

**MINUTES OF**  
THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING FOR AUGUST, 2024  
Hermon Town Board  
Tuesday, August 13th, 2024 at the Hermon Town Hall  
Recording #801-0200

Present was Supervisor Cathy Race, along with Council members Sheri Smith, Victoria Day, Harold Blandin and Frank Ashley.

Also present were Christopher Stransky, Shain Brunet, Michael McQuade, Kate Stransky, Terrance Sarsfield, Larry Denesha, Bruce Bigelow, Steve Allen, Brent McAdam, Julie Rubado

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

***The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Minutes of the previous meeting as submitted were approved on motion by Sheri Smith. Seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.***

**REPORTS**

- **Legislator Larry Denesha:** A grant of \$10,000 was awarded to Hermon Fire Department for a new generator. Thank you to all towns working together during the flood, as well as the Fire Departments, EMT's, etc. Disaster Hotline was set up by NYS 1-800-339-1759 for residents. People can also apply for up to \$50,000 in grant money for damages not covered by their insurance (must show proof of denial). Spoke about proposed legislation regarding firearms dealers needing to provide certain signage at their place of business and the consequences for not doing so. Worker's comp self-insurance for 2025 will be \$32,252. The new Director of Public Health has been named Erin Schieff. SLC has provided \$150,000 in ARPA to help with the lack of daycare providers in St. Lawrence County by providing training.
- **Michael McQuade Code Officer/Assessor Report:** Mike is present and spoke. He also provided us with a written report (see attached). For the month of July there were 5 building permits issued. Final roll has been completed for the assessor's office.
- **Dog Warden's Report – Dan Moyer:** Mr. Moyer was not present but did provide a written report (see attached). There was a charge of \$770 (approximately) for having a dangerous dog put down. Said dog had bitten 3 people. It was required to be quarantined for 30 days before being put down. Town paid the entire bill as part of our contract with DCO. Supervisor Race will check into finding out about billing the dog owner as they requested the dog be put down. Also, the Town board agreed to do a letter of support for DCO Dan Moyer as he is applying for a grant to upgrade his dog kennels. Resolution #
- **Court Report:** Judge Chris Velez is not present but did provide the Board with a written report - \$110 in fines taken in.
- **Historian's Report:** Historian Lenore Zaubere is not present but did provide us with a written report.

I prepared a Hermon Historian's report for the 2024 Summer SLC Historians' meeting which was held on August 1, 2024. The Canton Historian hosted the meeting in her new office on Main St. in Canton. Several town historians from St. Lawrence County submitted theirs and a packet of all reports was distributed by the County Historian. Although I was unable to personally attend, we are all in

communication via a message board throughout the year. Several historian friends from the Franklin County Historical were also in attendance.

One of the important historical events discussed was the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In less than 3 years, this Commemoration will take place nationally throughout the year of 2026. NYS Historians and the public are asked to participate in the celebration of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War and the signing of this important document which took place on July 4, 2026.

I welcome any and all suggestions as to how Hermon can participate St. Lawrence County's events. Each Town can think about how it wishes to celebrate with SLC, NYS and the whole country. There is no specific set of requirements other than to recognize, in some way, the importance of our country's heritage. Much of our County was settled by Revolutionary War Veterans. Please feel free to email me at [hermonhistorian@yahoo.com](mailto:hermonhistorian@yahoo.com) with any thoughts you may have and we can all meet at a later date – all our invited! This is a wonderful opportunity for Hermonites of all ages to learn about and celebrate an important event in our country's history.

The Hermon History Center was pleased to again be visited by Wayne and Tammy Wagner. They spent several hours reading and exploring the various books, documents and notes available for research at the Center. They told me that they always find something new and interesting at our Center and will be back!

Do you have a relative or friend that will be turning 100 within a few months? We want to celebrate the latest centenarians of the County and especially our Town. The St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators also wishes to recognize and congratulate each person who attains that age. Please email me with her/his name and birthdate and any other information you think is relevant and I will pass this information on to the BOL via the County Historian.

*August 13, 2024 - Lenore Zaunere, Hermon Town Historian*

- **Library:** Kate Stransky is present and informed us they are looking for donations of Halloween costumes and will be looking for donations of winter clothes next. They plan to give these items for free to residents/students in need. She also explained that they are in the process of taking things down out of the attic in preparation for the renovations. They plan to hold the ice cream social at the firehall this year because the road is all torn up and welcomed any town board members interested to come join the

fun. They are also looking for donations of fishing poles and sports equipment so they can have a borrowing club like Massena has.

- **Highway Report:** Shain Brunet is present and provided a written report (see attached). They have been chipping brush and continue working on storm clean up. They helped the Town of Fine with their paving and our paving got done on Rock Hollow Road and Fairbanks Road this year. The new excavator is working great and came in very handy during storm clean up. He mentioned that the Evans Road lost a huge bridge, cement wall and culvert and the cleanup is a project way bigger than our town crew can handle. There are 2 people that live on this road, but they can get out at the other end of the road. Shain said the Fire Department was a huge help during the storm! Larry Denesha offered that there will most likely be money awarded to affected Towns if the Governor declares a State of Emergency, which has not happened yet. Shain also stated that he kept track of man hours, gas, fuel, equipment, etc. if we do receive FEMA money. Discussion was held about establishing a rate of pay for storm workers if they are needed in a situation like this again. We agreed \$25 per hour is a good rate of pay but will table it until we find out what other towns do, do we need to set a limit on the number of hours or workers and if it will affect the teamster's contract.
- **Water/Sewer Report:** Chris was present and provided a written report.

Total Discharged	2,712,000	
Total Pumped	2,907,900	11 UFPO's
Hermon	2,146,300	
Dekalb	761,600	

All water tests came back good after the water main break. The sand beds were tilled up tonight after the floods. The water project is still moving forward, we just wish it was going faster.

- **Recreation Park:** Chris Stransky advised the Board that soccer started last Tuesday. There were about 75 kids signed up and it will be held on Tuesday and Thursdays for the month of August. Also, a State Police investigator called saying they recovered 14 water meters that had been stolen.
- **Town Clerk's Report** – Karen Wayering is present and provided a written report (see copy).
- **Supervisors Report** – Cathy Race is present and provided a written report (please see attached).

#### **ACTIONS:**

##### **RESOLUTION 8-2024**

A resolution designating several companies as "Prepaid" was made by Victoria Day. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.

##### **RESOLUTION 9-2024**

A resolution designating duties (ROA) for Supervisor for NYS Retirement was made by: Victoria Day. Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried.

##### **RESOLUTION 10-2024**

A resolution authorizing Supervisor Cathy Race to sign TJ Fiacco pay apps was made by Harold Blandin. Seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.

Motion to Accept Officer's Reports was made by Victoria Day, Seconded by Sheri Smith. All in favor and carried. (see copies attached)

***We will be holding our first budget workshop session on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the town office.***

It was brought to our attention that the previous Supervisor, Art Baker, had given the family living next door to the library permission to park behind the library during the winter months. There was never any Town board approval for this. They are still parking there. People are concerned this could be an insurance issue. The matter was discussed, and Supervisor Race will send a letter to the neighbors asking them to find alternative parking. There will be contractors coming soon and the parking will be needed during construction behind the library. We also discussed that no water/sewer bills have been sent to the library since Dr. Burke left (he used to pay for the library and the doctor's office). This matter will be discussed at a water/sewer meeting, and we will get clarification from Anthony at B&L on how this should be handled.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mrs. Rubado complained about the many fast traffic and big trucks traveling on Church Street and wondered if speed bumps could be put in when they repaved the street. Bruce Bigelow mentioned that he feels we need to financially support our fire department with budget season coming up. This most recent storm showed how much we need them in our community. A resident from the Rock Hollow/Pond Road area explained that to qualify for Governor Hochul's emergency storm money a two-parent home must be made under minimum wage to qualify. Therefore, very few people who own their homes can get help. Are there any solutions? It was recommended that NYS Financial representatives will be at SUNY Potsdam on Thursday and to go there and see if they can help.

***Motion to pay bills was put forth by Harold Blandin and seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.***

***Motion to adjourn the meeting was presented by Victoria Day at 7:12 p.m. and seconded by Harold Blandin. All in favor and carried.***

Supervisor Race advised the Board that we needed to go into Executive Session regarding an Ethics/Procurement issue and that Sheri Smith would need to be excluded from said executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wayering  
Town Clerk