

**Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting  
August 2, 2023**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on August 2, 2023 at 8:00 PM at the Town Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

**PRESENT:**

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

**Also present:** Mark Spezio and several staff members of Cambridge Valley EMS, Christine Eldred of the Eagle, John Pederson

**Absent:** Councilman Edward Rouse

**RESOLUTION #77-23**

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0, **to accept the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as read.**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS SPECIAL FRANCHISE RENEWAL**

Supervisor Skellie opened the public hearing at 8:09 pm to renew the special franchise agreement between the Town and Charter Communications for 10 years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission. Supervisor Skellie opened the floor for public comment. Resident John Pederson asked if there were any changes with the agreement. Clerk Dixson read aloud the small word change made following reviewal of the Town Attorney. There being no further comments at this time, Supervisor Skellie closed the hearing at 8:10 pm.

**Presentation – Mark Spiezio, Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad**

Mark Spiezio was present along with other fellow members of the CVRS. Mark introduced the EMS workers, some of which are residents of the Town of Jackson, and presented the Board with a detailed report on the many challenges EMS providers are facing throughout the state. He supplied statistical data reports and graphs that relayed the budgetary setbacks and concerns of EMS and healthcare in general. Mark advised the Board of state and county initiatives currently in place to assist in enhancing the status of EMS, but stated that local EMS is still in great decline and the sustainability of long-term care is in question. Volunteer work that has always been heavily relied on is drying up and overhead costs have increased substantially. Considering the many facets and costs of running the department, and

the premiere service they provide throughout Washington County, Mark asked the Board to consider the possibility of splitting a \$90,000 contribution with the towns of White Creek and Cambridge to help cover costs and increasing service needs. He also expressed his desire to create a committee with two representatives from each of the 3 towns as well as creating an ambulance district within the towns for tax purposes.

**RESOLUTION #78-23**

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

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$550.23
Supervisor Receipts	\$69,166.70
Supervisor Disbursements	\$420,680.15

**REPORTS**

**Highway** – Highway Supt. Carney was present to report on the Highway Dept.’s activity over the month of July. The department has been cleaning lots of ditches to keep culverts open. The tractor was looked at for hydraulic work. Supt Carney has been looking into prices on ordering a 2020 pickup. He has not found a contract available to piggyback off of, but the Town still has the option to go out to bid to purchase the truck.

**RESOLUTION #79-23**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0, **to go out to bid for a used pickup truck for the Highway Department.**

**Planning Board** – Planning Board Clerk Dixson reported on Tuesday’s Planning Board meeting:

- There were 2 public hearings for minor subdivisions at the start of the meeting. Both survey maps were reviewed for necessary corrections that were requested at the July meeting. The Board agreed both plats looked good and the subdivisions were subsequently approved.
- The Board discussed possible dates to hold a 2-hour comprehensive plan work session with County Planner Pamela Landi. The Board agreed on either the 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> of September at 6:30 pm and the Clerk will reach out to Ms. Landi to schedule.
- Board member Kelly Donahue requested the Clerk reach out to the Lake George Regional Planning Board to pursue funding options for the comprehensive plan project.

At this time, Supervisor Skellie invited resident John Pederson to speak. Mr. Pederson raised a concern of his regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, standards set for flood plains such as the land that the Preserve on the Battenkill campground is located on off of State Route 313. Supervisor Skellie stated that he will contact our local FEMA officer to address any concerns of flooding on the campground.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION #80-23**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the renewal Franchise Agreement with Charter Communications:**

An application has been duly made to the Board of the Town of Jackson, County of Washington, New York, by Spectrum Northeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”), a limited liability company organized and existing in good standing under the laws of State of Delaware doing business at 2604 Seneca Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305, for the approval of a renewal agreement for Charter's cable television franchise for ten (10) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission.

The franchise renewal agreement would bring the franchise into conformity with certain provisions of the Federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended, and certain court rulings.

A public hearing was held in the Town of Jackson, New York on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 8:05 P.M. and notice of the hearing was published in the Eagle Press on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Board of the Town of Jackson finds that:

1. Spectrum Northeast, LLC has substantially complied with the material terms and conditions of its existing franchise and with applicable law; and
2. Spectrum Northeast, LLC has the financial, legal and technical ability to provide these services, facilities and equipment as set forth in its proposal attached; and
3. Spectrum Northeast, LLC can reasonably meet the future cable-related community needs and interests, taking into account the cost of meeting such needs and interests.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of the Town of Jackson hereby grants the cable television franchise of Spectrum Northeast, LLC and the Town of Jackson for ten (10) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission and expiring ten (10) years hence.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of the Town of Jackson hereby confirms acceptance of this franchise renewal agreement.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Rich	Aye
Councilwoman VanDeWater	Aye
Supervisor Skellie	Aye
Councilman Rea	Aye

**Highway Barn Phone Service** – The Town Board discussed the discontinuance of copper phone lines at the Highway Barn. RingSquared, the Highway Barn phone service, has offered to migrate services to fiber optic at no cost. The Town Clerk will continue to look into this and other options, if needed.

**Town ARPA Funds** – Supervisor Skellie requested Supt. Carney gather a final cost to rebuild the salt shed at the Highway Barn that will be funded by ARPA grant money the Town currently has till 2024. Budget Officer Nolan will look into having plans drawn up by an engineer for a small additional building at Town Hall that can also be funded with the grant money.

**Town Picnic** – Supervisor Skellie thanked all people that came to the July 28<sup>th</sup> Town Picnic held at the Cambridge American Legion Pavilion. The turnout was good with a total of around 70 attendants that brought donations of food or cash for the basket.

**NEW BUSINESS** – There is no New Business for the month.

**Supervisors Report** – There is no Supervisor’s Report for the month.

**RESOLUTION #81-23**

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

- Show \$207.50 in 8020.4A to reflect monies received for solar project.

**RESOLUTION #82-23**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the following budget transfer:**

- A1990.4 Contingent – A1355.2 Assessors for \$2,000.00.

**RESOLUTION #83-23**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the payment of the following bills as audited on August 2, 2023, Abstract #8 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	87-96	\$3,808.31
Highway 7A	126	\$31,579.02
Highway	127-140	\$5,703.20

**RESOLUTION #84-23**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **to adjourn at approximately 9:44 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 pm.

Molly Dixon, Town Clerk