

January 11, 2022

At the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Newcomb, Essex County, N.Y., held at the Town Hall, Newcomb, N.Y., on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 at 7:00 P. M., the following Board Members were present:

Robin Deloria	Supervisor
Lana Fennessy	Councilwoman
David Olbert	Councilman
Donald Bott	Councilman
Paul LaCourse	Councilman

Others present: Joan Burke, Wes Miga, Kevin Bolan, and Mary Pound.

Present on Zoom: Dave Hughes, Anita Brundage, Hildegaard Link, Dennis Monaghan, Joe Dick, Mark Dillon, Debbie Dillon, Ruth Olbert, Marlene Bott, Barb Kearns, Melissa Yandon, Colleen Sage, Rose Bush, Laurinda Minke, Sue Mills, Niki Garrido, Stephen Rodriguez, George Damasevitz, Charles Bodnar, Paul Hai, Stacy McNulty, Evelyn Stanley, Madison LaFond, Joanne Bush, Ricki Dick, Katie O'Malley, Jayne Funari, Drew Cullen, Sandy Bureau, Russ Drennen, Nancy Tracy, Mark Behuniak, Rich DeFinchy, Mark Engelbrecht, Sue DeFinchy, Sue Gold, Buck Hasko, George Sogoian, Mary Monaghan, Brandi Fifield, Liz & Mike McGuinness, Nancy Fenster, Tom Steffen, Roy & Kirsten Ginsberg, Dave DeFazio, Duane Finch, Jill Vallee, Mary Lamphear, Tammy Walsh Larabee and Jolene Hlavaty.

Supervisor Deloria called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the December 28, 2021, meeting. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried. Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the minutes of the January 1, 2022, organizational meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Fennessy and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Olbert to approve the General Fund Abstract #1 in the amount of \$164746.26. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to approve the Highway Fund Abstract #1 in the amount of \$20099.05. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Olbert to approve the Capital Projects #3 Buildings Abstract #1 in the amount of \$1873.18. Seconded by Councilman Bott and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman LaCourse to approve the Capital Projects #5 Abstract #1 in the amount of \$12426.97. Seconded by Councilman Bott and carried.

The Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan has been rescheduled to January 25, 2022, at 6 p.m. This will provide the Planning Board members additional time to review the plan.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to approve the audit of the Town Justice Court Records and Docket Books. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried by roll call vote: Supervisor Deloria – Aye, Councilman Bott – Aye, Councilwoman Fennessy – Aye, Councilman LaCourse - Aye and Councilman Olbert – Aye.

The Association of Towns annual meeting, February 20-23 has been changed to an All-Virtual Education and Network Event.

There is not much to update on the Sanford Rail Line. Justice McNamara has not ruled on the objections. The Public auction will be scheduled after the ruling.

The Essex County Board has authorized and directed the distribution of the County's American Recovery Funds to the 18 Towns based on a formula. The Town of Newcomb will receive \$20782.06. The Town will need to decide how to distribute these funds

The Town will be upgrading to High Band radios. Essex County Emergency Services will supply the Town with 12 radios, and this will save the Town about \$9000.00. The total cost of the upgrade is approximately \$15179.45 including a new base system and a high band repeater.

Kevin Bolan reported that some cases of Covid have been reported in Newcomb. The Health Center has Covid tests available for those with symptoms. Mr. Bolan read a letter to the Board stating that he has decided to resign/retire from his position as health care provider for the Town of Newcomb. He cited increasing demands, recent personal losses and reduced support from the Town officers as some reasons for his decision. He thanked the Health Center staff for their dedication and hard work.

Dave Hughes reported that he has been working with ROOST on a connector ski trail. ROOST will also be donating a camera to the Town. He has been able to hire Stony Creek Bank to play at our Labor Day celebration. Town calendars are available at the Information Center.

Councilman Olbert asked for updates on several of the current projects. No updates at this time. He would like to formally object to the supervisor's decision to forward an email that did not address a plan of action decided upon by the Board.

Joan Burke wondered if some of the recovery funds could be used to reward the staff at health center.

Ruth Olbert agrees with Joan Burke. She expressed her anger for the resignation of Mr. Bolan and feels that the Town Board is responsible for it.

Roy Ginsburg is saddened and hopes the Board will work with Kevin to provide a smooth transition. The board should remember that the medical center is a big part of the comprehensive plan.

Barb Kearns agrees with Mr. Ginsburg and hopes the Board will look carefully at the Comprehensive Plan and the importance of the medical center to the Town.  
Laurinda Minke is very sad and can't imagine the town without the Bolans.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

February 3, 2022

At the special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Newcomb, Essex County, N.Y., held at the Town Hall, Newcomb, N.Y., on the 3rd of February 2022 at 3:00 P. M., the following Board Members were present:

Robin Deloria	Supervisor
Lana Fennessy	Councilwoman
Donald Bott	Councilman
David Olbert	Councilman
Paul LaCourse	Councilman

Others present: Wester Miga, Joan Burke, Jolene Hlavaty, Tamara Walsh Larabee, Mark Yandon and Mary Pound. Kevin Bolan present via telephone.

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Deloria at 3:00 pm. Motion was made by Supervisor Deloria to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters of a particular person. Seconded by Councilman Bott and carried. Session is expected to be short and when it is over the Board will discuss the job search for the replacement of Kevin Bolan.

The Board went over the job posting and made changes. It was agreed to advertise for a Family Practice Physician, Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner. We will advertise in several different venues to reach as many as possible. Kevin encouraged the Board to work closely with the Long Lake Town Board and Long Lake medical center regarding any plans and advertising. A transition plan can be added to Kevin's contract as an amendment.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Deloria and carried at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted\_\_\_\_\_

February 8, 2022

At the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Newcomb, Essex County, N.Y., held at the Town Hall, Newcomb, N.Y., on the 8th of February 2022 at 7:00 P. M., the following Board Members were present:

Robin Deloria	Supervisor
Lana Fennessy	Councilwoman
Donald Bott	Councilman
David Olbert	Councilman
Paul LaCourse	Councilman

Others present: Wes Miga, Kevin Bolan, Joan Burke, and Mary Pound. Zoom: Barbara Kearns, Marlene Bott, Nicole Garrido, Erica Demars, George Damasevitz, Mary Lamphear, Laurinda Minke, Beth Stalker, Mary Monaghan, Lori Demars, Sandra Bureau, Colleen Sage, Ruth Olbert, Liz and Mike McGuinness, Dave Hughes, George Sogoian, Tammy Walsh, Jolene Hlavaty, and Sue Mills.

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Deloria at 7:00 pm. Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried. Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on January 25, 2022. Seconded by Councilman Bott and carried. Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the minutes of the special meeting on February 3, 2022. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried. Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the audited claims from the cancelled meeting on January 25, 2022. General Fund Abstract #2 in the amount of \$37478.98, Highway Fund Abstract #2 in the amount of \$75979.74, Water Fund Abstract #1 in the amount of \$508.99 and Sewer Fund Abstract #1 in the amount of \$809.65. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to approve the Comprehensive Plan as submitted. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to authorize Supervisor Deloria to sign the subrecipient agreement with Essex County for the American Rescue Plan funds. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried.

The Board met on February 3, 2022 to discuss the retirement of Kevin Bolan. Motion was made by Councilman Olbert to authorize Supervisor Deloria to sign the contracts with Dr. Russell Rider and Kevin Bolan. Seconded by Councilwoman Fennessy and carried. The job posting for his replacement has been placed in several different online and paper publications. Supervisor Deloria received a letter from Dr. Rider regarding the future of the Long Lake and Newcomb Medical Centers. He has recommended that when interviewing any qualified Nurse Practitioner or Family Practice Physician, they are aware that the Towns work together, and the new hire would work under Dr. Riders contract and license. Kevin Bolan will write something for the town newsletter to involve the public in some qualities they would like to see in applicants.

Motion was made by Councilman LaCourse to approve the 2022 Golf Course rates. Seconded by Councilwoman Fennessy and carried. The new rates will be published in the spring town newsletter.

Dave Hughes reported on some of the things that he has been working on in his office. He and Supervisor Deloria met with ROOST today. They brought new pole banners that will advertise the Adirondack Hub and they brought the digital camera they donated to the town. A live web cam was donated to the town and is located at the information center. He is working on spring advertising and promotional video clips.

Kevin Bolan reported that there are still COVID cases in Newcomb. They are taking names for those who would like to get the vaccine. When they have enough they will make it available.

Councilwoman Fennessy thanked all those that donated skates to the town skating rink. She thanked Eugene Bush and his crew for all the work they did at the new skate building.

Councilman Olbert reported that he and Wes Miga had a call with DEC regarding the Essex Chain and the damage and issues done there. He felt it was a productive meeting but it needs follow up.

Joan Burke asked if there would be a military discount available at the Golf Course. Councilman LaCourse will talk with the staff at the golf course regarding this.

Sue Mills questioned why there were no attachments to the agenda for the board meeting. She would like them to be put back for the public.

George Damasevitz thanked the Board for managing all the affairs of the town. He will be attending training in Lake Placid to recertify for his Code Enforcement job.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted \_\_\_\_\_

February 22, 2022

At the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Newcomb, Essex County, N.Y., held at the Town Hall, Newcomb, N.Y., on the 22nd of February 2022 at 7:00 P. M., the following Board Members were present:

Robin Deloria	Supervisor
Donald Bott	Councilman
Paul LaCourse	Councilman
David Olbert	Councilman
Lana Fennessy	Councilwoman

Others present: Cliff Demars, Wes Miga, Kevin Bolan, Alex Helms, Joan Burke and Mary Pound. Zoom: Laurinda Minke, Dave Hughes, Nancy Tracy, Duane Finch, Jolene Hlavaty, Paul Hai, Melissa Yandon, Lori Demars, Sue Paul, Scott Hlavaty, Ricki Dick, Barbara Kearns, George Sogioian, Ruth Olbert, Mike McGuinness, Mary Monaghan, Pat Sullivan, John Foster, Leslie Petrowski, Poppy Cummin, Mary Lamphear, Marlene Bott, Niki Garrido, Alex Garrido, George Damasevitz, Brandi Fifield, and Sue Mills,

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Fennessy and carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to approve the General Fund Abstract #4 in the amount of \$98124.01. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the Highway Fund Abstract #4 in the amount of \$111712.82. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Olbert to approve the Water Abstract #2 in the amount of \$39780.52. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman LaCourse to approve the Sewer Abstract #2 in the amount of \$835.55. Seconded by Councilwoman Fennessy and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the Capital Projects #3 Buildings Abstract #4 in the amount of \$442.82. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to approve the Fire District Abstract in the amount of \$375000.00. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried.

The March meetings are tentatively set for March 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Supervisor Deloria provided the Town Board with a DRAFT copy of an example of a Town Social Media Policy. The Board will need to read it over and make recommendations and changes to the policy.

Supervisor Deloria and Dave Hughes are working on a new Town Website. This website will be linked with the Experience Newcomb App. Dave Hughes did a screen share to show an overview of the new website. Dave thanked all those that have worked on the website in the past. This is a work in progress and should be completed in March. Businesses are encouraged to navigate the new site and give constructive feedback.

Karen Darrah, Tax Collector provided the board with a history of taxes paid by New York State beginning in the year 2000.

Kevin Bolan updated the Board on the response he has received to the Town advertising for his replacement. There has been 3-4 persons interested in the position so far. Kevin has encouraged them to visit the town and work with him for a couple of hours to get the feel for the job. He also reported that the Covid numbers are down, but would still encourage people to wear masks and social distance.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott for a Resolution authorizing the sale of certain lands owned by the Town of Newcomb. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried by roll call vote: Supervisor Deloria – Aye, Councilman Bott – Aye, Councilwoman Fennessy – Aye, Councilman LaCourse – Aye and Councilman Olbert – Aye. The sale is subject to Permissive Referendum. Troy Ford and Jim Schaeffer, owners of the Newcomb Café and Campground have offered \$35,000.00 for the parcel of land on Campsite Rd.

Highway Superintendent, Cliff Demars reported that the new truck for plowing should be here in a couple of weeks. He has talked with the State of New York and will be doing some work on the Upper Works Rd for them.

Councilman Olbert has been working on a matching grant of \$3000.00 for work at the skating rink building.

Joan Burke has concerns with the Social Media Policy. Supervisor Deloria reiterated that this is a homework assignment for the Town Board and is a work in progress.

Alex Helms said that he has the name of someone who could rebuild the ski tow motor. He was also wondering if the town had other land for sale.

Ruth Olbert reminded the Board that the grant application is not guaranteed.

Paul Hai thanked the Board for approving the Comprehensive Plan. He wondered if there was someone from ORDA that could look at the ski tow motor.

Troy Ford thanked the Board for the land sale.

Jolene Hlavaty felt that if we did all the enhancements to the skating rink we should have an AED available there.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted\_\_\_\_\_

March 8, 2022

At the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Newcomb, Essex County, N.Y., held at the Town Hall, Newcomb, N.Y., on the 8th of March 2022 at 7:00 P.M., the following Board Members were present:

Robin Deloria	Supervisor
Lana Fennessy	Councilwoman
David Olbert	Councilman
Paul LaCourse	Councilman
Donald Bott	Councilman

Others present: Joan Burke, Cliff Demars, Kevin Bolan and Mary Pound. Zoom: Dave Hughes, Barb Kearns, Marlene Bott, Scott Hlavaty, Jolene Hlavaty, Mary Monaghan, Roy & Kristen Ginsburg, Laurinda Minke, Niki Garrido, George Damasevitz, Mary Lamphear, Sue Mills, George Sogoian, Mike & Liz McGuinness, Ruth Olbert, Jill Vallee, Mark Yandon, Pat Cunningham, Travis Levesque and L Petrowski.

Supervisor Deloria called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Fennessy and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman LaCourse to approve the General Fund Abstract #5 in the amount of \$40531.71. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to approve the Highway Fund Abstract #5 in the amount of \$11872.04. Seconded by Councilman Bott and carried.

Supervisor Deloria consulted with the Town Attorney and the Town is not required to allow public comments on our pages, nor are we required to have social media pages. No policy will be required going forward.

Supervisor Deloria has another update on the Tahawus Railroad. Trustee Bill Brandt has two railroad companies interested in buying the line and has requested an abeyance until April 30, 2021. The State Attorney General is requesting that STB make a final ruling by April 30, 2021.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted\_\_\_\_\_

March 22, 2022

At the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Newcomb, Essex County, N.Y., held by Conference call, on the 22nd of March 2022 at 7:00 P.M., the following Board Members were present by telephone:

Robin Deloria	Supervisor
David Olbert	Councilman
Lana Fennessy	Councilwoman
Donald Bott	Councilman
Paul LaCourse	Councilman

Others present: Cliff Demars, Joan Burke, Kevin Bolan and Mary Pound. Zoom: Mark Yandon, Laurinda Minke, Barb Kearns, Mary Lamphear, George Damasevitz, Marlene Bott, Dave Hughes, Sue Mills, Niki Garrido, Lori Demars, Paul Hai, Kevin Dewey, Sandy Bureau, Leslie Petrowski, Tammy Walsh, Ruth Olbert, Mike & Liz McGuinness, Brandi Fifield, George Sogoian, P Cummings, Sue Mills and Jacqueline Par.

Supervisor Deloria called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022, meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Fennessy and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Olbert to approve the General Fund Abstract #6 in the amount of \$86054.79. Seconded by Councilwoman Fennessy and carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to approve the Highway Fund Abstract #6 in the amount of \$78219.00. Seconded by Councilman Bott and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the Water Abstract #3 in the amount of \$1143.09. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to approve the Sewer Abstract #3 in the amount of \$949.62. Seconded by Councilman Bott and carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Olbert to approve the Capital Projects #3 Buildings Abstract #5 in the amount of \$4696.05. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried.

April Meetings are tentatively set for April 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Employees have requested that the Town enroll in the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan. This plan gives public employees an additional retirement savings plan with a variety of investment options with pretax dollars. This requires a Town Board Resolution. Motion was made by Councilwoman Fennessy to adopt the plan for Town employees. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried.

Supervisor Deloria attended the NYSAC 2022 Legislative Conference in Albany, March 14-16. He attended several workshops and reported to the Board some of the information that he learned.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to approve the attendance of Code Enforcement Officer, George Damasevitz to the NYSEDA Energy Code Enforcement training on March 29, 2022, in Halfmoon. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried.

New York State DEC has mandated that the Town of Newcomb have two certified operators for the wastewater treatment plant. Training is mandated and Charles Canon and Gene Poulin are pre-registered for classes at Morrisville State College in December Of 2022. This is a 60-hour, two-week course. Motion was made by Councilman Olbert to approve attendance. Seconded by Councilwoman Fennessy and carried.

There is no update on the Tahawus Railroad. The Trustee is awaiting earnest deposit according to the terms of the Asset Purchase Agreement signed by D&D Railroad.

The Town Hall is having water system problems. The UV system has failed, and Culligan installed a new unit. The Town did not previously install a reverse osmosis system but with the water quality we are now experiencing, we may be required to put one in. The cost of the new system is estimated to be around \$18000 and \$20000.

Kristofer Alberga of DEC contacted Supervisor Deloria regarding TNC trails. The Nature Conservancy is selling land to the State and the State would like to give the Town of Newcomb an easement for a snowmobile trail.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to authorize Supervisor Deloria to sign the yearly contract with North County Life Flight. Seconded by Councilman Olbert and carried.

Paul Hai presented the Board with a

Joan Burke, Newcomb Historical Museum, gave a presentation to the Town Board and Community. She summarized the mission of the Newcomb Historical Museum as follows: "NHM is organized to protect its collections and provide educational opportunities for regional residents and visitors to the Adirondack Region. We also serve a wide range of public researchers engaged in historical and genealogical scholarship." She talked about collections that they have organized and the PastPerfect Museum Software that they use to scan and organize pictures and information. The museum has administered two grants that were given by two former Newcomb residents. The museum collects and maintains genealogy records of Newcomb residents as part of the wishes of Marvin Bissell, for his Bissell Fund. They also research and order grave markers for individuals without grave markers.

Paul Hai reported that the Planning Board will be meeting next week and will be working on the Comprehensive Plan.

Mark Yandon has questions on the easement from DEC and would like to make sure that it is included in the deed from TNC to NYState.

Dave Hughes attended the Saratoga Sports Expo over the weekend. He manned a booth there for the Town. The booth highlighted the Experience Newcomb App. The Expo was well attended and he talked with a lot of people about Newcomb.

He also met with Lyndsay Brock regarding social media and the Town. She will be putting together a proposal to assist the Town.

Cliff Demars encouraged Town employees to participate in the Deferred Comp. Plan.

Motion was made by Councilman Bott to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman LaCourse and carried at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted\_\_\_\_\_