

REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF HAMMOND, MARCH 19, 2024

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hammond, County of St. Lawrence and the State of New York was held at the Town Office Building, 21 South Main Street, Hammond, NY on the 19th day of March 2024.

PRESENT: Ronald Bertram - Town Supervisor
 James Tague - Councilmember
 James Furgison - Deputy Supervisor (left meeting at 7:40pm)
 Heather Hollister - Councilmember
ABSENT: Theodore Elk - Councilmember (on conference phone)

OTHERS PRESENT: Town residents, Jason Photenhauer and Heidi Ames from SLC Planning, Village Trustee Patti Belnap, Pam McDowell; TISUN, Assessor Amy Gouge, Superintendent Hadlock, and Town Clerk Pamela Burton.

Notice of said meeting was duly sent to Watertown Daily Times on March 14, 2024 and posted at www.townofhammondny.com.

Supervisor Bertram called the regular meeting of the Town Board to order at 6:30pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Motion** by Councilmember Furgison and second by Councilmember Hollister to approve the February 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 4 ayes.

TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1. By invitation from the Town Board, Jason Photenhauer and Heidi Ames from St. Lawrence County Planning Office explained the Draft Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Services between the St. Lawrence County Planning Office and the Town of Hammond. They explained the reasons, goals, and procedures to update the 2013 Town/Village Comprehensive Plan. They emphasized community involvement and working towards possible grants. They will be waiting to hear from the Village of Hammond on their shared interest in the plan. The maximum charge for the updated Comprehensive Plan will be \$5500.00 including the final hardcopy and website updates.
Motion by Councilmember Furgison and second by Councilmember Tague to move forward with SLC Planning Office to update the Town Comprehensive Plan for \$5500.00. The motion carried 4 ayes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Steve Goobic presented to the Board information on a grass roots effort for a Rights of Nature Initiative. The goal is to give legal rights to the St. Lawrence River and ultimately create federal legislation protecting the river. Supervisor Bertram has forwarded this information to the Town lawyer for input.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. There were no communications at time of meeting.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF HAMMOND, MARCH 19, 2024

1. Superintendent Roger Hadlock said the new truck from Tracy is ordered and being built for the 3rd quarter. He gave the Board a Henderson quote for new truck equipment at \$140k. He said prices have gone up dramatically and Henderson is not interested in changing over old equipment. He had pictures taken for the old truck's online sale and will have an offer at the April meeting.
2. A quote from Stanford Greenwaste in Glenfield for shredding the town brush pile is \$5400/day. Pat Curran is \$500/hour for grinding.

CLERK REPORT

1. A written report was submitted to the Town Board and included February dog licenses; 20 totaling \$148.00.
2. The town clerk has put in an interest for the State's NYS Cybersecurity Grant Program and will keep the Board informed of the progress.

ASSESSOR REPORT

1. A written report was submitted to the Town Board.
2. Assessor Amy Gouge reported Grievance Day is May 29, 2024.

CODE OFFICER REPORT

1. A written report was submitted to the Town Board and included February building permits: 2 totaling \$986.48

PLANNING BOARD

1. A written report was submitted to the Town Board.

APPEALS BOARD

1. The Bowden lawsuit has requested oral arguments and the judge will be making a decision on that in the future.

21 MAIN ST.

1. The Board discussed Councilmember's Elk quote from RiverBay Too for a 16/12 gazebo at the north side of town office building for \$5500.00. A pergola is estimated at \$1500.00. If necessary, crushed stone and a concrete floor may be \$2500.00. Supervisor Bertram will ask the Codes Officer if engineered plans are required. The Board agreed on getting the gazebo and flag pole staked out for final thoughts at April meeting.
2. The fence is scheduled to go in at the end of April or beginning of May.

OLD BUSINESS

1. REDI-Chippewa- The boat launch is still on track to be opened at the beginning of May. Cement is being poured for dead-mans. Docks are scheduled to be delivered in 2 weeks. DEC says docks need to start at the end of the catwalk, which saves money. The Yacht Club is good with the plans.
 - a. Supervisor Bertram reported that State REDI will not allow charging for commercial use on the new docks. It must be free access to community. He has asked for dock specs for usage and the Board will discuss signage for weight limits.
2. Councilmember Elk provided the Board 2 quotes for 4-5 portojohns.
Motion by Councilmember Furgison to order seasonal portojohns from John Allen Sanitation Service INC. for \$115 a piece. Second by Councilmember Tague. The motion carried 4 ayes.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF HAMMOND, MARCH 19, 2024

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councilmember's Hollister and Furgison volunteered to head a local committee for restoring the old town hall back to an opera house. Supervisor Bertram would like the Village, Town, and Fire District to work together in applying for grants for all parts of the community.
2. Supervisor Bertram reported that the phone equipment that Citizens quoted on for the JCAP grant funds is no longer available. The new quote is much higher at \$11,926.00. Supervisor Bertram suggested applying for the new quote through JCAP next year and use this year's JCAP funds on other things for Justice Cazzio's department. The Board agreed to reapply.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

1. **Motion** by Councilmember Tague to approve the Supervisor Report with bank reconciliations. Second by Councilmember Hollister. The motion carried 3 ayes.

AUDITED BILLS

1. **RESOLUTION #7 2024** ABSTRACT #3 containing vouchers #2403-120 through #2403-151.
Motion made by Councilmember Tague and second by Councilmember Hollister to adopt the resolution. The motion carried 3 ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Bertram adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Meeting minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by _____, Town Clerk