

Town of St. Armand
Regular Board Meeting – 6:30 pm
Tuesday, October 18, 2022

These Meeting Minutes were approved by the St. Armand Town Board on November 15, 2022.

A Regular Board meeting of the Town of St. Armand was held on the above date and time via webinar and in person conducted at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY. The meeting was advertised and made available to the public.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Supervisor Davina Winemiller, Deputy Supervisor Karl Law, Councilperson Donald Amell, Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer, and Stephanie Mikesell (on-line) were all in attendance.

A quorum of the Board was in attendance.

TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Water Superintendent Cory Skiff, Wastewater Superintendent Stanley Ingison, and Town Clerk Barbara Darrah.

EXCUSED: Highway Superintendent Douglas Snickles was excused from the meeting.

GUESTS FROM THE COMMUNITY: Rachel Karp from the Saranac Lake Chamber of Commerce, Judy Odell from Rockledge, and Josh Colby, Sandy Hayes, Warren McCarthy, Brian McLaughlin, Lee Ann Vancour and (3) unidentified callers, all from the community.

Supervisor Davina Winemiller called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and asked all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Winemiller opened the floor to guest speaker Rachel Karp of the Saranac Lake Chamber of Commerce who asked to speak about the Chamber of Commerce and memberships. Rachel explained there were currently 220 members and announced the cost of memberships as \$235.00 for businesses and \$125.00 for non-profits. Rachel distributed a printed flier with information about the Chamber's upcoming events calendar. Rachel also discussed the weekly email newsletter called the "Chamber Chat". There were no questions from the audience and the Board thanked Rachel for attending the meeting.

Supervisor Winemiller then opened the floor to Judy Odell who wanted to discuss the topic of short term rentals in the Rockledge area. Judy stated she strongly felt there should be guidelines regarding short term rentals because they are coming to the area rapidly. Judy also asked if there were hours posted anywhere when the Town Supervisor and the Town Assessor was in? Supervisor Winemiller stated her positions is full time, M-F, 8:30 – 4:00. She explained the Town Assessor is here at the Town Hall one day a week, which is normally Tuesdays. Supervisor Winemiller stated the Board would address short term rentals again in a future Board meeting.

Supervisor Winemiller then opened the floor to Brian McLaughlin, an apartment building owner, who had presented a request for an adjustment on his Water and Sewer bill at September's Regular Board meeting. The Board had asked Brian to bring in an affidavit or proof that there were water and sewer issues in the building and therefore, no one was occupying the building. The Town Board approved the adjustment to be just water and sewer debt for 4 units, as Brian provided the necessary documentation and the Town's Code Enforcement Officer inspected the building and concurred.

Supervisor Winemiller then asked the Department Heads to present their reports.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Highway Superintendent Douglas Snickles submitted the following written report to the Board:

Town of St. Armand Highway Report for the October 18, 2022 Board Meeting

- 1) We are still patching roads.
- 2) We put a new culver on Main Street.
- 3) We finished brush-hogging.
- 4) We weed-whacked on Franklin Falls Cemetery and mowed everything one last time.
- 5) We painted fuel tanks and re-lettered them; starting to get stuff ready for fall.
- 6) We helped the Town of Wilmington blacktop.
- 7) We are working on the ball shack.
- 8) We cleaned up the mess from the water break on Rockledge.
- 9) We hung more Hometown Hero banners.

Supervisor Winemiller thanked Doug and the Highway crew for their work on the Youth Field building and asked if there were any questions regarding the Highway report? There were no other questions regarding the Highway Report.

WATER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Water Superintendent Cory Skiff presented the following report to the Board:

Monthly Board Report

- 9/2/22 - Located curb stop at 27 River Road
Located curb stop and marked out water line at 11 River Road
- 9/6/22 - Monthly sample to lab
Monthly report to the health department
Took a walk around Bloomingdale and counted the number of hydrants and valves for Davina
Repaired the hydrant at the end of Union St.
- 9/8/22 – Assisted MJ Raymond Construction with replacing a curb stop at 27 River Road.
- 9/15/22 - Ace Electric installed lights and outlets in the well field generator building.
- 9/16/22 - Annual health department inspection
- 9/21/22 - Turned water on at 1722 State Route 3
- 9/21/22 - Aquastore Tank services came and repaired a leak in our storage tank
- 9/30/22 - Assisted Mike MacDougall with repairing three hydrants

There were no questions regarding the Water Report.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Wastewater Superintendent Stanley Ingison presented the following report to the Town Board:

Town of St. Armand Wastewater Department Summary of last month's activities for the October 2022 meeting

- 1) Did daily collections, testing and recorded data.
- 2) Did daily checks of all systems at the PTB and WWTP and recorded the data.
- 3) Wrote up the DEC monthly operating report and the discharge monitoring report and submitted them digitally.
- 4) Did weekly generator checks.
- 5) Did weekly greasing of the paddle wheel drive and clarifier drives.
- 6) Did weekly grit removal from the classifier drive outfall and unloaded it into the transfer station trash dumpster.
- 7) I did the weekly flexing of all the aeration diffusers.
- 8) I apologize for misleading the Board last month with the pricing for man hole work by The Precision Group. I had gotten the proposal, looked at the first page and somehow lost the file from the computer. Apparently the price that I thought was the total was the price for a single man hole. I should have known it was too good to be true.
- 9) The sewer main camera work done by New York Rural water (NYRW) found stone blockages in a few lines. I set up with Saranac Lake to have their VAC-COM unit try to clean them out along with the blocked main from the Rabideau properties. The work got postpone by manpower shortages until this week. Saranac Lake did get back with a new employee and cleaned out a lot of stone and debris from the area where we had the 3 sewage backups over the last couple of years which flooded the Church and then the mobile home. Because of the date change we lost NYRW's camera help which we were trying to do simultaneously with the cleaning work. So, I have set up to get the camera checks done in November to see how well the clean out worked. They also cleaned out our main that crosses the road from the Rabideau properties. This cleaning was another big community service that Saranac Lake has down for the Town and the Board should keep this in mind and lend any support that we can to Saranac Lake to help repay this huge favor.
- 10) We did get another company, Siewert Equipment Company's (Troy office), to come look at our blower units. After looking at them they said that the units were installed and put into service without being properly aligned. It is the misalignments that is causing all the damage issues to the Blowers, not the pieces themselves. Of course I wasn't around when the Blowers were being installed, checked and put into service as I was only working part time at that point. I was told that they were inspected and cleared for service and that they would do the first oil change, which I was there for, to be trained how to do it. I had never worked on pulley driven blowers before and foolishly assumed the professionals had done things correctly. We are waiting to get pricing for the work to be done to correct the alignment problems. I did get all 4 blowers back into service and am now running back at slower winter speeds to reduce the wear and tear on the units until the alignments are done.
- 11) I recently got another added task to my job description of mixing zone engineering work which I am guessing has something to do with the SPDES permit changes related to the plant upgrades. I don't understand the reason why as no changes were made to the mixing zone system. I have already spent 6 hours working on it; filling out the current DEC on line forms just to have it rejected by them because they wanted it done on an old version of the form with no description of how to do the work. We do not have the tools needed to do this work but I meet with Saranac Lake and they said they would lend me the meter I need to get some of the readings. I figure it is probably around 40 hours' worth of work to do this project. Please remember that the board has rejected asked for pay raises the last two years for all the added work requirements to the job but still wants to have all the work done.
- 12) Now that next year's budget work is in process the board needs to have money put in for a certified operator to oversee the plant operations which I believe requires a minimum of 40 hours of onsite work per quarter year. I also believe the fine for not having a certified operator on staff can be up to \$37,500 a day.

There were no questions regarding the Wastewater Report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer Rodger Tompkins submitted the following written report to the Town Board:

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT FOR THE OCTOBER 19th, 2022 Board Meeting

- New Residential Building Permits Issued Since Last Report: 1
- Extension of Residential Building Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0
- Commercial Building Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0
- Certificates of Completion Issued Since Last Report: 8
- Stop Work Orders Issued Since Last Report: 0
- Demolition Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0
- Solar PVS Permits Issued Since Last Report: 0
- Code Violations Issued Since Last Report Issued: 0
- Sewer Code Violations Issued Since Last Report: 0
- Total number of Residential Building permits issued for the year 2022: 45
- Total number of Residential Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2022: 13
- Total number of Commercial Building permits issued for the year 2022: 1
- Total number of Commercial Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2022: 0
- Total number of Demolition permits issued for the year 2022: 1
- Total number of Demolition Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2022: 0
- Total number of Solar permits issued for the year 2022: 0
- Total number of Solar Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2022: 1
- Total number of Code Violations issued for the year 2022: 1
- Total number of Code Violation Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2022: 12
- Total number of Sewer Code Violations issued for the year 2022: 0
- Total number of Sewer Code Violation Certificates of Completion issued for the year 2022: 1
- Amount of fees collected for Code Office since last report: \$80.00
- Amount of fees collected for Water Department since last report: \$0
- Amount of fees collected for Sewer Department since last report: \$0
- Total amount of fees collected via Code Office since last report: \$80.00
- Total amount of fees collected via Code Office for the year 2022: \$7,221.40

I have continued to perform inspections and follow up with open Code Violations and open Building Permits. Thank you.
 There were no questions regarding the Code Enforcement Officer’s report.

TOWN JUSTICE REPORT

St. Armand Town Court Report for September 2022

- Total fines and surcharges collected for the month of September 2022: \$2,630.00
- Total collected year-to-date: \$19,556.00
- Total parking fines for September 2022: \$750.00
- Total parking fines year-to-date: \$3,800.00

There were no questions regarding the Town Justice monthly report.

RESOLUTIONS # 72 - # 75 OF 2022

RESOLUTION # 72 OF 2022

RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2022 ENTITLED “A LOCAL LAW TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW YORK STATE OPEN MEETINGS LAW FOR THE EXPANDED USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCING IN THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND”

Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of St. Armand Town Board hereby introduces proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2022: A Local Law To Adopt Amendments to the New York State Open Meetings Law for the Expanded Use of Videoconferencing in The Town of St. Armand, as follows:

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND LOCAL LAW NO. 3 of 2022

A Local law to Adopt Amendments to the New York State Open Meeting Law for the Expanded Use of Videoconferencing in the Town of St. Armand.

BE IT ENACTED by the Town of St. Armand Town Board as follows:

§1. Title.

This local law shall be titled, "A Local Law to Adopt Amendments to the New York State Open Meetings Law for the expanded use of videoconferencing in the Town of St. Armand".

§2. Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of this law is to authorize the Town of St. Armand to allow for expansion of the use of videoconferencing to conduct open meetings.

§3. Authority.

This local law is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law. On April 9, 2022, Governor Hochul signed an amendment to the Open Meetings Law to allow, until the expiration date of July 1, 2024, the expanded use of videoconferencing by public bodies in the conduct of open meetings, under extraordinary circumstances, regardless of a declaration of emergency. In order to continue meeting virtually, counties must adopt a local law to opt in.

§4. Authorization.

The Town of St. Armand hereby authorizes the use of videoconferencing for all public bodies of the Town of St. Armand, including itself and its committees and subcommittees, and all Boards of the County of Essex, subject to the written procedure set forth below which may be amended by resolution.

§5. Conditions.

- a) A quorum of members of the public body must be physically present in the same physical location or locations, where members of the public may attend, to fulfil any quorum requirements to which said public body is subject.
- b) These procedures shall be conspicuously posted on the Town's website.
- c) Members of the Town Board shall be physically present at meetings, unless allowed remote attendance at locations that do not allow for in-person physical attendance by the public, under extraordinary circumstances.
- d) The list of extraordinary circumstances is non-exhaustive, but shall include illness, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member's physical attendance at such meeting. The following shall not be deemed as extraordinary circumstances: vacation or delayed travel.
- e) Members shall provide notice of their inability to attend a meeting to the Town Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the meeting or as soon as reasonably able.
- f) The Committee Chairs, when available, shall retain discretion over permitted extraordinary circumstances for their Committee, pursuant to Section 2(d) of this local law.
- g) The Town Supervisor shall retain discretion over permitted extraordinary circumstances for the Board and for Committee meetings when that Chair is unavailable, pursuant to Section 2(d) of this local law.
- h) Members allowed to appear remotely shall leave their video camera on at all times during the meeting unless excused by the Chairperson.
- i) Rules for executive session shall still apply, and members shall not permit any unauthorized persons to listen to or overhear any executive session discussion.
- j) It is understood that members permitted to attend a location that does not allow for in-person physical attendance by the public will not count toward a quorum. Only members present at a physical location which allows for in-person attendance by the public will count toward a quorum.
- k) Any members of the public attending a meeting must be able to hear, see and identify any member of the public body who is attending remotely while the meeting is being conducted.
- l) Meetings conducted using videoconferencing shall be recorded and those recordings shall be posted or linked within five (5) business days of the meeting on the Town website and maintained for five (5) years thereafter. Recordings shall be transcribed upon request.
- m) In those meetings where videoconferencing is used the public shall be able to view the meeting via video and participate in the proceedings via videoconference in real time where public participation is authorized.
- n) The Town Board may hold fully remote meetings, and in-person participation requirements of the Law shall not apply, during: a state disaster emergency declared by the governor pursuant to Section 28 of the Executive Law, or a local state of emergency proclaimed by the chief executive of a county, city, village, or town pursuant to Section 24 of the Executive Law, if the Board determines that the circumstances necessitating the emergency declaration would affect or impair the ability of the Board to hold an in-person meeting.
- o) If videoconferencing is used to conduct a meeting, the public notice for the meeting shall inform the public that videoconferencing will be used, where the required documents and records will be posted or available, where members of the public can view and/or participate in such meeting via videoconference and identify the physical locations where members of the Board will be physically present at the meeting and where members of the public can attend the meeting in person.
- p) If videoconferencing is used to conduct a meeting, members of the public shall be allowed to view the video broadcast of any meeting using videoconferencing simultaneously when the meeting is conducted. Additionally, at meetings where public comment or participation is authorized by the County or Law, members of the public shall be allowed to participate in the proceedings using videoconference technology in real time and with the same opportunity for public participation or testimony as in-person participation or testimony.
- q) Open meetings of any public body that are broadcast or that use videoconferencing shall utilize technology to permit access by members of the public with disabilities consistent with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and corresponding guidelines.

r) The minutes of the meetings involving videoconferencing must include which, if any members, participated remotely and must be made available to the public.

§6. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, subdivision or other party of this local law or its applications shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalidated or unconstitutional, proved that such judgment does not invalidate this local law or prohibit its administration, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or otherwise invalidate the remainder of this local law which shall remain in full force and effect.

§7. Effective Date.

This local law shall be effective immediately upon its filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

§8. Expiration Date.

This local law shall expire on July 1, 2024.”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of St. Armand Town Board shall hold and conduct a public hearing on the foregoing proposed local law on November 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. of that day, to hear any and all persons concerning the same.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer and adopted upon a Roll Call vote as follows:

Supervisor Davina Winemiller	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Karl Law	AYE
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell	AYE
Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer	AYE

Dated: October 18, 2022

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 73 OF 2022

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND TOWN BOARD AUTHORIZATION
AND APPROVAL TO USE CARES ACT FUNDS TO FUND
THE SIEWERT EQUIPMENT QUOTE FOR REPAIRS ON THE
FOUR KAESER BLOWERS AT THE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT

Councilperson Donald Amell, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the four Kaeser blowers located at the Town of St. Armand’s Wastewater Treatment Plant are in need of servicing and repair, and

WHEREAS, the Town received a quote from Siewert Equipment in the amount of \$5,900 to repair and provide service to the existing blowers, and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor, Davina Winemiller reported to the Town Board that CARES ACT FUNDS can be used for this project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand hereby approves by Resolution the expenditure of CARES ACT funds not to exceed the amount of \$5,900.00 for Siewert Equipment for the repair and service of the four Kaiser blowers.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Deputy Supervisor Karl Law and adopted by Roll Call Vote as follows:

Supervisor Davina Winemiller	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Karl Law	AYE
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell	AYE
Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer	AYE

Dated: October 18, 2022

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 74 OF 2022

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND TEMPORARY WAIVER OF WATER
SHUT-OFFS FOR UNPAID BALANCES THE REMAINDER OF 2022

Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the current Town of St. Armand Water and Sewer Regulations dated June 20, 2019 and adopted by the Town Board on July 9, 2019 state that Water and Sewer accounts not paid by the due date will be assessed a 10% late fee penalty the following business day, and

WHEREAS, the same Regulations named above also state Water and Sewer services for those persons with unpaid balances shall be notified by doorknob notice of the intent to discontinue service, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order established by the Governor of New York State had issued a notice to all utilities that due to the Covid-19 Virus that no utility shall be discontinued until further notice has expired, and

WHEREAS, due to the economic hardship following the COVID pandemic, the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand has considered suspending the water shut-offs for the remainder of 2022, and

WHEREAS, further information on the New York State Office of Temporary Disability Low Income Household Water Assistance Program was disseminated to customers with past due water and sewer accounts, were given the opportunity to apply for assistance with their water and sewer past due balances, and are pending responses.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand, in recognition of its Residents and the hardship this pandemic has caused shall grant a temporary waiver of proposed water shut-offs to those residents and businesses with unpaid balances on their Water and Sewer accounts as of November 1, 2022.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Councilperson Donald Amell and adopted by Roll Call Vote as follows:

Supervisor Davina Winemiller	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Karl Law	AYE
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell	AYE
Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer	AYE

Dated: October 18, 2022

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 75 OF 2022 TOWN OF ST. ARMAND TOWN BOARD AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL TO USE CARES ACT FUNDS TO FUND THE MATERIALS AND PARTS COSTS OF A WATER LINE REPAIR AND TO INSTALL A NEW HYDRANT AND WATER SHUT-OFF IN THE ROCKLEDGE WATER DISTRICT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,000

Deputy Supervisor Karl Law, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, there was a water main break in the Rockledge Water district on October 10, 2022, and

WHEREAS, when MJ Raymond was called on site to do the repairs, it was noted that the fire hydrant was leaking from the water main break, hence a new hydrant is necessary, and

WHEREAS, it was also noted there was PVC pipe serving as the line, and should be cast iron duct tile pipe, and in addition, there was not shut-off on Saranac Lane, therefore, the shut-off had to be done at Forest Hill,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the repairs to remedy the situation will be done by MJ Raymond, and the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand authorizes Cares Act Funds to be used to pay for the cost of the materials and parts in those repairs, in the amount not to exceed \$16,000.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell and adopted by Roll Call Vote as follows:

Supervisor Davina Winemiller	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Karl Law	AYE
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell	AYE
Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer	AYE

Dated: October 18, 2022

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

MOTION TO PAY MONTHLY BILLS

The payment vouchers for October’s bills were presented for the Board’s approval as follows:

- General Vouchers # 302 - # 325 in the amount of \$ 23,083.20
- Trust and Agency Vouchers # 27 - # 28 in the amount of \$ 191.50
- Highway Vouchers # 136 - # 151 in the amount of \$ 9,504.57
- Highway Outside Voucher # 3 in the amount of \$ 3,315.26
- Water and Sewer Vouchers # 165 - # 185 in the amount of \$ 15,191.65
- HT Grant Vouchers # 19 - # 22 in the amount of \$ 4,467.63

Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer made the Motion to approve payments of this month’s bills; the Motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Stephanie Mikesell. A Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Supervisor Davina Winemiller	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Karl Law	AYE
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell	AYE
Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer	AYE

All in favor. Motion carried.

Dated: October 18, 2022

Barbara J. Darrah,
St. Armand Town Clerk

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Supervisor Winemiller presented the Supervisor’s Monthly Report for September 2022. Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell made the Motion to approve September’s Supervisor’s Report. The Motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Karl Law. All in favor. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MONTH’S MINUTES

Councilperson Donald Amell made the Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meetings held on August 16, 2022 and September 20, 2022. The Motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Karl Law. All in favor. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK’S MONTHLY REPORT

Town Clerk Barbara Darrah reported there was no revenue collected from the Town Clerk for the Month of September 2022.

WATER AND SEWER BILLING MONTHLY REPORT:

The 4th quarter billing was finalized on October 15, 2022, and the total billing amount was \$76,526.30. The bills were mailed out on October 15, 2022, with a payment due date of November 14, 2022. The total receivables as of October 18, 2022 are \$ 101,024.28. That total includes current billing and all balances in arrears. The re-levy is due to Essex County the week of November 14, 2022.

Approximately five customers have applied to the NYS LIHWAP Water and Sewer Assistance Program and we are waiting for approvals.

OLD BUSINESS

Fawcett Property Possible Land Purchase – the APA came out and did the flagging for the wetland and produced a map. Supervisor Winemiller emailed the map and plan to Andrew and Cheryl Fawcett and they are reviewing it.

Town Hall Grant Update – The Town Hall grant has gone to bid and we are waiting for the bid packets. Winemiller invited the Board to go upstairs and see the progress that has been made. The contractor has also been working on the outside sills.

The Comprehensive Plan Grant is moving forward, but it has been awarded to us and we are just waiting for the State. Supervisor Winemiller reported the Halloween decorating contest fliers were posted and distributed and she is waiting for applications to come in. The due date is October 24th to get their applications in.

Supervisor Winemiller reminded those present that the Bloomingdale Fire Department Auxiliary is hosting a Craft Fair this Saturday, October 22nd from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. They are also hosting a Michigan lunch for \$6.00. Orders can be called in to pick up or delivery. There will be 17 tables for the craft fair. The St. Armand Veterans Task Force will also be there to sell raffle tickets for the Breakfast basket and sell caps and mugs.

Supervisor Winemiller reported we received the appraisal on the well field that we are looking to purchase from Paul Smiths College. The appraisal came in at \$335,000.00. Winemiller will send another letter and a copy of the appraisal to the new Dean of Paul Smiths College to pursue the purchase of the land. The Town was awarded the first phase of the Source Water Protection Fund grant which will go along with this and obtain the money to purchase the property.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONCERNS FROM GUESTS AND STAFF:

Supervisor Winemiller opened the floor to anyone with questions, comments or concerns.

Warrene McCarthy asked if there was any progress with the old diner? Winemiller responded that she had heard that a local resident might possibly be interested in opening the diner, but had not heard anything more.

Sandy Hayes commented on the proposed Local Law for the Open Meetings Law. Discussion ensued on various topics of the law, specifically 5C. “Members of the Town Board shall be physically present unless allowed remote attendance under extraordinary circumstances.”

Karl Law: That’s how this all got started. Now we are at the point that we can attend in person. Masks and screening are still required at the hospital, but not in work places and schools.

Warrene McCarthy asked if Stephanie Mikesell has ever been at a meeting? She continued that she has never met her.

Winemiller: Stephanie has attended a couple of meetings in person.

Mikesell: My issue, Warrene, is that my husband works off-hours and so child care is very difficult. Like, I had a babysitter set up for tonight, but then we spent last night in the ER with the baby, so I couldn’t leave her with the sitter tonight because I didn’t want to give the sitter pinkeye.

Winemiller: So, Stephanie has a young child and her issue tonight was child care. I believe that most of the time the meetings have occurred, it probably was related to child care. We all know that child care is difficult

Sandy Hayes: The reason I ask, but right now I am having an issue with the Adirondack Park Agency. I can walk into the NYS Health Department, I sign in, I walk down the hall and enter Marlene Martin’s office and sit across from her. At the APA, I have to ask permission to attend a meeting and to enter the building, and I am denied entrance.

Winemiller: This proposed law has come from the County, which came from the State.

Discussion ensued regarding allowance into the APA building.

Sandy Hayes asked why the flags have been removed from the cemetery before Veterans Day. Winemiller stated she would check with Cy Ellsworth.

Winemiller announced the St. Armand Veterans Memorial Park Task Force wants to put on a brief Veterans Day Ceremony at St. Armand Veterans Park on Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 11:00 am and serve refreshments after the ceremony.

Sandy Hayes commented on the very helpful person at the Transfer Station.

Supervisor Winemiller reported that St. Paul’s Church is in the process of closing and coming up for sale. On October 13th, Winemiller attended a meeting with community members regarding what would be happening to the Church. The Food Pantry from Vermontville is looking for a new place to host the Food Pantry. Winemiller stated the Board had discussed the idea of a community center about a year ago. Nothing was finalized at the meeting Winemiller attended, but others in attendance were very excited to hear the Town was interested in having a community center. Father said it would be June of 2023 or June of 2024, that the church would be available.

Warrene McCarthy: I don’t want to beat a dead horse, but I would just like more clarity on Stephanie (Mikesell). Didn’t she know when she ran for Councilperson that she wasn’t going to be able to make the meetings and shouldn’t....

Mikesell: Warrene, I’m happy to chat with you about this; I don’t want to hold everybody else up; it’s getting late. Did you want to have this discussion with the whole group or is this something you wanted to talk about one on one? I’m happy to explain what the situation is, if that’s helpful.

McCarthy: Stephanie, I had never realized when you were running, and I will say that I did vote for you, but I did not realize that you were not going to be what I would call a full-time Councilperson. It has just been gnawing at me since the election, that you’re not here. I am just wondering is it always going to be like this? Are you planning on running again? And shouldn’t the people of the Town of St. Armand have known at the time that this was what was going to happen; that we were not going to have four Council people in the room at a meeting?

Mikesell: Well, I guess.....first of all, I would like to say I have attended a number of meetings this year in person with the remote option that has been really helpful, especially because I do have a small kid and we are really understaffed at our business, which I did not know was going to be an issue. When I ran, the business was fully staffed and I wasn’t needed to help supplement with some of the hours. Unfortunately, that is not something we have been able to control. I have had to do some work on the side for that, so I apologize for that. But I have been in person and I don’t think by

attending these meetings virtually means that I am not a fully involved member. I know I did miss a budget meeting earlier this month and my apologies for that. I messed my calendar up and I fixed the issue and that won't happen again. But there are a lot of things that are outside of my control that I am trying to get squared away. It is easier for some other people who have kids at home and have a partner who works regular hours and that partner can stay with them. That, unfortunately, is not our situation. I suspected a little bit that it would be difficult, and we do have some friends who are available to sit, but the issue particularly today is because my kid is sick and I didn't want to take her to the sitter because I did not want to get them sick. I plan to be at the budget meeting tomorrow and if you have any other concerns, I am always happy to chat. I think all of our emails are on the website, and if you are not a web person, I can do the phone, too. Judy (Odell) will attest to my phone ability, I think. I'm not really sure how else to answer the question other than that I am doing my best like I think everybody is and just try to flex into getting used to the time commitment and making sure I am available.

Karl Law: So Stephanie, this is Karl speaking. I am assuming you are referencing me considering that there are only four of us on the Board, and I am the only one with a small child.... I'm assuming...

Mikesell: Oh, I did not mean to single you out, Karl.

Law: So, I will say I adjust my schedule because I know when all these meetings are from January 1st on. We print out every meeting with the exception of Public Hearings and Special Board Meetings. We know all of our meetings from January 1st through the end of December. So, if something pops up, I understand that. Or, if you are sick or on vacation, I think this is a great way for us to still be able to attend the meetings. But for you to make reference that it is easier for a Board member with a child...and I am assuming it's me, I make every meeting and I've been here for five years, and actually, I made every meeting the year before I ran. So I do not take kindly to you making that reference.

Mikesell: Oh, no, Karl, I'm sorry. That is not how I meant for that to come across at all. My apologies. I was talking to Ethan earlier and I made a joke that it would be easy for me to make these meetings if I had a wife sort-of-joke. I shouldn't be flippant. It is not aimed at you at all. It's frustration with my own situation coming through. It is not at all aimed at you. I am very new to this and I don't always choose my words as carefully and it's not aiming it at you at all. I am very sorry that it came across that way.

Karl Law: I do want to make very clear I have a two-year old at home. I was elected and I have been here 5 years. I want to make it clear that it is not easy for me as well, but I still make the meetings.

Mikesell: Yes, I understand. I am sorry. It was not my intent to call you out.

McCarthy: I'm sorry, I did not mean to cause a riff here. I just don't think that it's in the best concerns of the community to have a non-participating, a person that does not make any of the meetings or not very many of the meetings to be representing the Town. And, I will tell you if I had realized that that is the way it was going to be, I would not have voted the way I had. And, that's all I am going to say on the subject. But, it has been bothering me ever since the election. And, I have heard it from other people. I don't know you and I think you have a lovely business down here. It has nothing to do with that. I try to make every meeting that I can unless I am in the hospital or physically cannot make the meetings, so I think a Board member should do the same. With that I am going to say goodnight.

Mikesell: I do appreciate hearing that and I am definitely working on getting to these meetings more often.

Supervisor Winemiller asked if there were any more questions or concerns. There were none.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Winemiller requested an Executive Session in order to discuss personnel issues.

Councilperson Donald Amell made a Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. The Motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Karl Law. The Executive Session began at 8:26 pm.

MOTION TO ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer made a Motion to adjourn the Executive Session. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Donald Amell. The Executive Session ended at 8:33 pm.

MOTION TO ADJOURN REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Deputy Supervisor Karl Law made the Motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. The Motion was seconded by

Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell. The Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

I, Barbara J. Darrah, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Regular Board Meeting minutes held on the above-referenced date.

Dated: October 18, 2022

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk