

**Regular September Meeting
September 18, 2024**

Supervisor Johnson called the regular Town of Greig Board open at 5:30 PM Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of America.

ROLL CALL

Supervisor called roll with the following results:

Present in person: Councilmen Mallette, Olmstead, Bailey Swisher and Mayhew with Clerk Gunn, Superintendent Alfano and Attorney Gilbert also present.

MINUTES From Last Meeting

Supervisor called for a motion from the Board to accept the minutes from the August Town Board Meeting. These minutes have been emailed in advance to the Council members.

Motion 24-09-01 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Bailey-Swisher

Accept the August 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

BOARD REPORTS

Acting Zoning Officer Johnson reported 7 applications for Zoning Permits. Also 3 lot Line Adjustment and 1 Sub-Division.

Mr. Johnson reported one FOIL requesting for information about the Planning Board Special Meeting from July 2023 where the Special Use Permit, originally issued in 2022, was modified to allow changes to the original pond (changed to a swimming pool), the original pavilion (changed the dimensions) and the original fence (removed requirement to fence the entire perimeter of the campground but required fence along Mr. Dailey's property at some unspecified height). Mr. Johnson reported some confusion about the minutes from that meeting and if the Special Use Permit had ever been modified. He is working with the Planning Board to get some details of the meeting resolved.

Mr. Johnson also reported on an issue concerning a neighbor of the Lewis County Singing Waters Park, located in Greig on the Fish Creek Road. The County installed a fence along the property line between the neighbor and the park and the neighbor questioned the height of the fence meeting the Greig Town Zoning Law. The issue is being resolved.

Mr. Johnson asked two Board Members, Mr. Olmstead and Mr. Mallette if they could attend the October 2024 Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings representing Mr. Johnson as the Zoning Officer. They should answer any Board questions and bring back any issues left outstanding during those meetings. Mr. Johnson will be tied up with a minor medical issue and unable to attend those meetings.

Mr. Johnson reported on a discussion with Larry Dolhof, Chairman of the Lewis County Board of Legislators, concerning the request from the Greig Town Board to have the Lewis County Building Codes Department take over the roll of Greig Zoning Officer. This was requested in a shared services agreement from the Town to the County. Mr. Dolhof informed Mr. Johnson that the County Codes Department was overly busy and would require Greig to have their Zoning Law codified to improve clarity and avoid issues in administration at the County level. Mr. Johnson informed Mr. Dolhof that the Town was currently using a County Shared Service to have all the Town Laws codified and that should be completed soon. Mr. Dolhof stated it would be at least after the start of 2025 before the County would be able to start the agreement.

OLD/ NEW BUSINESS

Highway Garage Roof Replacement:

All required materials have been received and work has commenced this week. Councilman Mallette reports he visited the roof-top work site and observed the equipment being used to remove old materials. He was impressed by the sophistication of the process. He noted that not all of the insulation was damaged and the contractor mentioned they may leave some original material in place.

Cell Tower Lease Buy-Out:

Mr. Johnson did receive a UPS package from Verizon offering a buy out of the Lease. Mr. Johnson noted it was after the date specified as the final date of acceptance, so he rejected the Verizon Offer. The company doing the buy-out is sending an inspector tomorrow to review the tower and equipment as a final step in the purchase process.

Playground Upgrades:

Wood chips have been purchased and the Highway Department has dug the area beneath the equipment and spread the chips. Mr. Olmstead is working to get the new equipment installed. This should happen soon.

Cemetery Data Upgrades and Work:

The 4Wheeler Club has requested an update to the list of service members buried in the Greig Cemeteries. Their list is now 5 years old. They place the flags on the graves for Memorial Day Weekend. Supervisor Johnson notes two volunteers have come forward to help with this list creation effort. Nancy Johnson and Carol Kunkle have volunteered. Councilman Mayhew notes it is time to chase down persons who are on record as deed holders for sites to verify their intentions to use them in the future. It is time to clear up outstanding deeds. Also the Sexton has requested help in laying out burial sites in the new section of the Brantingham Cemetery. Some type of permanent marking to identify rows should be added to the grounds. Mr. Johnson indicates a need for some volunteers to aid with this effort.

Codify Greig Laws

Mr Johnson informs the Board of the desire to use the “shared service” provided by Lewis County for Codification Services. The company, General Code, has a service that will ensure that local laws are always accurate, well organized and easily-accessible to our community. Supervisor Johnson will work to package all the laws in place from the Town of Greig and have them reviewed, codified and published by General Code.

Town Website:

Supervisor Johnson asks the Board for a motion to have Civily, the company employed by Lewis County as a shared service, for the Towns, take over the Town Website and replace Digital Towpath as the service provider.

Motion 24-09-02 made by Councilman Olmstead, Seconded by Bailey-Swisher

Authorize Supervisor Johnson to start using Civily as the website provider service for the Town of Greig.

Discussion: Clerk Gunn requested to speak on this issue. Following disclosure that Mr. Gunn is the Vice Chairman of Digital Towpath, and has been a Board Member there and a user of Digital Towpath for 27 years as the IT Director for the City of Oswego, IT Director of Lewis County and the volunteer website manager for the Town of Greig for the last 20 years. Points made were that Digital Towpath is a co-op service made up of 117 local governments. It is recognized as a government service group qualified to receive government grants, which have been used to develop the web-site service as it is today. There are only a few paid workers on this effort, with most of the development and growth coming from volunteers within the user community. Last year Digital Towpath started a new level of service based on a new platform. It has been in trial use for early this year and will be presented in full at the September 27th 2024 annual meeting in Syracuse. It takes time to orient data and plan for the desired look and feel of a website. This effort would have to be applied to the Civily start up as well as the new Digital Towpath service. Mr. Gunn asks that the Town Board allow him to stick with Digital Towpath and put the effort into the transfer there instead of a move to Civily. Understanding that

the County will pay Civily a large share of the first 5 years of Town usage, on a sliding scale from year 1 to 5, the money paid for the service by the Town for Digital Towpath or Civily will be equal in total after 5 years of use. Mr. Gunn asks the Board to continue with Digital Towpath until the end of 2024 to see if the new look and features from Digital will match what is being offered with the Shared Services provider.

Mr. Olmstead asked to have the motion he made – 24-09-02 tabled

Motion to table approved.

Updating Zoning Law:

Councilman Mallette originally volunteered to create a single file in, “word” format, from the “pdf” formatted pieces of the Zoning Law. The original Law was created by Mr. Dave Meade and his wife a number of years back. The “word” formatted document cannot be found at this time. Hence the effort for conversion was going to be undertaken by Councilman Mallette. After using an off the shelf product that claims to convert PDF to WORD, Mr. Mallette has faced the frustrations many of us face with this task. He says he needs help. Mr. Johnson has volunteered to put some effort into helping with this daunting task. More to come.

2025 Greig Comprehensive Plan Creation

Supervisor Johnson requests a special meeting be scheduled for Friday October 4th 2024 to receive and open bid packages from professional consulting firms for the creation of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. This effort is funded by the Grant that Supervisor Johnson recently applied for and received as an award. Mr. Johnson has a few volunteers for the committee to work on the effort, but would appreciate it if a few more community members stepped forward. Supervisor Johnson will not be able to be there for this meeting, and requests the Deputy Supervisor conduct this meeting.

Motion 24-09-03 made by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, Seconded by Mayhew

Schedule a Special Town Board Meeting for Friday October 4th, 2024 at 12 noon for the purpose of opening bids for the creation of the 2025 Greig Town Comprehensive Plan.

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

2025 Town Budget

Supervisor Johnson advises that he has made progress in creating the Tentative Town Budget for 2025. He has one remaining department to sit down with and a few estimates to work with the accountants to create, but it will be turned over to the Clerk as required by the first of October. The Clerk will distribute this Tentative Budget to the Board members by email by October 5th. Mr. Johnson asks for a motion from the Board to hold the first Budget Workshop at 5 PM on the evening of the next monthly Board meeting, which is scheduled for October 16th. If needed, other workshops will be scheduled at that time. Otherwise a vote from the Board will create the 2025 Preliminary Budget to be presented to the Public for a Public Hearing in early November 2024.

Motion 24-09-04 made by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

Schedule a Workshop Town Board Meeting for October 16th, 2024 at 5 PM for the purpose of Board review and changes to the 2025 Town Budget. Regular Town Board Meeting will follow workshop closing.

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

Union 3 Year Collective Bargaining

Supervisor Johnson reported the Board Committee for Bargaining has met with the Teamsters and have received the Labor Agreement outlining the Union requests for the new contract. Mr. Johnson is reviewing

where other Towns in Lewis County stand and has measured the wage increases requested against inflation. Mr. Johnson will make counter offers at the next Bargaining Session and hopes to come back next month with an agreement that is fair for both the Tax Payers and workers.

Purchase New Pickup For Superintendent

Supervisor Johnson has consulted with the Highway Superintendent and agrees that the current Pickup Truck being used by the him, which was purchased in 2018, and the Pickup Truck being used as a gas truck by the workers, which was purchased in 2012, needs to be replaced. The current pickup being used by the Superintendent will become the utility pickup. Money for this purchase is going to come from the State CHIPS Account. We will receive \$198,000 in December and we have an account with \$276,000 already in place. The new truck, outfitted with a plow and radio should not cost more that \$70,000. Mr. Johnson requests a motion.

Motion 24-09-05 made by Councilman Olmstead, Seconded by Mallette

Provide Superintendent Alfano with authority to purchase a new Ford F350 with plow and radio. Expense not to exceed \$70,000. Purchase must follow Town Policy and be from NY State Contract, or competitive bid from at least three vendors.

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

Motions To Move Money Between Budget Accounts

Supervisor Johnson requests permission to make adjustments to the expense accounts within the Budget to meet unexpected happenings:

Motion 24-09-06 made by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

The accountant feels we should be paying our cleaning service from a different account than was originally planned:

Move \$5,000 from the A1640.4 (Central Garage) to A1989.4 (Building Personal Services)

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

Motion 24-09-07 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Bailey-Swisher

Unanticipated expenses for Computer Services

Move \$2,000 from the A1640.4 (Central Garage) to A1680.4 (Central Data Processing)

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

Facade and Streetscape Improvement Program

Mr. Johnson outlined a few items we could purchase by using the Lewis County Facade and Streetscapes Improvement Program. This round of funding opened on September 1st. It is an initiative that incentives property owners, non-profits, business owners and municipalities to perform facade improvements and streetscape enhancements in downtown areas.

The Greig Highway Department wishes to have a large old plow painted in a decorative fashion and placed on the lawn area in front of the Highway Garage. We also need an electrician to mount flag lights for our new flag pole to properly display the flag at night. Also Mr. Johnson wishes to purchase seasonal flags to be mounted on telephone poles along our main streets. The County will furnish 75% of the money needed and the Town will supply the remaining 25%.

Motion 24-09-08 made by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, Seconded by Mayhew
Authorize Supervisor Johnson to apply for the Lewis County Facade and Streetscapes Improvement Program Funding

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

Allocate ARPA Funds

Mr Johnson wishes to commit the remainder of the ARPA Federal Funds to the Highway Roof Replacement Project. This will clear balance of the account within the timelines given by the federal government

Motion 24-09-09 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Mayhew
Transfer the Balance of the ARPA funds (\$20,000) to the account reserved for funding the Roof Replacement.

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

Create a Cafeteria Plan Allowing Highway Workers To Pay PreTax For Health Care

Motion 24-09-10 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Mayhew
Authorize Supervisor Johnson to create a “Cafeteria” style option .allowing persons using the Town Health Care Insurance to have withdrawals made pre-tax.

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

Pratt Northam Funding

Following a request letter from Mr. Johnson, the Pratt Northam Foundation is giving the Town of Greig \$5,000 to be used to purchase new bleacher seats for the Greig Town Park Baseball Field. The Town Insurance Company has requested new bleachers to replace to old set for safety reasons.

Motion 24-09-11 made by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, Seconded by Mayhew
Authorize Supervisor Johnson to accept the donation from Pratt Northam and apply the money towards the purchase of bleachers for the Greig Town Park baseball field.

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Gilbert reported settlement with the Brown's on North Shore Road has been completed.
Mr. Gilbert has registered a Zoning Citation on the Deed for the violation on the Partridgeville Rd property of Mr. Vanenti.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Mr. Johnson reported on current budget status. He presented a view of the budget on the large screen for Board members to follow.

State Aid Check of \$11,084 is expected this month.

Rental of Real Property will cease once the lease buyout is accepted.

Account A5720 was created to pay for Garage Roof Repair. Money from the recent Bond and the ARPA

transfer will will be placed there.

Bond Attorney may end costing more than expected.

Supervisor reports that for being 2/3's of the year completed, we are in good shape for the remaining budget expenditures.

Some discussion was had about payments dus to the two fire companies. The State pass through money has been distributed. Supervisor Johnson will verify if the Town Payments have bees issued from SF1 and SF2 accounts yet.

Motion 24-09-10 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Bailey-Swisher

Approve the Supervisors Financial Report

Vote: Olmstead, Mayhew, Bailey-Swisher & Mallette Yes

Motion approved.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Alfano reported some cold patching work has been done.

The men have cut shoulders on some roads.

Mr. Alfano warned the Board he was about to purchase new tires for the Loader for \$8565

e crew has been working on road washouts following the heavy rains. Town Line Road and Abbey Road have required focus.

CLERKS REPORT

Clerk Gunn distributed the August 2024 report by email to Board Members. Report contained details of the following financial actions:

There were general fund collections of:

1 Dog License	\$ 20.00
12 Zoning Permits	\$ 570.00
18 Certified Copies	\$ 220.00
3 Donations	\$ 250.00
Total Collections:	\$1,060.00

The expenditures were:

Town Supervisor as Revenue	\$1,057.00
NY Ag & Markets	\$ 3.00
Total Payments	\$1,060.00

Motion 24-09-11: made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Bailey-Swisher

Approve Clerk's financial report as presented.

Vote: Olmstead, Bailey-Swisher, Mallette & Mayhew Yes

Motion approved.

VOUCHER REPORT

September 2024 Abstracts containing “to be paid” vouchers were reviewed by the Board.

Totals expended by fund were:

Highway Abstracts	\$18,157.75
General Abstracts	\$ 5,202.82
T&A	\$ 1,327.37
Total paid in September 2024 Abstracts =	\$24,687.94

Motion 24-09-12: made by Councilman Bailey-Swisher, Seconded by Mayhew

Approve Vouchers

Vote: Olmstead, Bailey-Swisher, Mallette & Mayhew Yes

Motion approved.

Being no further business brought forward,

Motion 24-09-13 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Bailey-Swisher

Motion to adjourn 07:55PM

Vote: Olmstead, Bailey-Swisher, Mallette & Mayhew Yes

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted

Thomas Gunn, Clerk