

Town Board Meeting

November 5, 2025

Present at the meeting: - Councilman Finch, Councilman Studley, Councilman Hale, Supervisor McGuire, Clerk Belt, Deputy Clerk McGuire. Absent: Councilman Adams

October 8th and 22nd minutes read by Clerk Belt. **(Motion was made by Councilman Hale to accept Sept. minutes and seconded by Supervisor McGuire. All Aye.)**

Public Participation- None

Highway Department Report

- Seasonal Work: Paving is complete. Seams on Benson & Cemetery Roads were sealed to prevent water damage.
- Winter Prep: Hauling sand for winter, with volume up significantly (2,000 tons vs. 77 last year).
- New Truck Status: The dealer will email the invoice also the dealer requested that the town take possession of the truck soon to store it indoors for winter, as it will sit outside until its March body-upfit. The truck's warranty is time-based, not mileage based. Extended storage before use will reduce its effective warranty period.

Assessor's Report- none, **Code Officer's Report-** none, **Dog Control Report-** none

Town Clerk's Report -

- Revenue (October): 7 building permits (\$589), 4 dog licenses, 2 certified copies, 1 registrar fee, and 4 hunting licenses. Total revenue: \$1,000. Town's portion: \$660.49.
- Highmark Renewal: The health insurance premium will increase by \$100/month per employee.

Supervisor's Report -

- Financials were prepared by BLB and all accounts balance. Copies are available at the clerk's office.
- Budget transfers for tonight were prepared.

Old Business-

- Local Law Renaming: Local Law 3-2025 was officially renamed Local Law 2-2025 to correct the numbering **(Motion by Studley, seconded by McGuire: Finch Aye, McGuire Aye, Studley Aye and Hake Aye).**
- Town Justice Vacancy: Discussed the implications of the Town Justice Dave Johnson's resignation and the potential legal requirement for a special election, rather than a board appointment. Judge Johnson is discussing options with a candidate, Kalen Brown, and the Unified Justice Court System. Supervisor McGuire will consult Association of Towns lawyers for clarification.

New Business -

1. 2025 Budget Adopted: The 2025 budget was adopted, staying \$65 under the state tax cap. The Randolph EMS contract cost was finalized at \$12,497, adjustments made from contingency funds. **(Motion to finalize the budget made by Studley, seconded by Finch. Studley, Hale, McGuire & Finch all Aye).**
2. 2026 Annual Meeting: Noted that registration for the annual meeting is open, and prices increase after November 19th.
3. Budget Transfers **(Res. 17-2025)**
\$522: Town Clerk Equipment (1410.2) → Town Clerk Contractual (1410.4)
\$9,600: Highway Snow Removal Personal (5142.1) → General Repair Personal (5110.4)
\$2,168: Highway Fuel Expense (5110.4A) → General Repairs (5110.4)
(McGuire made the motion to move forward, seconded by Finch, roll call vote: Finch, Studley, Hale, McGuire all Aye).
4. Energy Choice Act Resolution (18-2025): Passed a resolution in support of Congressman Nick Langworthy's Energy Choice Act and in opposition to government-mandated natural gas bans. **(Motion made by McGuire, seconded by Studley: Finch, Hale, McGuire, and Studley all voted Aye).**
5. Budget Officer Pay: The supervisor requested that Budget Officer Pay can be released this month now that the budget is finalized. The registrar pay can also be released.
6. Deputy Clerk Bank Access: The board approved adding Deputy Clerk Jennifer McGuire as a legal signer on the clerk's and tax collector's bank accounts. **(Motion made by Hale, seconded by Studley, all ayes.)**

Audit of Bills

General Warrant: #11-2025 Voucher # 171 to 190 Total \$ 8,997.66

Highway Warrant: \$407,057.24 Voucher # 115 to 126 Total \$ 14,085.60

(McGuire made the motion to pay the bills, seconded by Finch, all ayes)

Discussion on Fire Protection Contract Cancellation

- ❖ The Conewango Fire District canceled its contract with the Randolph Fire District.
- ❖ Rationale: The Conewango Fire District letter cited redundancy with existing mutual aid agreements and a primary focus on EMS.
- ❖ Impact on Response Times:
- ❖ Old System: Automatic dual dispatch for calls in the town's eastern areas.
- ❖ New System: Conewango is dispatched first. Randolph is only called as mutual aid if Conewango requests it or fails to respond.
- ❖ Result: A significant delay in response for residents in East Randolph.

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Finch

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenn McGuire

Conewango Deputy Town Clerk