

November 8, 2023

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held two public hearings and a regular meeting on November 8, 2023.

Present were: Lisa M. Driscoll, Supervisor
Patrick F. Funk, Councilmember
Erik R. Reeve, Councilmember
Dwayne C. Hill, Councilmember

Absent: Matthew J. Taylor, Councilmember

Also present: Russell Hatch, Supt. Of Highways
Linda E. Goss, Town Clerk
Thomas D. Little, Code Enforcement Officer
Laurel (Laurie) Bedford, Assessor, Chairperson

Others present: Elizabeth Page, Editor for The Mountain Eagle
Robert Prush
Henry Browning

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Supervisor Lisa M. Driscoll.

Supervisor Driscoll led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board if they had received the corrected minutes for the public hearing and regular meeting held on August 9, 2023? The Board had received the corrected minutes. Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board if they had any questions, comments or corrections to be made to the corrected minutes? The Board had no questions, comments or corrections to be made to the corrected minutes. A motion to accept the corrected minutes for the public hearing and regular meeting held on August 9, 2023 as presented was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye. The September and October minutes will be ready for next months meeting.

Supervisor Driscoll at 7:03 PM opened the public hearing for the Town's 2024 budget. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she has gone over the budget again and has added another \$1,000.00 into the Supervisor's contractual line for additional computer software. She is looking into Williamson Law Book software. She is looking for software that will keep track of all the bills. She and Russell Hatch will be meeting with Williamson Law Book to have a demonstration of their software tomorrow. The Highway software keeps track of how much sand the Highway Department has, how much salt the Highway Department has, how many times a road has been repaved, etc. This software is for municipalities. Supervisor Driscoll is hoping that this software will keep all this information in one place instead of many different places. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she has added additional funds to the NYS Retirement line. The cost for next year is \$69,415.00. When she added up all the lines they came out to close to that number. The problem is the Transfer Station line has FICA taxes in it. The FICA taxes were \$6,500. When Supervisor Driscoll removed that information, she realized that she needed more money in the line items. For NYS Retirement she has added an additional \$1,500.00 to the General A and an additional \$2,000.00 to the Highway DA. Supervisor Driscoll reported to the Board that another change that she has made to the budget was the Town Health Officer has asked to have his salary raised. He asked to raise his salary from \$320.00 this year to \$400.00 for 2024. He also has asked to raise his salary to \$500.00 per year for 2025. She has raised the budget \$80.00 in General B for the Town Health Officer. Councilmember Funk asked what the Town Health Officer does? Supervisor Driscoll answered that she was told by the Town Health Officer, Dr. Richard Ucci that if there is something that has concerns for the Town that could affect somebody's health the Town would call him in to evaluate the situation. Councilmember Funk asked don't we have a County Health Department? Do we have to have a Town Health Officer? Supervisor Driscoll answered yes, we do need a Town Health Officer. Councilmember Funk added that he thought that is what we have the County Health Department for. The discussion continued. Councilmember Funk continued that there is so much overlap in government. How much do we pay for the Health Department at the County level? Supervisor Driscoll informed Councilmember Funk that she would have to get that information for him. The discussion continued. Supervisor Driscoll reported to the Board that the raise in the 2024 budget is 6.11%. She reminded everyone that we did have the addition of \$100,000.00 for the ambulance service. She did off set a lot of that cost with the fund balance. Councilmember Funk added that last year's budget increase was less than a percent. Councilmember Reeve asked if the public had to vote on the budget? Supervisor Driscoll answered no, the Town has the public hearing where the public can speak on the budget. Once the budget public hearing is closed then there is a public hearing for raising the budget over the 2% tax cap. Once that public hearing is closed the Town Board votes to approve or not approve the budget. Supervisor Driscoll asked those present if anyone had any questions about the budget? Henry Browning commented that he is on a strict budget. Supervisor Driscoll again added that the \$100,000.00 addition for the ambulance service was a big part of the increase of the budget. With the Town's budget that would be a 10% raise. We have kept the increase down to 6.11%. We have done some up grades that really needed to be done by the Town. Laurie Bedford asked what is the Town's share of the increase in the Transfer Station budget? Supervisor Driscoll answered that the Town's share last year was \$36,327.00 and this year it is \$44,155.00. The raises are going to pay for the paving and

concrete work coming up next year. The raises are also going to pay Russell Hatch and the Highway crew for working over at the Transfer Station. There are some other raises because the lines were just too low. Supervisor Driscoll has worked with the Supervisors from the Towns of Kortright and Stamford and they are all in agreement with the budget. Supervisor Driscoll reminded the Board that at their last meeting she had informed them that she has raised the Town Attorney line from \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00 potentially anticipating something that may come up next year. She hopes not but there is potential. The discussion continued. Supervisor Driscoll closed the public hearing at 7:13 PM.

Supervisor Driscoll at 7:14 PM opened the public hearing regarding the adoption of a Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that because the budget is going up 6.11 % and is over the 2% tax cap a local law needs to be enacted. A discussion was had on how the State calculates what the tax cap is. Laurie Bedford asked Supervisor Driscoll what the County tax increase is going to be? Supervisor Driscoll answered 1.9% they are under 2%. They started with a raise of 24%. The County Board of Supervisor have worked very hard to bring that percentage down. A discussion was had on how the Town's 2024 budget was calculated. Councilmember Funk again stated that the addition of the ambulance service has added \$100,000.00 to the Town's budget. This ambulance service is needed. They are limited with shared services to other places. Last year at budget time the three Towns were not sure if we were going to have an ambulance service. Supervisor Driscoll added that she has spent a lot of time with Russell Hatch to make sure that they had the right numbers for what we are going to spend on salt, fuel, etc. Everything is more expensive these days. The Town has worked to keep expenses in check. Supervisor Driscoll thanked Councilmember Funk for working to get the Town Hall a free AED. The Town just has to pay for maintenance on it. That has been a great addition to the Town Hall. The discussion continued. Supervisor Driscoll added that we are trying to do whatever we can to see how we can reduce our costs. She is not going to be cheap about it either. She wants to purchase things to set the Town up for success. She feels that is really important. For example the software and computers the Town is purchasing. She wants to build a good foundation that the Town can keep building on and not step backwards because we did not spend the extra \$100.00 at that time. She wants this to be cohesive for all of the Departments. Supervisor Driscoll asked those present if there were any other questions? Mr. Browning commented there goes his 3.2 % cost of living raise out the window. Supervisor Driscoll said exactly. Everything is going up. Everything is more expensive. The Town just paid \$25,000.00 for fuel. She expects the cost to be higher next year. Supervisor Driscoll asked Russell Hatch how many gallons did we take? Russell answered 7,500 gallons. The diesel was \$3.17 a gallon and Kerosene was \$3.83 a gallon. Supervisor Driscoll asked Russell how much Kerosene did you take? Russell answered 22,250 gallons of Kerosene. He split the load 70-30. Supervisor Driscoll asked Russell do they mix the fuel for us? Russell answered that the delivery truck has different compartments in it. It gets blended together when they dump the load. Supervisor Driscoll asked Russell do you think we will need another load before the end of the year? Russell answered no this should get us through the end of January. Councilmember Reeve asked Russell would it be less expensive to use 55 gallon drums of Power Service? Russell answered that they also use Power Service. Councilmember Reeve asked with the

Kerosene? Russell answered yes. Power Service works. We have not had injector problems since we started using Power Service. It has helped a lot not only treating the fuel but also helps with the engine. We treat the tank when they off load the fuel. Then the drivers every time they fill the truck up they will treat it to the amount of gallons they put in. Supervisor Driscoll asked if anyone else had any further questions? Supervisor Driscoll closed the public hearing at 7:25 PM.

Linda E. Goss read a letter of thanks to the Town Board from the Delaware County Historical Association for the support of the organization.

Linda E. Goss read a letter of thanks to the Town Board from the Stamford-Harpersfield Senior Citizens Club for the support of the organization.

Linda E. Goss reported to the Board that Supervisor Driscoll has received the annual Municipal Shelter Inspection Report completed on October 13, 2023 from the NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The dog shelter services were rated "Satisfactory".

Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board for a resolution adopting the Town budget for 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 024 OF THE YEAR 2023

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: ADOPTION OF THE TOWN BUDGET FOR 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, at the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held on November 8, 2023 the Town Board adopts the 2024 Town budget as presented.

Seconded by Councilmember Erik R. Reeve with the vote as follows:

Supervisor	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
Councilmember	Matthew J. Taylor	Absent.
Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Aye.
Councilmember	Dwayne C. Hill	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board for a resolution to adopt the Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c.

RESOLUTION NO. 025 OF THE YEAR 2023

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 004 OF 2023 ENTITLED “A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 3-c”.

WHEREAS, in accordance with subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law § 3-c of the State of New York which provides municipalities with the express authorization to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law § 3-c by passing a local law approved by a vote of at least sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law was presented to the Town Board at least 11 days prior to the Town Board meeting on November 8, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted a resolution on October 11, 2023 scheduling a public hearing on the proposed Local Law for November 8, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on the proposed Local Law was held on November 8, 2023 at the Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board reviewed and considered all public comment received on the proposed Local Law; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law was on file for inspection at the Town Clerk’s office prior to the public hearing and during the public review process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD, DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK:

The Town of Harpersfield Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in Municipal Law § 3-c, being Local Law 0004 of 2023, is hereby adopted and the Town Clerk is hereby directed to file said Local Law with the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with State Law.

WHEREUPON, Councilmember Dwayne C. Hill seconded the motion and Resolution No. 025 of the Year 2023 was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

Supervisor	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
Councilmember	Matthew J. Taylor	Absent.
Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Aye.
Councilmember	Dwayne C. Hill	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

LOCAL LAW NO. 004 OF THE YEAR 2023

A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 3-c.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield as follows:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT: It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Harpersfield pursuant to General Municipal Law § 3-c, and to allow the Town of Harpersfield to adopt a budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the tax levy limit as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY: This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law § 3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of at least sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board.

SECTION 3. TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE: The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield, County of Delaware is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2024 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law § 3-c.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY: If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgement shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confirmed in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which judgement or order shall be rendered.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE: This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she would like to have the Board amend Resolution No. 021 of the Year 2023. The reason for the amendment is she wants to add the cost of the Highway Department's labor and equipment usage in the resolution. This resolution is for the Town requesting a grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation Inc. for the application of a single course of oil than stone on selected Town roads. The additions will be equipment usage at \$4,500 per day with a total cost of \$9,000.00 and Highway Department manpower at \$950.00 per day with a total cost of \$1,900.00. The total cost of the project will be \$115,213.68. The total amount being asked for in the grant is \$100,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 021 AMENDED OF THE YEAR 2023

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: RESOLUTION FOR REQUESTING A GRANT FROM THE ROBINSON-BROADHURST FOUNDATION INC. FOR THE APPLICATION OF A SINGLE COURSE OF OIL THAN STONE ON SELECTED TOWN ROADS.

WHEREAS, the Town of Harpersfield, a municipality in Delaware County, New York will request a grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation Inc. for \$100,000.00 to apply a single course of oil than stone on selected Town roads.

WHEREAS, the summary of the work is as follows:

TASK:	COST:
Middlebrook Hill Road	\$ 64,653.56
Parker School House Road	\$ 20,472.88
Moxham Road	\$ 19,187.24

Equipment usage from Harpersfield Highway Department \$4,500.00 per day = \$9,000.00.
Highway Department manpower \$950.00 per day = \$1,900.00.

TOTAL: \$115,213.68.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield authorizes the Town Supervisor to apply for a grant from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation Inc. for the application of a single course of oil than stone on selected Town roads for \$100,000.00.

WHEREUPON, Councilmember Erik R. Reeve seconded the motion and Resolution No. 021 Amended of the Year 2023 was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

Supervisor	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
Councilmember	Matthew J. Taylor	Absent.
Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Aye.
Councilmember	Dwayne C. Hill	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is building permit fee increases for 2024. Supervisor Driscoll recognized Thomas Little, Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Harpersfield. Mr. Little issued the Board a copy of the building permit fees comparisons with the Towns of Kortright, Delhi, Stamford and the Village of Delhi. The Town of Stamford has not raised their building permit fees since 2008. The Town of Delhi raised their building permit fees in 2019. Mr. Little felt that some of the fees are on the low side for the number of inspections that are required. He has highlighted those fees in his comparison. The rest of the permit fees

are in line with the neighboring Towns. The Town of Stamford has a fee for cell towers and wind turbines. Mr. Little feels that is something that the Town of Harpersfield should look in to. In constructing a wind tower there is a tremendous amount of concrete and steel that will go into the structure. That will increase the number of inspections that will need to be done. The Town of Harpersfield has no building permit fees for commercial solar projects. Currently the Town has three commercial solar projects going on. Mr. Little has and will need to review the plans for both the Blue Wave Solar projects and the Delaware River Solar project. He is also responsible to review the roads and accesses and emergency turn arounds to these facilities. Mr. Little feels that a thousand dollar permit fee for these facilities is reasonable. Mr. Little added that there are going to more solar projects coming to the Town in the future. Another issue the Town may want to look at is a road preservation permit fee. The Town of Delhi has a road preservation permit fee. This is to make sure that the Town roads are not damaged by the large energy companies transporting large equipment. If a turbine is going to be installed that is a tremendous amount of weight that could damage the roads. The road preservation permit fee could help offset some of the fees associated with reclaiming that road. In the Town of Delhi there is a huge substation. During construction of the project the road was destroyed, and it took several years to recover those funds to bring the road back to the way it was before the construction. They are still bringing a tremendous amount of heavy equipment over that road. Mr. Little did not include the Town of Delhi's local law for road preservation. Russell Hatch asked Mr. Little if he could get him a copy of the Town of Delhi's local law for road preservation? Mr. Little agreed to get Russell a copy of the local law. Russell Hatch added that the Town was discussing a local law back when the pipeline was going to go through the Town. Mr. Little continued that there is already a pipeline in Town. With the energy field changing it is better to have regulations and/or building permit fees in place before they start construction. Councilmember Reeve asked Mr. Little with the commercial solar permit fee would you want to make that a set fee or would you want to base the fee on the size of the project? If it is a larger project with more pads of concrete to hold the towers up? Mr. Little answered that the fee is what the Town Board wants it to be. The solar projects currently in Town are just hydro drilled. They are an array on a bank of Helio piles. They are not put on pedestals like they do for residential solar panels. Mr. Little continued that this is for the Board to think about. It would be good to move this forward to start at the first of the year. The discussion continued. Supervisor Driscoll asked with the single and two family dwellings the building permit fee would be determined by 0.003 % of the total cost of the house? Mr. Little answered yes. The Town's current fees are based on the square footage of the dwelling. Laurie Bedford asked Mr. Little do you have anything different for short-term rentals? Mr. Little answered no he does not have anything for short-term rentals. Ms. Bedford asked has the Town thought about rental registration fees for short-term rentals? Ms. Bedford was informed that the Town had discussed short-term rentals. The main issue would be enforcement. Mr. Little continued that short-term rentals are like ghosts. It is like chasing smoke. Sometimes they are there. Sometimes they are gone. They are up for rent for a few months then the resident occupies the structure for the rest of the year. Supervisor Driscoll added that the County does have a tax on short-term rentals. They do go on the sites online and look for them. Mr. Little continued they have enforcement. Supervisor Driscoll agreed. Councilmember Funk added that some sites mandate the taxes be paid. Sites like Airbnb and Vrbo. Mr. Little agreed but he can not

keep track of all the sites. He does go online and look every now and then. Councilmember Hill asked the Town does not have any building permit fees for cell towers or wind turbines? Mr. Little answered no. Supervisor Driscoll added that potentially there is going to be a cell tower built behind the Town Hall. The Town currently does have a building permit fee for solar panels. It does not specify residential or commercial solar panels. When the building permit fee for solar panels was adopted by the Board it was just for residential use. With an update it will clearly state residential or commercial solar panels with the appropriate building permit fees. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she will create a list of the current building permit fees with the proposed fees next to it. She will send that out for the Board to look over. She would like to start the updated building permit fees on January 1st. Mr. Little continued the issue of short-term rentals. In this area they are renting older homes. These older homes have older septic systems. If the renters pack the house full of people they do not care if the septic system is plugged, over fills or fails. The potential for these septic systems to fail is a lot higher with these older homes. There is also the potential of the renters running the wells dry. Ms. Bedford asked what about event centers? There are a few in Town. Are they treated differently? Mr. Little answered first they must go through Site Plan Review with the Planning Board. Once they have received Site Plan approval from the Planning Board then they will need to get building permits. The building permit fees are determined by the size of what they will be building. Councilmember Funk asked how are the Assessors notified of such changes? Linda E. Goss answered that once a year the Assessors receive copies of all the building permits issued for that year. This is usually before the Assessors go out and do their field work. Supervisor Driscoll concluded that she is going to put the old permit fees and the proposed permit fees and changes on an Excell spreadsheet and send it over to Mr. Little to check over. Once he has approved the spreadsheet, she will send it out to the Board to review before next month's meeting. Councilmember Funk added that it was not too long ago that the current building permit fees were adjusted. Supervisor Driscoll agreed but the Town needs to add commercial solar panels, cell towers and wind turbines. The Board agreed.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the new cameras have been installed at the Transfer Station. They are working very well. There is no monthly fee. If there is a problem the individual who installed the cameras can be called in to fix the problem. Supervisor Driscoll can remote in from her computer. The Transfer Station employees have a television in their office so that with the cameras they can see what is going on also. The cameras can zoom in on the license plates coming in and going out of the Transfer Station. Supervisor Driscoll feels it is a really nice system and is very happy with it.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she has talked to Tyson Robb about Paint Care. The County is also looking into it. Supervisor Driscoll feels that the Town should piggyback with the County for this program. Mr. Robb is going to get it set up. Whichever Town Transfer Stations want to be included in the County's contract will be added. Supervisor Driscoll would rather go under the County contract than do our own contract. She also needs to check into insurance. The insurance carrier is saying that the Transfer Station should have pollution insurance. Even if the Town does not add Paint Care it's recommended that the Transfer Station get pollution insurance. Supervisor Driscoll in going to include pollution insurance in the next round of

insurance upgrades at the Transfer Station. Supervisor Driscoll is looking at maybe spring or summer of next year to have Paint Care set up.

Councilmember Funk asked how is everything going with the new Transfer Station Stickers? After speaking to the Transfer Station employees, he had been told that there were a lot of angry people who are not supposed to be using the Transfer Station. Supervisor Driscoll answered yes there have been a lot of people from other Towns using the Transfer Station that do not want to pay the fees to get rid of their garbage in their Town. The discussion continued. As of November 1st, the Transfer Station employees began checking for new stickers. They were turning vehicles around and not letting them dump if they did not have the new sticker on their vehicle. Linda E. Goss reported to the Board that her office has been inundated with people stopping to get stickers. Some of the complaints that she has received are "I don't do social media" and "I don't read the newspaper". Ms. Goss said to several individuals that they have driven by the sign at the Transfer Station gate since mid-August. She had one individual say "I don't read signs". It has been challenging. The discussion continued. Ms. Goss added that some individuals have told her thank you very much and they are glad the Town is doing this. Ms. Goss continued that if she has been contacted by email or telephone, she does her best to accommodate the residents that can not come into her office to get their stickers. If someone lives far away or works the same hours as when the Town Clerk's office is open Ms. Goss will mail the stickers with a copy of the updated recycle rules to residents. The Town of Stamford and Town of Kortright Town Clerks also do this. Supervisor Driscoll continued that there are a lot of people that are angry because they do not live in the three Towns, and they want a sticker. Why can't you take money? Why can't you do this for me or do that for me? Why can't you accommodate me? The discussion continued. Supervisor Driscoll added that the new stickers have cut down on the amount of garbage over at the Transfer Station. Councilmember Hill added that he has talked to a Transfer Station employee who said that things are running really smoothly over there. Supervisor Driscoll continued that with the upgrades it has improved conditions greatly at the Transfer Station. The discussion continued.

Councilmember Funk asked now that there is a new office container at the Transfer Station has the old bathroom been decommissioned and the water shut off? Supervisor Driscoll answered that one wall had been closed up and insulation put in. Russell Hatch added that the water has not been shut off because that is where the water comes into the Transfer Station and goes upstairs. Because of the water the old bathroom is still going to need to be heated. Supervisor Driscoll continued that the old toilet has been removed. Russell Hatch added that he is unsure if the old sink has been removed. Supervisor Driscoll continued that the old sink has been moved outside next to the container so that the employees can wash their hands outside if they need to. The discussion continued.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that there is a hole that needs to be filled with concrete at the Transfer Station. Russell Hatch added that where the garbage boxes come out there is a section approximately 12 x 12 where the concrete is totally deteriorated. They are looking into cleaning the area out and putting down some concrete as a band-aid. Supervisor Driscoll asked

if we do put some concrete down how long does it have to sit before it is cured? Russell answered at least fourteen days. Supervisor Driscoll continued that they would have to find another way to move the boxes. Russell added that the boxes can not be pulled out so far. The Highway employees with a bigger machine can go over and help the Transfer Station employees move the boxes. It is far enough away we can help get the boxes out. Russell asked Mr. Little at fourteen days the concrete will be cured about 75%? Mr. Little answered yes, 75% and twenty-eight days it will be cured 100%. Supervisor Driscoll asked Russell what will this cost? Russell answered he needs to look into it. In the next couple of days the Highway crew will get the hole cleaned out. Supervisor Driscoll told Russell to keep her informed.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is Heartland payroll. She informed the Board that it is being set up. She anticipates using it as of the first of the year. She will be sending out forms for direct deposit. Councilmember Reeve asked if there is an additional fee per employee for direct deposit? Supervisor Driscoll answered no. Councilmember Funk added that it should save money because you don't have to write checks or send checks. Supervisor Driscoll continued that there will be a couple of employees that will get regular checks. The system can be set up two ways. Heartland can write out the paychecks and send them to the Town, or the Town can print the paychecks. This is still being worked out. The discussion continued.

Councilmember Funk informed the Board that F and C Firearms has their new sign up and it looks good. One problem is that the sign lights up the mess on a neighboring property. Councilmember Funk asked Mr. Little if something could be done about the mess? A discussion was had. Mr. Little will write the property owners a letter asking them to clean up their property.

Councilmember Funk asked Supervisor Driscoll with the new computers have backups been installed? Supervisor Driscoll answered yes, we are working on getting that in place. She will also be speaking to the Town's insurance carrier about adding the computers to the insurance. Supervisor Driscoll has also been talking to the Town Clerk about implementing a Town policy about computer use. Supervisor Driscoll continued that the Town has also gotten a server. The discussion continued.

Councilmember Funk asked if the Town Clerk could adjust her hours to be closed to the public so that she can get her work done? A discussion was had. Linda E. Goss has been trying to figure out a good time to be closed to the public. The discussion continued.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she is looking into a software called VIQ. This software will take the recording of the Town Board meeting and transcribe it. That way the Town Clerk will take the transcription and produce the minutes. Supervisor Driscoll is testing out this software. This software can also be used by the Planning Board secretary. Hopefully this will help the Town Clerk get caught up. The discussion continued.

Russell Hatch reported to the Board that all the sand piles outside have been topped off. The Highway crew has just pulled out of the gravel bank. The trucks have their sanders in and plows on.

Supervisor Driscoll asked Russell Hatch if he and the County Superintendent of Highways had met with New York State Assemblyman Christopher Tague? Russell answered they were supposed to meet in October, but the Assemblyman could not make the meeting. The County Highway Superintendents are having another meeting this week and are hoping that Assemblyman Tague can be there. Supervisor Driscoll asked has anything happened since the meeting with New York Senator Peter Oberacker? Russell answered he was going to reach out to Senator Oberacker after the meeting of the County Highway Superintendents. The discussion continued.

Russell Hatch informed the Board that he is going to put out a bid for diesel fuel for next month's Town Board meeting.

The abstract and vouchers for the month of October were issued to the Board. Presented were General Claims #230 to #260 in the amount of \$20,808.20, Highway Claims #153 to #167 in the amount of \$36,911.05 and Transfer Station Claims #079 to #085 in the amount of \$4,060.50. Supervisor Driscoll stated that the bill was in for Road signs. A discussion was had. Supervisor Driscoll stated that a bill for diesel fuel in the amount of \$25,000.00 was also on the abstract. Councilmember Hill asked Russell Hatch how long a load of fuel lasts? Russell answered between three and four months depending on what is going on. A motion to pay the vouchers as presented was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

The Supervisor's report for the month of September was issued to the Board.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she will be making some adjustments to the 2023 budget figures. She will have them for the Board at their next meeting.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the 2024 budget does not have the Davenport, Hobart and Samford fire department figures added to it. The Fire Departments send their budgets to the County. They apportion those amounts and notify the Town's what the amounts are going to be. The Town has no say in what the Fire Departments budgets will be. A discussion was had.

Councilmember Reeve asked Thomas Little if he has been granted access to NY Safety Track? Mr. Little answered no he has not been given access to NY Safety Track. Councilmember Reeve asked are there any legal ramifications for that? Mr. Little answered that the Town Attorney has been in touch with the owner and their Attorneys on this issue.

A discussion was had on the 2% tax cap.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Linda E. Goss
Town Clerk