

**Town of Lowville Regular Board Meeting
October 17, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Lowville, County of Lewis and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 5533 Bostwick Street, Lowville, NY on the 17th day of October 2019.

Present: Randall Schell, Supervisor
Ruth Larabee, Councilwoman
Robert Mullin, Councilman
Raymond Meier, Town Attorney
Aimee Murphy, Town Clerk
Thomas Widrick, Highway Superintendent/Special Districts Superintendent
Nicholas Astafan, Jr., Dog Control Officer
William Kiernan, Town Justice

Absent: Allison Millard, Councilman and Paul Virkler, Councilman

Also Present: Mickey Dietrich, RACOG; Henry Avallone; Ron Burns, Lewis County Legislator

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Supervisor Schell who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion by Councilwoman Larabee, seconded by Councilman Mullin to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2019 regular board meeting.

ADOPTED – AYES – Larabee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

CORRESPONDENCE

- US Light Energy – Request for Zone Law change: Waters Road
- Association of Towns Annual Meeting
- DEC re: MJL mine

Attorney Meier entered at 9:40 a.m.

VOUCHERS

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Larabee to approve that bills be paid as listed in the following amounts.

ADOPTED – AYES – Larabee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

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|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| General – Abstract #10 | Voucher # 303 to #333 | \$ 33,674.75 |
| Highway - Abstract #10 | Voucher # 124 to #134 | \$ 7,550.63 |
| Trust & Agency | (09/19/2019) | \$ 2,717.77 |
| | (09/30/2019) | \$ 2,066.64 |
| | (10/17/2019) | <u>\$ 13,670.82</u> |
| | Total Expenditures | \$ 59,680.61 |

Town of Lowville Regular Board Meeting
October 17, 2019

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|
| Receipts: | Town Clerk..... | \$ 1,829.60 |
| | CEO..... | \$ 467.50 (\$7,963.76 ytd) |
| | Courts-Judge Kiernan..... | \$ 3,730.00 |
| | Village of Lowville..... | \$ 8,866.99 (ZBA/Planning Reimbursement) |
| | KIMCO Steel..... | \$ 1,020.00 (sale of scrap steel) |
| | NYS Ins. Fund rebate..... | \$ 63.81 |
| | Retirees HI rebate..... | \$ 3,692.64 |
| | NYMIR..... | \$ 6,112.07 (WD#1 lightning strike claim) |
| | VS Virkler..... | \$ 104.57 (overpayment) |
| | Dan King..... | \$ 124.83 (pool fill) |

The Supervisor's activities report and financial report are in the board member's packets.

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Laribee to accept the Supervisor's receipts, activities and financial reports.

ADOPTED – AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Attorney

- Maple Ridge PILOT – Making a re-powering plan, need to finalize.
- #3 PILOT – More to be updated, then will be ready for the Board to authorize Supervisor Schell to sign.

Historian

- Some of the stones in the Ebbbie/East Road Cemetery have been repaired. Will be repairing more next year.

Town Clerk

- Town Clerk's Monthly Report is in Board Members' Packets & Daily Log passed for review.
- Still selling DEC licenses, but has slowed down slightly.
- Preparing for relevying unpaid water bills.
- Getting ready for water billing Nov.1st.
- Discontinued service for iTax from BAS.
- Spoke with representative from X-Press Pay re: setting up for tax collection. Will set up mid-December.

CEO

The CEO officer's report is in the Board Member's packets.

- DANC/Ft. Drum Local Law requests – nothing new.

Superintendent of Highways/ Special Districts Superintendent

- Culverts have all been replaced on the Water's Road.
- Water meter reading done.
- Ps2 automation is running properly since repairs from lightning strike.
- Hydrant flushing completed today or tomorrow.
- Getting trucks ready for winter.
- Ask to hire winter wing person.

Town of Lowville Regular Board Meeting
October 17, 2019

Motion by Councilwoman Laribee, seconded by Councilman Mullin to allow Highway Superintendent Widrick to hire part-time winter help when he feels it is needed.

DCO

- Activities Report in board members' packets.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2019 "A local law providing for written notification of defects and obstructions on town highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks and culverts in the Town of Lowville" was declared open at 10:00 a.m. with Proof of Publication in the Journal & Republican being acknowledged.

Attorney Meier gave a brief explanation of the proposed law. The public hearing will remain open briefly for public comment.

RACOG

Mickey Dietrich gave a brief update of the happenings at RACOG.

Motion by Councilwoman Laribee, seconded by Councilman Mullin to allow Supervisor Schell to sign the IMA with RACOG permitting Village of Copenhagen and Village of Castorland to join.

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for the 2020 Water and Sewer Budgets was declared open at 10:14 a.m. with Proof of Publication in the Journal & Republican being acknowledged.

Budget Officer/Bookkeeper

Accountant Scott Lawrence was present to review the tentative budget with suggested changes with the Board.

Changes to include:

General Fund – Townwide:

Revenues: Franchise increase to \$5,000.00
Justice Court Fees increase to \$20,000.00
Expenditures: Town Board Contractual decrease to \$400.00
Tax Collector Contractual decrease to \$2,040.00
Buildings Contractual decrease to \$22,000.00
Highway Superintendent Contractual decrease to \$500.00
Historian Contractual decrease to \$200.00
Cemetery Contractual increase to \$1,500.00

Highway Townwide:

Revenues: Snow Removal – other governments increase to \$11,000.00
Expenditures: Transfer to Capital Fund decrease to \$90,000.00

Fire Protection District:

Revenues: Real Property Taxes increase to \$41,765.00
Benefit Assessment decrease to \$0.00

Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for the 2020 Benefit Assessments for CWD#1 was declared open at 10:32 a.m. with Proof of Publication in the Journal & Republican being acknowledged.

Town of Lowville Regular Board Meeting
October 17, 2019

Supervisor Schell reviewed the recommended changes to the Benefit Assessment Rolls with the Town Board.

There were no comments from the Public. Therefore, the Public Hearing on the 2020 Benefit Assessments for CWD#1 was declared closed at 10:36 a.m. by Supervisor Schell.

MOTION by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Laribee to adopt **Resolution No. 32-2019, "Adoption of Benefit Assessments Roll for Consolidated Water District #1 for 2020."**

ADOPTED – AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

WEREAS, the Town Board held a public hearing on the Benefit Assessments Roll for Consolidated Water District #1 on October 17, 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board deems that it is in the public interest to adopt the Benefit Assessments Roll; then, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the benefit assessments be levied upon lots and parcels of lands listed in the assessment rolls at the time and in the manner provided by law for the levy of State, County and Town taxes.

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Laribee to close the Public Hearing for the 2020 Water and Sewer Districts Budget at 10:36 a.m.

ADOPTED – AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Laribee to adopt **Resolution No. 33-2019 "Adopt Water and Sewer Budgets for 2020."**

ADOPTED – AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Lowville held a public hearing for the Water and Sewer Budgets for their fiscal year 2020, on October 17, 2019, and

WHEREAS, no public comment was heard, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board deems that it is in the public interest to adopt these budgets; then, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Water and Sewer Budgets for 2020 be adopted, and be it further

RESOLVED, that these budgets be incorporated into the 2020 Annual Budget for the Town of Lowville.

MOTION by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Laribee to adopt Resolution No. 34-2019, **"Adopting the Town of Lowville Preliminary Budget for 2020."**

ADOPTED – AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

WHEREAS, the Town of Lowville Town Board did review the Tentative Budget of this town for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020, and

Town of Lowville Regular Board Meeting
October 17, 2019

WHEREAS, discussion concerning the budget was held at the October 17, 2019 meeting, then, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2020 tentative budget for the Town of Lowville with changes be adopted as the 2020 Preliminary Budget.

Motion by Councilwoman Laribee, seconded by Councilman Mullin to adopt **Resolution No. 35-2019 “Setting the Public Hearing for the Town of Lowville Preliminary Budget for 2020.”**

ADOPTED – AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

WHEREAS, it is necessary to hold a public hearing for the Town of Lowville Preliminary Budget for 2020, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the public hearing to be advertised for at least five (5) days before the public hearing is held, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to hold the public hearing at a special meeting of the Town of Lowville Town Board, then therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the public hearing be held on October 30, 2019, at a Special Town Board meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Town Engineer

Supervisor Schell is hoping to have Mickey Lehman from BC&A at the November town board meeting for an update on the CWD#1 Administrative Order.

Old Business

- Hospital Hill Project/Ross Road Drainage – Supervisor Schell met with Brian Ady of Senator Griffo’s office regarding updated requirements to use money for Ross Road Drainage Project.
- CWD#1 Administrative Order – Submitted 3rd quarter report. Response from EPA was positive; Submitted plans were approved and waiting the ok from DOH to start.

New Business

PiXAMATiON – Received quote for IT services and suggested equipment upgrades from Tim Munn. After discussion the following motion was presented.

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Laribee authorizing the purchase of a new computer for the Town Supervisor and Upgrade to Windows 10 for the Town Clerk’s, Deputy Town Clerk’s and Highway Superintendent’s Computers, with funding to come out of the contingency fund. Also authorizing the purchase of IT services from PiXAMATiON at a rate of \$95/hour.

ADOPTED – AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Laribee to close the Public Hearing for the Local Law #1 of 2019 at 10:54 a.m.

ADOPTED – AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

Town of Lowville Regular Board Meeting
October 17, 2019

Motion by Councilwoman Laribee, seconded by Councilman Mullin to adopt Local Law No. 1-2019, “A Local Law providing for written notification of defects and obstructions on town highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks and culverts.”

ADOPTED – AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Schell NAYS -0 ABSENT – Millard, Virkler

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Lowville, held a public hearing at a Town Board meeting on October 17, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. for Local Law No. 1-2019; and

WHEREAS, there was no public comment made at the public hearing;

THEN THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lowville adopts Local Law No. 1-2019, known as ““A Local Law providing for written notification of defects and obstructions on town highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks and culverts.”

Supervisor Schell spoke with Ron Griffin regarding the proposed rate increase for Health Insurance of 5.5%. Discussion followed, no action taken.

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Laribee to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee L. Murphy, RMC
Town Clerk