

December 13, 2023

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held a regular meeting on December 13, 2023.

Present were: Lisa M. Driscoll, Supervisor
Patrick F. Funk, Councilmember
Erik R. Reeve, Councilmember
Dwayne C. Hill, Councilmember

Absent: Matthew J. Taylor, Councilmember

Also present: Russell Hatch, Supt. Of Highways
Linda E. Goss, Town Clerk

Others present: Walter Keller, Planning Board Member
Rhonda Slicer
Carola Slicer
Edward Slicer
Gloria Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Lisa M. Driscoll.

Supervisor Driscoll led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that there would be a bid opening for fuel. Linda E. Goss informed the Board that one bid had been received from Mirabito Energy Products. She also informed the Board that the Highway Superintendent had received an inquiry about the bid opening from a company in Connecticut. They did not send a bid package in to be opened at tonight's meeting. Supervisor Driscoll opened the bid and informed the Board that Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD), with the fluctuating bid price as of 12/11/2023 of \$2.8197 per gallon and no fixed price was listed. Kerosene (for winter blend with diesel), with the fluctuating bid price as of 12/11/2023 of \$3.5137 per gallon and no fixed price was listed. Russell Hatch informed the Board that last month the Town paid \$3.16 for Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel fuel. Councilmember Hill spoke to his fuel supplier and was told that the price had dropped \$.45 per gallon this week. Supervisor Driscoll reminded the Board that the prices are a fluctuating bid price.

Councilmember Funk asked what is the fluctuating bid price tied to? Russell answered the market. Councilmember Hill asked can we get a fixed price? Russell answered that he always asks for a fixed price, but they don't always bid a fixed price. Russell continued that the price is determined by the cost at the port. There is \$.04 added to the cost at the port. That is the firm differential. Councilmember Funk added that in the bid the firm differential is \$.04 for Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel fuel and \$.07 for Kerosene. A motion was made to accept the bid from Mirabito Energy Products for Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel and Ultra Low Sulfur Kerosene, for the fluctuating bid price as of 12/11/2023, with ULSD at \$2.8197 per gallon with a firm differential of + \$.0334 and with Kerosene at \$3.5137 with a firm differential of + \$.0698, and the term of

the contract to be from December 13, 2023 to December 11, 2024 was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board if they had received the September and October minutes for the public hearings and regular meetings held on September 13, 2023, and October 11, 2023? The Board had received the minutes. Supervisor Driscoll asked the Board if they had any questions, comments, or corrections to be made to the minutes? The Board had no questions, comments or corrections to be made to the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes for the public hearings and regular meetings held on September 13, 2023, and October 11, 2023, as presented was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Linda E. Goss informed the Board that she had received a letter addressed to the Town Board effective immediately, Friday, December 8, 2023, 1:00 PM that Councilmember Matthew J. Taylor is resigning from the Town Board due to personal reasons.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that Matthew J. Taylor was also the Deputy Town Supervisor. A discussion was had. A motion was made to appoint Patrick F. Funk to the position of Deputy Town Supervisor with the term starting December 13, 2023, and ending December 31, 2024, was made by Erik R. Reeve seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

Linda E. Goss informed the Board that in the December 6, 2023, Notice of Preliminary Decisions of the Catskill Watershed Corporation Resolutions Numbers 5100 and 5101 the CWC has approved Future Stormwater Program Applications for the two solar projects that are being built on Bruce Hill Road. A discussion was had. Edward Slicer clarified that the CWC has to inspect these projects like NYS DEC does in the watershed. The CWC appropriates funding for that. The discussion continued. Walter Keller added that anything in the watershed must be reviewed and go through a stormwater pollution protection plan. This is usually charged to the applicant. It is a mandate for these projects. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she will call Timothy Cox, Corporate Counsel, for the Catskill Watershed Corporation and ask about these approvals.

Supervisor Driscoll gave privilege of the floor to Walter Keller, Planning Board Member. Mr. Keller informed the Board that discussions have been had with the Planning Board and the Town Supervisor and they agree that the Town's Comprehensive Plan needs to be updated. Mr. Keller has volunteered to work on updating the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Board is having some issues with project review. Mr. Kellers goal is to update the current Plan so that the Planning Board can approach these problems better. He asked that the Town Board review the changes that the Planning Board would like to make. Once the Planning Board and Town Board agree with the updates, Mr. Keller asked that the Town Board approve the updated Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Driscoll has talked to Allyson Phillips, Town Attorney about this. She is looking into how the Town Board can review the Comprehensive Plan as Mr. Keller and the Planning Board are updating it. Mr. Keller added that Ned Brower, Planner with the Delaware County Planning Department and advisor to the Planning Board will also be working on the updates. Councilmember Funk asked didn't Dean Darling, Planning Board Chairman talk

to the Board last year about the availability of grant funds to update the Comprehensive Plan? Supervisor Driscoll answered yes, there was a grant available. It had a lot of conditions, and the Town did not qualify for it. The discussion continued. Mr. Keller added that money would have had to be put towards the grant up front and then the Town would have to qualify to be reimbursed. The cost at that time was between \$30,000.00 and \$40,000.00. With doing the update as Mr. Keller is proposing the only cost would be for the Town Attorney's time. The discussion continued. Supervisor Driscoll thanked Mr. Keller for his generous offer to work on updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Keller continued that this update is way overdue. The State suggests that the Comprehensive Plan be updated every five years. The discussion continued. The Supervisor and Town Board agreed to have Walter Keller, Planning Board member working with the Town Planning Board, Ned Brower, Delaware County Planner and advisor to the Town Planning Board and Allyson Phillips, Town Attorney on updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is a resolution for the Assessor. In communications with New York State Office of Real Property Services the Town can not appoint two Assessors they can only appoint one. The Town will need to change the local law. In the Board's packets was the local law, a resolution and public hearing notice for them to review. If the Board so chooses they can appoint Laurie Bedford as the single appointed Assessor for the Town. Rudy Tompkins can be a clerk. Councilmember Funk asked how did this error get by everyone? The local law that was passed was reviewed by the Town's Attorney? Supervisor Driscoll answered that unfortunately the Attorney that was taking care of this was leaving the practice and did not do enough homework to make sure that the Town did not make this mistake. Councilmember Reeve asked is Ms. Bedford ok with this? Supervisor Driscoll answered yes. Ms. Bedford has submitted her information to NYS Office of Real Property Services and they have approved her being an appointed Tax Assessor. The discussion continued.

RESOLUTION NO. 026 OF THE YEAR 2023

At a Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held on December 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Councilmember Patrick F. Funk offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD TO CONSIDER A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW CHANGING TO A SINGLE APPOINTED ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD, DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK" AND SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE SAME.

WHEREAS, the Town of Harperfield Town Board would like to consider changing to a single appointed Assessor; and

WHEREAS, a sole Assessor would streamline Town matters and allow for quicker resolutions and higher efficiency in carrying out the Assessor's duties; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of a sole Assessor would be beneficial to the Town residents: and

WHEREAS, the Town Board Members and Town’s Attorney have reviewed a proposed Local Law for the appointment of a sole Assessor for the Town of Harpersfield; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the proposed Local Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the draft Local Law shall be placed in the Town Clerk’s office and made available for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board will hold a public hearing for consideration of the Local Law on January 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said hearing in the official Town newspapers and to post copies of such notice in the manner provided by law.

Seconded by Councilmember Dwayne C. Hill whereupon the Resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

Supervisor	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Aye.
Councilmember	Dwayne C. Hill	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

LOCAL LAW NO. 001 OF THE YEAR 2023

TITLE: A LOCAL LAW CHANGING TO A SINGLE APPOINTED ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD, DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK.

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.

The purpose of this Local Law is to permit the Town of Harpersfield, New York to change to a single appointed Assessor. It is adopted pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 328 and Municipal Home Rule Law Section 10.

SECTION 2. TERMINATION OF TERMS OF CURRENT ASSESSORS.

The terms of office for the present Assessors for the Town shall terminate on March 31, 2024, and from and after that date there shall be one appointed Assessor for the Town.

SECTION 3. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF OFFICE OF APPOINTED ASSESSOR.

As set forth in Section 310 of the Real Property Tax Law, the single appointed Assessor shall be appointed by the Town Board. The term of office for the initial appointed Assessor shall be remaining current 6-year term through September 30th, 2025.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.

The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph or provision of this Local Law shall not invalidate any other clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof.

SECTION 5. REPEALER; SUPERSESION.

All Local Laws or Ordinances or parts of Local Laws or Ordinances in conflict with any part of this Local Law, including but not limited to Local Law Number 003 of the Year 2023, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. REFERENDUM CLAUSE.

This Local Law shall not be subject to a mandatory permissive referendum.

SECTION 7. INCONSISTENCY.

All other Local Laws and Ordinances of the Town of Harpersfield that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Local Law are hereby repealed; provided however, that such repeal shall only be to the extent of such inconsistency and in all other respects this Local Law shall be in addition to such other Local Laws or Ordinances regulating and governing the subject matter covered by this Local Law.

SECTION 8. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

If any clause, paragraph, work, section or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such judgement shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder, thereof, but shall be confined in its operation of the clause, sentence, paragraph, worked section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgement shall have been rendered.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the Office of New York State Secretary of State as provided by law.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is a resolution for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers. Supervisor Driscoll told the Board that there has been some back and forth on this local law. She has asked all the Fire Districts to certify their members for this exemption. The Town is not going to certify Volunteer Firefighters and

Ambulance Workers for this exemption. The Fire Districts are going to send the Town a list of certified members who will qualify for this exemption. If the Volunteer Firefighter or Ambulance Worker decide to take the \$200.00 credit on their income taxes, they will not be on the list for this exemption on their land tax bill. The list will go to the Town Assessor. We have asked for the list by the end of January. There will also be an application to be filled out. It has been decided to use the New York State application that's available online. Supervisor Driscoll has also asked the Fire Districts to send in these applications by the end of January. Once Town Assessor Laurie Bedford has the list and the applications, she will determine what 10% is on their primary residence. Then she will submit that information to the County. Supervisor Driscoll has sent letters with all of this information to all the Fire Districts. Another thing that has been added to the local law is that if there is more than one person in the household that is a Volunteer Firefighter or Ambulance Worker, they are only getting a 10% exemption. Supervisor Driscoll wanted to make sure that this is clear that the exemption will only be 10% regardless of how many people in the household would qualify. Once a person has been a Volunteer Firefighter or Ambulance Worker in a Fire District that services the Town of Harpersfield for two years and lives in the Town of Harpersfield they would qualify for this exemption. If un-remarried spouses of Volunteer Firefighters or Volunteer Ambulance Workers that are killed in the line of duty that meet the qualifications, they will continue to get this deduction. Un-remarried spouses of deceased Volunteer Firefighters or Volunteer Ambulance Workers that meet the qualifications, they will continue to get this deduction. Councilmember Funk asked that is just 10% off the assessed value? Supervisor Driscoll answered of the primary residence. If the Volunteer has 300 acres the exemption will just be where the primary residence is. The discussion continued.

RESOLUTION NO. 027 OF THE YEAR 2023

At the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held on December 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Councilmember Erik R. Reeve offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-a OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW.

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a authorizes a partial exemption from real property taxes on qualifying residential real property for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers, as defined in Real Property Tax Law Section 4660a; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law, the Town of Harpersfield is authorized to adopt a local law establishing a partial exemption from the Town portion of real property taxes for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers who own qualified residential real property within the Town of Harpersfield; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield to provide for such exemption on the Town of Harpersfield properties to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers for their valued service to our community; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law would provide that qualified property owners who are enrolled members of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service may apply to the Town Assessor for a real property tax exemption of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such qualified property; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law would grant one such exemption per household; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board members and the Town Attorney have reviewed a proposed draft of the Local Law which has now been introduced by a member of the Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE , BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the proposed draft Local Law that has been introduced; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the proposed draft Local Law shall be placed in the Town Clerk's office and made available for public inspection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board will hold a public hearing for consideration of the Local Law on January 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said hearing in The Daily Star, and to post copies of such notice in the manner provided by law.

Seconded by Councilmember Patrick F. Funk whereupon the Resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

Supervisor	Lisa M. Driscoll	Aye.
Councilmember	Patrick F. Funk	Aye.
Councilmember	Erik R. Reeve	Aye.
Councilmember	Dwayne C. Hill	Aye.

THE RESOLUTION WAS THEREUPON DECLARED DULY ADOPTED.

LOCAL LAW NO. 002 OF THE YEAR 2024

A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF HARPERSFIELD PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-a OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield, in the County of Delaware, as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT:

New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a authorizes a partial exemption from real property taxes on qualifying residential real property for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers, as defined in Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a.

Pursuant to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law, the Town of Harperfield is authorized to adopt a local law establishing a partial exemption from the Town portion of real property taxes for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers who own qualified residential real property within the Town of Harpersfield. It is the desire of the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield to provide for such exemption on Town of Harpersfield properties to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers for their valued service to our community.

SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY:

Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in the Town of Harpersfield shall be exempt from taxation of up to ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such property for Town Purposes, if such enrolled member meets the following criteria:

- (a) The applicant resides in the Town of Harpersfield which is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service; and
- (b) The property is the primary residence of the applicant; and
- (c) The property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however that in the event any portion of such property is not used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion shall be entitled to the exemption herein provided; and
- (d) The applicant is not already reaping the benefits of the local law; in the event that multiple individuals residing in the same household qualify for the benefits intended to be granted by this local law, only one tax exemption per household shall be granted; and
- (e) The Fire District in which the volunteer works has certified that the applicant is an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service and has met the minimum service requirement of two (2) years of service.
 - 1. Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty (20) years of active service, and is so certified by the Fire Disripts, shall be granted the ten percent (10%) exemption as authorized by this section,

applicable to his or her property within the Town of Harpersfield for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town of Harpersfield.

SECTION 3. UN-REMARIED SPOUSES OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OR VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a(4), any preexisting exemption claimed under this local law by a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker shall be continued or reinstated to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse if such member is killed in the line of duty, provided that:

- (a) Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the Fire District as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty; and
- (b) Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least two (2) years; and
- (c) Such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

SECTION 4. UN-REMARIED SPOUSES OF DECEASED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OR VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS.

Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a(5), any preexisting exemption claimed under this local law by a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker shall be continued or reinstated to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse, provided that:

- (a) Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the Fire District as an un-remarried spouse of and enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service; and
- (b) Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least (20) years; and
- (c) Such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption for such property prior to the death of such volunteer.

SECTION 5. APPLICATION.

Application for such exemption shall be filed with the Town Tax Assessor on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda are the changes on the Building Permit Fee Schedule. The Board had copies of the proposed Building Permit Fee Schedule in their packets. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the Code Enforcement Officer has gone over the proposed fee schedule and agreed to the changes. The changes to the fee schedule were discussed. Councilmember Funk asked how does the proposed fee work? For example, a single or two family dwelling, is a 1000 square foot dwelling, 0.003% per square foot, that would be a permit fee of \$3.00? The discussion continued. It was decided that the Supervisor should speak to the Code Enforcement Officer to verify the proposed rate by square foot. The matter was tabled until the next Town Board meeting.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is the Transfer Station. She informed the Board that the third quarter bill for C & D was \$2,850.00. The cost of C & D is definitely down. The amount of garbage that is coming in is down because of the new Transfer Station Stickers. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the Transfer Station has just returned some batteries and received a check for \$123.00. They have also been collecting wire and have turned it in and received a check for \$478.00.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that next on the agenda is Heartland payroll. She is in the process getting the new payroll up and running by January 1st. She has been working with Heartland setting up payroll and sending a lot of information to them. What is going to work well is Heartland is taking everybody's salary and giving it an account number so that it can be incorporated into QuickBooks. That information will be put directly into the Town's accounting software. It has been challenging getting this setting up, but once it is done it will be nice to have all the information tied together. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she has just purchased QuickBooks. It has been added to the Town's server. Both the Town Highway Superintendent and the Town Bookkeeper will have access to the information. The Town Bookkeeper currently uses QuickBooks. She will be able to download her information so that we are not reinventing the wheel. Supervisor Driscoll will be adding the invoices and paying the bills through QuickBooks. This will also print out the checks. Councilmember Funk asked has everyone signed up for direct deposit for payroll? Supervisor Driscoll answered that some people did not want direct deposit. She will need to find out from Heartland how to print out those checks. We have provided them with everyone that does want direct deposit. Supervisor Driscoll has gotten an email to say that they have set up a link. Now it is up to them setting up the software. She still has to purchase two iPads. The Highway employees and Transfer Station employees will use them to log in. Starting January 1st she will put the hours in just like we are doing now. Then in the next month or two we will bring in the iPads and make sure that they are working. It will be good as the employees can go online to see how much time they have off. All of that information will be kept in the software. It will make it easy for everybody. Councilmember Reeve asked the employees don't have to go through Russell to get time off? Supervisor Driscoll answered that Russell will still need to go on to the software and give the employees approval to take time off. If Russell is not available Supervisor Driscoll or Linda Goss could approve it also. The discussion continued.

Supervisor Driscoll continued that she is in the process of working out the invoices and printing out checks on QuickBooks. A discussion was had. She added that there is also inventory on there for the Highway Superintendent. He can look at it and see if he would like to keep his inventory there or if he would want to move it. He currently also has information on Excel.

Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the Town has VIQ software for the meeting minutes. She takes the recording of the meeting and puts it into the software. The software uses AI and it produces a transcript of the meeting. She then emails the transcript to Elizabeth Page, Planning Board Secretary or Linda E. Goss, Town Clerk. They then modify the transcript into minutes. The Planning Board had a special meeting today. That recording is right now being transcribed by the software. Hopefully Supervisor Driscoll will send the transcript to Ms. Page later today or tomorrow. She will do the same with the Town Board meeting recording from tonight.

Russell Hatch reported to the Board that he did not have a chance to call about the new truck today. He will call them tomorrow. He will contact the Board once he has information.

Russell Hatch informed the Board that the Highway crew is in winter mode. They have been plowing roads and working on the trucks. There were quite a few trees down. They still have quite a few trees to clean up from the snow the other day. The snow was wet and heavy.

Councilmember Funk asked if the Town has received the new AED? Supervisor Driscoll answered yes it has been installed in the Town Hall meeting room. Councilmember Funk asked Russell Hatch if the Highway employees know where the AEDs are located at the Town Hall and Transfer Station? Russell answered that he will make sure that the Highway employees know where both AEDs are located. The discussion continued. Councilmember Funk asked Russell Hatch do you have access to both AEDs? Russell answered that both he and Joseph Seeley have a key to the Town Hall. They can access the one at the Transfer Station once they have the code for the lock on the gate. Supervisor Driscoll told Russell that she would make sure he had the code for the lock on the gate. Russell told the Board that he will make sure all of the Highway employees have the code for the lock on the gate.

Councilmember Funk informed the Board that the COLA amounts have been announced. Is the Board going to make the adjustments for the Low Income Senior Exemptions with the Town Assessor? Supervisor Driscoll answered that the Board said that they would review the numbers and then decide if they should make an adjustment. The discussion continued. Councilmember Funk continued that the raise in the COLA is approximately 3.1 % and he is concerned that this raise could put some low income seniors over the limit to qualify for the exemption. Supervisor Driscoll continued that the adjustment would not be for 2024. The adjustment would be for 2025. The discussion continued. Councilmember Funk asked when would the Assessor need the adjustments by? Supervisor Driscoll answered she would need them by March 1st. The discussion continued.

Councilmember Hill asked Supervisor Driscoll if she had spoken to the Town Attorney about a post card he and his son had received? Supervisor Driscoll answered yes, she had sent that information to the Town Attorney but had not gotten a response from her. She will resend the information to the Town Attorney to get a response.

Edward Slicer asked to speak to the Board. He has seen in the budget there is a line for the ambulance. Where he lives is in the North Harpersfield Fire Protection District - Jefferson Fire Department includes an ambulance which through his taxes he pays for. He assumes that the Town has made accommodations for the money that they are spending for the ambulance and not spending any of the North Harpersfield Fire Protection District money. If the Town is taking money out of the general fund and paying for Headwaters EMS that means you are using some of our money which means we are subsidizing Headwaters EMS in North Harpersfield. Supervisor Driscoll responded that Headwaters EMS covers North Harpersfield if that ambulance is out on a call. Mr. Slicer continued that the Town needs to subsidize North Harpersfield. The Town needs to subsidize the Jefferson Fire District and Rescue in order to make it reconcile. Supervisor Driscoll responded that the Town also pays the Fire District. Mr. Slicer continued no you don't. North Harpersfield Fire District Protection, General Ambulance Service to North Harpersfield Fire Protection, there is a line in the budget of \$43,000.00 which we pay for. There's a line on our tax bill. It costs me almost \$1,000.00 a year on my taxes to pay for ambulance and fire protection. That's the contract the Town has with Jefferson. Therefore, when our money goes into the general fund, as taxpayers in North Harpersfield and you use that money in the general fund for Headwaters EMS we are paying for ambulance protection twice. The discussion continued. Mr. Slicer continued that the Town is taking money out of the general fund and paying for Headwaters EMS, and we are contributing to that. Yes, we get service from that. But we are paying twice which means to make it right you need to subsidize Jefferson Fire Department for our ambulance out of the general fund also. The people that don't live in the North Harpersfield Fire Protection District would subsidize us just like we are subsidizing you. We are paying for ambulance service twice you're paying for it once. Supervisor Driscoll answered no that is not correct. The Hobart Fire Department has ambulances, and the Stamford Joint Fire District has a fly car, and we are paying for it through the Fire Departments. We also have Headwaters EMS. There are multiple ambulances that we are paying for. Mr. Slicer continued that if you call the Davenport Fire Department, they do not have an ambulance. They have first responders but will not transport patients. Jefferson Fire Department Ambulance will transport patients. Supervisor Driscoll informed Mr. Slicer that she would look into his concern and get more information. A decision to have Headwaters EMS service for the entire Town of Harpersfield has already been made. The entire Town has to pay Headwaters EMS for this service. The discussion continued. Mr. Slicer continued that the funds for Headwaters EMS will be taken out of the general fund. There is no line item. Supervisor Driscoll continued that in the budget there is a line item for Ambulance but there is no line on the tax bill for ambulance service. The discussion continued. Mr. Slicer continued that his concern is he is paying for ambulance service twice. By doing that we are subsidizing the rest of Harpersfield. Harpersfield needs to subsidize us. The discussion continued.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if the Councilmembers had any items to address the Board. The Councilmembers did not have any items to address the Board.

Supervisor Driscoll asked if Russell Hatch had any items to address the Board. Russell did not have any items to address the Board.

The Town Clerk's report for the month of October in the amount of \$844.47 was issued to the Board.

The Town Clerk's report for the month of November in the amount of \$321.94 was issued to the Board.

The abstract and vouchers for the month of November were presented to the Board. Presented were General Claims #261 to #290 in the amount of \$19,373.09, Highway Claims #168 to #180 in the amount of \$11,296.46 and Transfer Station Claims #086 to #092 in the amount of \$9,412.82. Supervisor Driscoll asked Russell Hatch about the Oneonta Rent-A-Jon bill. Russell answered yes, he had rented a Jon for the gravel bank. We have no services there and it is required by OSHA. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that the new camera system is on the Transfer Station abstract. It is working very well. A motion to pay the vouchers as presented was made by Dwayne C. Hill seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

The Supervisor report for the month of October was issued to the Board. Supervisor Driscoll informed the Board that she has spoken to the Bookkeeper and in January or February we will do some transfers.

At 8:23 PM a motion to go into executive session for personnel matters was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye.

At 9:37 PM a motion to come out of executive session was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Dwayne C. Hill. All voting Aye. No action was taken in executive session.

A motion to adjourn at 9:39 PM was made by Dwayne C. Hill seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Linda E. Goss
Town Clerk