

**Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting
May 3, 2023**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on May 3, 2023 at 8:00 PM at the Town Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

PRESENT:

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

Also present: Planning Board Chair Amy Maxwell, Planning Board member Erik Vandenberg, Assessor Jean McLenithan, and Christine Eldred of the Eagle.

RESOLUTION #47-23

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to accept the April 5th meeting minutes.**

RESOLUTION #48-23

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the Town Clerk & Supervisor Reports for April 2023 as follows:**

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$15,526.54
Supervisor Receipts	\$42,227.29
Supervisor Disbursements	\$86,847.43

[Jean enters at 8:05 pm]

REPORTS

Highway – Superintendent Carney was present to report on the Department’s activity over the month of April. The Department has been cutting trees and brush and cleaning ditches on Dunbar Road and the north end of Cambridge Battenville Road. They have graded ditches on Wood, Maxwell and Carney Cassidy Roads. The plows were taken off of the trucks and were painted along with the frames. The wheels and studs were changed on the ’05 dump truck and broken rims were replaced. The bristles on the sweeper brush were replaced. The Dept. is preparing to pave Dunbar and Co. Route 61 and then Shields Road with whatever is remaining. Not all dirt roads have been graded yet as the Highway crew still hasn’t hit Murray Hollow or Murphy’s Roads. Supt. Carney hasn’t received many prices on pickups yet but thinks the Town could possibly piggyback off of the County for one. The hot pressure washer is not working again, Supt. Carney reported, as it is 30 years old and in need of replacing. He received 3

quotes for a new washer, one from Haun Welding Supply for \$3,950, one from Wallace Supply for just under \$2,500, and one from Capital Tractor for \$4,740 with the kit and \$4,275 without. Superintendent Carney believes the best deal for the quality would be the Hotsy cleaner from Haun Welding Supply.

RESOLUTION #49-23

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, to **purchase a new Hotsy hot pressure washer for \$4,900.00 from Capital Tractor.**

Planning Board – Chair Maxwell was present to report on May’s Planning Board meeting:

- There was a subdivision application for a parcel on Colfax Road on the agenda. Prior to the start of the meeting the applicant presented his updated survey map to Chair Maxwell and Board member Mahoney who noted a mistake on the surveyor’s end. The applicant was sent on to retrieve an updated survey map and will hopefully be added to the June agenda.
- Jackson Solar 1, LLC representative Terrence Nolan was present at the meeting, along with New Leaf Energy’s Attorney Alec Gladd. The Board reviewed all of the conditions from the 2021 PB Resolution issuing site plan approval for the project, as well as the secured bond forms that were reviewed and approved by our Town Attorney. While some conditions pertain to the ongoing construction process of the project, all of the conditions that needed to be met by May 4th were agreed to have been completed. Mr. Nolan stated that construction is slated to begin in April of 2024 with the “switch flip” date set for January of 2025. The Board made a motion to approve the project and Jackson Solar 1, LLC, the first solar project in the Town of Jackson, was unanimously approved.
- Planning Board clerk Dixson volunteered to spearhead a solar checklist to help ease the application process for any new solar projects. Chair Maxwell and member Donahue will help her with this to be sure it corresponds with both the site plan and solar laws. She plans to present a rough draft at the June Planning Board meeting.
- Members Erik VandenBerg and Kelly Donahue attended trainings at the Washington County building where Kelly spoke with Washington County Planner Pamela Landi about the possibility of the Town returning to the comprehensive plan draft. Ms. Landi agreed that this would be a good idea for the Town now that the solar law has passed and offered to gather any information on consultants for the project that may be available. She stated that there are many other Town’s in the area who have comprehensive plans/visions who were able to secure certain grants and funding opportunities. She also offered her own expertise to the Board. Amy requested that the Town Board be agreeable to returning to the 2014 comprehensive plan draft that was put on hold. The Town Board agreed with the Planning Board taking on this project.
- The Planning Board wishes to make the Town Board aware of the possible overload of projects that may come through the door now that the moratorium on solar is expired and the law is passed. Each project has a unique nature that requires its own level of attention.
- The PB changed the date of the July meeting to July 11th at 6:30 pm, as the original date of the meeting fell on the 4th, a holiday.
- The Planning Board discussed acquiring equipment for Town Hall and were subsequently approved at the last Town Board meeting, now they wish to move on purchasing the items.

Board member Vandenberg stated that BJ's was the most cost-effective option for most of the items that were needed, with one purchase that would need to be bought from Best Buy. Board members agreed that the 65" TV screen would work best for the Town's needs and would only be \$10 more expensive than the 55". He offered to get all of the info necessary for Budget Officer Nolan to make the purchase.

Assessors – Assessor Chair Jean McLenithan was present to report on the month on behalf of the Board of Assessors:

- The Assessor's visited one of the homes that filed Article 7 suits on the Town for their 2022 tax assessment, as our Town Attorney and the Assessors are currently trying to settle the case with the plaintiffs and come to a fair value on the property. Chair McLenithan stated that the Assessors are having trouble coming up with a value as there are many different details and buildings to the large property. Other property owners who had gone to small claims and had their assessments reduced have expressed they are still dissatisfied with their assessments. Jean believes hiring an appraiser would help the Town find agreeable values on some of these properties. Supervisor Skellie agreed.
- The Assessors will be meeting with the 2023 Tentative Assessment Roll prior to Grievance Day for any residents who do not agree with their assessment to come and discuss. The dates will be posted outside of Town Hall as well as in the Eagle.

Chairman of the Assessor's Resignation – At this time, Jean McLenithan gave her resignation as Assessor to the Town of Jackson, effective June 1st. Board member Rea and Supervisor Skellie both thanked her for returning when the Town was in need of an Assessor, after she had left at the end of 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

- Supervisor Skellie recommended the Board get a plan together on how best to use the ARPA funds, as the federal government may start asking for some funds back. The Town still wishes to work on outbuildings at the Town Hall and Highway Dept., as well as purchase a generator and make donations to local volunteer groups. Supervisor Skellie asked that if anyone thinks of another infrastructure purpose for the money, they advise the Board. He does not believe they would need to use any of the funds for internet service as the State will most likely cover any of the underserved areas throughout the Town.
- At the April Town Board meeting, the Board had discussed organizing another Town-wide picnic for the residents of Jackson. Supervisor Skellie requested the Board move on setting a date for the event so the Town can begin to plan and find availabilities. After some discussion, Board members agreed that the last weekend in July would most likely work best, notably Friday the 28th at 6:00 pm. The Clerk will check with the American Legion to see if there is availability for that weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

- Supervisor Skellie asked Highway Superintendent Carney if he would be willing to drive the Jackson Highway truck in the Cambridge Memorial Day parade which falls on May 29th this year. Supt. Carney agreed and Supervisor Skellie welcomed any other Town Officials that may be available to ride in the truck.
- The Salem Firehouse will be hosting a sexual harassment training event for public officials on May 10th at 4 pm. Supervisor Skellie invited all Town Members to attend.

RESOLUTION #50-23

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the Audit Committee's review of the 2022 Town Clerk books on April 26, 2023.**

RESOLUTION #51-23

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve hiring Molly Dixson to clean the Town Hall for \$18 an hour.**

Supervisors Report – There was no Supervisor's report for the month.

9:05 PM

RESOLUTION #52-23

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **to move into an executive session with the purpose of discussing matters related to collective negotiations under the Taylor Law.**

9:16 PM

RESOLUTION #53-23

A motion by Councilman Rouse, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to close the executive session.**

RESOLUTION #54-23

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **to accept the Highway Union Contract as presented and approve Supervisor Skellie to sign.**

RESOLUTION #55-23

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve giving the Highway Crewmen an extra \$1:00 an hour raise, beginning July 1st, 2023.**

RESOLUTION #56-23

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the following budget amendment:**

- Move \$4,300.00 from DA1990.4 Contingent to DA5130.4 Machinery for Braymer fuel oil purchase.

RESOLUTION #57-23

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Rouse; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the payment of the following bills as audited on May 3, 2023, Abstract #5 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	48-58	\$3,993.22
Highway	72-88	\$10,091.08
Capital	3	\$17,587.96

RESOLUTION #58-23

A motion by Councilman Rouse, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to adjourn at approximately 9:28 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Molly Dixson, Town Clerk