

**Town of Jackson Town Board Meeting
January 8, 2025**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson met on January 8, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the Town Hall for the annual organizational meeting.

PRESENT:

- Jay Skellie..... Supervisor
- Travis Rea..... Councilman
- Carol Rich..... Councilwoman [entered at 1:10 pm]
- Jennifer VanDeWater..... Councilwoman
- Tim Grogan..... Councilman
- Molly Dixson..... Town Clerk
- Donna Nolan..... Budget Officer

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

[Carol Rich entered at 1:10 pm before the reading of the reports.]

RESOLUTION #1-25

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, to **approve the Town Clerk & Supervisor Reports for December 2024 as follows:**

Town Clerk Fees to Town	\$129.74
Supervisor Receipts	\$753,858.32
Supervisor Disbursements	\$743,913.62

REPORTS

Planning Board – Chair Kelly Donahue reported on Tuesday’s Planning Board Meeting:

- The first Planning Board meeting of the year was last night. Erik Vandenberg’s term as Planning Board member expired at the end of 2024 so there is currently an open seat on the Board. Erik still plans to follow through with the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan.
- A draft battery energy storage system law has been prepared. Concerns have arisen during the process of drafting the law in relation to the safety and environmental impacts these facilities may have within the Town of Jackson. Due to these concerns, the Planning Board is in agreement that drafting a commercial battery energy storage prohibition law is the best direction to protect the health, safety and welfare of the Town. Other towns within NYS have chosen to go this route as well.
- Barton and Loguidice has reported on site inspection deficiencies for construction of the Jackson Solar 1, LLC project. The Planning Board is working to get a letter out to contractors with a deadline of when deficiencies need to be corrected by.

- A subdivision sketch plan was on the agenda for a property on Lake Lauderdale that has attempted to subdivide before but was not successful. The Planning Board will most likely reconvene on the issue at the February regular meeting.
- The Planning Board requests the Town Board renew the Utility Scale Solar, Wind and Alternative Energy Moratorium for another 6 months at the February regular Town Board meeting.

RESOLUTION #2-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to move forward with drafting a commercial battery energy storage system prohibition law on recommendation from the Town Planning Board.**

Highway – Superintendent Carney was present to report on the department’s activities over the month of December. Uniform services will change over in 5 weeks. The switch from services does not require a contract. Leslie Matteson is still in the hospital and the Dept. is still looking for help. The Highway Barn currently has a backed-up septic and they are working to resolve that.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #3-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the following appointments for the year 2025:**

- Deputy Supervisor Travis Rea
- Deputy Town Clerk/Collector/ Registrar Victoria Ruggles
- Deputy Highway Supt. Dan Carney
- Chairman of Assessors Christine Matatt
- Chairman of Planning Board Kelly Donahue
- Planning Board Clerk Molly Dixson
- Chairman Bd. Of Review John Gilbert
- Budget Officer to Supervisor Donna Nolan
- Court Clerk Alexis Knouse
- Registrar of Vital Statistics / Records Management Officer Molly Dixson
- Town Historian Carol Mallory
- Dog Warden Animal Safe Rehabilitation, LLC
- Attorney for Town David Klingebiel
- Health Officer / Wetlands/FEMA Administrator Jay B. Skellie
- Health Board Town Board
- FOIL Appeals Officer Town Board
- Audit Committee – Town Clerk-Tax Co. Carol Rich & Jennifer VanDeWater

RESOLUTION #4-25

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **that the bank depository for the Supervisor, Justice and Town Clerk-Tax Collector accounts will be the Greenwich Branch of Arrow National Bank & Trust.**

RESOLUTION #5-25

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **giving the Highway Superintendent permission to spend up to \$5,000 maximum per month or \$2,000 per item without permission of the Town Board.**

RESOLUTION #6-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **giving the Supervisor permission to invest Town money in interest bearing accounts.**

RESOLUTION #7-25

A motion by Councilwoman Rich, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **selecting the *Eagle Press* as the official newspaper of the Town of Jackson.**

RESOLUTION #8-25

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **establishing mileage reimbursement at \$.45/mile.**

RESOLUTION #9-25

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **giving the Town Supervisor permission to pay certain monthly bills in advance of the regular monthly meetings if the due date is too close to the meeting date, thus making the payment late (i.e. phone bill, internet, electric).**

RESOLUTION #10-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to appoint Councilman Rea and Grogan to audit the Court accounts.**

RESOLUTION #11-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to appoint Councilwoman Rich and Councilwoman VanDeWater to audit the Town Clerk-Tax Collector accounts.**

Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad Board Appointment - Councilwoman VanDeWater advised the Board that CVRS Chief Mark Spezio has approached her about joining the CVRS Board. She will mostly likely be joining at the Board meeting tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

Assessor Position Discussion – Supervisor Skellie advised the Board that there are three choices that the Town can move forward with for the current Assessor situation. The Board can either appoint a third person to fill the vacant seat on the Assessor Board until the next election or schedule a public hearing for a Local Law that would change the structure from an elected board to a single appointed assessor. The third option is to transition to a single elected assessor.

Given that the two current Assessors lack the necessary training required for either a single appointed or elected assessor, the Board would consider Roberta Stone for appointment if they choose that path. All Board members concurred that a single appointed assessor could manage the responsibilities of the position more efficiently than three individuals delegating tasks.

RESOLUTION #12-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to set the date for the public hearing on Local Law #1 of 2025, a Law for the Conversion from Three (3) Elected Assessors to One (1) Appointed Assessor with the Town of Jackson, to Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 at 1:00 pm.**

2:25 PM

RESOLUTION #13-25

A motion by Councilman Rea, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to move into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective negotiations pursuant to Article Fourteen of the Civil Service Law.**

2:53 PM

RESOLUTION #14-25

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to close the Executive Session.**

RESOLUTION #15-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 4-1 with Supervisor Skellie voting against, **to increase the Highway Crews’s payroll by \$1 an hour effective for payroll beginning January 5th, 2025.**

Supervisors Report – There was no Supervisor’s Report for the month.

RESOLUTION #16-25

A motion by Councilwoman VanDeWater, seconded by Councilman Grogan; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the following budget transfer:**

- Move \$11,000 from excess Highway funds to the Compensated Absences fund.

RESOLUTION #17-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, **to approve the payment of the following bills as audited on January 8, 2025, Abstract #1 and authorized the Supervisor to pay said bills from the respective funds:**

FUND	BILL #	AMOUNT
General	1-5	\$2,557.43
Highway	1-13	\$8,435.43

RESOLUTION #18-25

A motion by Councilman Grogan, seconded by Councilwoman VanDeWater; Resolution passed 5-0, **to adjourn at approximately 3:05 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Dixson, Town Clerk