

## **Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting May 7, 2025**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on May 7, 2025 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

### **PRESENT:**

- Jay Skellie..... Supervisor
- Travis Rea..... Councilman *[enters 7:52 pm]*
- 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, Town Historian Carol Mallory, Sharon Dunn, Christine Eldred of the Eagle

### **RESOLUTION #44-25**

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0, **to accept the April 2, 2025 Town Board meeting minutes as written.**

### **RESOLUTION #45-25**

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the Town Clerk & Supervisor Reports for April 2025 as follows:**

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$129.94
Supervisor Receipts	\$47,654.16
Supervisor Disbursements	\$49,777.96

### **REPORTS**

**Highway** – Superintendent Carney was present to report on the Department’s activity over the month of April. Most roads have been swept at least once thus far. The Dept. has done some tree and brush cutting and cold patching around town. They put gravel and stone on Carney Cassidy and sanded the roads on April 9<sup>th</sup> for most likely the last time for the year. The chevy pickup was serviced. Some culverts got plugged up following the heavy rain fall and runoff that required clearing, including those on Shields and Kenyon Hill. The crew has gone through some equipment, including a screening plant, wood splitter and sander that are currently unused. Superintendent Carney offered to place these items up for auction with the Board’s approval.

### **RESOLUTION #46-25**

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 4-0, **to place unused items at the Highway Barn up for auction on Auctions International**

**Planning Board** – Chair Kelly Donahue reported on Tuesday’s Planning Board meeting:

- There was a boundary line adjustment on the agenda for a property on Legrys Road where a survey recently identified Arnold Brock’s house, garage and trailer sit on neighboring property owner Curtis Nolan’s parcel. The Board was in agreement that this indeed was a boundary line adjustment and was therefore exempt from subdivision regulations.
- Barton and Loguidice has been following up on site deficiencies for the Jackson Solar 1, LLC project, including fence gaps, erosion control failures and glare concerns. They should soon be at the point where they are ready to flip the switch and begin operation.
- The Planning Board is taking lessons learned from JS1 to develop additional regulations for the Town’s Solar Law. Terresa Bakner of Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna LLP has provided insights on ways to make the law stronger and indicated we may need to revise the law every couple of years going forward. The goal is to have the draft law to the Town Attorney within a month or two for review.
- We are in the midst of updating the Comprehensive Plan draft, which can be addressed in the updated Solar Law.
- Chair Donahue pointed out that NYSEERDA may take over battery storage to supersede town law. Supervisor Skellie stated that this will be taken to court and will hopefully end in favor of local municipalities.

*[Councilman Rea entered at 7:52 pm during the reading of the Planning Board Report.]*

**Historian** – Town Historian Carol Mallory has been attending historical meetings of the Washington County Historical Society. She recently attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Artillery presentation put on by the Historical Society, of which there was a good turnout of roughly 40 people despite the weather. She mentioned that some towns have been organizing cemetery tours in anticipation of the 250th anniversary. She is interested in cleaning up the Coulter Cemetery on County Route 62, which has many historical grave sites, as well as the cemetery on State Route 313. There are upcoming historical events where towns are encouraged to set up information tables. She would like to incorporate some of the work done by former Town Historian Sharon Dunn if possible.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**2025 Town Picnic** – The Town Clerk has organized a committee to plan for the 2025 Town Picnic. The committee has planned a picnic for Jackson, White Creek, and Cambridge to celebrate the history of the three towns in preparation for the 250th anniversary and to attract a larger number of attendees. Supervisor Skellie has spoken with Washington County Historical Society President Pat Niles who may be interested in speaking at the event. The board agreed to set the date for the picnic to Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

**Generator Propane Connection** – A backup generator has recently been installed outside the Town Hall. Blue Flame Gas Co. has informed the Town that the current propane tank is insufficient to connect to the generator. Since we will be using significantly less propane now that the building’s main heat source will be from the heating and cooling units, they have decided not to lease us a tank. Instead, they

propose that we purchase a 120-gallon tank for \$1,235.88. With parts and labor to install the new tank and connect to the generator, the price without gas comes to \$2,371.60. Supervisor Skellie asked the Board if they would prefer to find cheaper options. Board members agreed to have Supervisor Skellie make calls to other propane companies to get additional options for consideration.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Assessor's Hours with Tentative Roll** – The Assessor will be meeting at the Town Hall with the 2025 Tentative Roll on the following dates:

*Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00am – 1:00pm*

*Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm – 8:00pm*

*Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> by appointment*

*Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00am – 2:00pm*

Grievance Day will be held on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to 8 pm. The Board of Assessment Review will hear complaints related to assessments of real property on this date.

### **Comments from the Public –**

- Sharon Dunn stated that the Cambridge Library will be doing a reading again of the Declaration of Independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>. 37 different people are encouraged to read excerpts, of which they try to get representatives from all over the area if anyone is interested.

### **Supervisor's Report-**

- The new health center in Salem will be having an open house in the coming weeks.
- The County will exceed the budget cap next year due to rising costs and state budget cuts; this outcome is unavoidable.

### **RESOLUTION #47-25**

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the payment of the following bills as audited on May 7, 2025, Abstract #5 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	42-50	\$6,313.75
Highway	69-91	\$14,283.87
ARPA	4-7	\$88,470.17

### **RESOLUTION #48-25**

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to adjourn at approximately 8:50 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Molly Dixon, Town Clerk