

January 12, 2022

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held an organization meeting on January 12, 2022.

Present were: James Eisel Sr., Supervisor
Matthew J. Taylor, Councilmember
Patrick F. Funk, Councilmember
Lisa M. Driscoll, Councilmember

Absent: Erik R. Reeve, Councilmember

Also present: Russell Hatch, Supt. of Highways
Linda E. Goss, Town Clerk
Dean A. Darling, Chairman of the Planning Board
Laurel (Laurie) L. Bedford, Assessor

Others present: Elizabeth Page, Editor for The Mountain Eagle
Gracie Taylor
Gloria Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Supervisor James Eisel Sr..

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

A motion to appoint the following Town Officials was made by Patrick F. Funk:

Town Attorneys – Kevin Young and Allyson Phillips

Town Bookkeeper – Karen Kropp

Town Code Enforcement Officer – Thomas Little

Deputy Town Code Enforcement Officer – Dale Downin

Town Court Clerk – Joy Musella

Town Dog Control Officer – Jeffrey Bell

Town Historian – Dwayne Hill

Town Planning Board Chairman – Dean Darling

Town Planning Board Member – Walter Keller

Town Planning Board Member – Dennis King

Deputy Superintendent of Highways - Otis Schermerhorn Jr.

Deputy Town Supervisor – Matthew J. Taylor

Seconded by Matthew J. Taylor. All voting Aye.

A motion made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Lisa M. Driscoll that in compliance with Open Meeting Law the regular Town Board meetings will throughout the year be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Eisel asked for a motion to keep the Equalization Committee the same with the members being William Boyle Sr., James Eisel Sr. and Edward Pick Jr. Councilmember Driscoll asked what the Equalization Committee does? Supervisor Eisel answered that in the past the Town's equalization rate and the Village of Stamford's equalization rate were very different. This Committee was formed to contest that issue. The question was asked what is an equalization rate? Assessor Laurie Bedford answered that an equalization rate is the Town's rate of our assessments compared to full market value. Currently our assessed values are at 26.9 % of the full market value. The equalization rate changes every year as the market changes with what houses and properties are currently selling for. The State determines what the Town's equalization rate is. Ms. Bedford agreed that it is a good idea for the Town to have an Equalization Committee if any problems should come up. Councilmember Funk asked that Ms. Bedford be added to the Equalization Committee. Supervisor Eisel agreed. A motion to keep the Town's Equalization Committee with the members being William Boyle Sr., James Eisel Sr., Edward Pick and Laurel L. Bedford was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

A motion that the necessary bills be paid when due (Electric, Telephone, Fuel, Transfer Station, The Daily Star, Ace Hardware, Tractor Supply, Power Plan etc.) and audited by the Board at the next regular meeting was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Lisa M. Driscoll. All voting Aye.

Patrick F. Funk moved seconded by Lisa M. Driscoll that when officials are on town business they be paid mileage at the rate of 58.5 cents per mile.

The following were appointed to the Highway Committee: Matthew J. Taylor and Patrick F. Funk. This appointment was approved on motion by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Eisel informed the Board that he would represent the Town on the Catskill Rail Committee. A motion that James Eisel Sr. represent the Town of Harpersfield on the Catskill Rail Committee was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Matthew J. Taylor. All voting Aye.

Patrick F. Funk moved seconded by Lisa M. Driscoll that The Daily Star be the Town's Official newspaper. All voting Aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 001 OF THE YEAR 2022.

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

TITLE: INVESTMENT POLICY RESOLUTION.

BE IT RESOLVED, that investment in the Local Government of the Town of Harpersfield shall be undertaken in a manner which seeks to insure the preservation of capital. Each investment transaction shall see to avoid capital losses from securities, defaults of erosion of market value.

It is the intent of the Town of Harpersfield Local Government to maximize the returns on idle cash balances within the guidelines established by this policy.

This policy shall apply to idle monies in each of the various funds of the Town of Harpersfield. In accordance with State Law, the Supervisor and the Town Clerk/Collector are permitted to invest the Local Government's idle cash in the following instruments:

An Interest Bearing Account, Certificate of Deposit, Savings Account or Money Market.

Seconded by Councilmember Matthew J. Taylor with the vote as follows:

Adopted:	Supervisor	James Eisel Sr.	Aye.
	Councilmember	Matthew J. Taylor	Aye.
	Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
	Councilmember	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
	Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 002 OF THE YEAR 2022.

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

TITLE: RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES.

WHEREAS, under Section 64 of the Town Law, it is provided that the Town Board shall designate the banks or trust companies by written resolution in which certain Town Officials shall deposit the monies coming into their hands by virtue of their offices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NBT of Hobart Bank, the Wayne Bank or the Delaware National Bank of Delhi are hereby designated as depositories in which the Supervisor, the Town Clerk/Collector and the Town Justice shall deposit all monies coming into their office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered in the minutes of this Board.

Seconded by Councilmember Lisa M. Driscoll with the vote as follows:

Adopted:	Supervisor	James Eisel Sr.	Aye.
	Councilmember	Matthew J. Taylor	Aye.
	Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
	Councilmember	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
	Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 003 OF THE YEAR 2022.

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

TITLE: RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PROCUREMENT POLICY.

WHEREAS, Section 104-b of the General Municipal Law requires the governing body of every municipality to adopt internal policies and procedures governing all procurement of goods and which are not required by law to be publicly bid.

Guideline 1. Every prospective purchase of goods or services shall be evaluated to determine the applicability of General Municipal Law #103. Every Town Officer, Board Member, Department Head or other personnel with the requisite purchasing authority (hereinafter Purchaser) shall estimate the cumulative amount of the items of supply or equipment needed in a given fiscal year. That estimate shall include the canvas of other Town Departments and past history to determine the likely yearly value of the commodity to be acquired. The information gathered and conclusions reached shall be documented and kept with the file or other documentation supporting the purchase activity.

Guideline 2. All purchases of (a) supplies or equipment which will exceed \$10,000.00 in the fiscal year or (b) public works contracts over \$20,000.00 shall be formally bid pursuant to General Municipal Law #103.

Guideline 3. The following method of purchase will be used when required by this policy in order to achieve the highest savings:

ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PURCHASE CONTRACT:	METHOD:
0 TO \$5,000.00	Discretion of purchaser.
\$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00	Oral request for the goods and Oral/fax/email/quotes from two

\$7,000.00 to \$20,000.00	vendors. A written request (RFP – Request For Proposal) and written/fax/email/Quotes from three vendors.
ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS:	METHOD:
\$500.00 TO \$3,000.00	Discretion of purchaser.
\$3,000.00 to \$10,000.00	Written Request For Proposals (RFP) and written/fax/email/proposals from two contractors.
\$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00	Written Request for Proposals (RFP) and written/fax/email/proposals from three contractors.

Any written Request For Proposal (RFP) shall describe the desired goods, quantity and the particulars of delivery. The Purchaser shall compile a list of vendors from whom written/fax/email/oral quotes have been requested and the written/fax/email/oral quotes offered. All information gathered in complying with the procedures of this Guideline shall be preserved and filed with the documentation supporting the subsequent purchase or public works contract.

Guideline 4. The lowest responsible proposal or quote shall be awarded the purchase or public works contract unless the Purchaser prepares a written justification providing reasons why it is in the best interest of the Town and its taxpayers to make an award to other than the lowest bidder. For example, the second lowest bidder is a business in the Town, paying Town property taxes and their quote was within 5% of the low bidder which is an out-of-state business or supplier. If a bidder is not deemed responsible, facts supporting that judgement shall also be documented and filed with the record supporting the procurement.

Guideline 5. A good faith effort shall be made to obtain the required number of proposals or quotations, the Purchaser shall document the attempt made obtaining the proposals. In no event shall the inability to obtain the proposals or quotes be a bar to procurement.

Guideline 6. Except when directed by the Town Board no solicitation of written proposals or quotations shall be required under the following circumstances:

- (a) Acquisition of professional services.
- (b) Emergencies.
- (c) Sole source situation.
- (d) Goods purchased from agencies for the blind or severely handicapped.
- (e) Goods purchased from another government agency.
- (f) Goods purchased from correctional facilities.
- (g) Goods purchased at auction.
- (h) Goods purchased for less than \$250.00.
- (i) Public Works Contract for less than \$500.00.
- (j) Insurance purchase.
- (k) Leases.

Guidelines 7. This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Town Board at its organization meeting or as soon after as is reasonably practicable.

Seconded by Councilmember Lisa M. Driscoll with the vote as follows:

Adopted:	Supervisor	James Eisel Sr.	Aye.
	Councilmember	Matthew J. Taylor	Aye.
	Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
	Councilmember	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
	Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Absent.

RESOLUTION NO. 004 OF THE YEAR 2022.

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

TITLE: STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RETIREMENT RESOLUTION.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Harpersfield hereby establishes the following as standard workdays for Elected and Appointed Officials/Employees for the purposes of determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Retirement System.

This resolution will cover employees currently enrolled in the New York State and Local Retirement System.

Union Highway Department Employees – Full – Time – 8 hours standard work day – 5 days per week.

Transfer Station Employee – Full – Time – 8 hours standard work day – 5 days per week.

Town Supervisor – 5 days per month.

Superintendent of Highways – Full – Time – 8 hours standard work day – 5 days per week.

Town Clerk – Full – Time – 7 hours standard work day – 5 days per week.

Assessor, Chairman – 6.78 days per month.

Assessor – 5.83 days per month.

Councilmember – 1 day per month.

Building Code Enforcement Officer – 8 days per month.

Bookkeeper – 3 days per month.

Justice – 9.40 days per month.

Planning Board Chairman – 4.72 days per month.

Seconded by Councilmember Lisa M. Driscoll with the vote as follows:

Adopted:	Supervisor	James Eisel Sr.	Aye.
	Councilmember	Matthew J. Taylor	Aye.
	Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
	Councilmember	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
	Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Absent.

Supervisor Eisel reported to the Board that he has received the agreement between the Town of Harpersfield and the Delaware County Planning Board for the Town Planning Advisory Service from January 1, to December 31, 2022 in the amount of \$3,500.00.

AGREEMENT NO. 001 FOR THE YEAR 2022.

TITLE: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DELAWARE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD AND THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD FOR THE TOWN PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE.

Councilmember Matthew J. Taylor offered the following agreement and moved its adoption:

An agreement between the Delaware County Planning Board and the Town of Harpersfield as set forth in Article 11-B of the General Municipal Law.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 239-d of the General Municipal Law, Subsection 8, and Resolution No. 102, 1975, as amended, Delaware County Board of Supervisors, the Delaware County Planning Board is authorized to provide planning services to the communities within the County when its services are requested by the municipality, through the Town Planning

Advisory Service Program, and to enter into local planning assistance agreements with communities desiring such services.

WHEREAS, this community hereby requests the Delaware County Planning Board to provide planning services to this community's Planning Board and agrees to appropriate municipal funds for the purposes of the Town Planning Advisory Service for the year January 1, through December 31, 2022, as follows:

- I. The total cost to the community is\$3,500.00
- II. For the purpose of providing these funds to carry out the provisions of this AGREEMENT, IT IS AGREED that the community will pay to the Delaware County Planning Board the sum of \$3,500.00.

Seconded by Councilmember Patrick F. Funk with the vote as follows:

Adopted:	Supervisor	James Eisel Sr.	Aye.
	Councilmember	Matthew J. Taylor	Aye.
	Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
	Councilmember	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
	Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Absent.

Supervisor Eisel asked if the Board had received the minutes for the regular meeting held on December 12, 2021? The Board has received the minutes. Supervisor Eisel asked the Board if they had any questions, comments, or corrections to be made to the minutes? The Board had no questions, comments or corrections to be made to the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes for the regular meeting held on December 12, 2021 as presented was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Matthew J. Taylor. All voting Aye.

Linda E. Goss reported to the Board that the 2022 Training School and Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns of the State of New York will be held virtually on February 20-23, 2022.

Supervisor Eisel updated the Board on Austin Road and Wood Road. Mr. Little fell and hurt his knee. He has been operated on and will be laid up for six to seven weeks. He has called in his Deputy Dale Downin. Mr. Downin has also fallen and torn his meniscus. They are both out of service. Three property owners have been issued violation tickets and have been brought to court. There has been quite a bit of cleaning up going on. Gloria Anderson added that the two property owners on Austin Road have been cleaning up. The property owner on Wood and Austin Road has just moved the junk around the property but it is all still there. They have not been cleaning up. Councilmember Taylor asked that the property owners have been served and have been brought to court? Supervisor Eisel answered yes, and the judge has put in place a control date for the violations to be addressed and the property owners are to return to court by the end of the month to see how much they have progressed. Councilmember Taylor asked

how will this move forward? The judge won't be able to see what progress is going on because both Mr. Little and Mr. Downin are incapacitated. Supervisor Eisel continued that we may need to take a ride out there. Councilmember Funk added and take some pictures to bring to court. The discussion continued. Supervisor Eisel informed the Board that he will talk to Mr. Little about the situation. Councilmember Taylor added and see if he can take pictures and be in court or should the Board go out and take pictures and be in court. Councilmember Taylor does not want to see this issue slip through the cracks and have to go on for another month. We have been waiting a long time to get this done. The discussion continued.

Supervisor Eisel informed the Board that he has received a check for State Aid (AIM) in the amount of \$7,090.00.

Supervisor Eisel reported to the Board that has received a check from CHIP's in the amount of \$178,655.65. Councilmember Driscoll asked what is CHIP's? Russell Hatch answered that is the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program. It is State funds that we receive to repair Highways.

Supervisor Eisel informed the Board that the Town has received the annual Agreement between the Town and the Jefferson Fire District North Harpersfield Fire Protection District.

AGREEMENT NO. 02 OF THE YEAR 2022

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

TITLE: CONTRACT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD AND THE JEFFERSON FIRE DISTRICT NORTH HARPERSFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 1st day of January 2022, by and between the TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD, Delaware County, State of New York, party of the first part, and JEFFERSON FIRE DISTRICT of the Town of Jefferson, Schoharie County, State of New York, party of the second part, WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the NORTH HARPERSFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT has been duly established in the Town of Harpersfield on the 29th day of December, 1954; and

WHEREAS, the party of the second part is the owner of motorized fire fighting equipment and maintains an organized Fire Department, and is willing to operate said equipment and provide firemen for the extinguishment of fires in the territory within the above mentioned Fire Protection District together with General Ambulance Service.

NOW, THEREFORE, the said party of the first part does engage the said party of the second part to furnish Fire Protection and General Ambulance Service to the said NORTH HARPERSFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT and the party of the second part agrees to furnish such protection and service in the following manner:

1. The Fire Department of the said party of the second part shall at all times during the period of this agreement be subject to call for attendance upon any fire or general ambulance service occurring in said district, and when notified by alarm or telephone call from any person within the District of a fire or general ambulance call within the District, such Department shall respond as promptly as possible except when the firemen and equipment are attending a fire or providing ambulance service in the Jefferson Fire District and attend upon the fire with suitable ladders, pumping and hose apparatus of the party of the second part. Upon arriving at the scene of the fire, the firemen of the party of the second part attending shall diligently and in every way reasonable suggested to the extinguishment of the fire and the saving of life and property in connection therewith.
2. In consideration of furnishing aid and the use of its apparatus as aforesaid, the party of the second part shall receive from the party of the first part the sum of Forty-three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$43,500.00); such sum shall be assessed and levied upon the taxable property within the District known as the North Harpersfield Fire Protection District.
3. The party of the second part undertakes and agrees to maintain public liability insurance in the amount of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) for property damage and Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) for personal injuries arising from the operation of said equipment within said District or in going to and returning from said Fire District.
4. It is understood and agreed that the party of the second part shall secure necessary insurance to insure the party of the first part against liability imposed against it by provisions of Section 290 of the General Municipal Law.
5. Said party of the first part will pay all legal fees and other expenses in connection with the operation of the said North Harpersfield Fire Protection District.
6. The party of the first part warrants that it is insured under a general policy of self-insurance held by the County of Delaware which covers all claims authorized by law for medical expenses, loss of wages, compensation benefits or other claims arising by reason of injury or death to a fireman or member of the Fire Department, Emergency Squad, Fire Police Squad, or Fire Patrol sustained while answering, attending upon or returning from any such call, and in the case the said party of the second part shall be compelled or required to pay such claim, the party of the first part shall reimburse the party of the second part for the amount paid within thirty (30) days after making such payment.
7. All monies to be paid under any provision of this agreement shall be a charge upon the North Harpersfield Fire Protection District, to be assessed or levied upon the taxable property of said District and collected with the Town Taxes.
8. The period of this agreement shall be for one year from the date hereof, until the 31st day of December 2022 and shall continue on unless otherwise terminated at the end of any of the above periods by giving written notice thirty (30) days prior to the end of any

period. Notices shall be served personally or by certified mail upon the Clerk of the Town of Harpersfield or upon any member of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the party of the second part.

Seconded by Councilmember Matthew J. Taylor with the vote as follows:

Adopted:	Supervisor	James Eisel Sr.	Aye.
	Councilmember	Matthew J. Taylor	Aye.
	Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
	Councilmember	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
	Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Absent.

Supervisor Eisel reported to the Board that he has called and asked the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation since it is going to be another year until the Highway Department can purchase a new dump truck and are currently in need of a front end loader could the grant funds be used to purchase a front end loader. The Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation agreed that the grant funds can be used to purchase a front end loader. The Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation has already sent the Town \$100,000.00. Supervisor Eisel is waiting for a confirmation letter from the Robinson-Boardhurst Foundation stating that the grant funds can be used to purchase a front-end loader. As soon as Supervisor Eisel receives the letter from the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation he will notify Russell Hatch. The Town has received a total of \$200,000.00 to purchase a front end loader. Russell Hatch informed the Board that the front end loader he will be replacing is a 1992 with approximately 12,000 hours on it. The Town currently owns two front end loaders. The other front end loader is a 2009. Councilmember Taylor asked Mr. Hatch how much the 1992 front end loader is worth? Russell answered he is going to ask John Deere what they would give the Town in trade. Equipment that is being sold on the auction sites is worth between \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Front end loaders sometimes do well but this is an old machine with a lot of hours on it. He is not sure how it will do. Supervisor Eisel added that this front end loader will be on the State bid which is \$209,500.00. Russell continued that if the Town Board feels that the trade in amount is too low he can put it on an auction site to see if we can get more for it. Councilmember Funk added that we can always put a reserve on it. The discussion continued. Russell informed the Board that the new front end loader is three months out. Russell will report back to the Board on the progress of this purchase at their next meeting.

Russell informed the Board that he has purchased a used dump box for \$5,000.00. He needed both a new dump box and a used dump box. The new dump box was ordered back in July. The used dump box is located in Pennsylvania and is a pretty nice box. The new dump box is supposed to be delivered in February. He is hoping to get the used dump box back here either tomorrow or Friday. Then they can get that other truck up and running. Councilmember Driscoll asked Russell how much the new dump box cost? Russell answered \$24,000.00.

Councilmember Taylor asked Russell which piece of equipment are you going to put the new dump box on or did he order it for the new truck? Russell answered that he has two bad boxes on the equipment that the Town already owns. He is just replacing them. Linda Goss asked Russell what happens to the old dump boxes? Are they sold as surplus or scrap? Russell answered they are sold as scrap. They will be put up back and loaded up with other scrap to be taken to the crushers. Russell is waiting for the price of scrap to go up. Then they will take it to the crushers.

Councilmember Taylor updated the Board on the Not For Profit ambulance. Councilmember Taylor has talked to Donald VanEtten, Director of the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation. Because of the Holidays Mr. VanEtten has had a hard time getting in touch with the lawyer. He has spoken to him a couple of times. They have four people who have agreed to be on the Board of Directors. This will be a seven person Board. They are waiting on call backs from the other three people. Once they have the seven people on the Board of Directors the process will begin. The lawyer will assist them with the by-laws. Mr. VanEtten is encouraged with the progress that has happened over the last couple of weeks. Councilmember Taylor asked Supervisor Eisel if he has heard from the Town Attorney? Supervisor Eisel answered yes. As the Board knows the three Towns will each be contributing \$100,000.00. Supervisor Eisel has asked Kevin Young with the variables such as some Towns are larger, some have more parcels, all have different equalization rates, could he work out a formula to see how the Towns can afford this expense and what it would really cost for each Town. Mr. Young has agreed to try to work this out. Supervisor Eisel thought that he would hear from him today but did not. Russell asked so how does this work for the people in the Town that are in other fire & ambulance districts? The tax payers have to pay the Jefferson Fire District which covers fire & ambulance service for the people who are located in that fire district. Councilmember Funk answered this will not go by fire district it will go by the Town. Russell asked so that when we pay Jefferson Fire District does this cover ambulance service or just fire service? Linda Goss answered that the way it was explained to her that everyone will keep their current fire district and there will be an extra line on the tax bill for the Town's ambulance service. Since Jefferson has an active ambulance service in their fire district people in that district will be covered by both ambulance services. Councilmember Driscoll asked so for \$100,000.00 what is the increase on the taxes and when will this go into effect? Supervisor Eisel answered that is what we are currently trying to work out with Kevin Young. Councilmember Taylor added and that this will not go into effect until next year. Councilmember Funk asked will the voters have to vote to approve the additional cost to the taxes? Supervisor Eisel answered no it will be up to the Town Board to approve or disapprove this additional cost to the budget. The discussion continued. Supervisor Eisel will check with Kevin Young to see if this is a mandatory referendum item or not. He does not think so. Councilmember Funk added that if each Town has to raise taxes by \$100,000.00 that is a 10% increase to the budget. The discussion continued. Councilmember Driscoll asked is there a plan of trying to get the word out to people in the community to inform them of this problem and the solution to the problem so that it is not a surprise when they get their tax bill?

If you see a raise of 10% on your tax bill tax payers are going to hit the ceiling if it is a surprise. Russell added that the fire department has it on that community television station all of the time. Councilmember Taylor continued that until there is a Board of Directors for this project everyone is waiting. They want to be confident that this is going to move forward. The discussion continued. Russell asked Elizabeth Page isn't there an article just about every week put into the newspaper? Elizabeth Page answered that there have been several articles put into the newspaper. There is a committee that is attempting to put out facts and figures for the public. For example some ambulance calls they have to go through twenty three agencies to get a response. In some cases they do not get a response. Hopefully the public understands why this project is necessary. Councilmember Driscoll added it is something to think about. Gloria Anderson asked she is in the Jefferson Fire District so if no one answers Jefferson's call this one will? Russell answered that is what they said. Elizabeth Page added it depends on how it is set up. Mrs. Anderson continued then we will be paying double. Laurie Bedford agreed. The discussion continued. Russell Hatch asked is there any way to get Robinson Terrace to do something? They are how many of these ambulance calls? Councilmember Taylor answered that he thought that they were about 350 calls out of 550 calls approximately last year. Councilmember Taylor continued that he is unaware of anything that can be done about getting Robinson Terrace to do something about this situation. The discussion continued. Supervisor Eisel added that once we have this Board and an administrator maybe they can approach Robinson Terrace. The discussion continued. Councilmember Funk added that since this is going to be a not for profit entity and the Towns are only going to be contributing a set amount maybe then the administrator can speak to Robinson Terrace about give them funding toward the ambulance. Supervisor Eisel reminded everyone that with COVID funds the County is putting into service two ambulances and a fly car. This should be happening soon. February or early March. Councilmember Taylor added that this problem is nationwide not just here. Elizabeth Page added and then when you get to the hospital you wait up to two hours to get into the emergency room. Supervisor Eisel added that it is a shame that the State does not step in and really do this. It should not be left up to local governments to do this. They are not going to move on it. It is something we have to do for our community. It is a tremendous expense. That is why we have limited it to a not to exceed amount from each Town. There was an estimate at the County that the two ambulances and fly car will cost about 1.9 million dollars per year. They are anticipating \$800,000.00 to \$900,000.00 in return revenue. Supervisor Eisel is grateful to the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation who are willing to support this entity and get it up and running. Many Towns do not have this kind of support.

Laurie Bedford reported to the Board that the new telephone line has been installed and is working fine. She can check the calls that come in from her home phone. Her new computer and printer are working well also. She is still waiting for the docking station. A discussion was had about installing a Microsoft word program for all of the departments to use. Laurie also informed the Board that she has sent out Agriculture Exemption renewal forms this year. This exemption is supposed to be renewed every year. The discussion continued.

Dean Darling gave his end of the year report for 2021 to the Board. The Planning Board processed one subdivision. There were no site plan reviews processed. There was one boundary line adjustment processed. There are two subdivisions and one boundary line adjustment that are continuing items in 2022. The Planning Board has had a number of inquiries from property owners that have purchased property years ago that want to subdivide and build on the parcels that have no road frontage on a public road. Some of these parcels are landlocked with just a right of way. In the Subdivision Regulations property must have access to a public road. The Planning Board is having difficulty working out how a property owner can do a subdivision with no access to a public road. A discussion was had. It was determined that the Planning Board will have to work with each property owner to figure this out on a case by case basis.

Councilmember Funk asked Mr. Darling where is the Planning Board at with the Little League Complex? Mr. Darling answered that the Planning Board has not been approached with this project. A discussion was had.

Councilmember Funk asked if the rate of pay has been determined for when the Town of Harpersfield's Highway employees work at the Transfer Station? Supervisor Eisel answered that the Transfer Station has been paying them all along. Councilmember Funk and Driscoll disagreed as just the hourly rate is being paid. The Town is paying for their benefits which should be included in the cost to the Transfer Station. Russell Hatch added that for a FEMA event, the County for plowing snow or any State event the highway employees are paid a base rate plus 58% of the wage to cover their benefit package. The discussion continued. Councilmember Taylor asked as of last month there was a question if the Town Highway was reimbursed for the Highway employee's time when they did repairs on the backhoe and skid steer? Supervisor Eisel and Russell answered yes they were paid on a time card. This amount was not vouchered. There was also a question about the last voucher from the Transfer Station to the Highway Department when the Highway employees finished the retaining wall. The voucher contained materials and machine time. It did not include man hours. Supervisor Eisel and Russell answered they were paid on a time card.

Councilmember Driscoll asked how do we tell the public when the Transfer Station is going to be closed? Can we get a sign that can be hung or posted on the chain link fence informing the public when the Transfer Station is going to be closed? Supervisor Eisel answered that we are waiting on some signs that are being made at the County. We tell as many people as we can. Councilmember Driscoll continued that there should be something simple to tell the public that the Transfer Station is close for example on January 1st. Russell added that it should be posted a week before. Councilmember Driscoll added that Facebook should not be how we tell people that the Transfer Station is closed. The discussion continued.

Councilmember Taylor reminded that Board it is not our Transfer Station. It is a whole separate entity. Supervisor Eisel agreed that it is a Tri-Town Transfer Station but it is run by the Town of Harpersfield. Councilmember Taylor asked Supervisor Eisel what do we get out of it?

That is one of my arguments. Supervisor Eisel answered that it has always been that way. Councilmember Taylor continued it doesn't make it right. Supervisor Eisel answered no but we have to change it. Councilmember Taylor added that we have Highway employees that are tired of being sent over to the Transfer Station constantly when the other two Towns send nobody. That is not right either.

Councilmember Funk informed the Board that he was over at the Transfer Station as Bloomville Disposal was there dumping. What they were dumping was full of recyclables. Councilmember Funk asked the Transfer Station Attendant if they were making an effort to separate the garbage from the recyclables? The Transfer Station Attendant answered no none. Supervisor Eisel asked if we had received the handouts from the County? A discussion was had. Councilmember Funk continued that people know about recycling. The owner of Bloomville Disposal knows about recycling. The employees of Bloomville Disposal know about recycling. They know how stuff needs to be separated and they are not doing it. If they are not going to separate the recyclables from the trash then they need to be taking it to the landfill and not bring it to the Transfer Station. That is a paid business. The discussion continued. Supervisor Eisel continued that he will talk to the owner of Bloomville Disposal. That is why he wanted to get these updated how to recycling sheets. Then the drivers could hand them out to their customers to remind them to recycle.

Councilmember Driscoll asked Supervisor Eisel where are we with the sign for the dates that the Transfer Station is closed? The discussion continued.

Linda E. Goss informed the Board that she has received the Warrant to collect taxes on December 28, 2022. The full amount to be collected is \$2,303,491.28. The amount of taxes collected between December 31, 2021 to January 11, 2022 is \$293,070.06.

Linda E. Goss reported to the Board that she did not have her December Town Clerk report completed. She will have it for the Board at their next meeting.

The abstracts and vouchers for the month of December were presented to the Board. Presented were General Claims #286 to #310 in the amount of \$16,790.46; Highway Claims #164 to #177 in the amount of \$8,533.20 and Transfer Station Claims #066 to #074 in the amount of \$3,331.03. A motion to pay the vouchers as presented was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

The Supervisor's report for the month of November 2021 was issued to the Board.

At 8:37 PM a motion to go into executive session for Union negotiations was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Matthew J. Taylor. All voting Aye.

At 8:40 a motion to come out of executive session was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye. No action was taken in executive session.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Linda E. Goss

Town Clerk