

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF HAMMOND, SEPTEMBER 11, 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 11th day of September 2024.

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

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

Notice of said meeting was duly sent to Watertown Daily Times on September 3, 2024 and posted at [www.townofhammondny.com](http://www.townofhammondny.com).

Supervisor Bertram reported to the town clerk the following Executive Session Only minutes, which was duly called for, posted, and sent to the WDT on September 10, 2024.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. **Motion** by Supervisor Bertram and seconded by Councilmember Elk to enter Executive Session for personnel at 6:02pm. The motion carried 4 ayes.  
**Motion** by Councilmember Elk and seconded by Councilmember Furgison to leave Executive Session at 6:25pm. The motion carried 4 ayes.

*Supervisor Bertram called the Regular Meeting of the Town Board to order at 6:35pm with the Pledge to the Flag. He made mention to the anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on US soil and also shared that the Town's long time dog warden, Jim Pipher, had passed away.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. **Motion** by Councilmember Furgison and second by Councilmember Tague to approve the August 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was carried by 3 ayes and 1 abstain- Councilmember Elk.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Kevin Lake said that under Highway Law 205, the Town abandonment of Woodley Way was not done correctly and he has lawyers attesting to it. Supervisor Bertram said to bring his information to the Town and the Town will send it to the Town Attorney for an opinion.
2. Pam Winchester, representing Martha Cline, requested from the Town Board a letter of support for the Hammond Historical Museum grant application to the St. Lawrence County Arts Council.  
**Motion** by Councilmember Tague and second by Councilmember Furgison to sign and send the letter of support for the Hammond Historical Museum. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

**BUDGET**

1. The clerk delivered the 2025 Tentative Budget to the Town Board. Supervisor Bertram read each line of the budget with explanation. The bottom line is the tax levy comes to \$147,629.00, which is an increase of around \$800.00 but under the allowable tax levy of \$151,800.00.

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- a. Many areas of the budget's revenues and expenditures are staying the same. Areas raised include but not limited to a salary increase for employees, raises in contractual and equipment for banking, schooling, computers, books, and animal control. The Chippewa project is done so the Special Rec. Facility line is much lower.
  - b. The Youth line can be raised with the interest of a long time CD investment. Investment interest up. Sales tax will be the same or up. Police fees are up. Several areas even out.
  - c. The Board discussed the Superintendent's request for a new excavator and/or skid steer and monies can come out of capital reserve, if needed. Appropriations DB is up for fuel. Brush will cost more because of shared service with County. Garage service equipment raised for upgrades. Highway employee benefits raised. The Board discussed the truck buying schedule and there is money in reserves, if necessary.
  - d. Supervisor Bertram said it's a good budget but just to be aware the debt service will gradually be increasing in the next years. He says to put excess sales tax aside yearly.
2. The Town Board agreed it is a good budget and asked Supervisor Bertram to put together the Preliminary Budget for the October Board Meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

1. There were no communications at time of meeting.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

1. The Town Board agreed to have the Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing on October 17<sup>th</sup> and check with County Planning on time.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

1. 7:08pm, Supervisor Bertram reported on the Sand Bid that was duly advertised on August 22, 2024. One bid was received from the following:

<u>Name of Bidder</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Stouts Ready-Mix LTD.      Brier Hill, NY	Screened road sand- \$6.60/ton

After careful consideration of the sand bid, a **motion** was made by Councilmember Tague and second by Councilmember Furgison to accept the Stout's sand bid. The motion carried 4 ayes.

2. Superintendent Hadlock reported road paving will begin Monday.  
**Motion** by Councilmember Elk to go ahead with Hiedelberg hot mix. Second by Councilmember Tague. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

**CLERK REPORT**

1. A written report was submitted to the Town Board and included August dog licenses; 17 totaling \$116.50.
2. **RESOLUTION #17- 2024** Town Clerk Allowed Three Deputies.  
**Motion** made by Councilmember Furgison and second by Councilmember Tague to adopt the resolution. The motion was carried by 4 ayes. (See attached).
3. **Motion** made by Councilmember Furgison and second by Councilmember Tague to buy Clerk Burton's 2020 Primo water cooler for \$50, saving the Town \$6/month rental fee. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

**ASSESSOR REPORT**

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

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2. Assessor Gouge will make an appointment with Tom Elk for island evaluations.

**CODES REPORT**

1. A written report was submitted to the Town Board and included August building permits: 5 totaling \$909.40.

**PLANNING BOARD**

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

**21 S. MAIN ST.**

1. Councilmember Elk reported the cement bases are in for the fence. The area may need some landscaping and the flagpole will be done after fence. The Board agreed to pay to get the old depot pavers dug up and added to the flagpole and add top dressing to the area to smooth out. Councilmember Elk will get pricing.
2. The outside light timer has burned out and Supervisor Bertram will ask Tom Norstrom to fix and give ideas for a lighted flagpole.

**17 N. MAIN ST.**

1. Neil Nichols quoted \$5k for upgrade of old town hall bathroom. Supervisor Bertram will discuss sink with Neil and heat with Tom Norstrom.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Chippewa parking lot sign quoted \$3k from Stewart's Signs. They want half down to provide the design work. Councilmember Elk will get a quote from Adam Howard for a sign.
2. Youth grant has been applied for.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Superintendent Bertram shared that the Oak Point Association wants to update the Community Center with a new porch etc. There is an anonymous donor that wants to pay the Town to pay the association for the upgrades.  
**Motion** by Councilmember Elk and seconded by Councilmember Furgison to accept the transaction. 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 Elk. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

**AUDITED BILLS**

1. **RESOLUTION #18- 2024 ABSTRACT #9** containing vouchers #2409-396 through #2409-422.  
**Motion** made by Councilmember Tague and second by Councilmember Furgison to adopt the resolution. The motion was carried by 4 ayes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Bertram adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.

Meeting minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

**Town of Hammond**  
21 South Main Street/PO Box 219  
Hammond, NY 13646

**RESOLUTION # 17 -2024**

By: The Town of Hammond

September 11, 2024

**WHEREAS** the Town Clerk of the Town of Hammond pursuant to Section 30 of the Town Law of the State of New York may have up to three (3) Deputy Town Clerks, and

**WHEREAS** the Town Clerk of the Town of Hammond may because of the volume of services and duties required to staff the office on a part-time or full-time basis require three (3) Deputy Town Clerks to act in his/her absence and when the volume of work is such that more persons are required,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Board of the Town of Hammond that the Town Clerk is authorized to appoint up to three (3) Deputy Town Clerks to have the powers and authority granted to such appointees under Section 30 of the Town Law of the State of New York and such others as may be conferred upon them by this Board.

At the Regular September Meeting of the Hammond Town Board  
**Motion** made by Councilmember Furgison and seconded by Councilmember Tague.  
and following any discussion the vote was passed as follows,  
Deputy Supervisor Furgison \_yes\_  
Councilman Tague \_yes\_  
Councilman Elk \_yes\_  
Supervisor Bertram \_yes\_

State of New York        )  
County of St. Lawrence  ) SS:  
Town of Hammond        )

**CERTIFICATION**

I, PAMELA BURTON, Clerk of the Town of Hammond, County of St. Lawrence and State of New York, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached is a True and Exact copy of a Resolution duly passed by the Town of Hammond Town Council at the Regular Board Meeting held on September 11, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PAMELA BURTON, TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF HAMMOND, NEW YORK