

**TOWN OF HECTOR**  
**REGULAR AUDIT MEETING**  
**January 9, 2024 / Continued January 16, 2024**

**Members Present:**

Justin Boyette, Supervisor  
Michael Bergen, Councilperson  
Jessica Rodgers, Councilperson  
Elizabeth Martin, Councilperson  
Rebecca Wright, Councilperson  
Anthony Mansfield, Councilperson

**Others:**

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk  
Jason Santobianco, Code Enforcement  
Audrey Mayette      Charlotte Jaynes  
Larry Jaynes      Mark Smith  
Barb Kelley      Ralph Ward  
Zoe VanNostrand      Amy Puryear  
Chris Negronida      Jeremy Bergen  
Caleb Smith      Steve Sierigk  
Melissa Usack      Jonathan Bernstein

Called to order at 7:04pm by Supervisor Boyette, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

**RESOLUTION #22** – offered by Bergen, seconded by Martin

Resolved to approve the Minutes of December 28, 2023 as written. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Approval of Budget Amendments/Journal Entries: None

**RESOLUTION #23** – offered by Martin, seconded by Rodgers

Resolved to have audited and further authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from the following funds: General Vouchers #1 thru #23 - \$64,042.59; Highway vouchers #1 thru #12 - \$121,012.63; Water District Vouchers #1 thru #11 - \$33,484.54; Fire Protection Districts Voucher #1 - \$22,638.91; and Trust & Agency Vouchers #1 thru #2 - \$28,117.01  
Ayes 6, Nays 0

**10 Minute Public Comment Period:** 7:06pm      (Power out at 7:16pm)

Zoe VanNostrand, Carman Road: Distressed over the destruction of the Drumlin in Perry City. Read information regarding the stopping of the lagoon 15 years ago. Concerned with loss of history and artifacts; impossible to repair/restore; expect a public apology from Bergen's. Request the Town Board to take action to stop the destruction.

Melissa Usack, SR 228 read a written statement regarding the Drumlins historical significance; no legal protection; should have greater accountability; should examine local land use and right to farm laws. Expressed gratitude to successful farming; farmers should recognize their power.

Power Outage 7:23pm – recessed meeting until February 16, 2024 at 7:00pm

**Reconvened at 7:00pm January 16, 2024 followed by Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Members Present:**

Justin Boyette, Supervisor  
Rebecca Wright, Councilperson  
Michael Bergen, Councilperson  
Jessica Rodgers, Councilperson  
Elizabeth Martin, Councilperson  
Anthony Mansfield, Councilperson

**Others:**

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk  
Jason Santobianco, Code Enforcement  
Gary Judson, Sustainability  
Audrey Mayette      Andrew Conroy  
Jeremy Bergen      Mark Smith  
Ralph Ward      Barb Kelley  
Brandon VanDyke      Michele Ward  
Caleb Smith      23 Facebook Live

Others: Zoe VanNostrand      Bill Bergen

**Comment Period Re-opened:**

Andrew Conroy, Willamee Road: Read a statement; confused over uproar; Drumlin was farm land long ago; Bergen's only restored the top to farm land that could be worked safely; the Drumlin is still there. Just like everything else in life, it has changed.

**Sustainability Committee:** Gary Judson reviewed the tentative/draft Climate Adaptation Action Plan guidelines. NYSEDA \$70,000 grant pre-approved items reviewed. There is another \$100,000 grant that could be pursued. Would like to proceed with nomination of the Tuttle Road proper for a solar installation. Community Choice Aggregation discussed.

**RESOLUTION #24** – offered by Martin, seconded by Bergen  
Resolved to proceed with nomination of Tuttle Road property for the build ready solar farm program. Discussion: Councilperson Mansfield asked where this was. Councilperson Bergen asked if there was a Right of Way to State Route 79; boundaries need to be determined.  
Ayes 6, Nays 0

**RESOLUTION #25** – offered by Martin, seconded by Rodgers  
Resolved to proceed with the Municipal Clean Fleet Inventory. Discussion: Councilperson Bergen asked if it was just an inventory at this time? Ayes 6, Nays 0

**Department Reports:**

**Highway:** Superintendent Green was unable to attend due to tress down from the wind. His written report was provided for the Town Board.

**2023 Highway Inventory:** Was completed in December 2023

**RESOLUTION #26** – offered by Bergen, seconded by Martin  
Resolved to accept the 2023 Highway Inventory as presented. Ayes 6, Nays 0

**RESOLUTION #27** – offered by Martin, seconded by Rodgers  
Resolved to authorize the Highway Superintendent to post the attached list of roads with an eight-ton weight limit effective immediately through May 15, 2024. Ayes 6, Nays 0

**Water District:** Superintendent Mikkelsen's written report reviewed.

**RESOLUTION #28** – offered by Martin, seconded by Mansfield  
Resolved to approve the Williamson Law Book Water Billing/Collection Software support contract effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 at a cost of \$1849.00  
Ayes 6, Nays 0

**Code Enforcement:** Code Officer Santobianco reported 5 new permits issued, 3 permits completed, \$970 in fees collected. Lake Street Valois house for sale has an issue with part of the front porch is in the road right of way. Buyer is asked for something from the Town allowing the porch to remain. Code Officer is consulting with Attorney Halpin for the best way to proceed.

**Smith Park:**

**RESOLUTION #29** – offered by Boyette, seconded by Bergen

Resolved to appoint Kristina Hansen as Smith Park Manager effective January 2, 2024 through April 9, 2024 for up to 20 hours per week at the rate of \$22.00 per hour. Ayes 6, Nays 0

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Court Clerk:** Clerk Ike reviewed Town Clerk's Report covering fees collected and disbursed for December 2023; Humane Society took in one dog from the Town in December. Taxes Collected to date total \$1,223,154.01; many issues with address and returned bills. Water District Monthly Report for December 2023 reviewed covering amounts billed and collected.

**RESOLUTION #30** – offered by Bergen, seconded by Martin

Resolved to approve and authorize the Supervisor to sign the Town Clerk/Tax Collector WLB Program Support Contract effective 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024 at a cost of \$1136.00. Ayes 6, Nays 0

**Supervisor/Committee Reports:**

**Association of Towns February School:** Councilperson Martin is interested in attending. Discussion regarding attending or not. New Board members just attended classes in Rochester. Consideration for Board members attending will be given for the 2025 Budget.

**Assessment Claim Letter:** Connie Fern Miller has requested to meet with the Town Board regarding her Assessment Small Claim's action. Attorney Halpin does not recommend the Town Board meet with her as there is an on-going legal action in court.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium: Discussion of amendments and annual or blanket approval.

**RESOLUTION #31** – offered by Rodgers, seconded by Bergen

**Approval of the 2024 Amendment to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement for the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium**

WHEREAS, the Town of Hector (municipality) is a Participant in the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (the "Consortium"), a municipal cooperative organized under Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law, and

WHEREAS, the municipal participants in the Consortium, including this body, have approved and executed a certain Municipal Cooperation Agreement (the "Agreement"; effective date of October 1, 2010), and

WHEREAS, Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law (the "Insurance Law") and the rules and regulations of the New York State Department of Financial Services set forth certain requirements for governance of municipal cooperatives that offer self-insured municipal cooperative health insurance plans that requires any amendments or restatements thereto, shall be subject to Board review and upon acceptance of any new Participant hereafter, and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Cooperative Agreement requires that amendments to the agreement be presented to each participant for review and adopted by a majority vote by its municipal board, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hector (municipality) is in receipt of the proposed amended Agreement and has determined that it is in the best interest of its constituents who are served by the Consortium to amend the Agreement as set forth in the Amended Municipal

Cooperative Agreement, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that upon receipt and review of the amended Agreement, the Town of Hector (municipality) approves at a meeting of the governing body held on January 16, 2024 and authorizes the Chief Elected Official to sign the **2024** Amendment to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium as recommended by the Board of Directors. Ayes 6, Nays 0

**Procurement Policy** given to all Town Board Members for their information.

**Humane Society**: There are changes to shelter requirements in 2025. The Humane Society of Schuyler County is applying for a grant to help cover expenses to implement the changes. Asking for a letter of support.

**RESOLUTON #32** – offered by Martin, seconded by Wright  
Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to send the Humane Society of Schuyler County as letter of support for the grant application seeking funding to implement shelter changes required in 2025. Ayes 6, Nays 0

**Miscellaneous/Correspondence/Other:**

**Mecklenburg Park**: Audrey Mayette asked for assistance with issues of drainage & standing water; and evaluation of trees for safety issues.

**RESOLUTON #33** – offered by Martin, seconded by Rodgers  
Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to contact a tree service to evaluate the trees surrounding the pond at the Mecklenburg Pond Park area. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Sally Ward submitted a letter asking for support from the Town Board to oppose the expansion of Seneca Meadows Landfill that is scheduled to close in 2025.

Allison Reed submitted a question via Facebook Live – how much more is everyone willing to pay for trash disposal that would have to be transported out of the Finger Lakes?

Councilperson Rodgers – many people recycling as much as they can and have smaller amount of trash.

Councilperson Wright – the landfill is an eyesore; so much trash comes from out of the area; don't have an answer as to where it can or should go.

Councilperson Martin and Supervisor Boyette asked for more information as to where to send a letter, etc.

Gary Judson voice concerns regarding contaminates leaching into ground water or Seneca Lake.

Councilperson Bergen state that the water flows north from Seneca Falls not south. Action table until more information can be obtained.

Adjourned at 8:17pm on a motion by Councilperson Martin; seconded by Councilperson Bergen.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk