

**Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting
March 6, 2024**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on March 6, 2024 at 1:00 pm at the Town Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

PRESENT:

- Jay Skellie..... Supervisor
- Travis Rea..... Councilman [entered at 1:12 pm]
- Carol Rich..... Councilwoman
- Jennifer VanDeWater..... Councilwoman
- Tim Grogan..... Councilman
- Molly Dixson..... Town Clerk
- Sean Carney..... Highway Superintendent
- Donna Nolan..... Budget Officer

Also present: Planning Board member Mark Mahoney, Jimmy Morris of the Eagle, Susan Herrington and Ann Snyder of New York Citizens Audit Group and several residents of the Town.

1:00 PM PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2024

Supervisor Skellie opened the hearing for Local Law #1 of 2024, a law to enact a moratorium on commercial battery energy storage systems in the Town, to any questions. Resident Harold Spezio questioned if the Town has researched these facilities. Supervisor Skellie stated that the purpose of the moratorium is so the Planning Board can do research for the purpose of drafting a law to regulate commercial battery energy storage systems. Resident John Pederson questioned if this law has been brought to Washington County Planning yet. Supervisor Skellie stated that the County will review the law to regulate CBESS’s once it is drafted and prior to it being approved. John Pederson asked who is paying for research on the facilities. Supervisor Skellie stated that it will come out of the current budget but numbers will have to be reviewed once we have them. The moratorium is the first step in drafting the law on CBESS’s. There being no further comments, Supervisor Skellie closed the hearing at 1:07 pm.

1:08 PM OPEN REGULAR MEETING

[Councilman Rea entered at 1:12 pm during the reading of the minutes.]

RESOLUTION #23-24

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to accept the February 7, 2024 Town Board meeting minutes as read.**

New York Citizens Audit Group Presentation – Supervisor Skellie welcomed Susan Herrington and Ann Snyder of the New York Citizens Audit Group to speak. Susan introduced herself as a member of the group and resident of Washington County. The group, part of the United Sovereign Americans, aims to ensure NYS elections are accurate and fair through the completion of yearly audits that review election material. Susan stated the group has major concerns as their findings from conducting an audit of the 2022 General Election have shown the numbers are inaccurate and invalid under NYS election law. Susan handed out copies of audit material to Board members as well as copies of a resolution in support of these findings. Susan added that her and Ann come to the Town as our local representatives of New York Citizens Audit and they request the Town Board approve the resolution imploring County, State and Federal Legislatures as well as Law Enforcement, State and Federal Prosecutors, Judges, and County and State BOE ensure a valid 2024 General Election. Ann Snyder, a resident of Cambridge, then read aloud the Resolution. Following the reading of the Resolution, Susan stated that their findings come from very highly qualified cyber journals that can and have been fact checked. Councilman Grogan questioned if law enforcement has been receptive of the group’s requests. Susan stated that as of this date, they have not done anything. Councilwoman Rich asked if every state is doing these audits. Susan stated that NY Citizens Audit was the first but others have joined on since the formation of United Sovereign Americans. Supervisor Skellie stated that Board members will have to review the material but thanked them for their time.

RESOLUTION #24-24

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the Town Clerk & Supervisor Reports for February 2024 as follows:**

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$76.43
Supervisor Receipts	\$12,285.00
Supervisor Disbursements	\$781,672.07

REPORTS

Highway – Superintendent Carney was present to report on the Department’s activity over the month of February. The Highway Dept. has been cutting dead trees on several roads as well as cold patching throughout the Town. The cable on one of the dump trucks was replaced and mileage has been reported to Washington County. The ’93 truck was serviced and hoses were replaced on the ’07. The Dept. has plowed and sanded the roads six times for the month. They moved all of the Town’s salt out of County storage so the Town no longer has to pay storage fees. There have been issues with the ’05 dump truck that may get expensive due to the transmission needing to be removed. The ’08 truck plow hit a bridge last month and the Town is awaiting a check from insurance to cover the balance of damages. Bid opening for construction work on Murray Hollow Road Bridge will be at Town Hall on March 12th at 2:00 pm. Supervisor Skellie requested Supt. Carney get prices on blocks to begin work on the Highway salt shed.

Planning Board – Planning Board Clerk Molly Dixson was present to report on Tuesday’s Planning Board meeting:

- A resident of the Town was present that is interested in the open position on the Planning Board. He introduced himself as Jamie Caligure, a Jackson Town resident for the past nine years who works in Salem and has an interest in being more involved in the community.
- Chair Donahue addressed some concerns that have been raised about the potential solar project on Ackley Road. Norbut Solar was not on the agenda, but there was some confusion circulating online as to whether or not that would be prior to the meeting. Chair Donahue advised those in attendance that as of this date, the Town does not have a formal application from Norbut so it’s hard for the Planning Board to answer questions about the project when we don’t yet know the particulars of what they will be applying for.
- Erik VandenBerg relayed information on what was discussed at the February Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting. At the meeting, several challenges the Town faces were discussed as well as resolutions that could be included in the document. The plan will be to adapt the 2014 draft of the Comp. Plan with a new survey of the Town. The plan going forward is to hold committee meetings the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm.
- The PB discussed going over the current bylaws and redlining points that need to be updated. Chair Donahue is working on coming up with an editable word document of the bylaws. The Board will review this at the April regular PB meeting.
- The moratorium on commercial battery energy storage systems was discussed as well as potential ideas that could be incorporated into the CBESS Law. The PB will have to review other laws regulating these systems during the process of drafting this law.

RESOLUTION #25-24

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 3-0 with Councilman Rea and Councilwoman VanDeWater abstaining, **to appoint Jennifer VanDeWater, Travis Rea, Mark Mahoney, Erik VandenBerg and Molly Dixson to the Jackson Town Comprehensive Plan Committee, effective immediately.**

At this time, resident John Pederson stated he does not believe the Planning Board has to rewrite the bylaws because back in the ‘90’s when he was Planning Board Chair the Town Board and Planning Board had agreed to adopt Robert’s Rules of Order, which are regularly updated. Supervisor Skellie stated that the Town follows parliamentary procedure of Robert’s Rules of Order, but certain aspects that are unique to the Town of Jackson need updating through our bylaws, such as when we meet, how many Planning Board members we have, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #26-24

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to pass Local Law #1 of 2024 to enact a moratorium on commercial battery energy storage systems, effective immediately upon filing with the Department of State.**

Roll Call:

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

Town Hall Storage Addition - Supervisor Skellie questioned if the Board was prepared to make a motion to accept the preliminary engineered plans of the storage addition on Town Hall. Planning Board member Mark Mahoney stated he had some concerns about using trusses in the structure and believed rafters would be a better choice for a storage space. He added that an HVAC system installed in the top of the structure could be used to regulate humidity and temperature changes. He also does not agree with the use of a TGI system floor. Supervisor Skellie stated he will bring these concerns to the Engineer.

RESOLUTION #27-24

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve Supervisor Skellie contacting Cottrell Associates Engineering Firm to receive final engineered plans for the addition on Town Hall.**

RESOLUTION #28-24

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **to take the discussion on rejoining The Association of Towns of the State of New York off the table.**

RESOLUTION #29-24

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **to join The Association of Towns of the State of New York and pay membership dues of \$799.00 for the year beginning January 1st, 2024 – December 31st, 2024.**

RESOLUTION #30-24

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to set the date for the 2024 Volunteer Dinner for March 22nd at 6:00 pm, pending confirmation of food catering availability.**

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #31-24

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 4-1 with Councilman Rea voting against, **to change the time of the April-December Town Board Regular meeting time for the year 2024 to 7:30 pm.**

Supervisors Report-

- The Towns in Washington County have received updated FEMA maps with changes in properties located in flood zones. Notice will be put out soon once a date is set for a meeting at the Salem Central School for southern Washington County towns. Changes with the maps will be discussed at that time.

At this time, resident John Pederson questioned if rates for tax exemptions have changed at the County level. Supervisor Skellie stated they have, and some towns have either increased or lowered the income level for the Senior Citizens Exemption. The Town of Jackson will have to create a law if we want to make any changes for next year.

RESOLUTION #32-24

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

- A1990.4 Contingent – A1340.4 Budget Officer for \$100.00
- A1990.4 Contingent – A1920.2 Municipal Association Dues for \$799.00

RESOLUTION #33-24

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the payment of the following bills as audited on March 6th, 2024, Abstract #3 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	21-32	\$1,723.81
Highway	30-43	\$5,566.02

RESOLUTION #34-24

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to adjourn at approximately 2:24 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Molly Dixon, Town Clerk