

Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting January 2, 2019

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on January 2, 2019 at 12:00 pm at the Town Hall for the organizational meeting.

PRESENT:

- Jay Skellie..... Supervisor
- Mike Nolan..... Councilman
- Travis Rea..... Councilman
- Carol Rich..... Councilwoman
- Edward Rouse..... Councilman (ABSENT)
- Tammy Skellie-Gilbert..... Town Clerk
- Sean Carney..... Highway Superintendent
- Noel Hanf..... Planning Board Chair
- Donna Nolan..... CARES
- Jean McLenithan..... Assessor

Also Present: Sylvia Ashton, Laura Chadwick, Director of Wash. Cty. Real Property Tax Services, Christine Eldred (Eagle Press)

PRESENTATION: Tax Exemptions

Laura Chadwick, Director of Washington County Real Property Tax Services, was present ask the Town Board if they would consider increasing the annual income levels for persons 65 years of age or over to allow more residents to qualify for a deduction on their taxes if they file for an application for the *Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens*. If passed, this would replace Local Law #1 of 1996 when the annual income cap was set at \$14,699.00. Assessor Jean McLenithan stated that seniors who have lost a spouse are having the most difficulty paying their taxes and can be at risk of losing their homes. Any potential deduction of taxes for qualified seniors would be made up by the other Jackson taxpayers. Councilman Nolan commented that he's also concerned about young families who cannot obtain similar exemptions. The Board discussed various income levels and agreed to have Local Law #1 of 2019 drafted prior to the February 6th meeting so that a public hearing could be held on that date.

There was also some information shared about the *Enhanced STAR* program. In 2019, seniors who don't file income taxes will be required to file additional paperwork when completing their application for *Enhanced STAR*. Additionally, the State of New York plans to take over the *Enhanced STAR* applications in 2020 eliminating the local Assessor's responsibility for that exemption. The State will qualify all *Enhanced STAR* applicants' income based on the *Income Verification Program*. With the State managing the *Enhanced STAR* exemption, the local assessors may miss those individuals who may qualify for the *Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens*.

Finally, Assessor McLenithan shared concerns she's had that unreimbursed Medicare premiums are considered part of one's income. She would like the Town to pass a law allowing the Assessor to subtract that premium from the income when verifying a resident's eligibility for the Senior Citizen

exemption. According to the New York State Assessor Manual, *Exemption Administration: RPTL 467, Local Option,*

Unreimbursed Medical Expenses: *Municipalities that have elected to allow the exemption may additionally amend such local law, ordinance, or resolution to exclude all medical and prescription expenses which are not reimbursed or paid by insurance.*

The Town Board agreed to have Local Law #2 of 2019 drafted prior to the February 6th meeting so that a public hearing could also be held at that meeting.

Minutes – December 28, 2018 minutes were not complete in time for this meeting.

RESOLUTION #1-19

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the Town Clerk & Supervisor Reports for December 2018 as follows:**

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$380.67
Supervisor Receipts	\$16,437.32
Supervisor Disbursements	\$144,773.57

REPORTS

Highway – Supt. Carney shared the departments work during the last month. He also asked the Board about plans to update equipment. The “newest” dump/plow truck in Jackson’s fleet is a 2008 model. The wheel loader that’s had regular issues is a 1990 model. The Town has an equipment inventory list that is updated each summer for insurance purposes. Supt. Carney will update it and have the Town Clerk send copies to the Board members for their review.

Planning Board – No report - meeting is January 8th

CARES – Sharon Dunn shared information about free tax return assistance for families and individuals whose household income is \$55,000 or less. Day and evening appointments are available, simply call 1-800-211-5128. She did, however, caution that people shouldn’t wait until the last minute to make an appointment.

Although Mrs. Dunn is no longer the Town Historian, she received an inquiry asking if the Town of Jackson has ever had its own flag. To the best of the Board’s knowledge, the answer is no.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #2-19

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the following appointments for the year 2019:**

- Deputy Supervisor Michael Nolan
- Deputy Town Clerk/Collector Kim Skellie

- Deputy Registrar Kim Skellie
- Deputy Highway Supt. Richard Bentley
- Chairman of Assessors Jean McLenithan
- Chairman of Planning Board Noel Hanf
- Chairman Bd. Of Review Neal Rea
- Budget Officer to Supervisor Donna Nolan
- Court Clerk Lorie Christian Atwell
- Registrar of Vital Statistics /
Planning Board Clerk /
Records Management Officer Tammy Skellie-Gilbert
- Town Historian vacant
- Dog Warden Edward Holland & Nancy Quell
- Attorney for Town D. Alan Wrigley
- Health Officer /
Wetlands/FEMA Administrator Jay B. Skellie
- Health Board Town Board

RESOLUTION #3-19

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **that the bank depository for the Supervisor, Justice and Town Clerk-Tax Collector accounts will be the Greenwich Branch of the Glens Falls National Bank & Trust; and the bank depository for the investment account will be NYClass.**

RESOLUTION #4-19

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **giving the Highway Superintendent permission to spend up to \$3,000 maximum per month or \$1,000 per item without permission of the Town Board.**

RESOLUTION #5-19

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **giving the Supervisor permission to invest Town money in interest bearing accounts.**

RESOLUTION #6-19

A motion by Supervisor Skellie, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **selecting the Eagle Press as the official newspaper of the Town of Jackson.**

RESOLUTION #7-19

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **establishing mileage reimbursement at \$.32/mile.**

RESOLUTION #8-19

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **giving the Town Supervisor permission to pay certain monthly bills in advance of the regular monthly meetings if the due date is too close to the meeting date, thus making the payment late (i.e. phone bill, internet, electric).**

RESOLUTION #9-19

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to appoint Councilwoman Rich as auditor of the 2018 Town Clerk-Tax Collector's accounts, and Councilmen Rea and Rouse as auditors of 2018 Justice accounts.**

RESOLUTION #10-19

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to draft Local Law #1 of 2019 to increase the annual income level for qualified residents 65 years of age or over and provide a partial exemption from real property taxes.**

RESOLUTION #11-19

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to draft Local Law #2 of 2019 to allow qualified residents 65 years of age or over to exclude ~~(1) all medical and prescription expenses which are not reimbursed or paid by insurance, (2) veteran's disability compensation as defined in Title 38 of the United States Code, or (3) both (1) and (2) from the computation of an applicant's income.*~~**

RESOLUTION #12-19

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0:
WHEREAS, New York General Municipal Law, Article 5-G, Section 119-o (Section 119-o) empowers municipal corporations [defined in Article 5-G, Section 119-n to include school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, counties, cities, towns and villages, and districts] to enter into, amend, cancel, and terminate agreements for the performance among themselves (or one for the other) of their respective functions, powers, and duties on a cooperative or contract basis;

WHEREAS, the Town of Jackson wishes to invest portions of its available investment funds in cooperation with other corporations and/or districts pursuant to the NYClass Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of March 14, 2014;

WHEREAS, the Town of Jackson wishes to assure the safety and liquidity of its funds;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Town of Jackson is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the NYClass Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of March 14, 2014 in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Jackson.

Salem Fire Department Update

Bob Graham was present to share Salem Fire Departments' 2018 year-end report. Here are the highlights:

- They had 121 calls plus served as standby for other local departments
- 35 active members; 11 active support group members
- Members attend trainings as well as offered trainings
- Met all OSHA mandates which are numerous
- Purchased new air pack masks, steel hooks and 2019 pickup truck
- Held 10 fundraisers
- Total volunteer hours in 2018: 9,166

RESOLUTION #13-19

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve payment of the following bills as audited on January 2, 2019, Abstract #1 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	1-4	\$2,188.17
Highway	1-13 (excluding 9-10)	\$13,551.17
Machinery	9-10	\$3,024.00

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Skellie-Gilbert, RMC
Town Clerk

***Amended changes in tracking**