

September 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Preston Town Board was held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Those present were:

Zachary Meseck – Supervisor

Steven Palmatier – Councilman

Scott Howe - Councilman

Jessie Howe – Councilman

Eileen Andrews - Councilman

Daniel Franklin – Highway Supt.

Sheri Howe – Bookkeeper, Dep. Clerk

Jennifer Funk – Town Clerk

Mr. Meseck called the regular meeting of the Preston Town Board to order at 7:02 PM.

The Town Board reviewed and approved the Supervisor’s agenda and bills. Mr. Palmatier made a motion to amend the minutes as follows: “Mr. Franklin stated he submitted the CHIPS information, and the Town should receive \$85,573.40 by September” should be amended to “Mr. Franklin stated he submitted the CHIPS information, and the Town should receive \$85,563.40 by September.” Seconded by Ms. Andrews and carried.

Mr. Howe made the motion authorizing the Town Clerk to certify Abstract #9 containing the General Fund Audits Nos. 55-61 totaling \$3,901.55 and Highway Orders Nos. 85-91 totaling \$58,800.56 and authorizing the Supervisor to pay said claims. Seconded by Ms. J. Howe and carried.

Ms. J. Howe made the motion to approve the Supervisor’s Report. Seconded by Mr. Palmatier and carried.

PRIVELEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Dylan Beresford was in attendance to present a quote for the installation and purchase of security cameras. He will be meeting with Mr. Franklin to determine networking capabilities at the Town Barn and Park.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Mr. Meseck stated the NY Comptroller’s office returned the Annual Report, due to questions on last year’s CHIPS funding, which wasn’t properly reported. Mr. Franklin was able to locate and fix the discrepancies and the report was subsequently accepted. Mr. Meseck stated that in looking through Comptroller’s recommendations for other Towns who had more serious issues, training was recommended for Board and Supervisor. Recommended financial training for Board and Supervisor. Comptrollers have a basic online class in November, which is \$80/person, November for basic class and a more comprehensive class in December. This training will count as continuing education. The classes will be held 9am-3pm, November 20th and 21st, and then December 11th – 12th.

Mr. Meseck stated he and Ms. Howe closed a couple of bank accounts, which were in the negative, including ARPA and Dog Fund. The bank will be crediting the Town the fees that were charged on the accounts.

Mr. Meseck stated he had another complaint of junk on Stafford Rd.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Franklin presented the board with his monthly highway report and sick time report for the highway employees.

Mr. Franklin stated he had finished all CHIPS work and had sourced free millings, which have been put on seasonal roads which needed it.

Mr. Meseck stated a Preston resident had complimented him on the job Mr. Franklin is doing.

DOG CONTROL REPORT

Ms. Cody reported to Ms. Funk that she had made 2 house calls to check on a dog that had bitten someone.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Meseck stated the Town has been given the Franchise agreement from Spectrum. The Town will need to determine a franchise fee, up to 5%, and the Town would need to schedule a Public Hearing to approve it. Mr. Palmatier made the motion to set the franchise fee at 3%. Seconded by Ms. Andrews and carried. The Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

Mr. Meseck stated that other towns included in the contract have all signed the Fire Contract with Oxford.

Mr. Meseck stated members of the Preston Fire Department approve the signing and appreciates the Towns request for Preston to have more of an advisory role. The Town Board approved the signing of the 2025-2029 Contract.

Mr. Meseck stated the Utters let him know the sign for the cemetery has been approved. The Pomoroy foundation would like to hold a press conference. The sign dedication and press conference will tentatively be held on October 19th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Howe made the motion to create a Deputy DCO, and appoint Taylor J. Smith, with a salary of \$500, prorated for the rest of the year. Seconded by Ms. Andrews and carried.

Mr. Palmatier stated he and Mr. Larsen may be able to make a carrier for the Packer-Mason Stone to set it on.

Mr. Meseck opened the preliminary budget session.

Mr. Howe made the motion to enter Executive Session at 9:01 p.m. to discuss the Personnel line. Ms. J. Howe seconded and carried. Ms. Andrews made the motion to leave Executive Session at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Howe and carried.

Ms. J. Howe made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Howe and carried.