

2023 Regular Meeting MINUTES
February 13, 2023

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Susan Storms	Councilman
Shari Gerber	Councilman
Frank Skvorak	Councilman
Mike O'Shaughnessy	Highway Superintendent
Robert Ball	Assessor
Lori Borland	Town Clerk
Rebecca Shultz	Deputy Town Clerk
James Burrows, Esq.	Town Attorney
Mickey Dietrich	RACOG Circuit Rider
Terry McKeever	Code Enforcement Officer
Matt Johnson	Tug Hill Commission
Jon Storms	Planning Board

Supervisor Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to approve the minutes from the Organizational Meeting and the first regular meeting of the year on January 9, 2023. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, noted that the next RACOG meeting will be on May 24, 2023 at a place to be determined. Local Government Conference will be at Turning Stone on April 6, 2023. The promotional video has been completed. He has a potential funding source for the digital radar signs. Supervisor Smith requested that the representative from NY Class be able to attend our next meeting on March 13, 2023, which will be a zoom meeting for her portion.

Matt Johnson, the Planning Director for Tug Hill Commission spoke about a new Joint Comprehensive Plan with the Village of Carthage. It would take into consideration the assets, resources, etc. of the area and the land use and zoning aspects, and can be used as a marketing tool. He noted that Champion has updated theirs and it is on the RACOG website. There needs to be a special committee formed which should include members from the Planning Board, Town Council, ZBA, etc. The committee would meet monthly and stay focused in order to move ahead in a timely manner. There would be public feedback, and that would start with a survey of the community. It was noted that Deferiet may want to join in. Sarah Bullock would need to be instrumental in this endeavor.

RESOLUTION #2-2023 - Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Storms, to move ahead with the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Smith noted that he would like to see something to utilize the Farmer's Market in the wintertime, such as an ice skating rink.

Communications: None

Community Development Director Report: Sarah Bullock, CDD, noted in her report that Elan Planning & Design of Saratoga Springs has been selected on the BOA Deferiet project. A Steering Committee needs to be formed, and will meet on February 22, 2023. She further noted that there is a plan being prepared for Economic Resiliency Recovery Plan for Wilna, Champion, Carthage and West Carthage. She noted that the owner of the former RR Depot and NAPA store and herself have gathered all of the required information for the application for Restore NY.

Highway Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent, noted that four employees tested positive for COVID, working with a skeleton crew for about a week. Snow removal is ongoing, along with plowing and sanding and refilling the sand barn. Truck #221 is at Caskinette's waiting for a new engine. He is working on specs for a cold storage building. He further noted that he has put together an invitation for bid on a new truck.

RESOLUTION #3-2023 -Motion made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber to move ahead to put the bid packet on the website, sending it out to several dealerships and placing the ad in the paper. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Dog Control Officer: April Hall, DCO gave a detailed written report on her activities. Basically, it noted dogs running at large, barking, and defecating on private property.

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for January were \$15,683.81. The Town Clerk fees for January were \$921.42. The Transfer Site Funds collected for January were \$3142.00. DECALS commissions for January were \$13.58. Deputy Clerk Shultz gave an overview of the costs and revenues for the Transfer site, but some questions were raised and more research needs to be done.

Code Enforcement: Terry McKeever, CEO noted that he has issued three permits this year and there are four new houses coming up. Otherwise, it has been quiet.

Assessor Report: Robert Ball reported as follows: 8/10 new property sales/transfers for 2023 were arm's length sales. He has 203 open site visit/permits for the 2023 Assessment Roll. Second notices for the Senior Star Exemption were sent out and he is still awaiting 4 for return. He has processed and completed 18 exemption applications and removed 5 exemptions due to the sale of properties. NYS passed a new law requiring the towns to send out notices to property owners notifying them of the Senior Citizen Aged Exemption which generated about 100 phone calls from property owners and he was able to add 5 enhanced STAR exemptions and 3 senior aged exemptions, with more to be expected to be added this month.

Mr. Ball noted that he has received the PDC Report from NYS ORPTS, and based on their analysis the 2023 Equalization Rate would be 89% which is down 11% from last year. He is requesting to do a Town-wide Reassessment Project for the 2024 Assessment Roll in order to bring it back to 100%.

RESOLUTION #4-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber to approve Mr. Ball's request to do a town-wide reassessment project for the 2024 Assessment Roll. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Attorney Report: Mr. Burrows noted that it has been a quiet month, and that there has been nothing new regarding the Sugar Maple Solar Project.

Town Supervisor's Financial Statements: January financial reports have not been received from the CPA's for this meeting.

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #2 in the amount of \$277,707.41. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: March 13, 2023 at 6:45 will be a ZOOM meeting with the representative from NY Class. Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Storms. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Gerber, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk