

139) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, September 10, 2020 **DRAFT**

140) A regular board meeting of the Town of Piercefield was held on September 10, 2020 at 7:30 PM at the Piercefield Town Hall with the following members present:

Supervisor Neil Pickering
Councilmember Gina Sarazen
Councilmember Larry Boeye
Councilmember John Lewis
Councilmember Amy Lalonde

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk Donald Mauer, Highway Superintendent Jay Rust, Warren Pt. residents Jennifer and Jim Dwyer, Mt. Arab/Eagle Crag residents Lee Merrill, Katherine and Paul Rouvell.

141) Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Neil Pickering.

142) Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Councilmember Amy Lalonde, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, the minutes of August 13, 2020 as presented by the Town Clerk be approved: AYES: Supervisor Pickering, Councilmembers Sarazen, Boeye, Lewis, Lalonde. NAYS: 0 Approved.

143) Monies Received

General

Transfer Station Fees	\$3,662.50
Fines & Forfeited Bail July	\$190.00
Sales Tax, Q3	\$32,368.78

Highway

Sales Tax, Q3	\$32,368.78
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Privilege of Floor

144) Highway

Water line work is nearly done for the year. Crossover cuts and driveway crossings will be paved. Culverts and pothole work will be started next week on Mt Arab Rd. One worker is out for mandatory quarantine for exposure to a positive Covid-19 case, and another worker is out pending test results. The Board agreed that workers should be paid during quarantine. If tested positive and out for long term, sick time and disability would be considered after 14 day quarantine. Lee Merrill and Katherine and Paul Rouvell expressed concern about the condition of the Mt. Arab and Conifer roads. Conifer Road surfacing is a matter for St. Lawrence County Highway Dept. (Don Chambers, Superintendent, 315-379-1542). Superintendent Rust explained the difficulties with repairing paved roads that don't have a proper base. He has spent time with Jack Bartoszek discussing this in detail. Some discussion ensued regarding cost and funding. There is discussion at the county level about increasing distribution of sales tax monies to towns, but it looks doubtful that anything will be done. People should heavily lobby SLC Legislator Rick Perkins (315-261-8955) for action on this matter. A highway assessment and priorities plan was drawn up a few years ago as a guideline for maintenance and repairs. Ultimately, Superintendent Rust makes the call as to what gets done when. Mr. Merrill requested a copy of the plan, which Town Clerk Don Mauer will email to him. A culvert near the brick building in Conifer will need to be replaced, but the water line runs sideways right through the culvert instead of under it. Traffic will have to be detoured through private property for a couple days while the work is being done. DEC will need to be involved as it is considered a trout stream. A possible way to increase CHIPS funding is to add the old Carriage Road to active status as a Town-maintained road. It is being used more now than in the recent past, and needs repairs.

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On a motion by Councilmember Boeye, seconded by Councilmember Lewis, the following resolution be adopted: AYES: Supervisor Pickering, Councilmembers Lalonde, J. Lewis, Boeye, Sarazen. NAYS: 0 Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO.: 16-09-2020

Dated: September 10, 2020

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OPENING CARRIAGE ROAD FOR SEASONAL USE

WHEREAS, The old Carriage Road was for a time fallen into disuse and overgrown, and

WHEREAS, in recent times it has seen sufficient use by outdoor recreationists to justify repairs and restoration to active status as a Town-maintained roadway, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby declares that the old Carriage Road is open for seasonal use as a Town-maintained road, being closed to vehicular traffic except snowmobiles from November 1 to May 1 each year.

145) Warren Point VRBO

Continued frustration was expressed by Jennifer and Jim Dwyer over the lack of action to curtail activities at the nearby dwelling that is being rented to large parties on a continual basis. Supervisor Pickering assured them that all authorities have been approached on the matter and none will take ownership. Piercefield is not alone in this. Other communities are suffering from the same problem on an even greater scale. Rather than go to the expense of developing a separate plan, we hope to adapt the plan being drawn up for Lake Placid to our situation. One assurance is that the neighboring property owners to the VRBO will have a say in the matter, given that they are the ones most adversely affected. A notice of public hearing will be published when the time comes where all interested persons will be heard.

146) Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) and Assessor Reports

August. Held Assessors' meeting on ZOOM. Was served two small claims and two Article 7's. Held two small claims hearings on ZOOM. Issued one building permit. Took computer to Canton to be upgraded and fixed. An unsafe building has been sold by the bank that owned it. The new owners have been served with a notice to correct within 30 days.

Old Business

147) Transfer Station

Town Clerk Don Mauer will provide rate sheets indicating the new \$4.00 bag fee.

148) Assessment Grievances

Slic Network Solutions is taking Piercefield and all other towns they serve to court over their assessment and property taxes. Also, property owners on Tupper Lake whose property crosses the Franklin County line are contesting their assessment. Tupper Lake has secured a lawyer and supervisor Pickering has asked if he would represent Piercefield as well.

149) Fiberoptic Installation

Chuck Robertson of Adirondack Techs is set to begin installing cable next week in accordance with the Town's resolution last month. Hookups are expected this fall.

New Business

150) Tax Cap Override Resolution

On a motion by Councilmember Lewis, seconded by Supervisor Pickering, the following resolution be adopted: AYES: Supervisor Pickering, Councilmember Lewis NAYS: Councilmembers Lalonde, Boeye, Sarazen DEFEATED.

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RESOLUTION NO.: 17-09-2020

DATED: September 10, 2020

RESOLUTION TO OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C

WHEREAS, in order to meet contractual obligations, bond payments, increase facilities, fund health insurance expenses, fund pension contribution payments, fund the cost of increasing commodities, etc., and

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a resolution approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield, County of St. Lawrence, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2021 on behalf of the Town of Piercefield that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise proscribed in General Municipal Law §3-c, and be it further

RESOLVED, that, should a tax levy limit override be necessary, a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 1-2020, titled, A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c, shall be held on the 8th day of October, 2020 at 7:30pm at the Town hall, where all interested persons shall be heard.

151) Mowing Contract

On a motion by Councilmember Lewis, seconded by Councilmember Boeye, the following resolution be adopted: AYES: Supervisor Pickering, Councilmembers Lalonde, Lewis, Boeye, Sarazen. NAYS: 0 Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-09-2020

DATED: September 10, 2020

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
MOWING CONTRACT WITH THE TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD**

This contract made the 10th day of Sept. 2020 by and between the Town of Piercefield hereinafter called the "Town" and St. Lawrence County Highway Department, hereinafter called the "County".

ARTICLE 1 - SCOPE OF WORK

The Town shall furnish all of the equipment and perform all of the work described in the Project Specifications attached.

ARTICLE 2 - TIME OF COMPLETION

The work to be performed under this contract shall be commenced within ten days after receipt of "Notice to Proceed" and shall be completed by September 15, 2020.

ARTICLE 3 - THE CONTRACT SUM

The County shall pay the Town for performance of the Contract in current funds at the rate of \$266.00 per mile for 2.35 miles equaling Six hundred twenty-five dollars and ten cents (\$625.10) upon completion of the work and submission of a properly certified invoice.

Upon receipt of notice that the work is ready for final inspection and acceptance, the County will promptly make such inspection, and when it finds the work acceptable under the contract and the contract fully performed, it shall promptly approve payment for the entire amount due the Town.

The making and acceptance of the final payment shall constitute a waiver of all claims by the County, except those arising from unsettled liens, from faulty work appearing after payment or from requirements of the specifications, and of all claims by the Town except those previously made and still unsettled.

ARTICLE 4 - INSURANCE

See attached Appendix A

ARTICLE 5 - CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

The Project Specifications together with this agreement form the contract and they are as fully a part of the contract as if hereto or herein repeated.

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152) Councilmember Resignation

Councilmember Boeye announced his resignation from the Town board as he is moving out of the area soon. All Board members expressed their gratitude for his knowledgeable and dedicated service. Town Clerk Don Mauer will advertise for a new person to be appointed to the post and will notify the appropriate county and state offices. The unexpired term will be open for the November 2021 election.

153) Tentative Budget

Supervisor Pickering presented the Tentative Budget for 2021. As the option to exceed the tax cap is off the table and the financial effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are largely unknown, there are very few certainties at this point.

154) Speed Limit

A request for reduced speed from Conifer Road to Dump Road on Rt. 3 is under consideration by DOT. If the average speed is found to be 60mph or less, a reduction is not likely.

155) Payment of Bills

On a motion by Councilmember Lewis, seconded by Councilmember Amy Lalonde, the following payments be approved: AYES: Supervisor Pickering, Councilmembers Sarazen, Boeye, Lewis, Lalonde. NAYS: 0 Approved.

Abstract # 9	General Account: Vouchers # 112-51PW	\$3,801.82
Abstract # 9	Highway Account: Vouchers # 136-145	\$7,443.17

156) Approval of Supervisor and Town Clerk Monthly Reports

On a motion by Councilmember Lewis, seconded by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, the Clerk and Supervisor Monthly Reports for August 2020 be approved: AYES: Supervisor Pickering, Councilmembers Sarazen, Boeye, Lewis, Lalonde. NAYS: 0 Approved.

157) Adjournment

On a motion by Councilmember Amy Lalonde, seconded by Councilmember Lewis, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. Next regular meeting Thursday, October8, 2020 at 7:30pm.

Donald G. Mauer, Town Clerk

Date Approved