

**Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting
Budget Meeting
October 23, 2024**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on October 23, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall for the budget meeting.

PRESENT:

- Jay Skellie..... Supervisor
- Travis Rea..... Councilman
- Tim Grogan..... Councilman
- Jennifer VanDeWater..... Councilwoman
- Molly Dixson..... Town Clerk
- Donna Nolan..... Budget Officer

Also present: Planning Board Chair Kelly Donahue and Assessor Christine Matatt

Absent: Councilwoman Carol Rich and Highway Superintendent Sean Carney

7:33 PM PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2024

Supervisor Skellie opened the hearing for Local Law #3 of 2024, a law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied pursuant to General Municipal Law section 3-c and to allow the Town Board to adopt a town budget for Town purposes for the fiscal year 2025 which requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit”. There being no comments from the public, Supervisor Skellie closed the hearing at 7:34 pm.

7:35 PM OPEN REGULAR MEETING

Amendment to Jackson Solar 1, LLC Escrow Agreement – Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C., the engineering firm contracted for site inspection engineering services for the proposed Jackson Solar 1, LLC project, has notified the Town that additional funds are required to be added into the escrow fund by the project applicant for payment of additional engineering reviews as the project proceeds. They have provided an amendment to the Town to request the additional funds be added to the account.

RESOLUTION #100-24

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve Supervisor Skellie to sign Amendment No. 1 to the Escrow Agreement dated December 15, 2022 between the Town of Jackson and Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. for site inspection engineering services for the Jackson Solar 1, LLC project, for the purpose of requesting additional funds be added to the Escrow Account by the Project Sponsor.**

FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps – FEMA has opened up the 90-day appeal process period for preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study Reports for all towns in Washington County. The process began October 22nd, 2024 and will conclude on January 20th, 2024. FEMA has published notices in the Federal Register, the Whitehall Times and the Post Star. The Towns of Jackson and Salem will work to put a joint notice in the Eagle for local residents to make comments to each respective Town Board prior to the deadline of the appeal process.

Town Hall Storage Addition – The Board reviewed two quotes from contractors Tom Cassidy and Barry Korb for construction work on the Town Hall storage addition. Supervisor Skellie explained that both quotes have electric work separated out so that will be an additional expense. Tom Cassidy also noted that if his excavator is not able to break the rock ledge, he will have to hire out for this which will also be an additional expense. The full quote from Korb Land Improvement LLC is \$154,760.00. The quote from Tom Cassidy General Contracting is \$79,437.00. The Board considered the two quotes, which will be paid by ARPA funds the Town currently has.

RESOLUTION #101-24

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 4-0, **to approve the lower quote of \$79,437.00 from Tom Cassidy General Contracting and hire him to complete construction work on the Town Hall storage addition with the Town’s ARPA allocations.**

Preliminary Budget Discussion:

Supervisor Skellie opened the discussion on the preliminary 2025 Jackson Town Budget. The preliminary budget summary sits at \$81,662.84 over last years, but with an additional 8% increase requested by the Shushan Fire Department (10% over last years), the budget is currently \$86,511 over the 2024 budget for a 10.90% increase. The difference between the allowable 2% tax cap increase of \$15,828.00 over last years and the current requested budget is \$70,684.00, requiring substantial cuts be made.

The Town Board reviewed the budget line item by line item on each page, as lead by Budget Officer Donna Nolan. They discussed the following items:

- There were no changes to made to the Town Board, Supervisor, Auditing or Tax Collection lines on page 1.
- Justices Personal Services for Town Justice was bumped from 0% to a 2.5% increase over last years for a total of \$8,025.75. Personal Services for Court Clerk was increased 2.5% to \$3,372.00.
- Budget Officer Personal Services was increased 2%.
- Assessors Personal Services was changed from 50% increase for Chair and 60% increase for Assessors (2) down to 2.5% for both, coming to \$8,200 (Ch) and \$5,125 each (2 Assessors).
- On the 2nd page, Town Clerk Personal Services was lowered from 8% to 2.5% totaling \$20,550. Contractual Expense was lowered from \$2,200 to \$1,200.
- Attorney was kept at \$5,000.
- Buildings and Contingent were kept the same at \$20,000 each.

- No changes on Control of Dogs, Examining Boards, Registrar of Vital Statistics and Other Public Health on page 3. Ambulance was increased by \$2,000, totaling \$5,000.
- Supt. of Highways Personal Services was lowered from \$70,000 to \$60,270 (a 2.5% increase over last year).
- Veterans Services stayed the same at \$200.
- For Culture – Recreation on page 5, Youth, Library and Adult Recreation were all increased by \$100 each. Historian was kept at \$125.
- Planning Contractual Expense was increased by \$3,000.
- Refuse & Garbage was kept at \$1,000.
- On page 6, Employee Benefits in State Retirement and Social Security are increased with Hospital and Medical Ins. decreased by \$5,000. Social Security amount will go down with salary decreases.
- On page 7, General Fund Revenues for interest and earning was increased by \$500.
- On page 8, Personal Services for General Repairs, Bridges, Machinery, Miscellaneous (Brush & Weeds) and Snow Removal (Town Highways) was increased by \$1,000 each and \$1,000 each for Contractual Expense.
- Contingent remained the same at \$30,000.
- Employee Benefits in Highway Appropriations increased slightly for State Retirement, Social Security and Hospital and Medical Insurance.
- Highway Revenues were reviewed on page 10.
- Fire Protection for Cambridge, Salem and Shushan Depts were put at 5% increases each with 1.5% for Easton.
- The 2025 Proposed Budget amount was lowered to \$809,252.00, \$2,046.00 over the allowable 2% tax cap.

RESOLUTION #102-24

VOTE ON LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2024 – Override the Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0 by roll call vote, **to adopt Local Law #3 of 2024 effective immediately upon filing with the Department of State.**

Councilwoman VanDeWater – Aye
 Supervisor Skellie – Aye
 Councilman Grogan - Aye
 Councilman Rea – Aye

RESOLUTION #103-24

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 4-0, **to set the date for the public hearing on the 2025 Preliminary Budget to November 6, 2024 at 7:30 pm.**

RESOLUTION #104-24

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 4-0, **to set the salaries for all elected officials as discussed at this budget meeting, to be posted in The Eagle along with the notice for the budget hearing.**

RESOLUTION #105-24

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-0, **to adjourn at approximately 8:44 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Molly Dixson, Town Clerk