

Town of Rodman  
12509 School Street  
Rodman, NY 13682  
Town Board Meeting  
March 13, 2024  
7:00 PM

A scheduled meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rodman, County Jefferson and the State of New York was at the Community Hall Offices, 12509 School Street, Rodman, NY on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Lisa Worden	-----	Supervisor
	Vance Carpenter	-----	Councilman
	Stuart Tamblin	-----	Councilman
	Michael Gaylord	-----	Councilman
	Daniel Grandjean	-----	Councilman
	Dale Tamblin	-----	Highway Superintendent
	Jamie Ackley	-----	Town Clerk
	Amy Simpson	-----	Town Justice-Absent
	Justin Sorensen	-----	Town Zoning Officer-Absent
	John Stinson	-----	Planning Board Chairman
	Linda McConnell	-----	Library Manager
	Jim Rounds	-----	Town of Rodman Assessor-Absent

Supervisor Lisa Worden called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, with the Pledge to the flag, at the Rodman Community Hall.

**PRIVILEGE of the FLOOR-** Landowner Anthony Neddo shared his concerns with the increase on assessments. Mr. Neddo asked how the assessor and the town could justify the increase. Supervisor Lisa Worden stated the board is aware of the big increase and concerns. She asked Mr. Neddo to be patient with the Town of Rodman while going through this process.

Councilman Vance Carpenter made a motion to approve February's minutes, Councilman Daniel Grandjean seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**DANC REPORT** –Stuart Tamblin, Assistant Landfill Superintendent, Solid Waste Division of the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), submitted a report for the month of February.

DANC received a total of 1,406 scale transactions, totaling 1514,759.31 tons of material; for the month of February.

DANC reviewed, approved and processed 14 special waste requests.

DANC had 8.61 tons of mattresses diverted from the landfill in the month of February.

DANC diverted approximately 34.72 tons of tires in the month of February.

DANC has recorded .71 inches of rain for the month of February.

There were 1,795,163 gallons of leachate hauled to the Watertown Treatment Plant in the month of February. The City of Watertown accepted 209 loads.

There were 34,509 gallons of leachate hauled to the City of Ogdensburg in the month of February. The City of Ogdensburg accepted 4 loads.

**CTHC REPORT**– Angie Kimball, Circuit Rider Tug Hill Council (CTHC), submitted a report for the month of February. (See attachment)

The New York Planning Federation’s 83rd annual conference has been scheduled from April 7th through April 9th at the Saratoga Hilton. For more information visit <https://nypf.org/annual-conference-registration/>.

The New York Preservation League is launching a new annual grant program to support capital improvement projects at significant historic properties in New York State, For more information visit [www.preservenys.org/preservation-opportunity-fund](http://www.preservenys.org/preservation-opportunity-fund).

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Tug Hill Commissions meeting will be held March 18th, at 10:00 am at the Village of Pulaski Snow Memorial Building.

The CTHC Executive Committee will be meeting Monday, March 4, at 7:00 pm at the Town of Boylston Town Hall.

The 2024 Local Government Conference (LGC) will be held on March 1st and 2nd at the Turning Stone Event Center.

**Supervisor’s Financial Report** – Supervisor Lisa Worden submitted a Monthly Report of Receipts and Payments for February, it was read and filed.

The Watertown Savings Banks accounts and NYCLASS accounts were all submitted and reviewed by board members.

Supervisor Lisa Worden stated check number 6424 and 6425 were voided due to a Supervisor Clerk’s printing mistake. All noted.

**Town Zoning Officer’s Report-** Zoning Enforcement Officer Justin Sorenson submitted a report for the month of February. (see attachment)

**Town Justice Report-** Judge Amy Simpson submitted a report for the month of February. Judge Amy Simpson presented the board with a check in the amount of \$1,588.00 for the month of February.

**Town Clerk’s Report-** Jamie Ackley, Town Clerk, submitted a report for the month of February.

Town Clerk Jamie Ackley submitted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Report for the month of February.

Town Clerk Jamie Ackley submitted a signed copy of the 2024 tax collection receipt. Mrs. Ackley wrote a check on January 27, 2024 in the amount of \$178,836.03 payable to the Town of Rodman.

**Highway Superintendent Report-**Superintendent Dale Tamblin submitted a report for the month of February.

**Planning Board-** Planning Board Chairman John Stinson submitted a report for the month of February. The Planning Board has two approved applications and one special use permit being reviewed.

The RIC Energy project is still on hold as of February.

**Library-** Library Manager Linda McConnell submitted a report for the month of February.

The Library had 79 adults and 28 children for the month of February.

There will be a Solar Eclipse educational program on Saturday, March 16, from 10:00 am to Noon.

The Library will be purchasing a NYS PASS to loan to families. This pass will allow families to attend any New York State park at no cost to them.

Tuesday, April 23rd there will be a STEM day for all children from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Thursday, April 25th the library will be having a game day for all children from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

On Wednesday, May 15th, the library's annual Women's Tea will be held from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

**Assessor-** No report was submitted.

**AED-** Supervisor Lisa Worden stated the Little League has contacted Superintendent Dale Tamblin and herself about the newly passed New York State law that mandates all coaches to be within a three minute walk of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). After some discussion the town board feels an AED should be at the transfer station, town hall, concession stand and town highway department. All agree. Superintendent Dale Tamblin will order four AED's.

**SNIRT AGREEMENT 2024-** The SNIRT Agreement is an agreement between the Town of Rodman Board and Barnes Corners Sno-Pals Snowmobile Club.. A motion was made by Councilman Daniel Grandjean to approve the signing of the 2024 Snirt Agreement, Councilman Stuart Tamblin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**South Jeff Rescue update-** Supervisor Lisa Worden stated she attended a public hearing along with surrounding towns that was held at the South Jefferson High School. Supervisor Lisa Worden stated there will be an informal meeting with Guilfoyle Ambulance at the Rodman Town Hall. Neighboring town Supervisor's and any town board members that would like to attend are welcome.

**Signer**-Town Clerk Jamie Ackley would like the Town of Rodman Board to approve Supervisor Lisa Worden as a second signer at the Watertown Saving Bank on the Town Clerk's account. A motion was made and approved.

**Roofs**-Superintendent Dale Tamblin stated the pavilion and the transfer stations roof are rusted and need to be coated. All agreed that Superintendent Dale Tamblin will find someone to maintain the roofs at the pavilion and transfer station.

**Septic**- Town Clerk Jamie Ackley stated that there is a sewer smell that comes and goes in the town hall. No one knows when the septic was last pumped. All agreed to have the septic pumped when the ground dries.

**Comprehensive Plan**- Town Clerk Jamie Ackley and Councilman Stuart Tamblin both took turns updating the town board with the ongoing comprehensive plan. Every meeting people that support different events and people that are a part of different departments through the town and Jefferson County will be invited to give their input. Their input will help develop the comprehensive plan. Next meeting will be held on April 17, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

**Lawn Mowing**- Supervisor Lisa Worden stated the Town of Rodman will be looking to hire someone to mow the Gordon Cole Memorial Park.

**Reassessment**- Supervisor Lisa Worden stated for two years the town board was under the impression an assessment of the town had to be done. However that is not the case, it is a town choice whether or not to do the assessment. New York State Law provides that all property within a municipality be assessed to the uniform percent of market value. The percent could be 5%, 20%, 50% or any other percent up to 100% With that being said the Town of Rodman has to make a decision on how to proceed forward. That decision will be made by the town board members also with the guidance of the Town attorney.

The attached letter was sent to Assessor Jim Rounds as a formal notice of grievance asking him to reconsider the 100% market value. (Original letter in attachments on letterhead)

March 8, 2024

RE: Grievance of Assessed Value

Mr Rounds,

This is a formal notice of the grievance that I am initiating on behalf of the entire Town of Rodman.

When we met in my office on Monday January 29, 2024 you stated that the \$2,800 per acre new assessment was not able to be changed at that time, I believe that this grievance period is the time for that change.

My concerns then and my concerns now are the same. I do not believe that the sale in the Town of Ellisburg and the sale in the Town of Rutland should have as much bearing on the assessed value of the acreage in Rodman that you are giving it. If and when the Town of Rodman has a sale of acreage that is substantial, like both of the sales that you referred to, then a more than double jump in assessed value would be warranted. At this time, I truly believe that going from \$1,200 per acre to \$2,800 per acre is not correct.

Another concern is the poorly handled meetings within the Town of Rodman over the Ag Exemptions. Those meetings left people more confused and I do not believe that all of the people who had questions had them taken care of properly.

Jefferson County Soil and Water should have been present at that meeting to address what it is that their part of the process would be. We still have residents who still do not know what they are supposed to be doing, what they should be filing and some still have not had a return call. I asked you that day when we met in my office to return messages in a better manner and to be understanding to the residents of Rodman. I am also very concerned with the people who never received a letter in regards to the Ag Exemption on meeting as the stacks of returned mailings had no address labels, which leads me to believe that those are most likely the people who state they knew nothing about the meeting.

I am also disappointed that our conversation seems to have been ignored, as when we spoke, I asked that when you are dealing with the people of Rodman that a certain standard needs to be adhered to, with kindness and understanding.

That has not been the case from the telephone calls that I have received since the new assessments have gone out.

The Town Assessor works for the people of Rodman and for the Rodman Town Board.

In conclusion we are asking that the \$ 2,800 assessed value be adjusted to better reflect the Town of Rodman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa C Worden

Town of Rodman Supervisor

### **New/Old**

Superintendent Dale Tamblin stated he would like to expand and maintain the parking lot at the town highway department. All agreed.

Town Clerk Jamie ACKley stated town resident Byron Whitney has submitted a letter of interest for cleaning the Town Hall. After some discussion Bryon Whitney will be cleaning the Town Hall once a week for \$125 per cleaning. All agreed.

Supervisor Lisa Worden stated she will be applying for a Sam's Club Card to make ordering supplies easier and cheaper.

Rodman Town Board entered into executive session at 8:35 pm, for matters leading to discipline of a particular person that needs to be addressed by the entire town board. The executive session ended at 9:00 pm. No action was taken.

General and highway bills numbered 67-101 in the total amount of \$147,098.01 were audited and ordered paid for the month of February.

Supervisor Lisa Worden motioned to adjourn at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Ackley, Town Clerk

Next board meeting April 10, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

