

## **Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting February 5, 2025**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on February 5, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Town Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

### **PRESENT:**

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

**Also present:** Planning Board Chair Kelly Donahue, Assessor Christine Matatt, Bobbi Stone, residents Lewis Steele, Sharon Dunn, Elisabeth de Baer van der Kolk, Henry Marshall

### **1:03 PM PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2025**

Supervisor Skellie opened the public hearing on Local Law #1 of 2025, a Law for the Conversion from Three (3) Elected Assessors to One (1) Appointed Assessor, at 1:03 pm. There being no comments from the public, Supervisor Skellie closed the public hearing at 1:04 pm.

### **1:04 PM OPEN REGULAR MEETING**

#### **RESOLUTION #19-25**

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to accept the December 30, 2024 Year-End Town Board meeting minutes as read.**

Supervisor Skellie stated that Board members, who are sent the previous month's meeting minutes by email prior to the monthly meeting, should have sufficient time to read the minutes before the regular meeting. He then asked if anyone would like to make a motion to approve the January 2025 regular meeting minutes as emailed by the Town Clerk, to avoid reading them aloud.

#### **RESOLUTION #20-25**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to accept the January 8, 2025 Town Board meeting minutes as emailed.**

## **RESOLUTION #21-25**

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the Town Clerk & Supervisor Reports for January 2025 as follows:**

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$363.08
Supervisor Receipts	\$924,226.25
Supervisor Disbursements	\$925,356.71

## **REPORTS**

**Highway** – Superintendent Carney was present to report on the Department’s activity over the month of January. The Highway Dept. has plowed several times. Routine maintenance has been performed on the trucks. The Highway Dept. has a new employee from Cambridge.

The Town offers their condolences to the family of Les Matteson, a Highway Dept. employee who has recently passed. The Superintendent and Supervisor have yet to hear of services that may be held.

**Planning Board** – Chair Kelly Donahue was present to report on Tuesday’s Planning Board meeting:

- There was a minor subdivision on the agenda for a property on Cambridge Battenville Road. The Planning Board advised the applicant to return to the surveyor and request the owner’s name be labeled on the map.
- A second subdivision was discussed for property on State Route 313. The applicant would like two separate parcel ID #'s issued for both pieces of property on either side of the road. The Board agreed that a minor subdivision of lot 1 and remaining lands will be needed to complete this action.
- There has been a lot of back and forth between the Jackson Solar 1, LLC project contractors Millcreek Renewables and Barton and Loguidice regarding building requirements. B&L has been completing regular site inspections and following up on any discrepancies. There have been challenges for the contractors building on the steep slope of the hill.
- The Planning Board requests the Town Board renew the Utility Scale Solar, Wind and Alternative Energy Facility Moratorium for an additional 6 months to provide added time to properly revise the current Solar Law and prepare regulations for utility scale wind and alternative energy facilities.
- The Board reviewed the draft Commercial Battery Energy Storage Prohibition Law. There were a couple of small questions that will be brought up to the Town Attorney.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTION #22-25**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to extend the current Moratorium on Approvals of Utility Scale Solar Energy Facilities, Wind Generated Energy Facilities and Alternative Energy Facilities Within the Town of Jackson, by six (6) months concluding August 7, 2025.**

Roll Call:

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

#### **RESOLUTION #23-25**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to set the date for the public hearing on LL#2 of 2025, a Local Law to Prohibit the Installation, Construction and/or Development of Commercial Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town of Jackson, to March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 1:00 pm.**

**Town Hall Backup Furnace Discussion** – Tom Cassidy, the Contractor building the addition on Town Hall, has questioned whether or not the Board would like to keep the furnace currently in the building as backup when the new heating and cooling system is installed. Board members all agreed to leave the furnace as a backup heating source.

Supervisor Skellie shared letters from local fire and EMS departments thanking the Town of Jackson for ARPA donations that were made, as well as the yearly fire report from the Shushan Fire Dept.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Local Law No. 1-25, A Local Law for the Conversion from Three (3) Elected Assessors to One (1) Appointed Assessor – State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR):**

The Board reviewed Parts II and III of the Short Environmental Assessment Form. All questions regarding the Impact Assessment of this Local Law indicated either no impact or a small impact. Therefore, it was determined that the Local Law would have no environmental impact on the Town of Jackson. This proposed action is simply an administrative change and does not entail any environmental changes.

#### **RESOLUTION #24-25**

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0 by roll call vote, **to classify Local Law No. 1 of 2025 an Unlisted Action and give said Local Law No. 1 of 2025 a Negative Declaration under the NYS State Environmental Quality Review Act.**

Roll Call:

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

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Jackson is considering the passage of a local law entitled “Town of Jackson Local Law #1 of the year 2025, a Local Law for the Conversion from Three (3) Elected Assessors to One (1) Appointed Assessor.”

**WHEREAS**, review of New York State Environmental Rules and Regulations, 6 NYCRR 617.5(c) provides for the enactment of a local law relating to this subject matter is classified as an Unlisted Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.2(ak) which is subject to review under SEQR; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Jackson Town Board, as Lead Agency, has determined that the proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the environment; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement is not required; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Negative Declaration annexed hereto is hereby adopted and confirmed by the Jackson Town Board; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the record of this Action shall be placed on file in the offices of the Town of Jackson and shall be disseminated to those units of government as required by law and be made available to the public for inspection.

**RESOLUTION #25-25**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, to **pass Local Law No. 1 of 2025 to abolish the Board of three (3) elected assessors in the Town of Jackson and to substitute therewith a single appointed assessor to be appointed pursuant to New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 310, 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

**WHEREAS**, proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2025, a Local Law for the Conversion from Three (3) Elected Assessors to One (1) Appointed Assessor has been presented to the Town Board for its consideration, which said Local Law would abolish the board of three (3) assessors in the Town of Jackson and replace it with the office of sole assessor, appointed by the Town Board of the Town of Jackson; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held by the Town Board on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025 at 1:00 pm on the matter of the proposed Local Law and notice of such public hearing having been made, and the local law having been posted online and presented for public viewing in the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Jackson, and all persons appearing at said public hearing desiring to be heard, having been heard; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Jackson has considered all environmental implications of the proposed Local Law, and found there to be no environmental impact on the passage of the Local Law, and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Jackson, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025 does hereby enact and adopt proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2025 of the Town of Jackson, County of Washington, State of New York entitled a Local Law for the Conversion from Three (3) Elected Assessors to One (1) Appointed Assessor.

#### **RESOLUTION #26-25**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to appoint Roberta Stone to the position of Town Assessor for the remainder of the six-year term of office, effective immediately and to conclude on September 30, 2025.**

**2025 Volunteer Dinner** – The Board discussed dates to hold the annual Volunteer Dinner at the Cambridge American Legion in March. Amy McLenithan has agreed to cook the meal again.

#### **RESOLUTION #27-25**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to set the date for the Town of Jackson Annual Volunteer Dinner at the Cambridge American Legion to Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.**

#### **Supervisors Report-**

- Supervisor Skellie reported that Bob Henke is again Chair of the Board of Supervisors with Cassie Fedler as Vice Chair. There have been several changes in appointments for County committees.
- Washington County is unable to do a county-wide prohibition for commercial battery energy storage systems. Other Town's in the County are considering local laws to prohibit these facilities.
- Washington County recently renewed the lease with the State for Lake Lauderdale Park. The County is currently trying to find funds to repair the Park's log house. Christine Matatt advised there was a great turnout at the 2025 Winterfest held at Lauderdale Park on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

At this time, Elisabeth de Baer van der Kolk and Henry Marshall introduced themselves. New to the area, they have recently purchased property on Kenyon Hill and shared their appreciation for this region. Board members welcomed them to the Town of Jackson.

**RESOLUTION #28-25**

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

- Move \$700.00 from A1990.4 Contingent to A1920.2 Municipal Association Dues for NYS Association of Towns yearly dues.

**RESOLUTION #29-25**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the payment of the following bills as audited on February 5, 2025, Abstract #2 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	6-21	\$137,588.26
Highway	14-33	\$14,720.51
Capital	1-2	\$386,750.32
ARPA	1-2	\$23,843.11

**RESOLUTION #30-25**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to adjourn at approximately 2:12 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Molly Dixon, Town Clerk