

**Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting
March 3, 2021**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on March 3, 2021 at 1:00 pm at the Town Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

PRESENT:

- Jay Skellie..... Supervisor
- Mike Nolan..... Councilman
- Travis Rea..... Councilman (left 2:50)
- Carol Rich..... Councilwoman
- Edward Rouse..... Councilman
- Tammy Skellie-Gilbert..... Town Clerk
- Sean Carney..... Highway Superintendent
- Donna Nolan..... Budget Officer
- Amy Maxwell..... Planning Board Chair (arrived 1:17)

Also present: Christine Eldred, Eagle Press

RESOLUTION #23-21

Following the reading of the minutes, a motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **to accept the February 3, 2021 Town Board minutes as amended.**

RESOLUTION #24-21

A motion by Councilman Rouse, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the Town Clerk & Supervisor Reports for February 2021 as follows:**

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$10,154.08
Supervisor Receipts	\$30,139.20
Supervisor Disbursements	\$682,812.86

REPORTS

Highway – Supt. Carney shared the following:

- The department plowed and sanded 22 times in February;
- The '05 truck was taken to Delurey's Sales and Service for repairs which were delayed because Delurey's shop was shut down due COVID cases;
- Supt. Carney met with a representative from Culvert NY about a grant to replace another culvert bridge on Murray Hollow Road. If awarded, the funds won't be available until 2023;
- There has been no update on the 2021 CHIPs allocation;
- Supt. Carney obtained quotes for new equipment
 - Through Onondaga County contracts, the cost of a new dump truck and body is \$246,840.

- Through *Sourcewell*, two bids for new 30,000 lb. wheel loaders were:
 - John Deere for \$142,635 which includes an extended warranty
 - Doosan for \$136,000 with an option for an extended warranty at \$7,500

Before making a decision, the Town Board weighed the need for updated equipment with the costs and impact to taxpayers. The machinery fund has some available funds. Supervisor Skellie shared that bond rates are currently quite low.

RESOLUTION #25-21

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Nolan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve obtaining a bond for \$140,000 to pay for upcoming equipment purchases.**

RESOLUTION #26-21

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Nolan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the purchase of the John Deere 524L wheel loader from Nortrax in the amount of \$142,635 delivered.**

Planning Board – Chair Maxwell was present to report on the March 2nd Planning Board meeting:

- The board approved a one lot subdivision of 3.54 acres from a 57-acre lot owned by Bill and Laura Zeppetelli.
- The board finished SEQR part 2 of the Borrego Solar Project. The consultant will write part 3 to be reviewed at the next meeting. Additionally, the board reviewed and edited the drafts for the decommissioning agreement and the resolution to approve the site plan with conditions. The board is still waiting to review the draft operations and maintenance agreement.
- Chair Maxwell commented that if Jackson established its own solar law, the site plan review process could be simplified and made more efficient when reviewing solar projects. Once the current solar project has concluded, the Planning Board will review solar laws already collected from five townships including three in Washington County.

Following the Planning Board meeting, a resident delivered a letter to the Town Clerk prior to the Town Board meeting on March 3, 2021. Among other things, the letter expressed opposition to the solar project at 2609 State Route 22. The belief is that the surrounding properties will be adversely affected by the project. Furthermore, the letter claims that the Planning Board is not following the local laws. The letter is on file.

OLD BUSINESS

Bids for the Town Hall

- **West Ramp Roof** – The Town Board reviewed engineered plans developed by Cottrell Associates for the west ramp roof. As previously mentioned, the west windows need to be replaced. The board agreed to have the windows included in the bid as a separate line item. The board requested that the bid be submitted in the Eagle two consecutive weeks in March. Councilman Nolan asked the Supervisor to ask the County for funds to help pay for the roof

since Board of Elections (actually NYS Board of Elections) forced the town to update its handicap ramp.

- **Painting the exterior of the Town Hall** – A second bid for painting the exterior of the Town Hall will also be submitted in the Eagle two consecutive weeks in March. All bids must be received by 1:00 pm on Wednesday, April 6, 2021 to be opened at the Town Board meeting that evening.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #27-21

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the audit of the Supervisor’s 2020 accounts.**

Emerald Way Resident – Board members received a letter from residents on Emerald Way dated February 18, 2021. They have been having issues with the adjacent neighbor and her management practices on her small rescue farm. The complainants’ included concerns about too many animals for the 5.2 acres; no removal of manure; and animals leaving the property and wandering to the complainants’ property causing damage to their lawn, garden and fruit trees. According to their letter, approximately five years ago the complainants’ water tested positive for E. coli with a possible cause due to run off or saturation from the neighboring farm. They have repeatedly sought assistance from law enforcement who have stated that they need to contact the Town Board. The Town Board will respond to the complainants’ letter. The letter is on file.

Battenkill Conservancy Planting Project at Schmidt Meadow Preserve – The Town Clerk was contacted by a member of the Battenkill Conservancy via email. They are hoping to plant about 200 trees and shrubs on the Schmidt Meadow Preserve, a 10.8-acre parcel located along the Battenkill off Skellie Road. They are seeking sponsorship from various sources and were hoping the Town of Jackson might like to contribute funds. The Town Board felt that donating funds would set a precedence, however, the Town Supervisor encouraged individuals to send donations to support this worthy cause.

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) – Superintendent Carney received a letter from NYSDOT dated August 19, 2020 requesting that the Town renew its agreement with the NYSDOT permitting the town to conduct activities and operations within the State highway right-of-way. If approved, this Undertaking will last twenty years.

RESOLUTION #28-21

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 5-0, **to permit the Highway Superintendent to sign the Perm 1 Undertaking for Highway Work Permits that replaces the previously required Perm 17 Certificate of Insurance.**

Supervisor Report – The Supervisor shared:

- Heartfelt comments about our former Planning Board Chair Noel Hanf who passed away February 14th. This was followed by a moment of silence;
- The County has faced more challenges with the replacement of the Shushan bridge on County Route 61; and
- While attending the February Town Board meeting, Mark Spiezio of the Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad (CVRS) expressed concerns about the department’s increased fuel expenses after the County closed the gas pumps on Content Farm Road almost two years ago. Since the pumps have been re-opened, Supervisor Skellie spoke with the County and secured permission for the CVRS to get their fuel, once again, at the Content Farm Road County site. This will result in a substantial savings for the department.

[Councilman Rea left meeting]

RESOLUTION #29-21

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Nolan; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the following budget amendment in the General fund:**

- **Add \$5,000.00 to A8020.4a for the purpose of paying the consultant, Barton and Loguidice D.P.C., for services provide to the Planning Board specific to the Borrego Solar Project (fees are paid by the applicant).**

RESOLUTION #30-21

A motion by Councilman Rouse, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve payment of the following bills as audited on March 3, 2021, Abstract #3 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	21-34	\$10,411.90
Highway	33-53	\$24,250.59

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Skellie-Gilbert, RMC
Town Clerk