

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Jerusalem Town Board held on March 18, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. PRESENT were: Supervisor Sisson, Councilors Castner, Jones, Martin, Stewart, Town Clerk McMichael.

GUESTS: Rob Schwarting, Board of Elections, John Christensen; *Chronicle Express* Reporter

Supervisor Sisson called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 7:00 P.M.

**RESOLUTION #48-20**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion of Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Castner, the following was

ADOPTED       Ayes       5   Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
                  Nays        0

Resolved that the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting be approved as read.

**RESOLUTION #49-20**

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

On a motion of Supervisor Sisson, seconded by Councilor Jones, the following was

ADOPTED       Ayes       5   Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
                  Nays        0

Resolved that the bills be paid as presented in the following amounts:

General:	\$ 12,591.75
Outside Village	\$ 139.51
Highway DB:	\$ 20,025.29
Sewer:	\$ 58,056.03
Water:	\$145,861.49
Branchport Light	\$ 250.81

February Utilities:

General:	\$ 922.59
Outside Village:	\$ 71.30
Sewer:	\$ 621.40
Water:	\$ 241.83
Trust:	\$26,069.65

**RESOLUTION #50-20**

**SUPERVISOR REPORT**

On a motion of Councilor Stewart, seconded by Councilor Castner, the following was

ADOPTED       Ayes       5   Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
                  Nays        0

Resolved that the Supervisor's Report on the Town's finances for the month of February 2020 be accepted as presented.

PRESENTATION - YATES COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Rob Schwarting, Republican Deputy Commissioner provided an overview of the following discussion items:

2020 Elections:

- Presidential Primary April 28, early voting April 18-26
- Primary Election June 23, early voting June 13-21
- General Election November 3, early voting October 24-November 1

Local offices include Jerusalem Town Council (1 balance of term) and County Coroner (1)

Also, President/Vice President, State Supreme Court Justice (4) and U.S. Congress 23<sup>rd</sup> District

New York State Senate 58<sup>th</sup> District, Member of Assembly New York 132nd District.

Cyber security:

- Continuous training, hardware and software protection, weakest link is the worker  
Everyone's concern
- NY State, FBI and Homeland Security involved
- Attacks are happening daily

Budget impact issues:

- Early voting \$15,000
- Full day primaries (+6 hours) \$7,500
- Extra Primary Presidential years
- New voting machines 2021 - looking at ways to delay (\$329,000)
- Reducing staffing at combined sites. Plan sent to NYS BOE for approval (\$2500/election)
- Requesting help from State for early voting and full day primaries. Resolution written.

Changes to Election Law: (Updates at time of presentation)

- Over 50 laws related to elections passed in 2019
- 3 elections
- 27 days early voting
- 16-year old can register
- Combined primaries now June - Petition circulation in March
- Campaign finance - all at the State level

- Possible poll site staff reduction at multi-district poll sites (5 sites)
- Over 100 bills introduced so far this year

TOWN OFFICIALS

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

- Written Budget Highway report on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.
- There is a lot of interest in the surplus equipment being auctioned on-line.

RESOLUTION #51-20

AUTHORIZE SURVEY OF MORRISON AND PARKER ROADS

On a motion of Councilor Stewart, seconded by Councilor Jones, the following was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
Nays 0

Resolved Highway Superintendent Hurd be authorized to have Morrison and Parker Roads surveyed to determine the road right-of-way and center of the road to address flooding issues in that area.

COVID-19 DIRECTIVE

Staffing options to comply with the Governor's COVID-19 directive were discussed. Essential staff include the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent, Bookkeeper, Code Enforcement Officer, Water Operator/Wastewater Maintainers. The Assessor is working remotely. The Highway Department is working split shifts. Town Clerk McMichael will contact SCT Computers to set up remote access for staff.

WATER/SEWER REPORT

- The Environment One Corporation (E-One) factory service training approved for Bradley Donovan on April 7-9, 2020 in Niskayuna has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

ASSESSOR

- Report on file.

COUNCIL

- Councilor Castner reported the Cemetery Committee is working with Old Fort Cemetery to address maintenance and finance concerns.

SUPERVISOR

- The Town continues to work with the Finger Lake Museum on funding options.

KEUKA HOUSING COUNCIL LAND ANNEXATION

Renee Bloom, Keuka Housing Councilor Executive Director submitted written information for the Board's consideration to allow Keuka Housing Council to construct a housing development by annexing a parcel into the Village of Penn Yan. She was not able to attend tonight due to the COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings.

RESOLUTION #52-20

AUTHORIZE TOWN FINANCE SCHOOL TRAINING

On a motion of Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Castner, the following was

ADOPTED       Ayes       5   Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
                  Nays        0

Resolved up to five (5) participants be authorized to attend the Annual Town Finance School co-sponsored by the Association of Towns and the Office of the State Comptroller on May 21 and 22, 2020 at the Ramada, Geneva, New York at a cost of \$200/participant to be funded by 1220.4 and 1340.4.

RESOLUTION #53-20

AUTHORIZE HIGHWAY SAFETY TRAINING

On a motion of Councilor Stewart, seconded by Councilor Jones, the following was

ADOPTED       Ayes       5   Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
                  Nays        0

Resolved nine Highway employees be authorized to attend mandatory Highway Safety Training on April 22, 2020 at the Yates County Auditorium. The cost will be divided by the number of attendees to be funded BY 5130.4 and 5110.4.

RESOLUTION #54-20

NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION TRAINING

On a motion of Councilor Stewart, seconded by Councilor Jones, the following was

ADOPTED       Ayes       5   Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
                  Nays        0

Whereas; New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission is holding a training session in coordination with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding brewery discharges.

Whereas; The course training is entitled "Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention of Brewery Discharges" addressing the discharge of untreated high-strength wastewater from breweries and similar

industries that can have a significant impact on the municipal wastewater system. Training will be held Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at the Washington County Municipal Center, Bldg. B, Ford Edward, NY, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Whereas; Instruction and training expenses were approved in the 2020 budget;

Therefore, be it resolved to authorize Kasey Christensen, KPSW Dept. Head course registration of \$135.00 and travel expenses of approximately \$200.00. This expense to be funded from appropriation account 8120.4.

RESOLUTION #55-20

NYMIR INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL

On a motion of Councilor Stewart, seconded by Councilor Jones, the following was

ADOPTED       Ayes       5   Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
                  Nays        0

Resolved the 2020-2021 NYMIR insurance policy be renewed with Sprague Insurance at a cost not-to-exceed \$50,763.99.

RESOLUTION #56-20

AUTHORIZE WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTOR AGREEMENT

On a motion of Councilor Castner, seconded by Councilor Martin, the following was

ADOPTED       Ayes        5   Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
                  Nays        0

Resolved the Supervisor be authorized to execute an agreement to train an employee to be the Water Safety Instructor for the Summer Recreation Program at an amount not-to exceed \$1,000 to be funded by 7310.4.

RESOLUTION #57-20

REQUEST WITHDRAWAL OF THE STATE BUDGET'S ENERGY SITING AMENDMENT

On a motion of Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Stewart, the following was

ADOPTED       Ayes        5   Castner, Jones, Martin, Sisson, Stewart  
                  Nays        0

WHEREAS NYS is a Home Rule State, which basically means that any and all powers of the State emanate from the people.

WHEREAS Per the NYS Constitution, Article IX, it is our statutory obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens of our community.

WHEREAS On Feb 21, 2020, Governor Cuomo proposed a Budget Amendment "to dramatically speed up the permitting and construction of renewable energy projects."

WHEREAS This amendment could be passed with the Budget by April 1st, replacing the current Article 10 process with a radically new method for siting renewable energy projects.

WHEREAS The stated purpose of this proposed far-reaching change is to enhance the execution of the *Climate Leadership and Community Protec5on Act* (CLCPA).

WHEREAS Although the objectives of the CLCPA sound admirable, there is no empirical scientific proof that industrial wind energy (compared to Nuclear, Hydro or Gas) saves any consequential amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO2).

WHEREAS Conversely, there is considerable scientific evidence that onshore industrial wind energy projects will likely be a *net economic liability* to NYS host communities. This will be particularly burdensome to social justice communities.

WHEREAS There is extensive scientific evidence that onshore industrial wind energy projects will likely result in adverse health effects to some citizens of NYS host communities.

WHEREAS There is substantial scientific evidence that industrial wind energy projects will likely cause extensive eco-system damage to onshore NYS host communities, or to marine locales where offshore wind projects are sited.

WHEREAS There is scientific evidence that panels in commercial solar projects can contain toxic chemicals like PFAS, which, when exuded, could seriously impact local aquifers.

WHEREAS This amendment will effectively remove any meaningful input from citizens, towns, counties, local environmental groups, and community businesses regarding the siting and regulation of renewable energy projects.

WHEREAS The new process is structured such that scientific data, or testimony from qualified experts, will have little bearing regarding siting regulations and approval.

WHEREAS Once an application is submitted, the new Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) has 60 days to review and determine

if it is complete. If the ORES decision is not made in that time, the application is *automatically* deemed complete!

WHEREAS Once an application is determined to be complete, ORES has 12 months to approve the project. If the ORES decision is not made in that time, the application is *automatically* approved! There is no provision for extending this time limit.

WHEREAS The Governor's proposal also seems to indicate that the State might get into the ownership and/or operation of renewable energy generation. Such a profound change would also severely limit the ability of local communities to regulate such industrial projects.

WHEREAS All of these proposed changes are not only in conflict with our Home Rule rights, but are also contrary to our obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare of our constituents.

RESOLVED The Town of Jerusalem formally requests that this Budget Amendment be withdrawn before the Budget is voted on. Additionally, we petition the State to respect our Home Rules rights, and to defend our authority to regulate renewable energy projects as the citizens of our community see fit; and, be it further

Resolved the Town Clerk is directed to send copies of this Resolution to Assemblyman Phil Palmesano and Senator Thomas O'Mara.

HIGHWAY CAPITAL RESERVE - 2020 INTERNATIONAL PLOW TRUCK PURCHASE  
The 30-day permissive referendum period on the purchase of the 2020 International plow truck ends March 20, 2020. To date, no petition for a referendum allowed by Section 6-C of the General Municipal Law, as prescribed by Section 9 of Town Law, protesting against Resolution #40-20 authorizing the expenditure from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund has been filed.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

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Sheila McMichael, Town Clerk