

**Regular Meeting  
May 11, 2021  
Inlet Town Board**

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

Present via Zoom: Parks Supervisor, Mike Bartolotti, Codes/Assessor, Aimee VanWie, Dennis Hudson and Robin Hill with CAP21.

Present were: Highway Superintendent Shawn Hansen, Peter Funk, Tina Moore and Gary Zawatsky

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

**MINUTES REVIEW** – Supervisor Frey asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April 13 meeting minutes. Hearing none

**PUBLIC COMMENT –**

**ROW/POST OFFICE DRIVEWAY** – Supervisor Frey apologized for his outburst earlier in the town hall. He explained he is very passionate about protecting the town interest and also the employees. Supervisor Frey explained that the deed was reviewed regarding the right of way to the right of the post office and that the Town's access for ingress and egress cannot be blocked in any way. Supervisor Frey explained that this situation is visited every year and it is bothersome. Discussion followed regarding the wording and legalities of the right of way. The resident involved expressed how upset he was at the confrontation with Supervisor Frey and the manner in which he was treated.

**COVID** – Supervisor Frey stated that we are slowly rolling things back to normal. Restaurants are almost back to normal and as of May 19<sup>th</sup>, they are able to get back to 100%. Frey encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and added that Hamilton County has the highest rate of vaccination in NYS. Supervisor Frey expressed how great of a job everyone did in getting the population vaccinated. There will be a Memorial day parade. County will not be participating, will remain strictly local and many legion members are not able to participate. The Symphony is being planned, as are fireworks. Some benches will be put out and will play it by ear about putting more out. At this time, the car show will also happen.

**COMMUNICATIONS –**

Verizon tower, behind the St. Anthony's church access road has been started and construction will begin when supplies are received for the construction. This tower will really only service Downtown and toward 4<sup>th</sup> Lake. Because of the compromise on the height. There is a Tarpon Tower meeting. The APA is still looking at the lack of visibility with proposed tower height. Discussion on placement and building the towers followed.

**CAP21** - Robin Hill reported that in the Relief fund committee met and that the applications are winding down. There is about \$35,000 left in the fund and the program should last until June 30<sup>th</sup>. They assisted 289 people. Any funds left in the fund may possibly go to local not-for-profit organizations. Linda Goldsworth is the new member of CAP21 and she is also with United Healthcare.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT** – Park's Supervisor, Mike Bartolotti stated they have been busy getting Arrowhead ready for summer. Bathrooms will be open the week before Memorial day. Clay is being put in ball park. Mike is talking with Northern Borders about grants to help with bike trails. Grants are available in Hamilton County, in addition to the money that the town has budgeted for this purpose. The grant is a matching grant and we can provide the labor needed. Mike stated that he needs Board approval to apply for the Northern Borders Grant. Supervisor Frey made the **MOTION** to allow Mike to apply for the grant to assist with bike trails. Councilman Townsend **SECONDED**.

## 5 AYES 0 NAYS MOTION CARRIED

Mike added that the Birch tree had to be cut down because it was dead. Trees will be planted closer to the cottage for more shade and privacy. He thanked Shawn and his highway guys for all their help. Supervisor Frey also thanked Highway and Parks for working so well together and getting all of the work done.

**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 gave the Board a copy of the new proposed rental ordinance. The Town already has a rental ordinance on R1 district rentals. This is proposed to extend to all short-term rentals in the Town of Inlet. Aimee explained the reason for the needed to change. It will potentially catch failed septic systems and any other hazards that might exist. This ordinance will have no impact on cottage colonies that are covered under NYS DOH. Aimee stated that she will be looking soon to hire an assistant and also groom this person for her position after retirement. At this time, they will help with data collection. Aimee reported that she has been looking into getting electric car charging stations and will be meeting with someone to review placement of stations. There are grants available and National Grid will pay for just about all of the electricity requirement. NYSERTA grant available for the stations and paying more than the DEC at this time. Fern park is one location being looked at for the stations. Aimee added that the Wood's Inn would be a great location for one.

**INFORMATION OFFICE** – Publicity 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.

### HIGHWAY

Superintendent Hansen reported on the numerous projects that they have been working on. In addition:

- Plowed and sanded
- Hauled garbage and recyclables
- Started our sidewalk project. The weather has not cooperated, but we are going to get it done! Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused but it's going to be worth it.
- Grubbed out and poured a sidewalk from the boardwalk by the beach to the end of the pavers.
- Reshaped the beach
- Pulled out the concrete blocks from the piece of playground equipment that was removed from the playground.
- Raked Uncas Rd. Road is open to the pond. We recommend staying towards the center of the roadway to avoid soft shoulders.
- Patrolled Moose River Plains road. We came across a washed out culvert. Otherwise the road is not to bad. We plan on getting in there soon and get the road raked and ready for the gates to be opened by the end of the day on May 26 th if all goes well.
- Started sweeping our roads.
- With the help of Levi Lumber with their man and dozer, we cleaned up the stump dump and made a better base to back out on.

Coming up

- Finish up our sidewalk project.
- Haul garbage and recyclables
- Continue sweeping town and county roads
- Chip seal Gilbert Rd some time soon
- Get the Moose River Plains road raked and ready for gates to open on May 26 th by the end of the day.
- We will be doing a town wide storm brush clean up on the 2 nd Week of June (7 th -10 th )

Please have brush out by the road. Call the highway Dept (315-357-4541) to get put on the list.

### **TRANSFER STATION**

Open 7 days a week from 8 AM until 11:45 AM closed from 12 to 1 PM the open from 1 PM until 6:45 PM

- Sent out a load of bailed cardboard today
- Place is clean and orderly
- Staff has been doing a great job staying caught up
- The Highway Dept will be hauling out the bailed tin cans as time allows and if things need to be picked up in Utica.

**TRANSFER STATION EMPLOYEE** - Tina Moore stated that she feels being alone working at the transfer station during the summer months is dangerous. She understands that Cory Hansen will be back to work this summer, but is requesting that they have coverage for the other 2 days. She is asking if her son can be the person to provide coverage for two days in July and August. Supervisor Frey expressed his only concern is that because her son will be getting a ride in with Tina, a potential problem would be a sick day for Tina could lead to two employees not being available. The Board felt that 2 days for the 2 months would be acceptable for 8 hours/day, not 10 though because of his age. Tina expressed again that the extra set of eyes could potentially save money and help with any safety issues. Willing to see how it works out and Supervisor Frey thanked Tina and Peter for their hard work at the transfer station. Discussion followed

**SIGNAGE** – Shawn Hansen mentioned that he needs to get a larger sign with words expressing that only Inlet Residents are to be using the facility and the hours.

### **TOWN CLERK -**

Reported revenues for the month of April

**COTTAGES** - Town Clerk stated how beautiful the cottages were looking and thanked the Park's Department for all their hard work. They are currently booked the entire 2021 season.

**SOFTBALL** – Town Clerk mentioned that Crystal LaPorte has requested permission to use the ball field again for their games and practices. The Board was okay with them doing so, however, they will have to “police” their crowds/athletes. Also, the open container in the park rule applies.

**FCLA** - Town Clerk handed out a presentation from the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association regarding “Maintain the Chain”, before the meeting. The Board stated that they support the cause and will help in any way they can.

### **SUPERVISOR –**

**SENIOR ROOM USE** - Four people have been permitted to return to the senior room to play cards. The Seniors are looking for direction on who is permitted to return for use of the room. Supervisor Frey stated that Patty Wittmeyer will be helping oversee the usage of the room and will monitor any limited activities.

**RETAINING WALL AT ST. ANTHONY** - **Supervisor** Frey stated that there is nothing to report this meeting on the retaining wall.

**LAND SWAP – TOWNSEND** the Town has not received the final maps for the proposed land swap with the Townsend Estate.

**RESCINDING OF THE NYS FIBER RIGHT OF WAY FEE** – Supervisor Frey explained the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE RESCINDING OF THE NYS FIBER RIGHT OF WAY FEE  
MAY 11, 2021  
RESOLUTION #21.22**

**Whereas**, the 2019-2020 New York State budget contained language that enacted a right-of-way use and occupancy fee for any fiber optic cables located in or crossing a state-controlled right of way and authorized the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to enter fee bearing permits with fiber optic installers and;

**Whereas**, the 2019-2020 state budget also added Section 7 of the Transportation Corporation Law, allowing the DOT to charge fiber optic corporations installing and operating the utility lines for fair-market use and occupancy of the state right-of-way and;

**Whereas**, in early 2020 organizations, businesses, legislators and residents of northern New York became aware of the fee because the DOT started charging the fee and;

**Whereas**, in the rural counties of the North Country it's virtually impossible to install fiber optic cables for any distance without utilizing or crossing a state right-of-way and development requirements within the Adirondack Park almost entirely preclude installation of broadband in any location other than an existing state right-of-way and;

**Whereas**, the coronavirus pandemic has caused more people to be working from home and more students to be learning from home, and has increased the use of telemedicine, thus magnifying the need for additional broadband services in unserved and underserved areas so rural residents can engage in everyday activities and;

**Whereas**, Governor Cuomo, in his 2021 State of the State address championed his Connectivity Agenda which includes, among other provisions, enactment of a requirement for affordable internet for low-income families and a series of actions to promote broadband build-out and market competition and;

**Whereas**, the Governor said, "And without affordable broadband, people are not just disconnected, they are disenfranchised. Broadband must be available to everyone, everywhere. And in New York we will make sure it is" and;

**Whereas**, the DOT fiber right-of-way fee is acting as a significant financial deterrent to broadband build-out in rural areas, with some projects already cancelled and others put on hold due to the fact that these fees will cost providers hundreds of thousands, and in some cases, millions of dollars annually, and

**Now, therefore be it**

**Resolved**, that The Town of Inlet formally opposes the enactment of the DOT right-of-way fees on fiber optic cable and urges the Governor and the New York State Legislature to rescind the right-of-way use and occupancy fees on fiber cable immediately so that the Governor's pledge can be fulfilled and the expansion of the fiber network in the North Country can continue in order to serve critically unserved and underserved areas.

Councilman Brownsell **MOVED** to accept this resolution as written, Councilman Levi **SECONDED**.

**5 AYES 0 NAYS MOTION CARRIED**

**UNDERSERVED AREAS** – There are several Seventh Lake residents that are asking the Town to help with getting Spectrum internet to their summer residences. Supervisor Frey explained the difficulty in doing this and that we are doing all that we can to assist. He added that CAP 21 has been working very hard to get the underserved areas service. Discussion followed.

**TRAILS** – Will bring a Fern park report to next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT –**

**BIRCHES** - Aimee VanWie expressed that Birch's is for sale and purchasing it might be considered for the preservation of the town's assets and the future of the town. The purchase would offer more parking, beach and cottage rentals, which could offset the expense. Arrowhead is the heart of the community and would be a huge benefit to the community to increase the size of our park, boat parking, possibly even a boat launch. There was discussion that possibly grant money would be available to help in some way. Aimee expressed her fear of what could happen, depending on who purchases the property and what the intended use would be. Discussion followed.

**IVES** – Councilman Schmid spoke that IVES is in need of a new ambulance and new firetruck. Discussion followed.

**SNOWMOBILE MEETING WITH TOW** - Supervisor Frey added that the snowmobile meeting with Town of Webb has not taken place yet because of different party's vacations.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE**

A **MOTION** to pay highway bills presented was made by Councilman Levi, **SECONDED** by Councilman Townsend

5 AYES 0 NAYS **MOTION CARRIED**

A **MOTION** to pay General/Wastewater bills presented was made by Councilman Schmid **SECONDED** by Councilman Brownsell

5 AYES 0 NAYS **MOTION CARRIED**

All business having come before this Board, Councilman Townsend made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. Councilman Levi **SECONDED**. Next regular meeting will be held June 8, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Yvonne Lutz, Town Clerk