

- 186) REGULAR BOARD MEETING, TOWN OF PIERCEFIELD, November 3, 2022,
- 187) A Public Hearing, to discuss the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Piercefield was held on November 3rd 2022 at 7:30 PM at the Piercefield Town Hall with the following members present:  
Acting Supervisor Joe Denis  
Councilmember Gina Sarazen  
Councilmember Carol Dimond  
OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk Christielee Geiger, Deputy Town Clerk Paige Phillips, Dog Control Officer Kimberly Kopp and Local Childwold Snowmobile Club President Criag Harris.

188) Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis.

189) Public Hearing, Preliminary Budget

Preliminary Budget Hearing was closed at 7:31 and the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting begun at 7:32. Noone came to voice any concerns about the Preliminary Budget numbers.

190) Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Councilmember Carol Dimond, seconded by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis the minutes of October 13 as presented by the Town Clerk be approved. AYES: Acting Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Dimond and Sarazen NAYS: 0.

191) Monies Received

General

Sale of Forest Products SLC Stumpage \$605.70

Highway

**Privilege of Floor**

192) Dog Control Officer

Kim Kopp came to introduce herself to the Board as the new Dog Control Officer. (DCO) She has many concerns about receiving the proper training, who to seek for assistance if there is a problem, where to obtain and how does she hand out citations, as well as receiving coverage for the time she'll spend overseas on Military Duty. Acting Supervisor Joe Denis agreed that the Town would be happy to pay for any trainings she needs to take, Kim will look further into them. She also gave a report on the "dog problems" happening locally. She has received a lot of phone calls and has put many miles on chasing down Paul Thomas's dogs, Daisy and Dusty. Paul has been given notice and has licensed both dogs as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. However, the DCO let the Town Clerk know the dogs are not spayed/neutered and adjustments to his license will be made in the 2023 season. The Town Clerk also gave Kim a reimbursement form to track her mileage.

193) Childwold Snopackers

Craig Harris, President of the Childwold Snopackers introduced himself to the Board and expressed his interest as a community member to help wherever aide is needed within the town. Himself, Vice President Ben Geiger and Treasurer Pat McClusky are all a part of the Piercefield Community and want the best for the town, and he explains how crucial the snowmobilers are to the local businesses. He also articulated his appreciation to Highway Superintendent Jay Rust for not only his outstanding job performance as well as his continued open communication with the club. Craig also expressed his appreciation for the quick response from the Board Members on writing the letter in support for St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association to apply for a grant to assist in the building of the Carriage Road Bridge. This benefits not only the snowmobile club but the town, free money towards making the road safer and more accessible in all seasons. Acting Supervisor Joe Denis questioned when the club will hear if the grant was approved or not, Craig will look into it and report back to the Board. One thing he wanted to note, if one trail closes locally, say 'The Carriage Road' Trail, they all close down, thus severely impacting the local businesses that strive in the winter thanks to the snowmobile season.

194) Highway

Highway Superintendent, Jay Rust informed the Board that the Western Star Plow Truck they bid on last year will not be ready until 2024 and will cost the town \$14,000 more than originally budgeted. He looked in to a Freightliner VS the Western Star in hopes we could receive it sooner but the cab size, among other differences makes it worth the wait. He also mentioned that attempting to change course now could push us further in line to obtain a vehicle.

The new 2021 pick-up truck is broken down and currently at Barstow's in Potsdam, with a possible broken transfer case or transmission which would be under warranty.

Black top has been completed and paid in full last month totaling \$45,000. This was paid with state fund assistance.

Superintendent Jay Rust has done calculations that show a remainder of \$110,000 in CHIPS funds and asked the Board for approval to purchase a Kubota Mini Excavator. At state bid, this machine would cost the Town \$69,541.17. When the Board asked why the Town needed two different

excavators, Jay explained the differences in jobs and duties for each machine, how much it costed the town in 2022 to rent a mini excavator to use where the big one would not fit. He also explained how he is asking for the same model that the Tupper Lake Highway Department uses, therefore if we needed to borrow different attachments, the Town would be saving money by using the barter system. It was then raised how the Town still has a loan out for the current excavator purchased in 2018. Jay mentioned that it was his understanding that once the Town received the CHIPS money back that year, the loan would be paid off. So, he believes there should be no loan for the excavator purchased in 2018. Bookkeeper Linda Pickering will do some research and report back to Jay. No further discussions were made about future Highway purchases because Bookkeeper Linda Pickering informed the Board that the Highway Department is currently -30,000 in the red and there should be no more unnecessary spending. Jay Rust asked some questions regarding the Water Department; he explained how much time his crew has been working in that department and wondered if some of the bills/time was miscalculated. Linda will look into the bills and hours accrued in the two departments and make adjustments if necessary. As of Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 the parking ban is in effect for the Town of Piercefield. The Town Clerk will run an ad in the paper for two weeks, giving the Towns people ample time to prepare for this change.

**Old Business**

195) Adopt the 2023 Budget

**RESOLUTION NO: 11-26-2022**

**DATED: November 3, 2022**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL 2023 BUDGET**

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield adopts the Adopted Budget for the year 2023, the amount to be raised by taxes \$388,021.00 exceeds the NYS Tax Cap of \$384,041.00 by \$3,980.00.

**RESOLVED**, the adopted Preliminary Budget shall henceforth be known as the Adopted Budget for the year 2023, and be it further

On a motion by Councilmember Carol Dimond, seconded by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis the following resolution be adopted: AYES: Acting Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Dimond, Sarazen NAYS: 0 Adopted.

196) Water Department Charges

**RESOLUTION NO.: 24-11-2021**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 3, 2022**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2023 PIERCEFIELD AND CONIFER WATER DISTRICT USERS CHARGES**

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield authorizes the establishment of the 2023 Piercefield Water User fee at \$200.00 and the Conifer Water User fee at \$220.00; and

**RESOLVED**, payment schedule established with full payment being made by February 28, 2023 without penalty, and 2% interest in March and 1% interest per payment month thereafter. Collection period set from January 1, 2023 through October 2, 2023, and

**RESOLVED**, payments not made by October 2, 2023 shall be assessed a total of 12% penalty for the year, which penalty plus Water User Fee shall be re-levied onto the January 2024 Town/County Property Tax bill, and

**RESOLVED**, establish the 2023 Piercefield Water District Debt Service at \$12,750.50 (82 @ \$155.49) and the Conifer Water District Debt Service at \$4,788.43 (44 @ \$108.82), which will appear on the January 2023 Town/County Property Tax bill.

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Gina Sarazen and seconded by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis.

The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Acting Supervisor Joe Denis, Councilmembers Carol Dimond and Gina Sarazen.

197) Water Department Re-levied

**RESOLUTION NO.: 25-11-2022**

**DATED: NOVEMBER 3, 2022**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING UNPAID PIERCEFIELD AND CONIFER WATER DISTRICT USERS CHARGES TO BE RE-LEVIED**

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield authorizes the unpaid Piercefield and Conifer Water District users charges including penalties to be re-levied onto the respective 2023 property tax bills, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Real Property Tax Services Office be notified of same with attached listings of unpaid water charges of \$5,820.00, plus penalties of \$617.40, for a combined total of \$6,437.40

A motion to adopt the foregoing Resolution was made by Councilmember Gina Sarazen and seconded by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis.

The following each voted in favor of the Resolution: Acting Supervisor Joe Denis, Councilmembers Gina Sarazen and Carol Dimond.

198) Letters of Resignation

The Town of Piercefield Board received a letter of resignation for both Board Member Tom Snye and Court Clerk Bridgett LaPierre. The Town Justice has filled the Court Clerk position through an ad in the paper by Childwold local, Linda Kasper-Varden. She will go through the proper trainings before becoming fully deputized. The Town Clerk will put an ad in the paper for the empty Board Member position.

**New Business**

199) Credit Card VS Debit Card

Bookkeeper Linda Pickering has been receiving help from Bill Dashnaw who suggested the Town get a credit card for spending versus the current debit card. This way the Town is protected from theft and the Bookkeeper can keep better track of spending by receiving a bill for ALL credit card purchases at the end of the month. Motion to approve applying for a Town Credit Card and canceling the Town Debit Card made by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Carol Dimond, ALL APPROVE, 0-NAY. Linda will go forward in switching the cards out, the new credit card will be put in the Supervisors name but can be used in all Town departments.

200) Tupper Lake Rescue Squad

The Tupper Lake Rescue Squad sent a letter to the Town of Piercefield asking for an increase in Piercefield’s yearly donation from \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00 with a gradual increase of \$500.00 each year until 2026. The Town Board denied the request to increase the donation for 2022 with a motion made by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Carol Dimond. AYES: Acting Supervisor Joe Denis, Councilmembers Dimond, Sarazen NAYS: 0 Acting Supervisor Joe Denis would like to see this letter sent to the Town of Piercefield in August of 2023, when the Budget discussions begin, by the time the Town Board received it this year money has been set aside accordingly.

201) Payment of Bills

On a motion by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Carol Dimond, the following payments be approved: AYES: Acting Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Dimond, Sarazen. NAYS: 0 Approved.

Abstract #11	General Account:	\$11,811.17
Abstract # 11	Highway Account:	\$29,441.82
Abstract #11	Lighting District	\$369.34
Abstract #11	Conifer Water	\$286.20
Abstract #11	Piercefield Water	\$332.69
Abstract #11	Trust &Agency Fund TA	\$748.40

202) Approval of Supervisor and Town Clerk Monthly Reports

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis, the Clerk and Supervisor Monthly Reports for October 2022 be approved: AYES, Acting Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Sarazen, Dimond. NAYS: 0 Approved.

203) Adjournment

On a motion by Councilmember Gina Sarazen, seconded by Acting Supervisor Joe Denis, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm. Next regular meeting Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:30pm.

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Christielee Geiger, Town Clerk

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Date Approved