

1st DRAFT

INLET TOWN BOARD AGENDA

Limited seating open to the public and on the internet via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2919845334>

TUESDAY September 8th 2020

7:30 P.M. - Call Regular Meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Minute's Review – 8/11/2020 Town Board meeting minutes

See attached pages 2 - 4

Public Hearing - Remains open from 3/10/20 -Townsend request to remove separation & join parcels

Public Comment – Regional covid-19 staying open issues

Communications -Tower Locations?..... All monies collected are still secure w/Cap21

CAP-21 - Covid 19 relief fund update

Police – Retirement plan changes, Staffing

Assessor/Codes, Parks/Building/Information

See attached pages 5 – 8

Highway Department – Fall work schedule

Transfer/Recycling - New Fall Hours - 7 days a week 8-11:45 ,1-6:45 staff working separate days

Town Clerk Report – Rental & revenue reports

Supervisors Report – Support for Doctor position in Old Forge - \$11,000 for the remainder of 2020

- Census replies way to low - Go to www.my2020census.gov.
- 2021 Budget workshops –
-

Trails – Mountain bike trail work on Fern park property possible grant funding from Northern Borders

Public Comment –

Executive Session – none

Audit Bills - Highway, General & Sewer

Next Regular Meeting– 10-13-20 – 7:15 Bills & updates, 7:30 Meeting

**Regular Meeting HELD VIA ZOOM and LIMITED IN PERSON ATTENDANCE August 11, 2020 7:30 pm
Inlet Town Board**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Frey, at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were: Highway Superintendent Shawn Hansen, Gary Zawatski, Peggy Brownell, John M. Maestri, and Janice Kandor and Codes/Assessor Aimee VanWie. Via Zoom, Don Townsend via Zoom, Becky Townsend via Zoom, Robin Hill, and via Zoom Dennis Hudson.

Officials present were: Supervisor Frey, Councilman Levi, Councilman Townsend, Councilman Schmid, Councilman Brownsell and Town Clerk Yvonne Lutz.

MINUTES REVIEW – Supervisor Frey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the July Meeting minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Frey stated that the Public Hearing currently open since the March 10 meeting is to research and hear discussion regarding selling a small portion of land to the Townsend family that currently separates two of the parcel's owned by the Estate of John Townsend. The Town and surveyor, John Deming, have provided the information to make a decision as to how the town will do a land swap. The property in question was gifted to the Town of Inlet. However, it offers rights to the lake from other neighboring properties. We want to make sure everyone retains their rights. PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM starts today and will be at least 45 days, which will bring it to the October 13th meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT –
GENERATOR NOISE AND WATER POOLING**

Mrs. Kandor expressed how loud the generator behind the town hall is and it exercises at 1:00 am every Sunday. Asked if there was anything that could be done. Supervisor Frey stated he would have Don Haehl change the time, however, there is nothing we can do about the noise. She also expressed that water is pooling and causing an excessive amount of water to pool around her house. The town has tried to dig draining ditches to alleviate the problem, however, she still has water into her basement and on lawn. Hamilton County Soil and Water has come down to discuss the issues. There is discussion about a grant to help pay for remediation. There are 6 different locations that are trying to stop the current flow of water. Discussion on some ideas on how to remedy the situation followed.

6th & 7th LAKE JET SKI ISSUES

There was discussion regarding numerous jet skis on 6th and 7th Lake that are not following rules and becoming a nuisance. Peggy asked why the Hamilton County Sherriff can't be present on this lake more. Supervisor Frey explained that they are so short staffed, and they are present. They are doing the best they can with the staff they have.

BENCHES Peggy mentioned that the benches at cedar creek are still too close together.

TOWNSEND TRAIL - Peggy Brownell asked where we are with the Townsend Trail grant. We have submitted everything and still waiting on a response. Peggy also thanked the Highway Department for keeping out with any washouts and making sure the trail is nice.

RESIDENT COMMENT – John Masestri commented that the Town of Inlet and its employees have done a great job this year in light of everything. Supervisor Frey explained that it takes teamwork, and everyone worked hard and thanked Mr. Maestri for his statement.

PARKING ISSUES - Peggy commented that the parking situation in town is ridiculous and wondered if the town was contemplating any ideas on adding more parking. Supervisor Frey expressed that the town is aware of the situation and have always looked to ways to improve this situation. He stressed the importance of ride share. The Dunay parking is only available to us for events. The town also received a letter from a summer resident regarding the situation of lack of parking and tickets being issued to 6th lake residents. A copy of the letter is provided.

COMMUNICATIONS –

There has been quite a bit of movement toward getting towers approved. A taller tower was requested and not approved; therefore, a lower tower is being pursued. The tower that is being referred to as the Eagle Bay Tower might do nothing for Inlet, especially up toward Sixth and Seventh Lake. T-Mobile's early location on Corasanti property was denied because there were not enough trees to hide. The location is now being moved to back on top of the hill. The committee is looking toward two towers with emergency towers on each tower. Cell service runs below emergency. Herkimer 911 will remain our primary emergency services communication. Things seem to be constantly changing, however, Supervisor Frey wanted to reiterate that all monies donated to date have not been touched and will be used strictly toward the communications towers.

CAP 21 - The Covid Relief Fund is at \$206,893.71 and has helped 169 people. The question was asked if there is a fund to help businesses. Adele might have information on that.

YOUTH COMMISSION – Last lifeguard leaves Sunday. Beach will be closing the weekend of the 14th of August. Supervisor Frey thanked all the lifeguards, beach monitors, Barb Murdock, Mary Marleau, Adele and Mitch for all their hard work and knows it was not easy with some even getting yelled at.

POLICE –

RETIREMENT PROGRAM – Still looking to acquire the quote for the retirement. The department is still experiencing staffing issues. New vehicle will be in soon.

PARKS DEPARTMENT – Park’s Supervisor, Mitch Lee provided a monthly report attached to the agenda.

ASSESSOR/CODES - Assessor and Codes/Zoning Officer, Aimee VanWie provides a report each month and is available online and attached to the agenda packet. Aimee needs a new computer. She is having issues and Barry from Real Property thought he had fixed it; however, it was not. Need to order a new one.

INFORMATION OFFICE – Publicity/Tourism Director, Adele Burnett provides a detailed monthly report online and is attached to agenda packet. In addition to past events and information about her department, this report will detail upcoming events. She is still looking at having the Fall Festival, however, it will be more like a Farmer’s market. She is discussing having no music and food at this year’s event.

HIGHWAY Superintendent Hansen’s report provided is as follows:

- Hauled garbage and recyclables
- Brush pick up was a success
- Striped town hall parking lot and parking lot between the two churches
- Patrolled roads in Plains
- Paved Loomis Rd and backed up shoulders. Thank you to The Town of Long Lake and Hamilton County for sending trucks to haul the blacktop.
- Chip sealed Uncas Rd. Thank you to the Town of Long Lake for sending us a truck
- Spread gravel on Uncas Rd
- Helped county with their paving projects
- Hauled gravel for the new storage facility and got things up to grade. Still have more to go, letting things settle a bit.
- Sealed the Tobie Trail.
- Rebuilt mower deck on John Deere tractor

- Brake job on 205 and installed a starter
- Painted some of our snow removal equipment
- Mowed roadsides and weed wacked.

TRANSFER STATION – Superintendent Hansen offered the following monthly report:

- Open 7 days a week from 8AM to 7PM. Closed from 12 to 1 daily for lunch. There was discussion about the fact that people are coming in right before lunch or before night closing. There was a suggestion that they start closing 15 minutes before closing time so that the employees are able to take their scheduled lunch break without interruption.

- Things are going well. Place is clean. Sorting is being kept up with. Staff is working together great.

TOWN CLERK -

Reported revenues for the month of July. Town Clerk has reached out to UPS about possibly becoming a UPS drop off site. Now selling fishing/hunting licenses. Is considering selling EZ Passes for convenience to residents to obtain one locally. Supervisor Frey made a **MOTION** to allow Town Clerk to spend the initial purchase of

about \$575.00 to try it. Passes can be returned if the service is not needed or doesn't work out. Councilman Levi **SECONDED**.

5 AYES 0 NAYS Motion Carried

6th and 7th Lake Fireworks There have been questions from residents as to how the 6th and 7th Lake Association can hold fireworks. Supervisor Frey explained that it is a private event for residents of 6th and 7th lake and there is no issue with social distancing. No location for people to congregate to watch them and they are not advertised to the public.

SUPERVISOR –

TOWN OF WEBB HEALTH CENTER – Supervisor Frey reported that Town of Webb finalized a deal with MVHS, and Inlet's contribution would be \$11,000 to the end of 2020. If residents can increase the number of visits and number of residents that use the facility, the funding help may be able to cease. Even Telemed counts toward the number of visits needed. Discussion followed regarding if we need 9400 total visits or additional visits. Supervisor Frey will get clarification.

CENSUS

Supervisor Frey reported that census numbers are extremely low. If you have not completed it, please do so at www.my2020census.gov.

2021 TENTATIVE BUDGE WORKSHOP

Supervisor Frey state that with all the expenses and County taxes going up, he is looking to have a "flat" budget. No increases to any lines, including a COLA increase for employees. He felt we might be able to finish tentative budget in two sessions. The first budget work session will be September 8th at 6:30 pm. **7th LAKE SMELT REPORT** – Smelt report is attached and provided by Dave Corr. Thanked Dave and all that were involved in the work on this.

TRAILS – Supervisor Frey reported that trail work has started with work by the Black Fly group and town staff. Thanked Dave Corasanti for his involvement.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF Peggy Brownsell asked if the part-time officers have to live in Inlet. Supervisor Frey stated they do not. They fill in shifts as needed and are often retired officers from other departments, therefore, the town does not have to pay to train, retirement and health benefits. Andrew Kalil has still been filling in where needed.

PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM – With a **MOTION** by Councilman Brownsell, the 45-day referendum began regarding the potential land swap from Town of Inlet to Townsend Estate. Townsend Estate will pay all costs, except the Town of Inlet legal fees. Councilman Levi **SECONDED**.

Roll Call vote:

Councilman Brownsell AYE

Councilman Schmid AYE

Supervisor Frey AYE

Councilman Levi AYE

Councilman Townsend - RECUSED HIMSELF

4 AYES 1 ABSTAIN MOTION CARRIED

A **MOTION** to pay highway bills, in the amount of \$4938.71 was made by Councilman Levi, **SECONDED** by Councilman Townsend

5 AYES 0 NAYS MOTION CARRIED

A **MOTION** to pay General/Wastewater bills, with General in the amount of \$32,841.58 and Wastewater

in the amount of \$5159.22 was made by Councilman Schmid **SECONDED** by Councilman Brownsell. **5 AYES 0 NAYS MOTION CARRIED**

All business having come before this Board, Councilman Levi made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Councilman Schmid **SECONDED**. Next regular meeting will be held September 8, 2020 at 7:30, with a Budget working meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Yvonne Lutz, Town Clerk

**ASSESSOR/CODES
MONTHLY REPORT
August 2020**

CODE ENFORCEMENT

A copy of the monthly report for permit activity is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

There have been 3 new house or camp permits issued this year along with 2 garage/pole barns , 2 boathouses, 6 substantial remodels/ additions and 6 shed/deck/porch permits issued. Six wastewater permits have also been issued. Work here has not slowed down in the year of the pandemic.

ASSESSOR

We seem to be in a Sellers market, there are not very many properties for sale and those that are are selling fast. Closings are slow but some homes are under contract in less than a month that is very fast for our area. Because of the low inventory and interest rates properties are selling higher than assessed values. The pandemic has not hurt sales in our area.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee VanWie

**Information Office Report
Submitted by Department Head**

**of the month August 2020
Inlet Tourism Director Adele Burnett**

1. Balance in **Petty Cash** on August 31 was \$26.09.
2. From April 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 this office processed 0 **snowmobile permits** for the 2020/21 season. The Information Office will continue to sell 2020/21 Snowmobile Permits for the preseason rate of \$80 each until November 15, 2020. Permits can also be purchased at the Town of Webb Visitor Center and online at OldForgeNY.com. Stickers will be printed sometime in September and will be then be mailed to anyone who has purchased one prior to printing. Alexis was looking for a new program to replace the Filemaker program we have been using. Many people have been inquiring about the season and permit sales. **I am still hoping Inlet might be able to offer an online shopping cart for snowmobile permits.**
3. During August 2020, \$0 was collected from 0 businesses for a **co-op ad** in the CAA's 2020 vacation planner; and was given to the clerk to be deposited into the Publicity account 6410.400.
4. During August 2020, \$246 was collected towards the **summer concert series**; and was given to the clerk to be deposited into the Publicity account 6410.412.
5. Some "incidental" **live music** continued – Bill Staines on August 8, Dan Berggren on August 15 & Fritz Henry on August 22. Passers-by for all were respectful of the social distancing and mask wearing rules. There may also be some live music on September 5 to close out the series.
6. Starting September 18, the **Adirondack Express** will be delivering on Fridays instead of Tuesdays.
7. Currently have 32 vendors signed up for **Inlet's Fall Marketplace** on September 19 & 20. All vendors have been sent updated "What You Need to Know" letters, and they have been told that this event could be canceled at the last minutes if circumstances arise. www.inletfallfestival.com During the Inlet Crafters Market \$270 was collected from 5 vendors for booths at this show. Another \$55 was collected from 1 vendor before the end of August.
8. Even though **Adirondack Kids Day** has been postponed until 2021, there may be a couple Kids Day related activities happening that first weekend of October. The authors of the Adirondack Kids series are celebrating 20 years of writing their books, and they may do something to highlight this. There will also still be a new Kids Day geocache placed in Fern Park for cachers to find at their leisure.
9. I have started to look at **Adirondack Christmas on Main Street**. Hoping to talk about this with the businesses on September 10th. The main purpose of this event is to encourage shopping in Inlet, so if there is a socially-distanced way to still do this, I will help make that happen.
10. We still have the **New York Shootout** on the calendar for now. Hope to meet with Heinrich soon. I have not heard anything about Snodeo.
11. **The IABA** will be meeting on Thursday, September 10 @ 6:30 p.m. at Fern Park and through Zoom. This group has lots of great ideas and continues to work well together. Notes from IABA meetings can be found at www.GoInletNY.com.
12. I am still keeping **Inlet's Update Page** www.inletny.com/inlet/inlets-covid-19-updates updated. On this page you will find a list of Town of Inlet businesses and paid IABA businesses that are open and what their hours are. You will also find a link to contact information for town departments, information about the services still being provided, and some other helpful links.
13. The **Climate Smart Communities Task Force** is hoping to meet soon. Over the summer, Jeremiah Best, Connie Perry & Mary Catalino continued to work with the Inlet Common School and made good progress with the community garden. Jeremiah has also been working on many other projects for the group to look into. They have a Facebook page and are on Instagram – Follow them!
14. The **Fern Park Master Plan Committee** hopes to begin meeting again in September.
15. I am still working with Luke on the **sign for the front of the town hall** building that says, "Inlet Town Hall" and "Information Office."
16. **Information Office Window Hours** for September will be: Daily 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The lobby is locked while the window is closed. We will continue to only have one person working physically in the office at a time.