several parcels along the road have become year-round residences increasing the daily flow of traffic and thus the increasing the cost of maintaining the road. She stated that she will no longer pay the taxes on the parcel, which includes only the road.

In September 2010, the Ehrenfreunds sent a letter dated September 1, 2010 to their MacEhren Way neighbors to ask that each property owner contribute \$150 towards establishing a road maintenance fund and encouraged the neighbors to talk with them by Columbus Weekend. Only one seasonal resident sent money. A copy of the letter is on file.

On February 3, 1993, the Town Board unanimously agree that it will be the *Town's policy to not take on any new roads.*

#### **RESOLUTION #14-19**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the December 28, 2018 Town Board minutes as written.**

#### **RESOLUTION #15-19**

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the January 2, 2019 amended Town Board minutes.**

#### **RESOLUTION #16-19**

A motion by Councilman Rouse, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the Town Clerk & Supervisor Reports for January 2019 as follows:**

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Town Clerk Fees to Town  | \$119.87     |
| Supervisor Receipts      | \$700,491.13 |
| Supervisor Disbursements | \$73,877.23  |

#### **REPORTS**

**Highway** – Supt. Carney shared the departments activities in January which in his words included, “chasing snow, mud and water.” Several trucks needed repairs including an oil tank leak on the '97 truck and replacement of the EGR coolers on the two newest trucks ('07 & '08).

**Planning Board** – Chairman Hanf shared that the Planning Board made a decision to disapprove the Monolith/Calabrese Community Solar site plan review application citing failure to submit a complete application in a timely matter. Monolith's repeated lack of responsiveness was documented in a letter sent to the company dated December 19, 2018 with a request to respond to the Clerk by January 3, 2019. No response has been received. If, in the future, the property owner (or his designated agent) wishes to apply again, the Board would be happy to review a complete application.

**Washington Co. CARES** – Sharon Dunn shared that the Cambridge Library continues to offer a caregiver support group on the first Monday of each month from 6-7 pm. Additionally, she anticipates that the Greenwich Library will announce new dates offering programs on various legal topics. Finally, she did ask the President of the Washington County Historical Society if Jackson ever had its own flag. The president had no knowledge that such a flag existed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Annual Volunteer Town Dinner** – The Annual Volunteer Town Dinner will be held on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Cambridge American Legion. Invitations have gone out. RSVP to Tammy by February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **RESOLUTION #17-19**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **to pass Local Law #1 of 2019 which will take effect immediately upon filing with the Department of State.**

**ROLL CALL:**

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Councilman Rea     | AYE |
| Councilwoman Rich  | AYE |
| Councilman Rouse   | AYE |
| Supervisor Skellie | AYE |

**Local Law #2 of 2019** – Following the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, there was confusion about what could and/or needed to be included in the draft Local Law #2. Laura Chadwick provided some information, but it wasn't enough. Eventually it was determined that our Town Attorney was drafting a similar law for the Town of Salem, but it wouldn't be ready soon enough for Jackson to review and advertise a public hearing. The Town Clerk received Salem's draft law on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The Town Board received copies for review at the meeting. The topic will discuss at a later time.

**RESOLUTION #18-19**

A motion by Supervisor Skellie, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to rescind Resolution #11 of 2019.**

**Town Hall Repairs** – tabled until the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION #19-19**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 4-0:

**WHEREAS**, Washington County received a 2018-19 Local Government Efficiency (LGE) grant award in the amount of \$590,031.00 for the purpose of a Countywide Property Revaluation program; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington County is looking for a resolution of support to issue the Request for Proposal (RFP); and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the grant is to conduct a one-time revaluation of tax parcels to achieve a uniform assessment value of one-hundred percent; and

**WHEREAS**, the current equalization rate for the Town of Jackson is 36%;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Jackson agrees to continue to support this project and allow Washington County to distribute the RFP.

**RESOLUTION #20-19**

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the audit of the Town Clerk-Tax Collector's 2018 accounts.**

**RESOLUTION #21-19**

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the audit of the Supervisor’s 2018 accounts.**

**Electronic Death Registry System** – On January 14, 2019, the Town Clerk was contacted by the Department of Health to state that, by law, Region 5 (where Jackson is located) must be prepared to accept electronic death records by February 7<sup>th</sup>. This required filing paperwork, establishing an account in the Health Commerce System and completing webinar training for both the Registrar and Deputy Registrar. Jackson was able to meet the deadlines.

**2019 Elections** – With the recent changes in state law, the Local Primary, which is usually held the second week of September, will now be combined with the Federal Primary which is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. This change will require Caucuses to be held before July 25, 2019. Supervisor Skellie shared that Assessors Nick Kenyon and Tom Keys do not plan to seek another term. He commented that the Board has options to consider including seeking people to run for the two seats or consider moving to a sole assessor which would require a mandatory referendum on the November ballot. The Board will continue this discussion in March.

**Supervisor Report** – No report

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

- Shushan Fire Department and First Response Team submitted their 2018 budget worksheet along with an Incident Report. They logged 1,399.91 volunteer hours for fire calls, training and fundraising.
- Salem Fire Department sent their January activity report which included 456 volunteer hours which included 24 calls (18 within Salem district & six mutual aid) as well as training.
- Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner will be holding a Town Hall at the Greenwich Library on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**RESOLUTION #22-19**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve payment of the following bills as audited on February 7, 2018, Abstract #2 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

| FUND    | BILL # | AMOUNT       |
|---------|--------|--------------|
| General | 5-24   | \$106,088.04 |
| Highway | 14-35  | \$26,887.69  |

**RESOLUTION #23-19**

At 2:25 pm, a motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 4-0, **to move into an executive session for the purpose of collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law.**

**RESOLUTION #24-19**

At 2:38 pm, a motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **to close the executive session.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Skellie-Gilbert, RMC  
Town Clerk