

November 8, 2023

A public hearing on the preliminary budget was called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Jeff Taggart. After a brief discussion, Heather Ross made the motion to close public hearing at 6:10 PM. Don Smith seconded the motion. All present agreed.

The regular meeting was called to order by Supervisor Taggart at 6:10 PM. Present were Jeff Taggart, Heather Ross, Don Smith, Dwight Bruno, Mark Laing, Paul Warner and Gregg Pitula. Also present were Jamie Archibald, Ava Delidle, Bree Reed, Earl Hughes, Meg Shivers, David Lamb, Daniel Lamb, Lillian DeMauro, Laura Leale and Mark Bennett.

The minutes were read from the October 3, 2023 meeting. Don Smith made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Dwight Bruno seconded the motion. All present agreed.

Donnie reported that everything with the Kellogg Trust is going well and their finances are sound and stable.

Heather reported that she had been in touch with Kelly Kingsbury who said they are working on their budget but feels it will be similar to last year. She wants to thank the town for their support. Especially with the County Youth program. They are partnering with Unadilla for some sports. They hope to open the gym on Sundays to give the younger kids a chance to work on their skills.

Jeff didn't make it to planning board meeting, but had heard there were issues with a subdivision that was brought before the board.

Mark said the furnace in the lower building is in and working. Radios are being programmed and will possibly be installed next week.

There is a problem with the generator. May be looking into a new one.

Several items were listed on Auctions International. Several items sold with a decent price. There were 5 items that the town will reject the bids and ask the highest bidder to enter a counter offer.

Three bids were presented for a new truck box. They were from Binghamton Truck Body. They were:

Reading Aluminum: \$18,667.75

Reading Steel: \$17,174.00

Duramag Aluminum \$18,667.75

The first two have a wait time of 25 weeks. The Duramag is in stock.

Donnie made the motion to approve the bid for the Duramag Aluminum for \$18,667.75, adding the options of lift gate, \$5662.00 and tie downs, \$360.00, for a total of \$24,689.75. Dwight seconded the motion. The money from selling items at Auctions International will more than pay for this.

Gregg said he has several single-family homes being built. He had 4 or 5 municipal searches last month. The blueberry farm on Franklin Heights was sold.

He's working on the rules for short term rentals and hopes to have something next month for the boards approval.

Donnie Smith made the motion to approve the 2024 Budget as presented. Heather Ross seconded the motion.

We are waiting for some modifications from Cedarwood Engineering for the Treadwell Water District.

A resolution was presented to have a public hearing on December 5, 2023 for a local law affecting a temporary moratorium within the Town of Franklin on the development and construction of Solar Energy Systems. Don Smith made the motion to approve resolution for public hearing. Heather Ross seconded the motion. All present agreed.

Jeff said that the town was asked to write a letter of support for an ambulance service in the area of Hobart, Stamford and Harpersfield. Don Smith made the motion to send the letter. Heather Ross seconded the motion. Jeff will get a letter to Sonja to send.

It was discussed the election inspectors would like to move voting to a larger place that was bigger. The firehouse was suggested but was told it's not handicap accessible. They will try to find a way to maybe arrange differently in the existing location.

It was discussed that the ARPA money could be used for a new generator, radios and the furnace. They will look into it.

Vouchers 2023 –421 – 2023 – 468 were presented for payment.

With nothing further to come before the board, Heather made a motion to go into executive session at 7:05 pm for legal issues.

At 7:57 the board returned from executive session and Donnie made the motion to adjourn. Dwight seconded the motion. All present agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonja Johns, Town Clerk