

**Town of Lowville**  
**Regular Town Board Meeting**  
**December 19, 2024**

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 Municipal Office Building, 5533 Bostwick Street, Lowville, NY on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024

**Roll Call:**

Robert Mullin, Supervisor  
Paul Virkler, Deputy Supervisor  
John D. Ross, Councilman  
Jacob Monnat, Councilman  
Stephen Farney, Councilman

**Others Present:**

Raymond Meier, Town Attorney  
Thomas Widrick, Highway & Special Districts Superintendent  
Aimee Murphy, Town Clerk  
Nick Astafan, Dog Control Officer

**Also Present:** Chuck Terrillion, Village Trustee; Vincent Nortz, County Legislator; Andrea Moroughan, County Legislator; Henry Avallone, resident; Mickey Dietrich, RACOG – entered at 9:41 a.m.; Jeff Desrosiers, resident;

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Supervisor Mullin who also led the pledge of allegiance.

**MINUTES**

**Motion** by Councilman Monnat, seconded by Councilman Virkler to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2024 regular meeting as presented by the Town Clerk.

ADOPTED – AYES – Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Supervisor Mullin reported receiving multiple emails from residents regarding drones around the area.

**VOUCHERS**

**Motion** by Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Monnat to approve bills be paid as listed in the following amounts.

ADOPTED – AYES –Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0

General – Abstract #12	Voucher #314 to #356	\$ 54,933.89
Highway – Abstract #12	Voucher #189 to #203	\$241,022.09
Water – Abstract#10	Voucher #87 to #94	\$ 6,037.64
Sewer – Abstract#10	Voucher #40 to #42	<u>\$ 3,972.70</u>
	Total	\$305,966.32

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT**

Receipts:	Town Clerk	\$ 1,210.42
	Town Court	\$ 5,525.00
	Zoning	\$ 452.00 (\$2,417.00 ytd)
	Comptroller	\$ 31.00 (Unknown)

Supervisor Mullin reported a direct deposit from the NYS Comptroller in the amount of \$31.00. Mr. Mullin contacted the Comptroller’s office for an explanation of this deposit and was told only that it appeared to be a mileage voucher from DEC. Supervisor Mullin telephoned the DEC number provided to him from the Comptroller’s office but has had no response.

Supervisor Mullin’s financial report is included in the Board Members’ packets. An oral activities report was given.

**Motion** by Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Monnat to accept the Supervisor's receipts, activities and financial reports.

ADOPTED – AYES –Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Mullin opened the public hearing for the Partial Exemption of Certain Real Property Owned by Persons 65 Years of Age or Over at 9:45a.m. with proof of advertising being acknowledged.

The exemption would increase the partial real property exemption for persons 65 years of age or over, based upon certain income qualifications. Supervisor Mullin left the public hearing open for public comment.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**DOG CONTROL**

1. The Dog Control Officer's (DCO) monthly report is included in the Board Members' packets.
2. There are 13 dog licenses that are approximately six (6) months delinquent, and no luck contacting the named owners.
3. The DCO is encouraging people to notify the Town Clerk of changes such as moved, dog gone or deceased.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Mullin opened the public hearing on the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption at 9:50 a.m. with proof of publication being acknowledged.

This exemption would provide a partial real property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers pursuant to section 466-1 of the real property tax law. Supervisor Mullin left the public hearing open for public comment.

**TOWN ATTORNEY**

1. Dog Control Officer Contract: The Board was provided with the proposed contract for Dog Control Services. This contract is between the Town of Lowville and Nicholas J. Astafan Jr. as Dog Control Officer and will expire after three (3) years on 12/31/2027. Resolution to follow.
2. Summer Recreation: Supervisor Mullin met with Mayor Beagle, Deputy Mayor Dan Salmon and representatives from Lewis County. The \$100/child will NOT be given by the County for the summer recreation program for 2025. The County reimbursed the Town & Village recreation program \$100/child up to 200 children for the 2024 summer recreation program. Supervisor Mullin and Mayor Beagle feel it is unfair for the Town and Village to pay for children who are not residents of the Town or Village of Lowville. Supervisor Mullin feels the school should be more involved with the summer recreation program. Mr. Mullin spoke with the Supervisors for the Towns of Denmark and Martinsburg about the possibility of assisting with funding the program. The Town of Denmark Board rejected the suggestion. Councilman Monnat wishes to continue with both summer and winter recreation programs.

**Motion** by Councilman Virkler, seconded by Councilman Ross, to adopt **Resolution No. 72-2024 "Agreement for Dog Control Officer Services"**.

ADOPTED – AYES –Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0

RESOLVED, that the Town of Lowville will contract with Nicholas J. Astafan Jr. for Dog Control Officer Services for 2025 at a monthly rate of compensation of \$1,250.00 plus mileage.

*\*A copy of the signed agreement is incorporated at the end of these minutes.*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Supervisor Mullin opened the Public Hearing for the Restore NY Communities Initiative Municipal Grant Program Application at 10:00 a.m. with proof of advertising being acknowledged.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Supervisor Mullin opened the floor for comments. Village resident Jeff Desrosiers wants to know what the Town is doing to receive available grant funding. Supervisor Mullin explained some of the projects the Town has applied for. Mr. Desrosiers is concerned with the aging infrastructure and storm water disbursement. Mr. Desrosiers was referred to the joint Town and Village Comprehensive Plan.

**Aged Exemption**

The public hearing for the Aged Exemption was closed by Supervisor Mulling at 10:29 a.m. No public comments were heard.

**Motion** by Councilman Farney, seconded by Councilman Monnat to adopt **Resolution No. 73-2024, “A Resolution Providing for the Partial Exemption of Certain Real Property Owned by Persons 65 Years of Age or Over”**.

ADOPTED – AYES –Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler    NAYS – 0

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Board of the Town of Lowville as follows:

Section 1.      Legislative History and Findings.

- (a) For several years the Town of Lowville has provided for a partial real property exemption for persons 65 years of age and older, based upon certain income qualifications set forth in Real Property Tax Law §467.
- (b) The Town Board now finds that changes in economic conditions and the impact of such changes upon seniors in the Town of Lowville renders it fair and reasonable to increase the maximum income limits and the percentage of assessed valuation exempt from taxation. Further, this Resolution will comply with the May 25, 2023 amended definition of “income” as set forth in RPTL Section 467.
- (c) This Resolution will be effective January 1, 2025.

Section 2.      Exemption Granted. Real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is sixty-five years of age or over, or real property owned by a married couple or by siblings, one of whom is sixty-five years of age or over, shall be exempt from taxation for Town purposes up to a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the assessed value, provided the owner(s) meet the qualifications set forth below. For the purposes of this Resolution, sibling shall mean a brother or a sister, whether related through half blood, whole blood or adoption.

Section 3.      Income Qualifications.

- (a) The exemption to be granted hereunder shall be determined by the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making application (hereinafter referred to individually or collectively as “income”, as income is hereinafter defined in subsection (d) below), and in accordance with the following schedule:

Exemption Income Limits		
Percentage of Assessed Valuation Exempt from Taxation	Minimum Income	Maximum Income
50	0.00	25,000.00
45	25,000.01	25,999.99
40	26,000.00	26,999.99
35	27,000.00	27,999.99

30	28,000.00	28,899.99
25	28,900.00	29,799.99
20	29,800.00	30,699.99

- (b) Income tax year shall mean the twelve-month period for which the owner or owners filed a federal personal income tax return, or if no such return is filed, the calendar year.
- (c) Where title is vested in either spouse, their combined income may not exceed such sum, except where spouse, or ex- spouse is absent from the property as provided in subparagraph (c)[2] of Section 4 of this Resolution, then only the income of the spouse or ex-spouse residing on the property shall be considered and may not exceed such sum.
- (d) “Income” as used herein shall mean the “adjusted gross income” for federal income tax purposes as reported on the applicant’s federal or state income tax return for the applicable income tax year, subject to any subsequent amendments or revisions. Such income shall include any social security or retirement benefits not included in such federal adjust gross income, total gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset which may be offset by a loss from the sale or exchange of a capital asset in the same income tax year, net rental income, salary or earnings, and net income from self-employment, but shall not include a return of capital, gifts, inheritances, and such other forms of income which are excluded under Real Property Tax Law §467. The provisions of this paragraph notwithstanding, such income shall not include veteran’s disability compensation, as defined in Title 38 of the United States Code. In computing net rental income and net income from self-employment no depreciation deduction shall be allowed for the exhaustion, wear and tear of real or personal property held for the production of income;

Section 4. Additional Qualifications.

No exemption shall be granted hereunder unless :

- (a) The owner shall have held an exemption under this section for their previous residence or unless the title of the property shall have been vested in the owner or one of the owners of the property for at least twelve consecutive months prior to the date of making application for exemption, provided, however, that in the event of the death of a married person either a spouse in whose name title of the property shall have been vested at the time of death and then becomes vested solely in such person’s surviving spouse by virtue of devise by or descent from the deceased spouse, the time of ownership of the property by the deceased spouse shall be deemed also a time of ownership by the survivor and such ownership shall be deemed continuous for the purposes of computing such period of twelve consecutive months. In the event of a transfer by a married person to such person’s spouse of all or part of the title to the property, the time of ownership of the property by the transferor spouse shall be deemed also a time of ownership by the transferee spouse and such ownership shall be deemed continuous for the purposes of computing such period of twelve consecutive months. Where property of the owner or owners has been acquired to replace property formerly owned by such owner or owners and taken by eminent domain or other involuntary proceeding, except a tax sale, the period of ownership of the former property shall be combined with the period of ownership of the property for which application is made for exemption and such periods of ownership shall be deemed to be consecutive for purposes of this section. Where a residence is sold and replaced with another within one year and both residences are within the state, the period of ownership of both properties shall be deemed consecutive for purposes of the exemption from taxation by a municipality within the state granting such exemption. Where the owner or owners transfer title to property which as of the date of transfer was exempt from taxation under the provisions of this section, the reacquisition of title by such owner or owners within nine months of the date of transfer shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement of this paragraph that the title of the property

shall have been vested in the owner or one of the owners for such period of twelve consecutive months. Where, upon or subsequent to the death of an owner or owners, title to property which as of the date of such death was exempt from taxation under such provisions, becomes vested, by virtue of devise or descent from the deceased owner or owners, or by transfer by any other means within nine months after such death, solely in a person or persons who, at the time of such death, maintained such property as a primary residence, the requirement of this paragraph that the title of the property shall have been vested in the owner or one of the owners for such period of twelve consecutive months shall be deemed satisfied;

- (b) The property is used exclusively for residential purposes, provided, however, that in the event any portion of such property is not so used exclusively for residential purposes but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this section;
- (c) The real property is the legal residence of and is occupied in whole or in part by the owner or by all of the owners of the property: except where,
  - [1] An owner is absent from the residence while receiving health-related care as an inpatient of a residential health care facility, as defined in section twenty-eight hundred one of the public health law, provided that any income accruing to that person shall only be income only to the extent that it exceeds the amount paid by such owner, spouse, or co-owner for care in the facility, and provided further, that during such confinement such property is not occupied by other than the spouse or co-owner of such owner; or
  - [2] The real property is owned by a married couple, or an ex-spouse, and either is absent from the residence due to divorce, legal separation or abandonment and all other provisions of this section are met provided that where an exemption was previously granted when both resided on the property, then the person remaining on the real property shall be sixty-two years of age or over.
- (d) The real property otherwise meets the qualifications contained in Real Property Tax Law 467, as the same may be amended from time to time.

Section 5. Administration. Application for such exemption must be made by the owner, or all of the owners of the property upon such forms as may be prescribed from time to time by the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services. Such applications must be filed with the assessor of the Town in which the real property is located on or before the taxable status date. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person otherwise qualifying under this section shall not be denied the exemption under this section if such person becomes 65 years after the appropriate taxable status date and on or before December 31 of the same year.

Section 6. Notice of Exemption.

- (a) At least 60 days prior to the appropriate taxable status date, the Town of Lowville shall mail to each person who was granted exemption pursuant to law on the latest completed assessment roll an application form and a notice that such application must be filed on or before taxable status date and be approved in order for the exemption to be granted. Failure to mail any such application form or notices or failure of such person to receive any of the same shall not prevent the levy, collection and enforcement of the payment of the taxes on property owned by such person.
- (b) The Town of Lowville shall accept applications for the renewal of exemptions pursuant to law after the taxable status date. In the event that the owner or all of the owners of property which has received an exemption pursuant to law on the preceding assessment roll fail to file the application required pursuant to this section on or before taxable status date, such owner or

owners may file the application, executed as if such application had been filed on or before the taxable status date, with the Assessor on or before the date for the hearing of complaints.

Section 7. This Resolution replaces and hereby repeals any prior and/or existing Local Laws and/or Resolutions inconsistent with its provisions.

Section 8. This Resolution shall be effective on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on and after January 1, 2025. The first tax benefit of this exemption change will be reflected in the January 1, 2026 tax bill.

**Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption**

Supervisor Mullin closed the public hearing for the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance workers exemption at 10:30 a.m. No public comments were heard.

**Motion** by Councilman Monnat, seconded by Councilman Farney to adopt **Resolution No. 74-2024, “A Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Lowville Providing Partial Real Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance workers pursuant to section 466-A of the Real Property Tax Law.”**

ADOPTED – AYES –Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0

RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Lowville as follows:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This Resolution shall be known as “**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF LOWVILLE PROVIDING PARTIAL REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW.**”

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

- (a) The Town Board of the Town of Lowville finds it appropriate to recognize the efforts of those who have dedicated their time and at times risked their lives in the service of their communities by volunteering to serve as a member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service.
- (b) The Town Board of the Town of Lowville finds and determines that attracting and retaining quality volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel is one of the most critical problems facing the Town of Lowville and that maintaining effective emergency protection depends on the ability to train and retain volunteers.
- (c) The Town Board finds and determines that it is essential for the Town to provide partial real property tax exemptions as an incentive to attract new volunteers and help combat a persistent and alarming decline in the number of volunteers serving as active responders to fire and medical emergencies, and that unless recruits are found to replace retiring volunteers and seasoned members are encouraged to continue their volunteer service, the health and safety of citizens served by the volunteer firefighter and emergency medical personnel corps may be jeopardized.
- (d) The Town Board further finds and determines that real property tax exemptions are an appropriate way to recognize the personal sacrifices and dedication of these community-spirited men and women who unselfishly give their time and risk their safety to protect their neighbors.
- (e) The purpose of this Resolution is to adopt the real property tax exemptions provided for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in accordance with updated

Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law and to repeal any previous and/or existing local laws or resolutions contrary to the provisions of this Resolution:

SECTION 3. REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in the Town of Lowville shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of Ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such property for Town purposes, exclusive of special assessments.

SECTION 4. QUALIFICATIONS

Such exemption shall only be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance services if:

- (a) The applicant resides in the Town of Lowville and is a member of an incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service which provides service within the Town of Lowville.
- (b) The real property which is the subject of such exemption is the primary residence of the applicant.
- (c) The real property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Resolution.
- (d) The applicant has obtained and displayed a certificate issued by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulatory service indicating that the applicant has been an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, ambulance worker, or fire department for at least two years.

SECTION 5. TWENTY-YEAR ACTIVE MEMBER SERVICE

Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent exemption as authorized by this section for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town of Lowville.

SECTION 6. UN-REMARIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VOLUNTEERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker killed in the line of duty may receive the real property tax exemption if:

- (a) Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty; and
- (b) Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years; and
- (c) Such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

**SECTION 7. UN-REARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VOLUNTEERS WITH AT LEAST TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE**

An un-remarried spouse of a deceased volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker with twenty years of service may receive the real property tax exemption if:

- (a) Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service; and
- (b) Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty years; and
- (c) Such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption of such property prior to the death of such volunteer.

**SECTION 8. APPLICATION PROCESS**

- (a) Applications for such exemption shall be filed with the assessor of the Town of Lowville on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner for the Office of Real Property Tax Services.
- (b) The assessor of the Town shall have the duty and responsibility of procuring and filing a copy of such certification prior to granting the exemption provided for by this Resolution.

**SECTION 9. NO DIMINUTION OF CURRENT BENEFITS**

No applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of law on the effective date of this Resolution shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Local Law.

**SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2025, and shall apply to taxable status dates occurring on or after such date.

**SECTION 11. REPEAL OF PRIOR RESOLUTIONS OR LAWS**

This Resolution replaces and repeals any existing and/or prior Resolutions or Local Laws whose terms are inconsistent with the terms of this Resolution.

**Restore NY Grant**

Supervisor Mullin closed the public hearing for the Restore NY Communities Initiative Municipal Grant Program Application at 10:32 a.m. No public comments were heard.

**Motion** by Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Monnat to adopt **Resolution No. 75-2024**, “Approving Restore NY Communities Initiative Municipal Grant Program Application”.

ADOPTED – AYES –Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0

WHEREAS the Town of Lowville is eligible for grant funding under Round 9 of the Restore NY Communities Initiative Municipal Grant Program, and

WHEREAS the Town Board has considered proposals that qualify for funding under the program and selected one project to be included in an application that will be submitted to Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) as follows:

Redevelopment of the Stevens Block property, located at 7623 North State Street. The



project will renovate the 6,500 square foot vacant and abandoned 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of a 13,464 square foot property in 9,500 square foot building into a mixed-use building, with continued commercial use on the first floor, and 8 market-rate apartments on the second and third floors.

WHEREAS this project is consistent with all existing local plans, the proposed financing is appropriate for the project, the project will facilitate effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources and the project develops and enhances infrastructure and/or other facilities in a manner that will attract, create and sustain employment opportunities in the Town of Lowville. Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby supports and will sponsor an application for Restore NY funding for the Stevens Block Property, 7623 North State Street, Lowville and will administer the grant in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations established by ESDC, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the applications and any agreements required by ESDC for grant funding that results from the application.

#### **TOWN CLERK**

1. The Clerk's Monthly Report is included in the Board Members' packets.
2. Penalties were posted for unpaid water/sewer bills as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 28 unpaid accounts, up from last year at 25.
3. Attended a workshop/user group meeting with regard to the RACOG website. Following the meeting a few changes were made to the website.
4. Clerk Murphy spoke with Tanya Dunn, and she would like to continue cleaning the municipal building. A copy of the proposed 2025 cleaning contract was provided to the Board members to review via email.
5. Preparing for the upcoming tax collection season. There was a voucher on the General Fund abstract for \$120 to the tax collector to cover the online tax payment fee for the year, as the company withdraws it automatically from the tax collector bank account in the beginning of January.

**Motion** by Councilman Monnat, seconded by Councilman Farney to adopt **Resolution No. 75-2024, "Cleaning Services Contract"**.

ADOPTED – AYES –Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0

RESOLVED, Supervisor Mullin is authorized to enter into a contract with Tanya Dunn for cleaning services at the Town of Lowville Municipal Building with compensation being set at \$15.50/hour as stated in the contract.

*\* A copy of said agreement is incorporated at the end of these minutes.*

#### **ZONING/PLANNING**

1. Certificate of Compliance: Nothing new
2. Resignation: Donald Cooke Jr. tendered his resignation from the Town/Village Planning Board.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS/SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

1. All FEMA paperwork has been submitted and is up to date.
2. Trimmed some trees on Waters & Gardner Roads with the help of the County bucket truck and operator.
3. Plowing snow has begun.
4. CWD#1: Disinfection Biproduct numbers: TTHM – 4.6, Yearly average 18.3, Limit is 80; HAA5 – 7.3, Yearly average 15.1, Limit is 60. The GAC is working and we are in compliance.
5. WD#5: Water loss – Currently there is a 26% water loss. Superintendent Widrick is continuing to monitor the situation. The Martinsburg master meter reading is less than the total of the individual meters on the line, indicating the meter is no longer working properly. While the Town of Martinsburg

is being billed for the total of the individual meters, any possible water loss between the master meter and the individual meters is currently being paid for by the Town of Lowville WD#5. Supervisor Mullin is concerned about providing water to the Town of Martinsburg at no cost to said town.

6. Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies: Superintendent Widrick reviewed the Agreement with the Town Board. Resolution to follow.
7. The new wheel loader is currently at Milton CAT in Syracuse, waiting for delivery.

**Motion** by Councilman Monnat, seconded by Councilman Virkler, to adopt **Resolution No. 76-2024 “Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys”**.

ADOPTED – AYES –Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0

RESOLVED, Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that moneys levied and collected in the Town for the repair and improvement of highways, shall be expended as follows:  
 General Repairs. The sum of \$194,506.00 shall be set aside to be expended for primary work and general repairs upon 37.97 miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof.  
 Permanent Improvements. The following Sum shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improvement of town highways: (a) On various roads maintained by the Town of Lowville there shall be expended not over the sum of \$434,552.00.

**RACOG**

Mickey Dietrich gave a brief update on the happenings of RACOG and the Tug Hill Commission. The next RACOG meeting will be January 23, 2025 at the Town of Wilna offices with an election of officers at that time. Councilman Monnat asked if RACOG had any funding/resources for youth recreation. Mr. Dietrich will look into this for the Town.

**BUDGET OFFICER/BOOKKEEPER**

The monthly financial report was provided in the Board Members’ packets. Accountant Lawrence reviewed the proposed Budget Amendments and Transfers with the Board.

Discussion regarding the reimbursement to the Town of New Bremen for a depreciated portion of the equipment expenses for the last two years took place.

**Motion** by Councilman Monnat, seconded by Councilman Virkler to credit the Town of New Bremen for 50% of their portion of the equipment expenses for the last two years.

ADOPTED – AYES – Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0      ABSTAIN - Farney

**Motion** by Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Virkler to adopt **Resolution No. 77-2024, “Approve Budget Amendments & Transfers”**.

ADOPTED - AYES – Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler      NAYS – 0

RESOLVED the following Budget Amendments are approved as listed.

Budget Adjustment: Water Fund – SW#6: Hooley

Account	Code	Increase	Decrease
Contractual – Source of Supply	8320.4	7.00	
Appropriated Fund Balance	599		7.00

Budget Transfer: General Fund Town Wide

Account	Code	Increase	Decrease
PT Justice Clerk Payroll	1110.16	295.00	
Medical Insurance	9060.8		295.00
Personnel – Contractual	1430.4	20.00	

Town of Lowville Regular Board Meeting, December 19, 2024

Medical insurance	9060.8		20.00
Dog Control Contractual	3510.4	376.00	
Medical Insurance	9060.8		376.00
Youth Programs Contractual	7310.4	5,232.00	
Medical insurance	9060.8		5,232.00

Budget Transfer: Highway Fund Town Wide

Account	Code	Increase	Decrease
Fringe Benefits – Machinery	5130.8	2,690.00	
Fringe Benefits – Snow Removal	5142.8	14,980.00	
Payroll – Snow Removal	5142.1	6,780.00	
Snow Removal Contractual	5142.4		24,450.00

Budget Adjustment: Sewer Fund – SD#1: Brookside

Account	Code	Increase	Decrease
Contractual – Sanitary Sewers	8120.4	3,667.00	
Unassigned Fund Balance	599		3,667.00

Budget Adjustment: Sewer Fund – SD#3: Consolidated

Account	Code	Increase	Decrease
Contractual Sewer Disposal	8130.4	274.00	
Unassigned Fund Balance	599		274.00

Budget Transfer: Water Fund – CWD#1

Account	Code	Increase	Decrease
Contractual – Water Admin.	8310.4	742.00	
Contractual–Trans & Distribution	8340.4		742.00
Payroll – Trans & Distribution	8340.1	896.00	
Contractual-Trans & Distribution	8340.4		896.00

Budget Adjustment

Account	Code	Increase	Decrease
Bridges – Contractual	5120.4	203,353.42	
State Aid Bridge Project	3505		203,353.42

**OLD BUSINESS**

Water Line Extension: Water surveys are being returned and forwarded to BCA for review.

Annual Contracts: Copies of the VFW, Legion & Library Contracts were provided to the Board Members for review in advance of the meeting.

**Motion** by Councilman Farney, seconded by Councilman Virkler approving the content of the contracts for the VFW, American Legion and Lowville Free Library and authorizing Town Clerk Murphy to forward on to the appropriate agencies.

ADOPTED - AYES – Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler

NAYS – 0

End of Year/Reorganizational Meeting will be held December 30, 2024 at 9:15 a.m. at the Town of Lowville Municipal Building.

Town of Lowville Regular Board Meeting, December 19, 2024

Town Clerk Murphy asked to close at noon on December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion** by Councilman Monnat, seconded by Councilman Ross to close the Town of Lowville Municipal Offices at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

ADOPTED - AYES – Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler                      NAYS – 0

**Motion** by Councilman Virkler, seconded by Councilman Monnat to enter into executive session at 11:41 a.m. to discuss potential litigation.

ADOPTED - AYES – Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler                      NAYS – 0

**Motion** by Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Monnat to leave executive session at 11:54 a.m.

ADOPTED - AYES – Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler                      NAYS – 0

The next regularly scheduled Town Board meeting will be January 16, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

**Motion** by Councilman Farney, seconded by Councilman Monnat to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

ADOPTED - AYES – Farney, Monnat, Mullin, Ross, Virkler                      NAYS – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee L. Murphy, RMC  
Town Clerk

DRAFT