

**AGENDA**  
**Galway Town Board Meeting**  
**January 14, 2025**  
**7:00p.m.**

Call to order – Supervisor Arnold  
Roll Call – Town Clerk DeFoe  
Pledge to the flag – All

Amsure Insurance Presentation

Approval of minutes of the meeting held 12/10/2024  
Communications Received – Town Clerk DeFoe

**Reports of Committees**

**Historian**

**Youth Commission**

**Planning Liaison**

**Zoning Liaison**

**Dog Control**

**Building Department**

**Highway Department**

**Supervisor**

**BUDGET**

1. Approval of Abstract Fund A
2. Approval of Abstract Fund B
3. Approval of Abstract Fund DA
4. Approval of Abstract Fund DB
5. Approval of Abstract Fund SL
6. Approval of Abstract Fund TA
7. Approval of Abstract Fund TT

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**RESOLUTIONS-**

- 1) Appoint David Armitage to the ZBA for a term ending 12/31/2027

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**ADJOURN**

REGULAR MEETING  
 JANUARY 14, 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

ABSENT: Councilmember James Ross

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Meager & D. Hall AMSURE Insurance Representatives; C. Schweizer; P. Flinton; D. Costanzo, Highway Superintendent; T. O'Brien, Dog Control Officer; M. Luetters, Code Enforcement/Building Administrator; S. & B. Burns; S. Costanzo; H. O'Brien; L. LeClair; D. Knizek-Neahr, Historian; B. Bischoff; R. Daino, Planning Chair; A. Decker, ZBA Chair; F. Sutch; C. Arnold; T. Boerenko; B. Adair; J. Snyder; R. & G. Marsh; J. Bellone; M. DeFoe, Town Clerk and many more Town Residents.

Supervisor J.D. Arnold stated that before the Pledge he would like to have a Moment of Silence for Councilmember Jim Ross and his wife. They have experienced a tragedy this week that no family should have to endure.

Pledge to the Flag

Dave Meager & Dustin Hall from AMSURE Insurance were here for the yearly insurance update. J.D. advised that AMSURE is now our Health Insurance Representatives as well. Dave went over the Town Insurance Policy, no questions from Board Members. Dave gave his condolences to Councilmember Ross & his wife. Thanked the Town for their many years of having him as their representative.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fred Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting & the January 2, 2025 Organizational Meeting as submitted.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Communications – Town Clerk stated that Board Members received copies of the following correspondence: December Highway Maintenance Report with Schedule for January that Dave will go over later in meeting; Dog Control Officer Report for December; Numerous Correspondence from the following: NYS Department of State; NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation; NYCLASS; Elise Miller sent correspondence regarding adding a resume building tool to website for community to use; Lollypop Farm; RISE Housing & Support Services; NYS Deferred Comp Plan; More information from Association of Towns regarding February Meeting in NYC if anyone is attending will need to do resolution for them to be voting delegate for Galway. Supervisor stated that no one is going to that training in NYC they are interested in going to the County Planning & Zoning Conference, MRB Group; Municibid; Gordian; GoGov;

County Planning Zoning Conference, notification also given to Planning Board Members & ZBA Members; United Way & Weekly Updates from NYS Comptroller.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:** Historian - Darby stated that she continues to work with Preservation Society with reference to Movie Club. Very quiet right now. **Youth Commission** – Fred stated that wrestling and basketball has started, Town Clerk has ski passes available for youth. J.D. questioned how youth were notified of ski passes. Town Clerk stated that school sends out notification. **Zoning Board** – Dan stated 4876 Bliss Road received approval for area variance as did 4071 Vanderpool drive. **Dog Control** – Tom stated nothing in addition to written report. **Building Department** – Max stated that he is working on the 2024 building permit report for the state, will update next month on filing. Completed his in-service hours waiting for verification from NYS Division of Licensing that they received all credit hours, will update Board on this next month. Registered for the County Planning Zoning Conference. Max also registered for NYS Codes class with Adirondack Code Enforcement Officials. He is preparing significant revisions to all the Building Department Forms. His intent is to have majority updated by next month. Max now has a Clerk in his office which allows him to address these form changes. J.D. stated that he was excited that Clerk was able to help Max get these updated done. **Highway** – Dave stated for December they plowed & sanded 15 days; cut overhead brush on Perth Road and chipped brush. For January they will continue to cut brush & overhead; plow & sand as need salt shed test holes were drilled and everything was good. Looking at highway department doing site preparation work for salt shed estimated April for building – 3 weeks for building to be completed once they start. **Supervisor** – J.D. stated that LaBerge was hired by Town back in 2022-2023 to work with us to re-write our Master Plan. The last scheduled meeting was June of 2024, got an email that day saying they had to cancel due to computer glitch. They would contact us when computer issue was rectified. Never got a call back from Project Manager. After 3 months of trying to get her by email & phone with no acknowledgement J.D. contacted her boss. Scheduled meeting to go over everything. On September 25<sup>th</sup> he had a meeting with LaBerge they assured substantial completion by the end of October. End of October came, nothing. In process of terminating contract with them at this time. We did a Solar Moratorium with the understanding that we were working on master plan which would address solar issues, again nothing. Solar Moratorium will expire this month and Town can't extend it long enough to get project done. Attorney will need to advise Town how to go from here. We currently have no solar applications, but a company contacted J.D. over a year ago with interest. He explained that we were looking at updating master plan and solar regulations and they were willing to wait for update to be done before going forward with their project. Not sure how this is going to shake out. J.D. talked to another civil/environmental engineering company that told him they would review the information we end up getting from LaBerge and advise us on how to proceed with finishing the project. At the January 2<sup>nd</sup> Organizational Meeting the Town Board appointed a new Attorney's Office for Town/Planning/Zoning, Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner LLC out of Glens Falls. The reason for changing was just to get a new set of eyes on issues that need to be resolved. They attended the ZBA meeting this month & will attend Planning Board tomorrow. Galway Highway Employees Association contract was up for renewal in December. Negotiations started about six weeks ago. Initial contract request from them was not anything a Municipality could do. Last contract was a 5-year contract Supervisor suggested going back to a 3-year contract with the changes in administration in Washington, let's see what happens with economy. He

was under the impression that they were good with information discussed and contract needed to be printed. When he came in on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, he had a registered letter from Local 294 Teamsters Union advising that they would be representing Highway Department. Further contract negotiations with Highway Department will be between Town Board and Representative from Local 294. **Tom O'Brien** questioned why this is being discussed in open meeting. Highway contract negotiations have always been done behind closed doors. **Councilmember Flinton** stated that this information is being presented because this is a significant change. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that he didn't understand Tom's concern would like him to address during privilege of the floor. Supervisor advised that it appears Comptroller Audit process will begin this month, two representatives will be he full time for undetermined time. Memory Café will be back at Town Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month from 1-2:30 for those with dementia and their care givers. J.D. feels its going to be good for the people that suffer, but really good for the care givers to see other people in the same situation. Galway Market has been sold, the three Weiss brothers have purchased it. They are thinking of dividing building down the middle, south side to be available for up to three professional offices and the entire north side small banquet hall. They are working with an engineer on septic issues that will determine better what they can propose for usage. J.D. stated that the oldest brother Billy is an investor in the capital district, he has divested his properties in Albany to bring the money back to their home Town & Saratoga County. Very excited to see this project go forward.

Supervisor J.D. Arnold advised audience that there are two sets of Abstract of Vouchers, 2024 & 2025.

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 \$15,162.77.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor advised larger items were youth commission programs within B Fund.

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the December 2024 General Abstract of Vouchers (B) for a total of \$9,871.30.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor went over items in DA Abstract was a lot of parts & salt. Councilmember Ryan Flinton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the December 2024 Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DA) for a total of \$89,255.95.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor stated uniforms and parts were majority of DB Abstract. Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the December 2024 Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DB) for a total of \$28,040.96.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Arnold stated (SL) Abstract was lighting district, Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ryan Flinton to approve the December 2024 Special Lighting District Abstract of Vouchers (SL) for a total of \$237.44.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Ryan Flinton made a motion, seconded by Councilman Fred Arnold to approve the December 2024 Trust & Agency Abstract of Vouchers (TA) for a total of \$273.87.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the 2025 General Abstract of Vouchers (A) dated 1/14/25 for a total of \$35,748.51. Supervisor stated that the majority of Abstract was NYS Local Retirement.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the 2025 Ambulance Fund Abstract of Vouchers (AM) dated 1/14/25 for a total of \$23,656.18. Supervisor Arnold stated that this was an item that slipped through cracks in transition time. COVID relief funds that were budgeted for Ambulance Corp. They will purchase a machine that will do mechanical CPR in Ambulance.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Ryan Flinton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the 2025 General Abstract of Vouchers (B) dated 1/14/25 for a total of \$4,497.36. Supervisor stated largest item on Abstract was to NYS Local Retirement.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the 2025 Highway Abstract of Vouchers (DA) dated 1/14/25 for a total of \$59,044.98. Supervisor stated that three largest items were NYS Retirement, MVP Health Care & Morton Salt.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Daniel Clemens made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton to approve the 2025 Highway Abstract of Voucher (DB) dated 1/14/25 for a total of \$35,505.32. Supervisor stated that NYS Local Retirement and MVP were the two largest items on Abstract.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Ryan Flinton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fred Arnold to approve the 2025 Trust & Agency Abstract of Vouchers (TA) dated 1/14/25 in the amount of \$3,258.14.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilmember Fred Arnold made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel Clemens to approve the 2025 Tri-Town Abstract of Vouchers (TT) dated 1/14/25 in the amount of \$460.17. Supervisor stated this was property taxes on pit.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Member didn't feel Executive Session was needed tonight.

**RESOLUTION #: 2-2025** – Appointment of David Armitage to ZBA. On a motion of Councilmember Fred Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton the following resolution was ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilmember Fred Arnold – AYE

Councilmember Ryan Flinton – AYE

Councilmember Daniel Clemens – AYE

Supervisor J.D. Arnold – AYE

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board appoint David Armitage to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire 12/31/27.

AYES – 4      NAYS – 0

MOTION CARRIED

**RESOLUTION #: 3-2025** – Authorization for Expenditure of Highway Money. On a motion of Councilmember Daniel Clemens, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton the following resolution was ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilmember Fred Arnold – AYE

Councilmember Ryan Flinton – AYE

Councilmember Daniel Clemens – AYE

Supervisor J.D. Arnold – AYE

RESOLVED that the Galway Town Board approve the 2025 Highway Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Money in the amount of \$487,500 to be set aside for the expenditure of primary work and general repairs upon 57.77 miles of Town of Galway Highways.

AYES – 4      NAYS – 0

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor asked if there was anything else from Town Board. Town Clerk wanted to let the Board know that in less than a week of tax collection she has collected \$546,995.40 in Town & County Taxes.

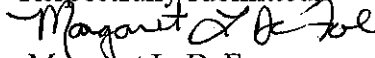
**Privilege of the Floor – Jessica Bellone** referred to the November meeting when the Supervisor was discussing NY Class investment. Jessica stated that he stated that it was FDIC insured and it is an investment firm that is not FDIC approved. She would like minutes from November to reflect error. (Minutes reference what is said at a meeting, not accuracy of information). Jessica also questioned LaBerge Comprehensive Plan discussion. She was under the impression that the Comprehensive Plan was being done on a county wide basis. **Councilmember Ryan Flinton** advised that the Town hired LaBerge to update the Town of Galway Comprehensive Plan that was about 20 years old. **Supervisor Arnold** stated that the State likes the Towns to individually do an update to the Comprehensive Plan of the Town and that is what they were contracted to do, and they have not done. This has nothing to do with anything on a county level. **Bradley Bischoff** – questioned what information State Audit would be reviewing. **Supervisor Arnold** stated at this time it looks like they will focus on 2023. Will give an update at February meeting on what exactly they are focusing on. **Bill Adair** questioned if new plow truck was received? **Highway Superintendent Costanzo** stated that they were anticipating April.

On a motion of Councilmember Fred Arnold, seconded by Councilmember Ryan Flinton the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

All ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret L. DeFoe

Town Clerk