

**Regular Meeting
February 8, 2022
Inlet Town Board**

An executive session was held at 7:15 pm to discuss a police department matter.

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

Present were: Chief Ron Johnston, Highway Superintendent Shawn Hansen, Toby Linfield, Robin Hill, Codes/Assessor Aimee VanWie, Parks Supervisor, Mike Bartolotti, and Connie Perry.

Official's 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 January meeting minutes. The mileage rate for 2022 should read 58.5 cents per mile.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Supervisor Frey asked for a moment of silence for Mary Yahnke who always had a welcoming smile on her face and will be missed.

COVID – Supervisor Frey stated that there are no real updates and is hopeful that the mask mandates will be relaxing. Frey added that you can still get Covid with the vaccination, however, it will keep you out of the hospital. Vaccination is still the key.

CLIMATE SMART – Supervisor Frey apologized to Connie for not getting her the letter she needed supporting the energy saving options that were presented in a meeting with Living ADK, Country Suburban, and Climate Smart. Information was given on the different ways to save money and become a greener community. You can have your home evaluated to see where you can save on energy. Aimee VanWie gave a handout that indicated the Town, and the residents can be eligible for different grants to help with the costs. There was discussion on options of going geothermal and the tax breaks for purchasing more green options for heating/cooling.

REPLACE LIGHTS AT FERN PARK - Aimee VanWie gave the presentation for replacing lights at Fern Park and the money it would save in the future. There was also discussion on the charging stations and that proposals are forthcoming. Councilman Townsend made a **MOTION** to support the light upgrade at Fern Park. Councilman Schmid **SECONDED**.

5 AYES 0 NAYS **MOTION CARRIED**

LIVING ADK - Robin Hill spoke that Living Adk, formerly CAP21, is looking to support a bus route from Lewis County/Port Leyden to this area to encourage more employees to come work in the area.

COMMUNICATIONS –

Verizon tower, behind the St. Anthony's church is functional. There is a glitch, however, that the 911 calls placed on a cell phone in town are routed to Albany. It is being worked on, however, if you need to place a 911 call from your cell phone, please tell them it should be Herkimer 911. The tower to be placed on Corasanti property is moving forward, however, the APA has asked more questions and they are waiting on other agencies of the State to complete GIS data.

PARKS DEPARTMENT – Park's Supervisor, Mike Bartolotti thanked Shawn Hansen and his department for all their help, thanked Chip Sauer for helping to groom the golf course, Dave Corasanti for helping to groom Fern Park, John Townsend for the wire, and Brian Schoen for all his help with the ice rink.

RECREATIONAL GRANT - Mike stated that he is talking to Dan Kieferbach about recreational grants. They are meeting and have ideas at Fern Park. New signage and ski tracks are just a couple of ideas. He is looking at a \$4,200 grant, however, it is matching, and he will need a letter of support from the Board. Mike expressed his wish to look into tracks for the John Deere. The snowmobiles get stuck often and are very unsteady. He has Cazenovia putting together a proposal.

TOWN HALL BATHROOMS - Mike stated that a near future project is to remodel the bathrooms in the Town Hall. They need updating and are way overdue.

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 mentioned that the Town will have to look at spending money for a town wide re-val. She needs to advertise for a data collection person, hopefully someone that could possibly grow into Aimee's job.

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

The Board discussed and signed the 284 Form for highway.

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

- Plowed snow.
- Cleared sidewalks and parking lots
- Hauled garbage and recyclables
- Had a new heat run installed in my office. It's a lot better temperature wise.
- Moved snow from around town on to the snowmobile trail between Inlet and Eagle Bay to get the trail away from the road.
- Took our 2018 Mack to Utica Mack for a regen issue. I would like to thank Tracy Eldridge and Chris Mitchell from Hamilton County Highway for setting up a spare truck if we ended up leaving ours in Utica. It's nice to know that help isn't too far away.
- Our new plow caught the bridge joint in Raquette Lake and did some pretty good damage to the funnel and frame. Had an insurance adjuster come up and look at it. We are awaiting our salesman from Viking to come up and prepare a list to make plow as good as new.
- Would like to thank Stephen Cole for helping us out last Thursday as we were shorthanded.

Coming Up

- Plow snow
- Clear sidewalks and parking lots
- Haul garbage and recyclables
- Move snow from spots it gets piled up in town.
- Move snow to trails when time allows
- I would just like to say that we have been hearing some people are not happy with the way the roads are being plowed. Meaning they feel that we are not leaving snow for the snowmobiles. I would like to say that they are just that ROADS. In my opinion we are very gracious with the way we plow our

roads trying to keep a happy medium. We cannot be leaving roads unplowed. If the Fire, EMS or the traveling public cannot get across these roads then we are not doing our jobs. This issue comes up every year. Uncas Rd is always one that comes up. I cannot control the fact that the sun burns the snow off of that road. We do not use salt on our town and county roads unless it is freezing rain. We put shovels on the scraper banks on the sides of our roads. The Barnstormers are supposed to be grooming the side of the Uncas Rd to get the snowmobile traffic out of the road.

Transfer Station

- Open 4 days a week from 8AM-11:45AM then 1PM-6:45PM Closed from 12-1 daily for lunch. Closed Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.
- We have some new lights for the ends of the building. They are the same as the one we have at our shop. LED with dusk to dawn eyes.
- Place is clean and orderly

POLICE – Chief Johnston spoke about needing a new police vehicle. The vehicle we have now is a 2016 and even though we are not scheduled to replace this vehicle until next year, with Covid and lack of vehicles, parts, etc., vehicles are extremely difficult to get. He had a vehicle ordered in TOW for 3 months and the order was just cancelled. He does not want that to happen to us. Chief Johnston spoke to a GM rep and vehicles are usually taking about 5-8 months; however, he can get one March 5th because two dealers that buy extra vehicles has one. The PA dealer had a better price. The new vehicle is about \$43,000 and the upfitting is about \$16,000. JPJ is having trouble getting chips for light bars, etc., however, are working on it. He is worried that if we don't get a vehicle now, we may have to wait 2 years and he feels the 2016 vehicle may not last that long. Chief stated that he is not spending his snowmobile law enforcement grant on snowmobile patrol, because of the lack of snow. These funds would help support the new vehicle. Supervisor Frey stated that there is the money saved each year in the budget also. Councilman Schmid made a **MOTION** to purchase the new police vehicle and Councilman Levi **SECONDED**.

5 AYES 0 NAYS **MOTION CARRIED**

TOWN CLERK -

Reported revenues for the month of January.

SECURITY – The Town Clerk read a proposal for the panic alarms with the addition of the security cameras in the town hall and need based on the Court and Police Department being located in the same building. The Town Board had approved the purchases of the necessary equipment, just asks that we could possibly look into whether the Court can get any further grants to help with the costs.

SUPERVISOR –

LAND SWAP – TOWNSEND – Should be finalized any day now.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Connie spoke about the Inlet Area Community Task Force and that they are working on getting the 501C. She thanked the Board for all the efforts and support. Robin Hill spoke regarding MVHS and NYS Health Foundation are working with OF Ambulance for a pilot program on mobile integrated health. This would save residents on health insurance, and she will keep us posted.

NUPTIALS – Supervisor Frey congratulated Mike Bartolotti and Brittany DePasquale on their upcoming nuptials. Both work for the town and are a true asset.

A **MOTION** to pay highway bills as 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 Levi made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Councilman Townsend **SECONDED**. Next meeting will be held March 8, 2022, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvonne Lutz, Town Clerk