

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

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on March 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

**Also present:** Planning Board Member Mark Mahoney, Town Historian Carol Mallory, Sharon Dunn, Lewis Steele, L. Cifarelli, Jennifer Wiebe, James Reid, Catherine Constantin-Reid, M. Yezzy, John McGuire

**Absent:** Budget Officer Donna Nolan

### **1:02 PM PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2025**

Supervisor Skellie opened the public hearing on Local Law #2 of 2025, a Local Law to Prohibit Commercial Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town of Jackson. Resident Lewis Steele spoke in favor of the Local Law, stating that the Town is sensibly deciding these systems are too dangerous instead of attempting to deal with the problems they present by drafting a law to permit them. James Reid questioned what the limit of the battery system's capacity would be within the law. Board member Mark Mahoney stated that the law would apply to systems with an aggregate energy capacity greater than 600kWh. James Reid stated that the potential for fires with these battery systems is real and he wants to make sure protection is there with emergency services as there is limited training for local fire departments. Sharon Dunn spoke in favor of the Local Law, as well. Bonnie, the Dionondehowa Wildlife School and Sanctuary Board of Directors Chair, wrote the following via email prior to the hearing to be read into the minutes:

We at Dionondehowa are writing to express our gratitude and to acknowledge our Town's courage in passing Local Law #2 of 2025: the prohibition of commercial battery storage facilities in Jackson. Thank you!

There being no further comments from the public, Supervisor Skellie closed the public hearing at 1:10 pm.

1:10 PM

## OPEN REGULAR MEETING

### RESOLUTION #31-25

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

### RESOLUTION #32-25

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

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$17,531.84
Supervisor Receipts	\$604,286.16
Supervisor Disbursements	\$608,148.16

### REPORTS

**Highway** – Superintendent Carney was present to report on the Department’s activity over the month of February. The Dept. went out several times for small snow storms. They have been busy maintaining trucks and have received their new uniforms. They now have enough salt in the supply to maintain for the remainder of winter.

**Planning Board** – Planning Board Member Mark Mahoney was present to report on Tuesday’s Planning Board meeting:

- There was a minor subdivision on the agenda for a property on State Route 313 that was subsequently withdrawn. It was determined that the subdivision was not necessary for obtaining an additional tax ID number for a parcel of land divided by the road. The Planning Board Chair will sign a letter to Washington County indicating that the subdivision is not required.
- The Board discussed a plan going forward to revise our current solar law and create new legislation to permit wind and alternative energy facilities.

**Historian** – Town Historian Carol Mallory provided an update to the Board regarding the upcoming events planned for the 250th anniversary of our nation. She distributed copies of the event schedule to those interested and encouraged anyone to share their ideas for the Town's participation in the celebrations. Additionally, she suggested organizing a tour of a local cemetery as part of the festivities.

### NEW BUSINESS

### RESOLUTION #33-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to pass Local Law No. 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, adopted pursuant to Article IX of the New York State Constitution and Articles 2 and 3 of the Municipal Home Rule Law which authorize the Town to adopt local laws that promote health, safety and general welfare of the community, 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

**RESOLUTION #34-25**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to create the position of Clerk to the Assessor, to fulfill the duties as described in the Washington County Civil Service Commission New Position Duties Statement, now on file in the Town of Jackson.**

**RESOLUTION #35-25**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to appoint Christine Matatt to the position of Clerk to the Assessor, effective immediately.**

**RESOLUTION #36-25**

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve Supervisor Skellie to sign Amendment No. 2 to the Escrow Agreement dated December 15, 2022 between the Town of Jackson and Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. for site inspection engineering services for the Jackson Solar 1, LLC project, for the purpose of requesting additional funds be added to the Escrow Account by the Project Sponsor.**

**Supervisors Report-**

- Supervisor Skellie reported that the Board of Supervisor's is keeping an eye on what's happening at the Washington County Correctional Facility amidst the strike. Sheriffs are on standby in case assistance is needed.

At this time, resident John McGuire thanked the Town Board for passing Local Law #2 of 2025 to prohibit the installation of commercial battery energy storage systems within the Town of Jackson. He shared concerns he's had with a facility burning that required schools to be shut down.

**RESOLUTION #37-25**

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 5, 2025, Abstract #3 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	22-31	\$2,379.63
Highway	34-53	\$35,323.97

**RESOLUTION #38-25**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **to adjourn at approximately 1:47 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm.

Molly Dixon, Town Clerk