

**Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting  
February 1, 2023**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on February 1, 2023 at 10:00 am at the Town Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

**PRESENT:**

- Jay Skellie..... Supervisor
- Carol Rich..... Councilwoman
- Edward Rouse..... Councilman
- Jennifer VanDeWater..... Councilwoman
- Molly Dixson..... Town Clerk
- Sean Carney..... Highway Superintendent
- Donna Nolan..... Budget Officer

**Also present:** Assessor’s Jean McLenithan and Tim Grogan, Salem Fire Chief Robert Graham

**Absent:** Councilman Travis Rea

**Salem Fire Department Report** – Salem Fire Chief Bob Graham was present to give the year-end report of the Department’s activity for 2022.

- 190 calls
- 36 active members, 8 active support members
- Several trainings were taken by the members, OSHA mandates were met and testing on vehicles and gear was passed, new equipment was purchased.
- Several fundraisers were completed as well as several meetings.

Total hours for the year were 9,072.

[Jean and Tim enter at 10:11 am during the fire report, Sean enters at 10:20 am during the fire report.]

**RESOLUTION #13-23**

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 4-0, **to accept the December 30, 2022 Year-end meeting minutes as read.**

**RESOLUTION #14-23**

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0, **to accept the January 4, 2023 Town Board meeting minutes as read.**

**RESOLUTION #15-23**

A motion by Councilman Rouse, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the Town Clerk & Supervisor Reports for January 2023 as follows:**

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$544.50
Supervisor Receipts	\$871,941.94
Supervisor Disbursements	\$444,249.46

## **REPORTS**

**Highway** – Superintendent Carney was present to report on the Department’s activity over the month of January. Lots of plowing had been done, trucks have had some work done. He received plans from the County to rebuild the salt shed at the Highway barn and is working on getting an estimated cost. Supt. Carney attended a meeting with the other 5 Town’s who joint-own the hot box prior to today’s Board meeting to share thoughts and offers.

**Planning Board** – There was no Planning Board report as the February Planning Board meeting follows after the Town Board meeting this month.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Town Board member Travis Rea has received information in hopes of hiring a new Town Attorney as the Town’s current Attorney Alan Wrigley has expressed interest in retiring. Travis will share this information with the Board at the March Town Board meeting.
- Attorney Alan Wrigley has looked over the revisions made to the Solar Law draft and advised a small word change. The Town and Planning Board’s wish to make any necessary changes and have the draft to the County following next Tuesday’s PB meeting.
- The Town Board will plan to vote on the Escrow Agreement between the Town and Jackson Solar 1, LLC at the March TB meeting, following an addition made by Wrigley and the Planning Board’s reviewal.
- The Board discussed organizing a Volunteer Dinner for Town Officials after a long hiatus due to COVID. The Town Clerk will check with the American Legion Post #634 for available dates in late March/early April and pricing on food options.
- The Town has still not heard back from the Highway Department’s Teamster representative regarding contract negotiations. Supervisor Skellie hopes to have copies of the draft contract for the TB to review at the March meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- The Assessor’s shared information regarding a new state program that would provide an exemption to Volunteer Firemen and EMS workers that own property. The Town’s need to approve the exemption by March for it to be available to local volunteers. Chair Assessor Jean McLenithan believes the exemption is discriminatory to volunteers who don’t own a home. Both her and Assessor Tim Grogan agree that the legislation is convoluted due to the fact that you must live in the jurisdiction of the volunteer dept. you serve to receive the tax break. That being said, it does not hurt to vote on approving the exemption as it is still up to the individual to apply for it. Supervisor Skellie stated that no hearing would be necessary as the Fire and EMS departments should be informing their volunteers of this.
- The Assessor’s shared information they received regarding purchasing new laptops. Supervisor Skellie passed along some information from the County to purchase the same laptops the County has. After speaking with County IT, the Assessor’s all agree that these laptops would be the best

option for what they need. They also wish to purchase two new filing cabinets to hold documents at Town Hall.

- The Assessor’s also shared their recent troubles following the revaluation done by GAR Associates LLC in 2022. They have been receiving many calls with people upset about their tax bill. Both Jean and Tim stated their trouble with receiving any information from GAR and agree that this has been unfair to many taxpayers. Jean advised the Board of a meeting being held at the American Legion on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm by White Creek’s new Assessor to discuss the revaluation (the meeting was later canceled and set to be rescheduled due to weather concerns).
- Tim mentioned to the Board an individual in the Town interested in selling their acreage to a solar company. Supervisor Skellie informed the Assessor’s of the fee being added into the Solar Law draft to account for solar company’s use of prime agricultural land.
- The Board discussed changing the time of March 1<sup>st</sup>’s Town Board meeting, so all members would be available to attend. All members present agreed to change the time to 7:30 pm.

**RESOLUTION #16-23**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve offering the 10% real property exemption to volunteer fire and medical personnel.**

**Supervisors Report-**

- Supervisor Skellie reported that the Grand Opening of the Shushan Bridge went smoothly and the bridge is now fully open.

[Councilman Rouse exited the meeting at 11:25 am.]

**RESOLUTION #17-23**

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 3-0, **to approve the payment of the following bills as audited on February 1, 2023, Abstract #2 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	2-10	\$2,899.83
Highway	9-23	\$16,574.77
Capital	1	\$9,185.44

**RESOLUTION #18-23**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 3-0, **to adjourn at approximately 11:24 am.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.

Molly Dixon, Town Clerk