



GRAFTON TOWN BOARD MEETING

September 11, 2023 – 7:00PM

Grafton Town Hall – 2379 NY RT 2, Grafton NY 12082

Meeting called to Order by Supervisor Gundrum 7:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMAN STEVE BEAUDRY – Present

COUNCILMAN PIERCE HOYT – Present

COUNCILMAN FRANK LEWANDUSKY – Present

COUNCILWOMAN JODIE DESCHAINE – Present

SUPERVISOR INGRID GUNDRUM – Present

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE WERE THE FOLLOWING: Mr. & Mrs. Davies, John Munn, Mark Gilchrist, Thomas Withcuskey, Mary Gentner, Madonna Roy, Kathy Swota, Nancy La Rocque, Beth Wagar, Becky Greene, Leanna Sweet, Frank Higgins, John Oliver, David Buckley, Kim Bacon, Erika & Chuck Douglas, Jarod Bouchard, Ann Calabro, Donna Baldwin, Tom Sullivan & 3 unknown individuals

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM: August 14, 2023 Town Board Meeting - Motion to Approve the above Minutes made by Supervisor Gundrum, seconded by Councilwoman Deschaine – Motion Carried 5 – 0

REPORTS AND REMITTANCES FROM TOWN COMMITTEES:

SUPERVISOR: Presented to Town Board & Available online – RT 2 has been striped, Purple Heart signs will be up soon, Budget sheets have been handed out and need to be returned to Supervisor by September 20th.

TOWN CLERK: Thanks to the Highway Department for installing new signboard and landscaping. Town Clerk Fees: \$302.50, Trash: \$2805.00, Building Permits: \$456.25, Total Revenue \$4458.05, Payment to DEC, Agri-Market & NYS Dept of Health \$894.30, Check to Supervisor \$3563.75

Motion to approve Town Clerk Report made by Supervisor Gundrum, seconded by Councilman Lewandusky – Motion Carried 5 – 0

Roll Call:

Councilman Beaudry - Yea

Councilwoman Deschaine - Yea

Councilman Lewandusky – Yea

Councilman Hoyt - Yea

Supervisor Gundrum – Yea

ASSESSOR: None

DOG CONTROL: Multiple calls for dogs running loose on South Road

HIGHWAY: Chip Sealing done, Thank you to Berlin, Poestenkill & Hoosick for their help, Cleaning up after the storm – Thank you to the Fire Department for all they did during the storm, We are working on getting trucks ready for winter

BUILDINGS/CODE ENFORCEMENT: 38 new permits

PLANNING BOARD: Minor Sub-division – Jay Hakes Road

RESCUE SQUAD: Calls Dispatched 19 – Call Response 13, 401.5 miles – Man Hours 71.26

LIBRARY: 771 Books, 307 Ebooks, 574 patrons, Zoomba has started on Mondays, Legos after School starting September 25th.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – Pickleball/Cornhole Tournament canceled, Trunk or Treat w/pie baking contest 10/28 at State Park 1:30 – 4:00 – Rain Date 10/29

MERRYMAKERS: Train Trip October 14th.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED:

Resignation - Jen Rogaski – Recreation committee

Peter Pierson – Braver Angels Event 10/14/2023 – Roxborough Holdings

Historical Society – Use of Senior Center 10/21/2023

Grafton Baptist Church – Use of Town Park for Harvest Festival 10/21/23 or rain date 10/27/2023

Information from Town Justices – Senate Bill S00139B – Requiring all Judges to be Lawyers

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 Budget Meeting Schedule – October 11, 2023 @ 5:00PM

Highway Department – Paving of Fox Hollow

OLD BUSINESS:

Furnace – No need to clean Town Hall until furnace is fixed – Approve Legenbauer Gas & Oil to convert furnace to propane included with Motions & Resolutions

Pickleball Court Striping – On Valley Paving’s schedule – delayed by rain

New York State Harassment & Discrimination Annual Training – NYMIR.org – Required annually – Small changes with State requirements – multiple avenues available online for training

Highway Department – Fleet Vehicle Management – Possibly order two pickup trucks & one F600

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Thank you to Highway Department for trying to fix the issues with Richmond & Palitsch Road
Questions about Trunk or Treat – Why it is being held at State Park – safety of children,
Clarification on inclusions of other towns – No cost to Town and trying to be inclusive, Heather
Hasbrouck has also resigned from Recreation Committee after the October Trunk or Treat.
Why does it seem we make people jump through “Hoops” to volunteer for committees
Thanks to the Highway Department, and James Goyer Sr.
Can we put a link for resolutions with minutes? Resolutions with Agenda
Any response from District Attorney on investigation?
Recording Planning Board Meetings, Planning Board Minutes not up to date
Email Addresses for all officials
Ethical question of Deputy Town Clerk Appointment
Voting on proposed Laws from the State has put forth – clarification on why we do it
Thank you to Library for Reading Program

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

Motion to hold the first Budget Workshop on October 11, 2023 at 5:00PM made by Supervisor
Gundrum, seconded by Councilman Hoyt – Motion carried 4 – 0

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Beaudry – Yea
Councilwoman Deschaine – Yea
Councilman Hoyt – Yea
Councilman Lewandusky – No Vote
Supervisor Gundrum – Yea

Motion to accept the proposal from Valley Paving for \$73,887.20 for paving to be done on Fox
Hollow made by Supervisor Gundrum, seconded by Councilman Beaudry – Motion Carried 5 –
0.

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Beaudry – Yea
Councilwoman Deschaine – Yea
Councilman Hoyt – Yea
Councilman Lewandusky – Yea
Supervisor Gundrum – Yea

Motion to allow the Grafton Baptist Church to use the Town Park on October 21, 2023 made by Supervisor Gundrum, seconded by Councilwoman Deschaine – Motion Carried 5 – 0

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Beaudry – Yea

Councilwoman Deschaine – Yea

Councilman Hoyt – Yea

Councilman Lewandusky – Yea

Supervisor Gundrum – Yea

Motion to allow the Grafton Historical Society to use the Everett Wagar Senior Center on October 21, 2023 for their annual fundraiser made by Supervisor Gundrum, seconded by Councilman Hoyt – Motion Carried 5 – 0

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Beaudry – Yea

Councilwoman Deschaine – Yea

Councilman Hoyt – Yea

Councilman Lewandusky – Yea

Supervisor Gundrum – Yea

Motion to move Resolution #62 of 2023 – Opposing Senate Bill S00139B, as printed made by Councilman Lewandusky, seconded by Councilwoman Deschaine – Motion Carried 5 – 0

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Beaudry – Yea

Councilwoman Deschaine – Yea

Councilman Hoyt – Yea

Councilman Lewandusky – Yea

Supervisor Gundrum – Yea

Motion to move Resolution #63 of 2023 – Legenbauer Contract for furnace conversion made by Councilman Lewandusky, seconded by Councilman Beaudry – Motion carried 5 – 0

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Beaudry – Yea

Councilwoman Deschaine – Yea

Councilman Hoyt – Yea

Councilman Lewandusky – Yea

Supervisor Gundrum – Yea

Motion to move Resolution #64 of 2023, Declaring September 2023 aa a month of Remembrance made by Councilman Lewandusky, seconded by Councilwoman Deschaine – Motion carried 5 – 0 – Followed by a Moment of Silence

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Beaudry – Yea

Councilwoman Deschaine – Yea

Councilman Hoyt – Yea

Councilman Lewandusky – Yea

Supervisor Gundrum – Yea

Motion to pay bills as audited – Voucher #357 – 388 Totaling \$74,192.67 made by Supervisor Gundrum, seconded by Councilman Lewandusky – Motion Carried 5 – 0

ROLL CALL:

Councilman Beaudry – Yea

Councilwoman Deschaine – Yea

Councilman Hoyt – Yea

Councilman Lewandusky – Yea

Supervisor Gundrum – Yea

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Budgetary Issue made at 8:32PM by Supervisor Gundrum, seconded by Councilman Hoyt – Motion Carried 5 – 0

No Decisions Made

Motion to Return from Executive Session at 8:46PM made by Supervisor Gundrum, seconded by Councilwoman Deschaine – Motion Carried 5 - 0

Motion to Adjourn in Loving Memory Wilfred H Poulin III & the 2977 Souls who perished in the attacks of September 11, 2001 made by Councilman Lewandusky, seconded by Councilwoman Deschaine at 8:40PM – Motion Carried 4-0, Supervisor Gundrum – No Vote

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED


VICTORIA BURDICK

GRAFTON TOWN CLERK

Approved:



TOWN OF GRAFTON

Established in 1807

P.O. BOX G, Grafton, New York 12082

(518) 279-3565 (518) 279- 3685 (Fax)

Email: graftontownclerk@albany.twcbc.com

www.townofgraftonny.org

Introduced by Councilman Lewandusky

Resolution #62 of 2023

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO NEW YORK STATE SENATE BILL S-00139B and ASSEMBLY BILL A-1358B

WHEREAS, New York Senate Bill number S-00139B has been passed which, if adopted by the NYS Assembly (A 1358-B) and signed by the Governor, would require all Judges presiding in the 100 largest Town and Village Courts to be licensed to practice law in the State and to have been admitted to the NYS Bar for at least five years; and

WHEREAS, The Town and Village Courts in Rensselaer County are among the nearly 1,200 Justice Courts in the State of New York that collectively handle close to 1 million cases each year; and

WHEREAS, The Town and Village Courts are known as the "Courts Closest to the People" and have broad jurisdiction, presiding over civil and criminal matters, thereby performing a vital role in the New York State Unified Court System; and

WHEREAS, The Town Court of Grafton is a vital service to our residents and the Rensselaer County community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The Justices in Rensselaer County's Town and Village Courts have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, and render equal justice to all, while continually adhering to judicial rules of ethics and pronouncements of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct; and

WHEREAS, The Justices are required to be on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to review/sign arrest and search warrants, perform arraignments, and issue orders of protection; and

WHEREAS, The Justices of Town and Village Courts ensure that the rights afforded to defendants by the Constitutions of the United States and the State of New York are provided and protected; and

WHEREAS, The Justices of Town and Village Courts preside over trials involving misdemeanor and violation level offenses, thereby ensuring that the victims of those offenses can be heard; and

WHEREAS, The Town and Village Courts provide a venue for Citizens to pursue a low-cost and efficient procedure for individuals to resolve civil disputes and landlord/tenant matters; and

WHEREAS, the Justices also preside nightly and on weekends and holidays, ensuring that

arrested citizens are promptly afforded legal representation, the opportunity to plead to alleged charges, and to be considered for release, bail, or incarceration; and

WHEREAS, The Justices continually strive to improve the administration of justice through participation in mandatory education programs, seminars, meetings of the Rensselaer County Magistrates Association and the New York State Magistrates Association; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Office of Court Administration must certify all as having successfully completed mandatory training both following election and in each subsequent year; and

WHEREAS, The New York State's Commission on Judicial Conduct's most recent annual report (2023) identifies that only 13% of the complaints filed against the judiciary were against Town and Village judges while the remaining complaints were against either "State-paid" judges, (constituting approximately 40% of the judiciary) who accounted for approximately 67% of the complaints received, or against non-judicial entities (20%); and

WHEREAS, This Bill attempts to usurp the right of voters to elect those in their communities that they believe to be fair and impartial, and who would best serve that community, whether they be attorneys or non-attorneys; and

WHEREAS, This Bill implicitly suggests that members of a community are incapable of making informed decisions about who should sit in judgment of matters from the straightforward to the highly complex as may arise in their local courts; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body views the intention of this Bill is not to actually improve the courts, but a blatant and unconscionable attempt by the New York State Bar Association, an organization that represents approximately only fifteen percent (15%) of the State's attorneys, to generate increased opportunities for its members, and to dictate who voters may choose to serve in our local governments;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Governing board of the Town of Grafton strongly, and in unequivocal terms, calls on both the leadership in the Senate and Assembly, and the Governor to reject this poorly conceived and hastily fashioned seizure of voters' rights to determine, for themselves, who they would choose to sit as their judges as has been the case for almost two hundred years.

Motion made by Councilman Lewandusky, seconded by Councilwoman Deschaine
Motion Carried 5 - 0

Roll Call:

Councilman Beaudry - Yes
Councilwoman Deschaine - Yes
Councilman Lewandusky - Yes
Councilman Hoyt - Yes
Supervisor Gundrum - Yes

Adopted: September 11, 2023



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Introduced by Councilman Lewandusky

Resolution #63 of 2023

RESOLUTION UPGRADING TOWN HALL FURNACE TO PROPANE

Authorizing the Town Supervisor to execute and accept the attached quote for the propane burner update, which was obtained per the requirements of the Town Procurement Policy, for the town hall furnace from Legenbauer Gas and Oil for \$2800.00.

Motion made by Councilman Lewandusky, seconded by Councilman Beaudry

Motion Carried 5 - 0

Roll Call:

Councilman Beaudry - Yea
Councilwoman Deschaine - Yea
Councilman Lewandusky - Yea
Councilman Hoyt - Yea
Supervisor Gundrum - Yea

Adopted: September 11, 2023

--- Forwarded Message ---

Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 1:03 PM
From: Ashley Gilbert <ashleygilbert@legenbauergasandoil.com>
To: grafontownclerk@albany.twcbc.com <grafortownclerk@albany.twcbc.com>
Subject: Estimate information

Good Afternoon,
Jim wanted me to email you over a estimation for the following work.

Install 1- Riello 90 series gas burner with lp gas conversion kit

Clean boiler and run gas line to existing 500 lp tank

\$2800.00 total

If you have any questions, please contact the office 518-283-6666.

Have a great day.
Ashley Gilbert
Legenbauer Gas and Oil

<https://mail.twcbc.com/do/mail/message/preview?msgid=SentMailIDELIM3605>



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Introduced by Councilman Lewandusky

Resolution #64 of 2023

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2023 IN GRAFTON NY AS A MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

WHEREAS, This year marks the Twenty-second Anniversary of September 11, 2001 when four U.S. planes hijacked by terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania killing nearly 3,000 people in a matter of hours; and

WHEREAS, It is important that these horrific acts are never forgotten but more importantly, it is vital that America's ability to unite so quickly afterwards in order to aid and comfort those hurting is forever remembered; and

WHEREAS, When these dreadful attacks took place, many valiant people from across the nation, including many in Grafton NY, rushed to offer help, assistance and comfort, which included firefighters, police officers, ambulance crews, emergency services dispatchers, doctors, nurses, emergency service workers and ordinary citizens; and

WHEREAS, In honor of the Twenty-first Anniversary of the September 11th attacks, it is our duty as a Nation and a County to promise to always keep in memory the legacy of those who have died and those who have suffered; and

WHEREAS, Our nation has only become stronger and more patriotic since the attacks and it is important that we continue to show our patriotism and appreciation for the brave men and women who are overseas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Grafton Town Board does hereby pause in its deliberations for a moment of silence in honor of the many victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Town of Grafton does hereby declare the month of September in Grafton as a month of remembrance to pay tribute to the outstanding sacrifice and service these men and women provide to our communities in times of personal, community and national tragedy, disaster, and mishap.

Motion made by Councilman Lewandusky, seconded by Councilwoman Deschaine

Motion Carried 5 - 0

Roll Call:

Councilman Beaudry - Yea
Councilwoman Deschaine - Yea
Councilman Lewandusky - Yea
Councilman Hoyt - Yea
Supervisor Gundrum - Yea

Adopted: September 11, 2023