

**Town of Lowville Regular Board Meeting
March 18, 2021**

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 18th day of March 2021.

Due to the ongoing state of emergency situation for New York State, the Town of Lowville will be allowing the public to join in via video conference.

Present: Randy Schell, Supervisor
Paul Virkler, Deputy Supervisor
Ruth Larabee, Councilwoman
John D. Ross, Councilman
Robert Mullin, Councilman
Aimee L. Murphy, Town Clerk
Mariah Monnat, Deputy Town Clerk
Thomas Widrick, Highway Superintendent/Special Districts Superintendent

Also Present: Paul Denise, Village of Lowville DPW Superintendent; Lori Kunert, #3 Wind

Also Present via Zoom: Mickey Dietrich, Tug Hill Commission; Raymond Meier, Town Attorney; Kathy Manning, Zoning Officer; Nicholas Astafan, DCO

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

MINUTES

Motion by Councilman Virkler, seconded by Councilman Ross to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 regular board meeting.

ADOPTED - AYES – Larabee, Mullin, Ross, Schell, Virkler NAYS – 0

CORRESPONDENCE

The American Rescue Plan – Federal COVID-19 Relief Bill. Explaining aide to Municipalities listing what the money can be spent on.

BCA – Construction schedule for CWD#1 GAC building.

#3 Wind

Lori Kunert reported that tree clearing started last week. Tree cutting crew has concerns with snowmobilers on the trails. Trails have been closed but as a precaution, they are putting up barricades and caution tape to prevent snowmobile access. Work starting from Route 12 in the Town of Harrisburg down to the Town of Lowville. The Article 10 proceeding been approved for 27 turbines. Will be appearing before the Planning Board shortly.

VOUCHERS

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

ADOPTED - AYES – Larabee, Mullin, Ross, Schell, Virkler NAYS – 0

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General – Abstract #3	Voucher #65 to #102	\$ 111,209.00
Highway - Abstract #3	Voucher #23 to #32	\$ 5,136.31
Capital Water – Abstract #3	Voucher #5 to #6	\$ 15,169.54
Trust & Agency	(02/28/21)	\$ 10,898.51
Trust & Agency	(03/18/21)	\$ <u>13,728.41</u>
	Total	\$ 156,141.77

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Receipts:	Town Clerk	\$ 1,713.54
	Town Court	\$ 2,533.00
	CEO	\$ 203.60 (\$253.60 ytd)
	Zoning	\$ 400.00 (\$400.00 ytd)
	Charter Communications	\$ 6,758.39 (Franchise Fees)
	Village of Lowville	\$ 2,489.69 (PILOTS Lowville Hght/Lewis Apts.
	Absolute Auctions	\$ 26,670.00 (Sale of Truck and Pumps)
	Lewis County	\$ 80,876.00 (Flat Rock Wind PILOT)
	Tax Collector	\$ 2,392.52
	Lewis County	\$ 6,180.00 (Snow & Ice Agreement)
	Lewis County IDA	\$ 1,682.92 (Victorian Lake PILOT)
	NYMIR	\$ 178.20(Crdt. Remove 2016 F350 & 2017 F150

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilwoman Laribee to accept the NYMIR Municipal Insurance Renewal.

ADOPTED-AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Ross, Schell, Virkler NAYS - 0

Supervisor Schell’s activities and financial report is included Board Members Packets.

Supervisor Schell reported that he spoke with Michael Young and the ice rink will be closing Sunday, March 21, 2021 to the general public. The school will use a couple times next week. Official closing of rink will be Tuesday, March 22, 2021.

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

ADOPTED - AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Ross, Schell, Virkler NAYS – 0

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN CLERK

- Clerk’s Monthly Report is in the Board Members’ Packets and Daily Log has been passed for review.

- Clerk Murphy was released from Quarantine on February 23, 2021 and back to work.
- PILOT payments have been coming in.
- Applying to NYSTCA for renewal of RMC Application.
- Need to review the Water and Sewer Rates – No adjustments now.

After a brief discussion, the board agree to leave water and sewer rates the same.

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TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collection continues, but has slowed down considerably.

Tax Collected:	\$59,651.40
Interest Collected:	573.57
Bank Interest:	8.95
<u>Balance of Jan. Fees:</u>	<u>222.73</u>
Total Collected:	\$60,456.65

Paid to Supervisor	\$ 805.25
<u>Paid to Treasurer</u>	<u>268,480.96</u> (Balance of Jan Tax + Feb Tax)
Total Distributed:	\$269,286.21

CEO

Monthly Report included in the Board Members' packets.

ATTORNEY

Public Employer Health Emergency Plan updated and emailed to all Board Members'. Revised plan was reviewed and approved by the Teamsters Union. After a brief discussion the following resolution was presented.

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilman Ross to adopt **Resolution No. 11-2021, "Public Employer Health Emergency Plan"**.

ADOPTED - AYES – Larabee, Mullin, Ross, Schell, Virkler NAYS – 0

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2020 the Governor signed Senate Bill S8617B into law requiring public employers to develop health emergency plans for the protection of employees and contractors; and

WHEREAS, Town of Lowville fully supports the health and safety of our employees and contractors; and

WHEREAS, the plan supports continuity of operations of the Town of Lowville; and

WHEREAS, the plan was developed collaboratively with several officials of the Town of Lowville; and

WHEREAS, the plan has been developed to meet the requirements set forth in the aforementioned law; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lowville provided labor unions representing Town of Lowville employees the opportunity to review the comment on the draft plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lowville approves public employer health emergency plan of the Town of Lowville; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lowville authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the plan, putting into full force and effect in accordance with the law and the provisions identified in the plan.

Brief discussion regarding highway employee's request to reimburse his sick leave taken due to COVID-19 quarantine.

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilman Virkler to replenish the sick-time bank of Brian Hanno by 20 ½ hours.

ADOPTED - AYES – Larabee, Mullin, Ross, Schell, Virkler NAYS – 0

DCO

- Monthly report is included in board members' packets.
- DCO Astafan reported there may be an upcoming rabies clinic in May. More information to come.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS/SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- Myron Nolt reported that he has salt in his well. The water was sampled and it has 1020PPM of salt. The salt was run off from the Town's quarry. The County is drilling Mr. Nolt a new well since they continue to use the quarry to store their extra sand/salt and snow. The driller is at 280 ft deep, as of Tuesday. They are now getting 4.5 GPM, planning to driller a little deeper, then pressurize the well to try to fracture the rock.
- P & T was here to work on the sewer lift stations at the DEC and the County garage. Superintendent Widrick stated that there is no official agreement with the County regarding maintenance of the lift station at the County garage. However, when the JCC building was being built Frank Pace of the Lewis County Planning Department stated it was his understanding that the County would maintain the pump station located at the County garage. Attorney Meier will contact the County and attempt to put an agreement in writing as to the maintenance of the lift station.
- Superintendent Widrick met with Matt Schooley from Barton & Loguidice about the BRIDGE NY funding, since there is money available. Mr. Schooley is going to submit applications for Patten Rd, O'Brien Rd and Gardner Rd bridges/box culverts. There is no commitment for payment unless the award is granted.
- Superintendent Widrick also met with representative from Ox Paper again regarding installation of a meter on their Fire Protection line at their warehouse on State Route 26. They agreed to the purchase of the 8" meter at the cost of \$1600.64 and 2" meter at the cost of \$512.55.
- Superintendent Widrick is interested in purchasing the 1988 CAT grader currently owned by the County at a cost of \$30,000.00. The highway department would use the grader for grading roads and cutting shoulders of roads. Councilman Mullin is concerned with the cost purchasing versus the ability to borrow from adjoining municipality; discussion was tabled to next month.

RACOG

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

Mickey Dietrich is concerned with water run off from the Demko property across the Rice Road from where his residence is located, but no action was taken at this time.

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OLD BUSINESS

CWD#1 Administrative Order: Supervisor Schell will be sending first quarter report by April 15th, 2021 to the EPA and DOH.

ASSESSOR

Supervisor Schell stated that Assessor Gratch had success with sending out self-addressed stamped envelopes to everyone for the Star and Ag exemptions and renewals. Assessor Gratch is concerned with the sales in the Town and Village because people are paying more for property the assessed value. She is concerned that a reval will be necessary in 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation Request - Month of the Military Child. Request from Mary Corriveau of the NNY Fort Drum AUSA, for the board to consider approving a proclamation designating April 2021 as the Month of the Military Child.

Motion by Councilman Mullin, seconded by Councilman Ross to adopt **Resolution No. 12-2021 “Proclamation – The Month of the Military Child”**.

ADOPTED - AYES – Laribee, Mullin, Ross, Schell, Virkler NAYS – 0

WHEREAS, April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community; and

WHEREAS, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome; and

WHEREAS, the Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who established this Defense Department commemoration in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Military children with separations, deployments, frequent moves and even their parents’ injuries as part of the life they were born into or entered with their families; and

WHEREAS, Military children move an average of 10 times while growing up; these frequent moves, exposure to different cultures and languages and immersion in military customs are all common, life-defining experiences in the military child culture;

WHEREAS, the term “military brat” is a badge of pride worn by generations of kids who traveled the world with their parents, moving into adulthood with the knowledge that they have the strength to handle anything; and

WHEREAS, Military Children often follow in the traditions of their parents and enter military service to defend our nation; and

WHEREAS, the strength and resiliency of the Military Child is inspirational to our nation; now, therefore be it

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RESOLVED that the Town of Lowville in recognition of the importance of the Military Child and their contributions to our nation's strength and resilience, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2021 to be

The Month of the Military Child

in the Town of Lowville and encourage all citizens to direct their attention to the important role Military Children play in our armed forces community.

Motion by Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Mullin to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

ADOPTED - AYES – Larabee, Mullin, Ross, Schell, Virkler NAYS – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Monnat
Deputy Town Clerk