

A Town Board Meeting was held on March 10th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The location was the Town Hall Building, on Pelon Road, Town of Indian Lake, State of New York, County of Hamilton.

Supervisor Wells brought the meeting to order. All said the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Wells called for a Roll Call with the following Board Members present.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Mahoney: Here

Councilperson Eldridge: Here

Councilperson Rathbun: Here

Councilperson Howard: Here

Supervisor Wells told the board that they have the minutes in their packet from the 2/10/2025 board meeting. Councilperson Rathbun motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilperson Mahoney. All were in favor.

Department Head Reports:

Councilperson Howard addressed Bill Laprairie, Department Head of Parks and Recreation, about the status of the town van. Bill stated that Jacob went through and installed all new brakes. Safelite recently replaced a new windshield and it just had an inspection completed. Councilperson Howard asked Gene Darling, Highway Superintendent, if he was aware that the pickup truck he was looking to purchase was not in his budget. Gene is aware of this. Councilperson Howard asked Jacob Wells, Town Mechanic, if he knew what the damage was to truck 186. Jacob stated that it looks like the plow headgear was damaged. Councilperson Howard asked if it was more than a thousand dollars; Gene stated that it was over \$12,000, and that it was submitted to the insurance company. Councilperson Howard asked which truck is 181. Steve Cannan stated that it is the black one-ton Dodge. Councilperson Howard asked why the tire fell off. Jacob stated that he couldn't be certain but the lug nuts came off near The Flats and the tire fell off by Ok Slip Falls. He stated that it appeared that the lug nuts had been loose for some time. Councilperson Howard stated the Tool Cat was fixed quite a bit, and asked if it is working better now. Jacob said it is working correctly. Eugene Darling, Highway Superintendent, reported that the Tandem truck came in on Friday and will be stored behind the highway garage.

Christine Pouch stated that National Grid will not be giving us the two years of free charging for the electric vehicle charging station. The grant money is for the infrastructure. Christine stated that she was misinformed about that. Councilperson Howard asked if the grant could be modified. Christine stated no it was submitted back in the year 2021. Councilperson Howard asked if we have received the rebate of \$7,500 yet. Christine stated that we have not yet, but she sent in all the paperwork regarding it last week. Councilperson Howard asked whose idea it was to market donations/sponsorship for Fireworks. Christine stated that it was talked about at a previous board meeting and Kylie developed the package. Councilperson Howard stated that it was a good idea. Christine stated that Kylie also put together a packet of infographics on Snowcade.

Patrick Mahoney, Department Head of Water and Sewer, addressed the board regarding the status of the water pump in the Blue Mt. Lake water plant. He stated that the current pumps that are there will only pump a hundred gallons a minute, which is less than half of what is needed to push up the hill. One pump just came back from Cedar Pump and they stated it was basically not rebuildable. Patrick stated that the Blue Mt. Water Department has spent a lot of money on repairs, and there isn't money in the current budget for a new water pump. Patrick stated that a new water pump is around \$36,000 and is 28 weeks out. Patrick stated that he is asking for permission from the board to purchase a new water pump. Supervisor Wells stated that this has been in discussion with the engineers. This pump will not fall under the grant funding, but it will serve as a spare pump when the new water plant is complete. Supervisor Wells stated that there is around \$165,000 in unassigned fund balance in Water 1. He agrees we need to move forward with the purchasing of a pump. Patrick also informed the board that he and the hiring committee held 3 interviews last week for the open position for the water/sewer department. Councilperson Mahoney stated that all the interviews went well. The committee would like to recommend Benjamin King. Supervisor Wells stated he is Ben's uncle and Councilperson Howard is also related to him as well. Supervisor Wells and Councilperson Howard recused themselves from the vote. Councilperson Mahoney made a motion to hire Benjamin King to the water/sewer department. Seconded by Councilperson Rathbun. Supervisor Wells called for a roll call.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Mahoney: Aye
Councilperson Eldridge: Aye
Councilperson Rathbun: Aye

Christine Pouch. EDM & Events coordinator wanted to thank everyone who helped during Snowcade. The Parks & Recs crew does a lot for this large event. Christine stated that this year went a lot smoother, having Kylie Cannan to help with everything. Christine stated that everyone is appreciative of team Diane and Isiaha for organizing the kitty kat races the way they do. They had a lot of people say great things about the race and how well it was run. Supervisor Wells stated that he had a parent come in and compliment the ski rink, the ability for the kids to play the games inside and the ice conditions.

ADK Dam Update:

Supervisor Wells stated that there has been some concern regarding the spillway height. He has done some research and has been in contact with the engineers. The engineers said we can not add a piece of wood on top of the spillway because it would affect the spillway's performance and that the engineers said that it should never have been placed there in the first place. It led to erosion and over topping, Supervisor Wells stated that a statement was made that it was done by an APA permit in 1996. The APA claims that they have no record of any permit allowing a wooden board to be put on the dam. Supervisor Wells reached out to DEC's Dam's Safety division, and they also have no record of a permit. There is no evidence of any documentation for a permit. Helen Glass asked if that meant the lake would be four inches lower with the board not being there.

Hudson Headwaters Meeting:

Supervisor Wells reported that he had his annual meeting with Hudson Headwaters Health Network. He stated that his understanding is that unless Hudson Headwaters owns the building, the Towns are paying them some kind of contract and all the contracts are different. Supervisor Wells stated that they are looking to standardize their contracts but they're also hoping to change what is being paid for. Supervisor Wells said that he hasn't had a chance to look over it yet, but they sent over their facility report and a copy was given to Bill Laprairie to look over. HHHN had their engineers walk around the building to look at some of the issues they're concerned with. Councilperson Howard thanked Supervisor Wells for looking into it. Supervisor Wells said that Hudson Headwaters is opening a community pharmacy in Moreau off exit 17 and information will be added to the town's Facebook page and newsletter.

Senior Citizen Tax Exemption:

Supervisor Wells stated that we have a recommendation from Lynn Billings, our assessor, to change the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption. The last time this was done was in 2013. The Town of Long Lake did this in 2022. Supervisor Wells stated it applies to Town and School taxes; it's a sliding scale based on income.. The exemption will need to be changed by Local Law. The Board was in favor of advertising for the public hearing to do this.

Re-appointment of John Zahray to B.A.R.:

Supervisor Wells shared that John Zahray is up for a re- appointment to the Board of Assessment Review. Supervisor Wells stated that it is very appreciated that he serves on the Board of Assessment. Councilperson Rathbun made the motion to reappoint John. Seconded by Councilperson Eldridge. All board members were in favor. Supervisor Wells stated that grievance day is May 27th 4-8 at the Town Hall building.

Resolution No. 1:

Supervisor Wells addressed the board with Resolution number 1 for County Highway Superintendent to post weight restrictions on town roads for the year 2025. Supervisor Wells made a motion to approve the resolution. Seconded by Councilperson Eldridge. Councilperson Mahoney asked if it would go into effect immediately. Supervisor Wells stated that there was no date on it. All board members were in favor.

Update on Townsends Project:

Supervisor Wells gave a brief update on the Townsend's project. He stated that the last of the paperwork was signed today and sent to the lawyers for review. Supervisor Wells stated hopefully if all goes well with the state we should have the funds in a few months.

Transfer Station Reports:

Supervisor Wells stated that he had received the transfer station reports from Hamilton County for 2024, and that they will be on file at the Town Clerk's office if anyone would like to review it.

Soil and Water tree shrub sale:

Supervisor Wells stated that if anyone is interested, Hamilton County Soil and Water is having their annual tree shrub sale.

Supervisor Comments:

Supervisor Wells stated that the APA 2024 annual report is out. Supervisor Wells stated himself and County Chairman Clay Arsenault spoke at the February meeting at Raybrook concerning emergency communication towers in Hamilton County. The current board of commissioners and the Executive Director of the APA seem to be more open and willing to listen to concerns. Supervisor Wells offered a resolution of support for Executive Director, Barbara Rice and APA commissioners with expired terms. Supervisor Wells stated that he drafted a resolution of support for the Town of Indian Lake and will be doing one for Hamilton County as well. Supervisor Wells made a motion to approve Resolution No 2 for this support. Seconded by Councilperson Mahoney. All board members were in favor.

Supervisor Wells stated that there is a report out from our NYS comptroller and he is critical of DEC's oversight of dams and has some recommendations. Supervisor Wells read that in the report DEC has regulatory authority over approximately 6,500 dams. NYS comptroller recommendations were that DEC needs to update their database, increase the number of inspections, establish time frames for completion of inspection reports and enforcement procedures. Supervisor Wells has received some of the letters on enforcement procedures concerning what they're attempting to do with the Cedar River Dam.

Supervisor Wells thanked Bill Buckston of Lake Snow Association for getting us an update to their emergency action plan. Supervisor Wells thanked Christine Pouch and Kylie Cannan for organizing the dam safety plans.

Supervisor Wells stated that he attended the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board meeting on February 26th, Barbara Rice and Keith McKiver from the APA spoke on the 2024 annual report. Supervisor Wells stated that there was discussion about problems with emergency communication towers that they really didn't know about. Supervisor Wells stated that he felt it was a good meeting and felt that the board listened to our concerns. Andy Coney asked if there was discussion about new communication towers.

Supervisor Wells reported that the New York State Association of Counties is celebrating their 100 year anniversary, Supervisor Wells stated that they are a great source of information when you reach out to them.

Supervisor Wells stated that the Governor has signed a new bill for Short Term Rentals for counties. T Hamilton County has not made a decision regarding it yet. Supervisor Wells stated that there is uncertainty of what is going to happen between sales tax and occupancy tax.

Supervisor Wells stated that LaBella Engineering won an award for the Adirondack Lake Dam Improvements.

Resolution No. 3:

Supervisor Wells stated that earlier in the year we replaced the engineering company that was working on the Blue Mountain Lake Water Project, Supervisor Wells made a motion to accept resolution no. 3 declaring intention to serve as lead agency in relation to the Blue Mountain Lake Water Supply and Treatment Improvement Project. Seconded by Councilperson Howard. All board members were in favor.

Board Member Comments

Councilperson Mahoney stated that the Snowcade was great again. He saw a lot of people in town and heard great things about the snowmobile trails. Councilperson Eldridge stated that the Snowcade was great again, thankfully we had a lot of snow. Councilperson Howard addressed the board with the idea of starting to accept debit and credit cards for various things like dog licenses, fishing licenses, water bills etc. Supervisor Wells stated that we could look into it further. Councilperson Rathbun stated that he is going to start teaching the boater safety course again. He currently has a class scheduled in Long Lake and one in Lake Pleasant. Councilperson Rathbun stated that he needs to let the state know 15 days beforehand so they can order the material for the class. Councilperson Rathbun stated that he is a volunteer; it is a \$10.00 charge for people 18 years and older to pay New York State directly, 17 and younger are free. Councilperson Rathbun asked the Town Clerk if she had filled the deputy position, she stated yes, the deputy started training in February.

Public Comments:

Richard Powers introduced himself to the board from the crowd. Rich stated that he is a recovery coach at OK Recovery Center and there are offices in Speculator, Gloversville and Amsterdam. Rich stated that he is the recovery coach for Hamilton County; the services are free. Meetings are Mondays at 6 o'clock. Rich stated that there are many types of services available.

Abby Eldridge addressed the board with a report of the ski lessons that the Town supports. Attached is the report.

Mary Frasier read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce. New services offered to the public include copying and faxing. The visitor center is open 7 days a week, the hours are posted. Mary stated that the Chamber worked closely with Kylie during Snowcade and the craft fair went well. The Chamber has agreed to sponsor and support the annual Christmas Country Tour, now that the ILCDC has dissolved has closed. The chamber worked with Kelly and Kim Ameden who ran the tour. On March 6th the Chamber held an insurance information session to help local community members get health and dental insurance. There were 7 people in attendance. Councilperson Howard asked Supervisor Wells if the town talked to the chamber about changing the time they got their funding. Supervisor Wells stated that the Chamber needs to draft a proposal at their next meeting for when they want to get their funding, and we will start the process of changing the contract and payment schedule.

Abstracts and Bills

41370 to 41372
41382 to 41396
41404 to 41444
41445 to 41602

Supervisor Wells made a motion to pay Bills and Abstracts. Councilperson Howard had questions concerning some of the bills not being charged to the right account. Supervisor Wells made a motion to pay the bills and abstracts with the corrections by our account clerk. Seconded by Councilperson Howard. All were in favor.

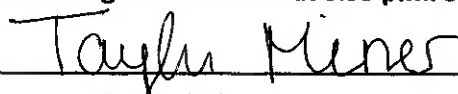
Supervisor Wells made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of contractual at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Councilperson Eldridge.

Councilperson Eldridge made a motion to exit the executive session at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilperson Mahoney.

No action taken.

Supervisor Wells made a motion to exit the general session at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Councilperson Rathbun.

Respectfully submitted by :



Town Clerk