

**Town of North Hudson
Regular Town Board Meeting
Thursday
December 15, 2022
6 p.m.**

Present were Supervisor Stephanie DeZalia, Councilman Brian Caza, Councilwoman Maureen Marsden, Councilman Brian DeZalia and Town Clerk Martha (Candy) King. Councilman Larry Koller was absent.

Guests present were Emmet Thompson, Highway Superintendent Ken Foster, Thelma Foster, Tony Talarico, Tracee and Jake Parent.

Call to Order and Salute to the Flag

Supervisor DeZalia called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led in the pledge to the Flag.

Approval of the minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as amended of the November 17, 2022 Regular Town Board Meeting by Supervisor DeZalia Second: Councilwoman Marsden

All in favor - 5, opposed- 0

Supervisors Financial Report

As of November 30, 2022

Checking Accounts

Town of North Hudson Checking	0.10%	\$ 688,782.08
General Fund	\$ 655,82.08	
Fire District	\$ 32,970.00	
Highway Fund Checking	0.10%	\$ 721,190.65
	<u>Total All Funds</u>	<u>\$ 1,409,972.73</u>

Old Business

Discussion on the Fireman’s Benefits Program.

Hometown receive the 2021 FD member service award plan for 2021. Supervisor DeZalia contacted Fire Chief Brian Caza about a few corrections that needed to be made. A payment was then made in the amount of \$ 12,500 out of the 2022 Budget.

Brief discussion on the benefits of completing the 2022 Member Census earlier in the year.

New Business

A. Department Reports-

Brief discussion contents of Board packets included Vendor payments, Revenue Report, Expenditure Report, Expenditures Summary Report, monthly Justice report, Town Clerks monthly report, the Towns monthly bank reconciliation’s.

Supervisor-

Employee Luncheon

Supervisor DeZalia announced that all Departments will be closed 11am-12noon on Wednesday December 21 for an employee luncheon at Town Hall.

Holiday Hours

Town Hall will be closed on Friday December 23rd and reopen on Tuesday December 27th. Town Offices will be closed for the Christmas Holiday on Monday December 26th. Also for the New Year's Holiday on Monday January 2nd.

Transfer Station

The transfer station will open on Monday December 26th and January 2nd normal hours. The transfer Station will open at 12 on Wednesday December 21 in order that Tony can attend the Holiday Luncheon.

Storm Closure

Supervisor DeZalia announced that due to the Counties closure to all non-essential employees that the Town Hall will be closed on Friday December 16th due to the impending snowstorm. Employees can reach out to Supervisor DeZalia if needed.

Employee Handbook

Brief discussion on updates and revisions to the Employee Handbook, the Board was provided with a sample Employee Handbook Change Proposal form. Board members will be receiving via email and a hard copy in their box to pick up. Some proposals to be presented for revisions and updates at the January Organization meeting when the Board approves all of the policies.

Executive Sessions

Supervisor DeZalia will be handling issues that are brought to her and deal with them accordingly. If it is a situation required to be handled by the Board, such as disciplinary action or pending litigation then an executive session would be necessary.

Supervisor then addressed the importance of the Board working together and that matters discussed in Executive sessions are being disclosed and discussed outside of the Executive Session.

Lengthy discussion on employees speaking to Town Board and Committee members independently. All were reminded they cannot independently represent the Town Board and should not be entering into these conversations with anyone. The Board should be directing them to speak to their department head or to the Supervisor.

If employees feel it necessary to speak to a Board member, they should be coming to the entire Town Board not an individual.

Supervisor DeZalia stated "the Board needs to come together. Progress out there does not happen when there is discourse in here, we have work to do and we need to do it together. "

Highway Department

Discussion on the 2015 transmission failure. Two estimates were received.

Saunders Transmission from Argyle approximately -\$4,700-\$5,000.

Christopher Chevy approximately \$ 7,500.

Resolution # 102 of 2022

Resolution to expend up to the amount of \$5,000.00 for the transmission work on the 2015 Chevy 3500HD pick up with the funds to come from the 2022 budgeted funds.

Moved by Councilman DeZalia second: Councilwoman Marsden

Roll call:

Councilman Caza- Aye

Supervisor DeZalia- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden-Aye

Councilman DeZalia-Aye

Councilman Koller- absent

Highway Superintendent Ken Foster addressed the Board stating the new truck delivery has been pushed out 3 months now due to them having a hard time finding 2300 rear end. They could use a 20,000 rear end however Ken recommended to wait for the 23,000 lb. as ordered for the new truck.

Courts

Discussion on the generator at the Court House.

Hometown Electrical Systems \$ 6,813.15

Gore Electric was \$8,834.00

Blue Ridge Electrical 7,250.00

Henry Lohn could not get a generator until at least February.

The Board had given a verbal agreement to move forward as it was the lowest quote and it was in stock. The new generator has been installed by Hometown Electrical Systems.

Resolution # 103 of 2022

Resolution authorizing the contract and payment of \$6,813.15 to Hometown Electrical for the installation of the new generator at the Town Court with funds to come from the buildings general fund.

So moved by Supervisor DeZalia second: Councilman DeZalia

Roll call:

Councilman Caza- Aye

Supervisor DeZalia- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden-Aye

Councilman DeZalia-Aye

Councilman Koller- absent

B. County Reports

Essex County DA Kristy Sprague spoke to the Board of Supervisors on her interest in initiating the traffic reduction and diversion programs. It was explained that the DA's office would be contracting with an outside agency(Advent) to handle VTL matters. Supervisor DeZalia explained the process and services that would be provided to DA's office and the County and how it could affect the Town Court.

C. National Grid

National Grid will be updating to Advanced Metering Infrastructure starting February 2023. New equipment is going to be installed on homes and businesses.

D. Budget Amendments

Discussion on various Budget amendments

Resolution # 104 of 2022

Resolution authorizing Budget Amendments for various departments. Be it resolved that the Town Board hereby amends the 2022 Town of North Hudson Budget as follows:

Account	Available	Amount	Amount to	Account
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Code	Account	Balance	Needed	come from	name
A1220.11	Supervisor-Bkpr	979.80	210.00	A1990.4	Contingent
A1355.2	Assessor Equipment	-430.19	430.19	A1990.40	Contingent
A1355.40	Assessor-Contractual	-43.74	43.74	A1990.40	Contingent
A7410.40	Library	-300.00	300.00	A1990.40	Contingent
A9030.80	Social Security	213.16	700.00	A1990.40	Contingent

Moved by Supervisor DeZalia second: Councilwoman Marsden
Roll call:

Councilman Caza- Aye
Supervisor DeZalia- Aye
Councilwoman Marsden-Aye
Councilman DeZalia-Aye
Councilman Koller- absent

Standard Resolutions
Resolution #105 of 2022

Resolution setting the date of the 2023 Organizational Meeting to be held at the Town Hall on January 19, 2023 at 4:30pm to be followed by the Regular Town Board Meeting January 19, 2023 at 6:00pm. Notice will be posted and given to the media.

So moved Supervisor DeZalia Second: Councilwoman Marsden

All in favor

Ayes-4 Noes-0 Absent -1
Councilman Caza- Aye
Supervisor DeZalia- Aye
Councilwoman Marsden-Aye
Councilman DeZalia-Aye
Councilman Koller -absent

Tony Talarico left the meeting at 6:50pm.

Accounting of the Books

Supervisor DeZalia reminded everyone again that all Town officers and employees collecting or dispersing monies must present their books on January 10, 2023. All books must be presented to the Supervisors office for the annual accounting purposes by Tuesday January 10, 2023 where the Town Board members can come to review them prior to the January 19th Annual Accounting Meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Town Justice financial audit and a change in wording in a letter from the Justice.

A letter will be sent to the Town Justice stating the Town Board is requesting those financial records be presented as well as required by both Town Law and GML law.

Ken Foster, Thelma Foster and Emmet Thompson left the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Resolution #106 of 2022

Resolution authorizing contracts for the Fiscal Year 2023 for which funds are appropriated in the 2023 Essex County Budget.

The following Resolution was offered by Supervisor DeZalia, who moved for its adoption. Be it resolved that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor to execute all contracts for the 2023 fiscal year 2023 for the various departments of the Town government for which said funds have been appropriated in the 2023 Town Budget as adopted.

Second by Councilwoman Marsden

Roll call:

Councilman Caza- Aye

Supervisor DeZalia- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden-Aye

Councilman DeZalia-Aye

Councilman Koller- absent

Frank Shaw arrived at the meeting at 7:15pm.

Snowmobile Registration fee

Brief discussion on the snowmobile registration fee.

Resolution #107 of 2022

Support of the Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund

Whereas, the New York State Assembly (A7747A) and New York State Senate (S6711A) are considering legislation to increase the registration fees for snowmobiles and modify the snowmobile grant program; and

Whereas, snowmobiling is a key contributor to the Town of North Hudson's winter tourism industry, bringing significant spending by snowmobiling, supporting our restaurants and small businesses; and contributes up to \$868 million annually (from Potsdam Institute survey 2012) to the Upstate economy; and

Whereas, The County of Essex has 7 snowmobile clubs that maintain miles of trails throughout the County, the Schroon Lake/North Hudson Snowmobile Club Maintains over 6 miles in the Town of North Hudson, and there are 10,500 miles of trails statewide; and

Whereas; we must ensure that the Town of North Hudson snowmobile trail infrastructure is in a condition to welcome snowmobilers and that the trails are as safe and well maintained as they can be; and

Whereas, since 1987, the New York State Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund has been utilized by municipalities and their snowmobile club partners to properly groom and maintain their local trails, including through the purchase of necessary equipment; and

Whereas, the Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund is fully funded through the registration of snowmobile participation in the sport; and has no general assessment on taxpayers; and

Whereas, the snowmobile community, including the New York State Snowmobile Association, and the clubs in the clubs in the Town of North Hudson have requested an increase in the snowmobile registration fees to support trail maintenance; and

Whereas, there is significant throughout the country, including on critical machinery needed to maintain the trails; and

Whereas, The Town of North Hudson supports the snowmobiling community and the economic impact that snowmobiling has on our businesses and people;

Now Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Town of North Hudson respectfully requests that will in turn create more financial support for the Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Fund, the utilization of which supports critical winter tourism in the Town of North Hudson.

Moved by Supervisor DeZalia Second: Councilwoman Marsden

Roll call:

Councilman Caza- Aye

Supervisor DeZalia- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden-Aye

Councilman DeZalia-Aye

Councilman Koller -absent

General Fund and Highway Fund Abstracts

Motion to approve the General fund and Highway fund abstracts by Supervisor DeZalia second: Councilwoman Marsden

All in favor.

Ayes-4 Noes-0 Absent -1

Councilman Caza- Aye

Supervisor DeZalia- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden-Aye

Councilman DeZalia-Aye

Councilman Koller -absent

Judges Financial Report

Motion to approve the audit of the Judges financial report by Councilwoman Marsden and second by Councilman Caza

All in favor.

Ayes-4 Noes-0 Absent -1

Councilman Caza- Aye

Supervisor DeZalia- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden-Aye

Councilman DeZalia-Aye

Councilman Koller- absent

Privilege of the Floor

Discussions on poor road conditions on Ensign Pond Rd.

Brief discussion regarding consideration of the Planning Board compensation per meeting vs yearly.

Supervisor DeZalia reminded all the Memory Tree lighting will be held on December 17 at 5:45 followed by Touch a Truck with Santa at the NHVFD at 6pm.

Adjournment

Supervisor DeZalia motioned to adjourn at 7:24 pm.

Unanimous second.

Respectfully submitted

Martha M. King
Town Clerk