

**Regular January Meeting
January 17, 2024**

Town Board Members assembled at 5:30PM to enable applicants for the empty board seat to appear for a brief interview. The empty position application was advertised on the local website and Linkinglewiscounty.com. Applicants wishing to be considered for the vacant seat are:

Kerry Meyhew	Steve Olmstead
Dave Holland	Lyndsey Allen
Jim Stratton	Timothy Yarina

ROLL CALL

Supervisor Johnson opened the Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:50 PM
Supervisor called roll with the following results:

Present in person: Councilmen Arthur, Swisher and Mallette, Clerk Gunn and Superintendent Alfano.

Also attending were Attorney Gilbert, and Zoning Officer Patterson.

MINUTES From Last Meeting

Supervisor Johnson called for a motion from the Board to accept the minutes from the December Regular Town Board Meeting and the January Organizational Meeting. These minutes have been emailed in advance to the Council members. Supervisor Johnson questioned if it was ethical for him to be auditing the Supervisor financial's seeing he is now the Supervisor. Councilman Mallette and Swisher accepted the roll as auditors for the 2023 year end financial statements.

Motion 24-01-01 made by Councilman Arthur, Seconded by Mallette
Accept the December 2023 Meeting Minutes and the January 2024 Organizational Meeting Minutes with the change in Auditors.

Motion approved.

Councilman Arthur stated she may be resigning shortly due to family and health issues.

BOARD REPORTS

Zoning Officer Patterson: 2 Zoning Permits and a lot line adjustment request were reviewed. Also a possible Subdivision on Otter Creek Rd might be coming.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Gilbert stated Attorney Young has requested an adjournment in the Court Case for the Brown residence Supervisor Johnson noted his review of existing policy statements and had some questions for the Attorney. One is the use of the Town Hall by "for profit" businesses. Attorney indicated the State does not wish to see the Public Buildings being used by "for profit" or political organizations. Mr. Johnson will be making updates on outdated policy statements and will be emailing them to Board members to expedite review and approval at future meetings.

OLD/ NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Mallette is meeting with representatives of Aubertine and Currier to move forward with the

Highway Garage roof repair contracts. Supervisor Johnson noted a new opportunity to combine adding solar panels to the roof as the repair is being done with fund grant money to aid the financial burden. Councilman Swisher noted the ARPA money needs to be committed for use by the end April 2024 and it must be spent by 2026.

Councilman Swisher wishes to present an opportunity to purchase a display case from the South Tug Hill Antique store in C'Ville. This would be an excellent way to display some of the historical items from the Greig Town Past in the Town Hall Building. The cost of the display case is \$150.

Motion 24-01-02 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Arthur
Allow Historian Swisher to purchase a display case for \$150. Case is to be used in the Town Hall Building. The Highway crew will assist with the pickup and delivery of this item..

Motion approved.

Supervisor Johnson reported on an opportunity he learned about during his recent training. Cornell University has a program for capturing information about town highways. An intern will come to the town and assist the highway workers in collecting digital information to help with future road maintenance and inventory of assets. Clerk Gunn noted the County had a similar program started by the Town of Denmark and shared with towns using a County Server. Supervisor Johnson noted it would be expensive to have the intern assist us, but might be worth it in the long run. Mr. Gunn will revisit the County program that does almost the same thing and report on findings at the next meeting..

Mr. Johnson wished to visit the issue of televising our Board meetings. Because of the problems with using Zoom and the size of the stored files, the issue of renewing the annual agreement is under consideration. Mr. Johnson inquired about the legalities of the use of televised meetings during his recent training in Rochester. The local law, which was passed last year, allowed the use of zoom because viewers and board members could interact with the meeting through audio and visual contact. If the Board chooses to use Facebook and YouTube streaming and storage, it would not be possible to have audio and video interaction for viewers. Our local law will have to be revoked and we would no longer allow Board members to vote on issues without being present at the meeting.

Supervisor Johnson noted that the Town Justice has been added to the Town Insurance policy allowing her to be covered by insurance while handling court money. This reduces the requirement for bonding for this ability.

Supervisor Johnson has canceled the 4 Spectrum telephone lines that were being used for office based IP telephone. These numbers could not be ported because of a technicality within Spectrum. The new Ringcentral phone system is less costly and more reliable thereby saving money and providing better contact with the public. The new town hall phone number is (315) 634-5790.

Supervisor Johnson wishes to have a resolution made allowing him to apply for a grant to be used to develop a Town of Greig Comprehensive Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 -2024

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR ADIRONDACK PARK AND CATSKILL PARK COMMUNITY SMART GROWTH GRANT PROGRAM ROUND 7 FUNDS TO ADVANCE THE PREPARATION AND ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town of Greig desires to apply for up to \$85,000 in financial assistance to create a Comprehensive Plan through Round 7 of the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park Community Smart Growth Grant Program available from the Environmental Protection Fund and managed by NYS DEC, in collaboration with NYS Department of State (DOS) and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA); and

WHEREAS, if awarded, the County of Lewis and the Town of Greig will provide a combined 12% match towards the project, of which a portion will be provided by the Planning and Community Development Department through its Land Use Planning Policies line item; and

WHEREAS, the application allows for up to 15% of the award amount to be attributed to grant administration; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lewis, being supportive in the application preparation and project implementation, will include eligible grant administration costs in the application as reimbursable expenses to the Planning and Community Development Department; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. The Town of Greig hereby authorizes the Supervisor to work with the Lewis County Department of Planning and Community Development to submit the online Adirondack Park and Catskill Park Round 7 Smart Growth Grant Program application to a Comprehensive Plan.

Section 2. If awarded, the Town of Greig will split a 12% contribution towards the project with the Lewis County Department of Planning & Community Development.

Section 3. The Town of Greig Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute all necessary grant application documents for submission and, if awarded, is authorized to execute all grant agreements, create and post an RFP for a consultant to complete the Comprehensive Plan, and submit grant reimbursement requests with grant administration reimbursements sent to the Lewis County Planning & Community Development Department.

Section 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion made by: Swisher

Second by: Mallette

Resolution passed

Certified by: Thomas Gunn, Town Clerk

1/18/2024

Supervisor Johnson spoke of using ARPA funds to improve building security and safety. He will ask Pixamation to develop a proposal for an improved system providing overwatch of town owned buildings and systems. Mr. Johnson would be in favor of push button coded door locks that could be easily changed when a breach is suspected This would provide the ability to identify who has entered the building and what time the entry was made.

Superintendent Alfano asked if some of the ARPA funds could be used to purchase a “conveyor spreader” device for the rear of one of the town dump trucks. This would ease the work of transporting and placing materials such as cold patch or gravel on roadways. Estimated cost is \$8500 for such a system. Mr. Alfano will acquire a more formal quote for the equipment.

Supervisor Johnson reported on a program offered by Cornell University that provides townships with interns who work with Highway Department to create a digital inventory of roads, culverts, signs and bridges to improve asset valuation and support a maintenance plan. Mr. Johnson notes it is expensive to bring the interns here. Mr. Gunn reported a program doing exactly the same thing had been started by the Town of Denmark a number of years ago and shared with other towns through a County Computer Server. Mr. Gunn will check on the status of that project and report at the next meeting.

Supervisor Johnson reported on a requirement to sign a new annual agreement with Zoom to continue to provide video and audio access to the Town Meetings. Discussions with other towns, counties and school districts shows a larger use of YouTube streaming and archived storage of meetings. Greig would have to revoke its local law from last year and would not allow Board Members to vote without being present at the meeting to be able to use this service. Mr. Johnson will discuss this option with Pixamation.

Mr. Alfano said he has hired MR. Mike Davis to start as his replacement as a Highway worker. He interviewed several candidates prior to selecting Mr. Davis. He will start Tuesday January 23rd. He has experience driving snowplow trucks and has his CDL License.

Superintendent Alfano reported having to remove downed trees on three different roads following recent high winds.

Supervisor Johnson requested an executive session to discuss wage negotiations with a town employee.

Motion 24-1-3 made by Councilman Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

Enter executive session to discuss employee wages 8:14PM

Motion approved.

Motion 24-1-4 made by Councilman Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

Exit executive session 8:45PM

Motion approved.

Motion 24-1-5 made by Councilman Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

Motion to Appoint Kerry Meyhew as Town Board Councilman to fill seat vacated by Robert Johnson, who was recently elected to serve as Town Supervisor. This appointment will be for a period from February 1st till the next general election in November 2024.

Motion approved.

Councilman Alicia Arthur wishes to submit her resignation as an elected Councilman on the Greig Town Board. She has been proud to serve as a Town Board Councilman. She was first appointed to the position in January 2014, after serving on the Greig Board of Assessment Review for a number of years. She has been elected to the Councilman seat three times in the past. She reluctantly resigns noting family and health matters as her concerns. The Board wishes to express their thanks for her many years of board duty and service to the community.

Motion 24-1-6 made by Councilman Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

Accepting Alicia Arthur's unexpected resignation, the Board wishes to appoint Mr. Steve Olmstead to fill her seat effective February 1st until the next general election in November 2024.

Motion approved.

Supervisor Johnson requested Board authorization him to make a salary increase offer to the existing Town Building Custodian and Summer Grounds Keeper. This person has requested an increase after the 2024 town budget was approved. The worker discussed his years of service and type of work performed deserves more than the State Minimum Wage. Mr. Johnson is asking the Board to support an offer of one dollar per hour for custodian work and two dollars per hour for grounds keeping work.

Motion 24-1-7 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Swisher

Authorize Supervisor to offer increases in wage to existing employee as discussed.

Motion approved.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Alfano reported the crews have plowed snow following recent storm.

Removed a few trees from S. Chases Lake Road. Repaired the chipper.

Mr. Alfano has received a quote for a new plow truck. They are now costing \$276,000, complete with the plow installed. The newly purchased Mowing Tractor should be delivered in March.

Supervisor Johnson said it would be wise to make a motion to purchase a new truck next month because it takes 2 years for delivery. Mr. Alfano said when he received the estimate for the truck they told him it would be delivered in 6 months.

CHIPS money - \$176,000 should be here in March.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Mr. Johnson reports he has studied the use of the Supervisors Cell Phone. There was from 0 to 6 calls per month for the last 6 months. Mr. Johnson says there is not much reason to pay \$75 per month for this phone. Supervisor Johnson says he plans to cancel the cell phone being used by the Supervisor.

Supervisor reports the Fee for the Ambulance Service provided by Lowville Search and Rescue was for \$150 more than was budgeted for. This was an unexpected increase that was not anticipated at the time the budget was prepared. Mr. Johnson requests a transfer of \$150 from the A8010.44 to the A4540.4 Ambulance account to cover the unexpected increase.

Motion 24-1-7 made by Councilman Swisher, Seconded by Mallette

Approve the transfer of \$150 from A8010.44 (Contractual for Zoning Officer) to A4540.4(Contractual for Ambulance)

Motion approved.

Mr. Johnson reports that the 2024 Budget has zero dollars in the Central Communications account. He noticed all Cell Phone charges were being placed against the Data Services account. He is requesting that \$3000 be transferred from the A1680.4(Data Processing) account to the A1650.4(Central Communications) account.

Motion 24-1-8 made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Swisher

Approve the transfer of \$3000 from A1680.4 (Contractual for Data Processing) to A1650.4.4(Contractual for Central Communications)

Motion approved.

CLERKS REPORT

Clerk Gunn distributed the December 2023 report containing details of the following financial actions:

There were general fund collections of:

5 Dog Licenses \$ 61.00

Total Collections: \$ 61.00

The expenditures were:

Town Supervisor as Revenue \$ 52.00

State Ag & Mkts \$ 9.00

Total Payments \$ 61.00

Annual Collections for the year 2023 were:

Receipts

6 Marriage Licenses 240.00

54 Certified Copies 540.00

79 Zoning Permits 3,261.00

7 Donations 539.00

58 Dog Licenses 604.00

Total \$5,184.00

Disbursements

Paid to Supervisor for General Fund 4,961.00

Paid to NYS Animal Population Control Program 88.00

Paid to NYS Health Department for Marriage Licenses 135.00

Total \$5,184.00

Motion 24-1-9: made by Councilman Mallette, Seconded by Swisher

Approve Clerk's financial report as presented.

Motion Approved

VOUCHER REPORT

December 2023 Vouchers were reviewed by the Board.

Totals expended by fund were:

General Fund	22,217.39
Highway Fund	23,985.73
Trust & Agency	1,971.95
Total paid in December 2023 Abstract =	\$48,175.95

Motion 24-1-10: made by Councilman Swisher, Seconded by Arthur
Approve Vouchers

Motion Approved

The Town Board gave a unanimous thank you to Alicia Arthur, Town Board Councilman for her years of service to the Town of Greig. The Board wished her good luck on everything she has in her future.

Being no further business brought forward,

Motion 24-1-11 made by Councilman Swisher, Seconded by Mallette
Motion to adjourn 09:35PM

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted
Thomas Gunn, Clerk