

REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF HAMMOND, APRIL 10, 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 10th day of April 2024.

PRESENT: Ronald Bertram - Town Supervisor
James Tague - Councilmember
James Furgison - Deputy Supervisor
Theodore Elk - Councilmember
ABSENT: Heather Hollister - Councilmember

OTHERS PRESENT: Town residents, Assessor Amy Gouge, Superintendent Hadlock, and Town Clerk Pamela Burton.

Notice of said meeting was duly sent to Watertown Daily Times on April 2, 2024 and posted at www.townofhammondny.com.

Supervisor Bertram called the regular meeting of the Town Board to order at 6:38pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Motion** by Councilmember Furgison and second by Councilmember Tague to approve the March 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1. Supervisor Bertram reported the Village of Hammond will be part of the new comprehensive plan development and will pay one quarter of County Planning's service bill. He also said the Village is interested in pursuing grants etc. with the Town but does not want to turn over the ball field to the Town.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Harriet Burris with the Hammond Tartan Project shared the group's mission to create a unique Town of Hammond Tartan and asked for a support letter from the Town Board to be sent to The Scottish Registry of Tartans.
Motion by Councilmember Elk and seconded by Councilmember Tague to send a support letter from the Hammond Town Board to The Scottish Registry of Tartans. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.
2. Pam Winchester enjoyed seeing the solar eclipse in Hammond.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Municipal Dog Shelter Report came back with an issue of ventilation and rust to resolve at Moyer's Shelter. The NYS Ag and Mks Dog Control Officer Inspection Report came back satisfactory for Dan Moyer.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

1. Superintendent Roger Hadlock asked if the Board wanted to put seasonal worker Steve Shoulette on a call-in basis.

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Motion by Councilmember Furgison and second by Councilmember Tague to authorize Superintendent Hadlock to keep Steve Shoulette on part-time and hire as needed per job. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

2. Roger is waiting for a CHIPS amount. He plans to pave Dubois and Triangle roads. The crew is working on piping now to get ready for paving. Supervisor Bertram suggested paving in front of the new dock ramp for hardness.
3. The Board accepted and signed the \$142,696.00 Henderson quote for the new box and equipment. Henderson will be getting it ready for when the truck is delivered.
4. The final bid on Auctions International for the old truck was \$75k.
5. Almost 2/3 of sand/salt was used over the winter.

CLERK REPORT

1. A written report was submitted to the Town Board and included March dog licenses; 3 totaling \$19.50.
2. The Town/Village Free Rabies Clinic is April 30th, 5-6:30pm at the highway barn. St. Lawrence County's policy is registration only, no walk-ins.
3. The clerk requested an "Employee Parking Only" sign for office lot.

ASSESSOR REPORT

1. A written report was submitted to the Town Board.
2. Assessor Amy Gouge reported numbers are on track and books are balanced with Real Property. The dates for sitting with the roll will be going out soon.

CODES REPORT

1. A written report was submitted to the Town Board and included March building permits: 4 totaling \$805.00
2. Codes Officer Thompson was hired by Morristown. She will be leaving the Village of Potsdam and concentrating on Hammond and Morristown.

PLANNING BOARD

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

APPEALS BOARD

1. Employee affidavits have been signed for the Bowden lawsuit and it is progressing.

21 S. MAIN ST.

1. Councilmember Elk has downsized the gazebo plan to a 12/12 building. The Board asked for a new quote and to include a built-in bench, also no cupola, and include the flagpole work.

OLD BUSINESS

1. REDI-Chippewa- The boat launch is still on track to be opened at the beginning of May. Docks and ramps are here. Cement is being poured. The dead-mans have been redesigned. There has been no increase in cost due to plan changes. Councilmember Elk said Cape Vincent does not let barges use their new REDI boat launch and docks for island construction. Supervisor Bertram will verify that information.

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2. The Board agreed that if a survey is not produced soon for the new Town Chippewa parking property, the Board will get another surveyor. Councilmember Tague suggested surveying off the house and putting it up for sale.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Supervisor Bertram brought to Assessor Gouge's attention a property issue on Dake Circle. A sale is pending on a piece of property with a dock in front but the dock land was listed as swamp until the Town filled it in years ago. Assessor Gouge will research it and provide recommendations.
2. Councilmember Elk suggested parking for Amish buggies could be next to the creek.
3. Bill Dashnaw has delivered the completed 2024 Town Audit and Supervisor Bertram read the results. **RESOLUTION #8 2024** The Hammond Town Board accepts Bill Dashnaw's 2024 Town Audit results. **Motion** made by Councilmember Elk and second by Councilmember Furgison to adopt the resolution. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

1. **Motion** by Councilmember Tague to approve the Supervisor Report with bank reconciliations. Second by Councilmember Furgison. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

AUDITED BILLS

1. **RESOLUTION #9 2024** ABSTRACT #4 containing vouchers #2404-157 through #2404-193. **Motion** made by Councilmember Elk and second by Councilmember Tague to adopt the resolution. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. **Motion** by Supervisor Bertram to enter Executive Session at 7:15pm for personnel. Seconded by Councilmember Tague. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.
 - a. Superintendent Hadlock was called into Executive Session at 7:20pm.
 - b. Town Clerk Burton was called into Executive Session at 7:34pm.
 - c. **Motion** by Councilmember Elk to reject all bids for dump truck from Auctions International. Seconded by Councilmember Furgison. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.
 - d. **Motion** by Councilmember Elk to leave Executive Session at 7:35pm. Seconded by Councilmember Furgison. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Bertram adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.

Meeting minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by _____, Town Clerk