

REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2025
GALWAY TOWN HALL

Supervisor J.D. Arnold called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Town Board Members were present:

PRESENT: Supervisor J. D. Arnold Councilmember Fred Arnold
 Councilmember Ryan Flinton Councilmember Daniel Clemens
 Councilmember James Ross

OTHERS PRESENT: B. Spagnola, Bookkeeper; M. Luetters, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement; R. Daino, Planning Chair; A. Decker, ZBA Chair; D. Knizek-Neahr, Historian; T. Boerenko; F. Sutch; C. Moon; C. Baxter; B. Adair; D. & A. Balbian; B. & E. Ross; R. Marsh; C. Arnold; J. Snyder; F. Segelken; M. Nicholson; J. Bellone; M. DeFoe, Town Clerk and many more Town Residents.

Pledge to Flag

On a motion was made by Councilmember Daniel Clemens, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2024, Regular Meeting as submitted.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Communications – Town Clerk gave an update on tax collection. Total Warrant is \$2,511,010.20 to date collected \$2,095,176.36. In all the years of collection, I believe this to be the most collected in such a short period of time. Highway Report was received for January with Schedule for February; A few resolutions are needed for tonight, Standard Work Day for NYSLRS; authorization for American Diabetes Association to hold charity bike ride event on Town Roads and utilize Dockstader Park on June 1st for rest stop & the yearly 4-ton seasonal road weight limit restrictions to be placed on Town of Galway Roads. Multiple monthly correspondence was received from evision; ICMA; Gordian; NY Class; United Way; USI; RISE; NYS Environmental Facilities Corp.; GoGov; Association of Towns; Comptroller Weekly updates & Andy McPherson supplied Green Energy Times.

Reports of Committees - **Historian - Darby** stated she was contacted by Diane looking for information on the Charles Fink family from Galway Lake. Working on gathering information for her on the subdivisions that occurred in the 30's. Galway Preservation Society had an interesting meeting on author Allen Maddaus "Wright Peak Elegy" about the plane training accident in 1962 into Wright Peak. **J. D.** asked if there was any update on the movie project? **Darby** stated that she will be narrating movies. Will keep Board in loop with movie schedule. **Youth Commission** – **Fred** stated he had no report. Town Clerk stated that she has had about 30 tickets go out to date. **Planning – No Report.** **ZBA – Dan** stated No ZBA Meeting. He attended Saratoga County Planning & Zoning training and 4 out of 5 ZBA members were in attendance. He felt the training was a great experience and he came out of it with a greater understanding. **Dog Control – No Report.** **Building Department – Max** advised that acknowledgement from NYS Department of State, Division of Codes that his in-service training hours had been met. He hasn't sent the NYS

Department of State, Division of Building Standards and Codes report yet for 2024, anticipates telling Board next month that this has been submitted. He and his Clerk are in the process of revising Applications/Documents for Building Department. Anticipate having everything updated for next month's report. **J.D.** felt the Clerk was a great help to Max on cleaning up old issues. **Highway Department – Fred** stated for January Highway Department plowed & salted 12 days; cut overhead brush on Perth Road; chipped brush town-wide after high winds; pushed drifts; patched potholes & replaced signs town-wide. For February they will cut brush on Hudson, Jersey Hill & Perth Roads and plow & salt as needed. **Ryan** questioned if they knew the status of salt. **Fred** stated that Dave had it ordered, he believes he had some stashed. Salt has hit the Port and everyone is now getting their orders. **Supervisor – J.D.** stated that he did in fact previously state incorrectly that NY Class was FDIC insured and it is not. It is an investment tool that meets all the requirements of the NYS Comptrollers Office. Town will be moving forward with investing with them within the next few months. He didn't mean to mislead anyone, intent was to assure you that it acceptable, safe investment for the Town funds. He apologized for using the wrong terminology. **J.D.** advised that the NYS Comptroller Audit began on January 23rd. They have two people here daily with a supervisor that comes periodically. Peg, Brandon and **J.D.** are providing information to them daily along with answering questions. He feels that it couldn't be going any better. Some of the recommendations they have given to us have already been put into place. When report comes out, those items will already have been addressed. **J.D.** stated it has been wonderful to have two people with a wealth of knowledge here to answer questions regarding money, investing & proper procedures. **Brandon** stated that they are now looking back as far as 2020, it looks like they will be here for a while. **J.D.** stated that he feels they are currently still under general review. They will then determine the areas they want to dig deeper into. **J.D.** stated that he is sure their issues/findings will be more of a policy & procedures, than anything criminal. Will keep everyone informed monthly on how things are going. At a recent Supervisor's breakfast, the county met several candidates interested in Congresswoman's Elise Stefanik's position when she is appointed Ambassador of United States to United Nations. **J.D.** stated that he attended the yearly banquet for the Galway Ambulance Corp. **J.D.** stated that Galway had a good presence at the Conference held in Saratoga by the Saratoga County Planning & Economic Development Group. There were almost 800 people in attendance. The sessions offered were all really good, and everyone came out with a lot of information. With reference to the Highway contract, **J.D.** & **Fred** will meet with two members of Highway Department & Union Representative on February 20th. He represents the Town and will try and strike the best deal possible for the taxpayers of Galway. County has estimated that sales tax projections for 2025 to be lower than last year. The actual 1st months figures are less than the projected figures. The Town Board conservatively estimated sales tax revenue in the 2025 budget, so hopefully even if there is a decrease county-wide we will not feel that.

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the December 2024 General Abstract of Vouchers (A) for a total of \$6.00. Supervisor advised that this was an increase in insurance for a new piece of equipment at highway.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR MEETING, GALWAY TOWN BOARD, FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the December 2024 Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DA) for a total of \$815.62. Supervisor stated that was for repairs to plow truck after being hit by another vehicle. Insurance check has been received and will show in next month's resolution.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Ryan Flinton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember James Ross, to approve the February 11, 2025, General Abstract of Vouchers (A) for \$24,184.28.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember James Ross made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the February 11, 2025, General Abstract of Vouchers (B) for a total of \$3,244.72.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the February 11, 2025, Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DA) for a total of \$40,180.99. Supervisor stated a lot of salt and some parts.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the February 11, 2025, Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DB) for a total of \$5,004.61. Supervisor stated majority of Abstract was health insurance.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Ryan Flinton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember James Ross to approve the February 11, 2025, Special Lighting District Abstract of Vouchers (SL) for a total of \$304.23.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember James Ross made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the February 11, 2025, Trust & Agency Abstract of Vouchers (TA) for a total of \$3,258.14.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the February 11, 2025, Harmony Fire District Abstract of Vouchers (SF2) for a total of \$24,429.09.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the February 11, 2025, Galway Fire District Abstract of Vouchers (SF1) for a total of \$347,750.00.

(1) Abstain, Councilmember Fred Arnold (4) AYE MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Ryan Flinton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember James Ross to approve the February 11, 2025, Ambulance Fund Abstract of Vouchers (AM) for a total of

\$186,000.00.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Arnold stated that basically a little over half the money received from taxes goes out for Ambulance, Galway Fire District & Harmony Fire District.

Supervisor asked if Executive Session was needed, no Board Member felt it was needed.

RESOLUTION #: 4-2025 – Set standard Work Day for NYSLRS. Supervisor stated that this was a requirement for Town Employees (6) hours; with exception of Code Enforcement Officer & Highway Department at (8) hours. On a motion of Councilmember Fred Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton the following resolution was ADOPTED: AYES – 5 NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board approve the Standard Work Day for all Town Employees for NYSLRS as (6) hours; with the exception of the Code Enforcement Officer and the Highway Department for NYSLRS as (8) hours.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #: 5-2025 – American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure Event. On a motion of Councilmember Ryan Flinton, seconded by Councilmember James Ross the following Resolution was ADOPTED: AYES – 5 NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board authorize the Yearly American Diabetes Association “Tour de Cure” charity bike ride event to take place on Town of Galway roads and utilize the Dockstader Park as a rest stop for cyclists on June 1, 2025.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #: 6-2025 – Posting of Roads to seasonal weight limits. On a motion of Councilmember Daniel Clemens, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold the following resolution was ADOPTED: AYES – 5 NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board authorize that effective immediately, all Town road are subject to temporary closure to all vehicle with a gross weight in excess of four (4) tons. Such closure shall take effect upon the erection of signs by the Highway Superintendent on the section of highway for which such traffic is excluded and continues until such time as conditions shall permit opening. Further notice is hereby given that any person or persons violating this order shall be subject to punishment as provided in Section 1800 of the Vehicle & Traffic Law. The Town Clerk will submit Legal Notice, Temporary Order Limiting Rads to 4 Ton on Town of Galway Roads, to the Daily Gazette for immediate release.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION #: 7-2025 – Change submittal date for Planning Board Applications.

Supervisor Arnold stated that Planning Board Meeting date was changed from the 4th Tuesday of the month to the 3rd Wednesday of the month in January when our new Attorney’s started. It is necessary to change the submittal dates for the applications from the 1st of the month to the 20th of the month to be placed on the following month’s agenda. On a motion of Councilmember Fred Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton the following resolution was ADOPTED: AYES – 5 NAYS – 0

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board change the Planning Board application submittal

date from the 1st of the month to the 20th of the month to allow applicant to be placed on the following month's agenda.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Other Business – Supervisor Arnold stated that something that has come up in audit discussion is the need for employee handbook to be updated. Board will need to address this as soon as possible. Depending on cost it could possibly be done this year if not they will budget for 2026. Councilmember Flinton stated that there was a draft copy of a new handbook, Supervisor stated he never got anything. If Ryan can find draft he will share with Board. Supervisor Arnold stated that another issue that needs addressing is Town Hall renovations. The roof is letting so much heat out, Highway Superintendent just took all the icicles off the building last Thursday. Today if you look out the windows there are 3' icicles again. This is a 30-year-old roof. Town Clerk state that there were a couple of colors on roof, as repairs were needed in the past. Town Clerk stated that air condition units are original. J.D. stated windows were also an issue. Building needs to have an evaluation done by a consultant and we will need to go from there.

Privilege of the Floor – **Bob Ross** questioned if the group that was doing the Comprehensive Plan was done? **Supervisor Arnold** stated that they were done. **Andy McPherson** has concerns with Global Warming. He has "Green Energy Times" available for anyone that would like a copy. Green Energy addresses heat loss and proper insulation. **Jessica Bellone** thanked Andy for dropping off the Green Energy Times to her store, very important information. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that it had good information in it. Everyone agrees energy conservation is very important. How we get there, many different routes. Pamphlets can be left at Town Hall for any interested person. **Andy** stated that the solar farm was not hooked up to grid, that could benefit Town Hall with heat pumps heat/cool building he would like to know status of that project. **Supervisor** stated when consultant looks at building J.D. would like them to look at all options available for the best fit with Town Hall. **Bob Ross** questioned status of Top Notch Restaurant? **Supervisor** stated that was in Town of Perth. Parking lot and some of outside eating area in Town of Galway. Went into discussion about what was there. No information from Perth has been shared with Galway on the status of that operation.

On a motion of Councilmember Ryan Flinton, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret L. DeFoe
Town Clerk