

The regular meeting of the Oswegatchie Town Board was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Alfred Nichols with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Present: Councilwoman Lillian LaRose  
 Councilman Mike Stoner  
 Councilman Ken Wilson  
 Councilman Bruce LaRose
- Others: Karl Cougler, Highway Superintendent  
 Tim Tuttle, Crematory (left at 8:30pm)  
 Bill Dashnaw, Budget officer

**RESOLUTION 130-2023**

**SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

On a motion by Bruce LaRose, seconded by Lillian LaRose, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to approve the September minutes as submitted.

Heuvelton Village Mayor, Barb Lashua, asked if the Town Hall could be open during the downtown Holiday celebration December 1, 2023. A few organizations would like to serve hot chocolate, baked goods, etc. during the event. Discussion regarding all office areas and court room must be locked up and someone with a key/access must be available to open and close building.

**RESOLUTION 131-023**

**VILLAGE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to authorize use of the Town Hall for Village Holiday Celebration December 1, 2023.

**RESOLUTION 132-2023 PUBLIC HEARING – MORATORIUM – BATTERY STORAGE**

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Lillian LaRose, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes - All

RESOLVED that a Public Hearing will be held on Local Law #2 for 2023, Adopting a Moratorium on Certain Solar Energy Uses.

**Crematory/Mausoleum Report**

Report presented. Would like to hire a part-time crematory operator/groundskeeper. It was suggested that any new crematory/mausoleum employees must pass a physical prior to employment due to job description. Repair to the damaged retort needs to be completed as soon as possible. Waiting on Matthews to come through with some warranty work once again. Viewed the proposed work on the paving by Tisdal’s to be completed in the spring of 2024. Waiting on quote for glass niches before moving forward with bidding process. Discussion held.

**RESOLUTION 133-2023**

**PT CREMATORY OPERATOR & PHYSICAL**

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Bruce LaRose, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to hire Tim Kelly as part-time crematory operator/groundskeeper once new hire physical is complete at \$17 an hour.

**RESOLUTION 134-2023**

**ACCEPT CREMATORY REPORT**

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Bruce LaRose, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to accept the crematory report as presented.

**RESOLUTION 135-2023**

**DOG POUND REQUEST/TABLED**

On a motion by Bruce LaRose, seconded by Ken Wilson, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to once again table the request for money for dog pound upgrades by Dan Moyer

Received a proposal from the Village of Heuvelton for the Heuvelton Volunteer Fire Department three-year contract. Proposal is asking for 3% increase each year for three years. Much discussion held.

**RESOLUTION 136-2023**

**HVFD THREE-YEAR CONTRACT**

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Bruce LaRose, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to counter offer with 2% increase each year for three years with agreement that contract is null and void if department becomes a fire district.

**Code Enforcement Report- ABSENT**

Report provided. New code software will need to be purchased in 2024. Discussion held.

**RESOLUTION 137-2023**

**ACCEPT CODE REPORT**

On a motion by Mike Stoner, seconded by Ken Wilson, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to accept Code report as presented.

**Highway Superintendent Report**

Summer work is complete. Getting ready for winter. Short an MEO due to disability. Would like to move forward with setting up a reserve for another plow truck that will take approximately two years. Also need a new mower very soon. Board councilmember, Lillian LaRose, asked if anything could be done with the corner at Mary Lou Johnson’s place on the Taylor Rd and Horseshoe Rd. Someone apparently missed the sharp corner and went through her yard. Discussion had.

**RESOLUTION 138-2023**

**PURCHASE JOHN DEERE UTILITY TRACTOR**

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to authorize the purchase of a new John Deere 5120M Utility Tractor for the Highway Department, estimated at \$81,000.

**RESOLUTION 139-2023**

**PURCHASE DUMP/PLOW TRUCK**

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Bruce LaRose, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to authorize the purchase of a new Tandem Dump/Plow Truck for the Highway Department.

**RESOLUTION 140-2023**

**ACCEPT HIGHWAY REPORT**

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to accept Highway report.

**Supervisor Report**

Provided financial reports. Nothing to report at this time.

**Budget/Grant Officer**

Reviewed budget with Board members. Need to move forward with a fund balance plan as previously suggested. Still a major issue concerning the water chestnuts in the Oswegatchie River. Projected to take several years to suppress, estimated at \$50,000 per year. Applying for more grants. Much discussion held.

**RESOLUTION 141-2023**

**ADOPT PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

On a motion by Lillian LaRose, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED that the 2024 Tentative Budget be adopted as the 2024 Preliminary Budget with the following elected official’s salaries:

Town Supervisor	\$14,700
Town Councilmen	4,000 (each)
Highway Superintendent	71,500
Town Clerk	40,160
Town Justice	16,250 (Cougler-Bouchey)
Town Justice	16,250 (Denner)

**RESOLUTION 142-2023**

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 BUDGET**

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes - All

RESOLVED that a Public Hearing will be held on the 2024 Preliminary Budget at 6:00 pm on November 20, 2023 at the Town Hall, Heuvelton, NY.

**RESOLUTION 143-2023**

**BUDGET MODIFICATIONS**

On a motion by Lillian LaRose, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED –  
Vote – Yes - All

RESOLVED to approve the following Budget Modifications:

- \$7,659.75 increase 1301.01 (*Bookkeeper PS*) decrease 11101.01 (*Justice PS*)
- \$196,318.46 increase 41894.01 (*Brownfield CE*) decrease 230.01 (*Collins Remediation*)

**RESOLUTION 144-2023**

**BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT**

On a motion by Mike Stoner, seconded by Ken Wilson, the following resolution was ADOPTED -  
Vote – Yes - All

RESOLVED that the following bills were approved and presented to the Supervisor for payment.

Warrant #10 Vouchers numbered 1-31	General Fund	\$420,764.63
	Highway Townwide	84,936.68
	Highway Outside	40,483.52
	Memorial Park	5,166.98
	Trust & Agency	21,628.49

Other Disbursements: \$0

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm

Vicki Thornhill, Town Clerk