**Present:**  **Councilpersons: Roger Murray**

**Jane Powers, Supervisor John Glasgow**

**Julian “Olla” Filiatrault, Town Clerk Chad VanBrocklin**

**Shawn Spellacy, Highway Superintendent Daniel Huntley**

**Meeting attendees/Public:** Pierre Pomainville - Planning Board; Rick Perkins – Legislator.

Mercy Spellacy; Fred Green; Bob Moulton; Jamie VanBrocklin; Eric Wright; Christin Powers; Christopher Tracy; Dan Manor.

**Regular Meeting: 7:00PM Called to order.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Minutes Approved:**

* Minutes of Last Board Meeting September 26, 2023. **Motion** to approve by Roger Murray, second by John Glasgow. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Supervisor, Jane Powers:**

* Board members have in their packets two resolutions from last meeting;

1) a Justice Court Assistance Program grant application approval for the Pierrepont Court to apply for the grant and is signed by all board members.

2)Resolution for the Town of Pierrepont to adopt ownership of the private road as a town road. And that road is Caser Rd.

* Supervisor’s Report: According to Laurie, everything looks good. We are staying under the budget. We do not have any crisis going on. The only overage that would show up is the Attorney account.
* **Motion** to approve Supervisor’s report made by John Glasgow, second by Dan Huntley. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Town Clerk, Olla Filiatrault:**

* Written report submitted. Available for review.
* The amount remitted to the Supervisor was $538.23, to NYS Agriculture and Markets: $30.00, and to NYS Environmental Conservation: $842.77.
* **Motion** to approve report for the month of September 2023 made by Chad VanBrocklin, second by Dan Huntley. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Code Enforcement**

* Code Enforcement Officer, Darren Richards was not able to be present.
* 4 Building permits issued with the total $100.00 collected.
* **Motion** to approve Code Enforcement Officer’s report made by Dan Huntley, seconded by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Assessor, Amy Hunt:**

* Amy Hunt submitted a written report of recent Assessor's activities. The report is available upon request.
* The assessor is questioning the taxable status of the Union church which is next door to the town hall. It is tax exempt, even though it has not been used in a number of years. She wants us to discuss this at our next meeting. Jane Powers stated that in her past experience in the County real property office, these properties once placed on the tax rolls often become delinquent and end up at tax sale. There may be other ways to handle the property. No one is sure who owns it or even where to send a tax bill. Keep all this in mind as we discuss it in the future. Possibly, someone involved with property will become aware of the situation and come forward.
* Jane Powers also stated: The new driveway entrance is being installed at the back of the building and the driveway between the town hall and the church will be closed.
* **Motion** to approve Assessor’s report made by Roger Murray, second by Dan Huntley. No discussion. All voted to approve. None Opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Planning Board, report:**

Pierre Pomainville updated: We had our meeting the first of this month and something that came up was an issue about hamlets. About eliminating some of the hamlets in the Town of Pierrepont. As you know, we had a joint meeting with the Town Board just a few weeks ago about this issue. I haven’t heard much feedback from you on it. I have a letter from Jason at the County as how to proceed, step by step. We do have to have a public meeting about it eventually. I’m not pushing the issue right now and we can deal with the General Code, the map also, and submit all of this at the same time.

Does the Board have any questions?

Roger Murray stated we just need to go through the book.

**County Legislator Report: Rick Perkins**

Rick Perkins submitted report of October 2, 2023, County Legislature Board Meeting. It is available upon request.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

* A report from NYS Agriculture and Markets: Municipal Shelter Inspection Report indicates dog shelter services were rated “satisfactory”.
* An email from Olivia Pacific: It was regarding meeting our requirements for Drug and Alcohol assessments. Highway Superintendent, Shawn said we’re all set with that. Shawn Spellacy replied, we’re doing what we’re supposed to with that. Jane Powers stated: we have not had any problems with that process at all.
* An email from NYMIR: Official decision on the flooding in Hannawa Falls. They determined that damages claimed did not occur because of the negligence of the insured. The Town adequately maintained their drainage ditch and culvert system. Jane Powers stated, we are still working on a plan. Shawn Spellacy added: Tom Pahler is supposed to be giving us an engineered drawing of what it would take to upgrade the drainage.
* Adoption of County Equalization Rates from St. Lawrence County Real Property Tax Service Agency: The equalization rate is 75% of full value for Pierrepont.
* A letter from Zachary Risk Management: conducted their annual safety inspection. Everything has been taking care of correctly.
* The Wastewater Surveillance Update: It just talks about wastewater being checked and where anything shows up in wastewater. I get that report about twice a month.
* A letter from NYMIR: To make sure that our battery disconnect switches have been installed in our vehicles in the Highway office. Shawn says they are all installed.
* Minutes from St. Lawrence County Town Supervisor Association regular meeting: there was a mention about the mowing of county roads, etc.
* A letter from anonymous resident: The letter is in regard to what the writer describes as a year round garage sale sign and items by the road in front of the sign for the Hannawa Falls as you come from Potsdam.

The items block the sign and keep spreading out further and across the road there is usually a pile of free items. The sign would look so much nicer if the yard sale items were moved away from the road, the trees trimmed and possibly some plants around the base. Hannawa Falls is a nice hamlet and would like to see the entrance just as nice. Thank you. Anonymous.

John Glasgow stated the sign was put up by the Hannawa Falls fire dept. Jane Powers stated it’s a state highway. I don’t know how much jurisdiction we have with that. Dan Huntley stated he doesn’t read the letter as an issue with the sign. The letter was about the yard sale issue. I take it that it’s a letter about the items out front. Jane Powers stated maybe it should go to Darren Richards.

* New York State Comptroller: Fiscal Stress Monitoring System for 2022. Supervisor Jane Powers stated that Town of Pierrepont is not in any fiscal stress.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* Holiday decoration on National Grid Poles: Jane Powers stated that if we want to put decorations on their poles, this document has to be signed. We didn’t do anything last year.

Councilperson, Roger Murray stated: I would like to see us do something, but with time constraints right

now, I don’t know if we can get it done this year, because you have to identify every pole and then they have to approve it. But, I would like to see us do something. Chad VanBrocklin asked who would do the work to install. Would it be the highway dept.? Shawn Spellacy replied that we do not have the manpower to get up the poles and work on them. It was mentioned that S&L electric helps Colton with theirs. It was asked if they might help Pierrepont as they are in the Town. We could ask. More discussion was held as to the expense of the decorations and storage, etc.

* Supervisor and the Town Board will hold the Budget Workshop on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 6:30 pm.
* The Town of Pierrepont will hold a meeting on November 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm., with regard to adopting the Tentative Budget for the year 2024 as Preliminary Budget for the year 2024 and proposed Local Law No.1-2023 to override the tax cap.
* **Resolution No.X-2023: Local Law To Override the 2024 Tax Cap Limit (Local Law #1-2023):**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Supervisor Powers: yes**

**Councilman Murray: yes**

**Councilman Glasgow: yes**

**Councilman Huntley: yes**

**Councilman VanBrocklin: yes**

**Vote: 5 yes, 0 no**

**Therefore, it has been approved. Councilpersons must sign.**

**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:**

* **Resolution No. IX-2023: Recommendation of Town Superintendent of Highway of Total Abandonment**. It describes the portion of the Post Rd. commencing from the Powers Rd. easterly a tenth of a mile to Grannis Brook bridge (which is no longer there) and from east side of Grannis brook bridge in an easterly direction to 600 Post Rd. which consist of approximately 3 tenths of a mile. Said area has not been traveled or used as highway for more than 40 years. The road has not been maintained or improved during that time with no residents in said area. The highway was declared qualified abandonment pursuant to section 205 of the highway law officially on October 10th, 1979.

**Motion** to approve to sign the Certificate of Total Abandonment made by Dan Huntley, second by John Glasgow. No discussion. All approved. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Supervisor Powers: yes**

**Councilman Murray: yes**

**Councilman Glasgow: yes**

**Councilman Huntley: yes**

**Councilman VanBrocklin: yes**

**Vote: 5yes, 0 no**

**Therefore, it has been approved. Councilpersons must sign.**

* NYSERDA Grant ($5000.00) completed and approved.
* USDA funds for Highway building update is all current and waiting for approval.

**GENERAL FUND VOUCHERS:**

* General Fund; Abstract #10, Vouchers #318-357, Total of$40,863.67 **Motion** to approve made by Roger Murray, second by John Glasgow. No discussion. All approved. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**HIGHWAY FUND VOUCHERS:**

* Highway Fund; Abstract #10, Vouchers #303-322, Total of $62,851.41 **Motion** to approve made by Dan Huntley, second by Chad VanBrocklin. No discussion. All approved. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Courtesy of The Floor:**

* Dan Manor: I have a couple things. The date for the public input, What date is that?

Roger Murray replied that on November 9th there is a public hearing at 7:00pm here.

The other thing. There’s a couple of us in Hannawa that are trying to organize a meeting with Brookfield to discuss some issues that are going on with the river. We haven’t done any shoreline maintenance in quite some time. They haven’t drawn the river down. I’ve been in contact with the fire dept. and they’re going to give us the hall to use. Would somebody from the Board like to be present? Roger Murray stated that he would be willing to attend.

* Jamie VanBrocklin stated that she was speaking on behalf of a program at Colton-Pierrepont School called Girls on The Run that encourages young kids to get out and take up running. What we are looking for is a non-profit to hold a grant for us. The grant can’t go through the school. We are asking if the Town would like to be a holder of the grant.

Roger Murray asked, does that mean we only hold the money. Answer. Yes. Jane Powers said that they should talk with Laurie Hance about what is possible.

**ADJOURNMENT**:

* **Motion** to adjourn meeting at 7:50 pm. Motion made by Chad VanBrocklin, second by Roger Murray. No discussion. All voted to approve. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting minutes prepared by Town Clerk, Julian “Olla” Filiatrault.

Respectfully Submitted, Julian Filiatrault, Town Clerk