

**A TOWN BOARD MEETING** was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The location of the meeting was the Town Hall on Pelon Road in the Town of Indian Lake, State of New York, County of Hamilton.

Supervisor Wells called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All said the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Wells called for a roll call with the following board members present.

**Roll Call:**

Councilperson Mahoney: Present  
Councilperson Eldridge: Present  
Councilperson Rathbun: Present  
Councilperson Howard: Present  
Supervisor Wells: Present

Supervisor Wells told the board they had the minutes from 4/14/25 and 4/28/2025 in their meeting packets. Supervisor Wells stated that there was a recorder issue at the previous meeting and the Town Clerk was at training. It was the first meeting our new Deputy Clerk was at. Supervisor Wells requested to have the minutes from 4/28/25 be re done. Supervisor Wells tabled the approval of minutes until the next board meeting. All were in favor.

**Department Head Reports:**

Councilperson Howard asked Bill Laprairie Parks & Rec Department Head if he knew what was going on with the garbage truck. Bill said that garbage wasn't his department, but he knew that they were picking garbage up in a regular pickup truck on the roads that are still soft and meeting the compactor truck at a different location to compact the garbage. Councilperson Howard asked Bill Laprairie if there was any major damage to the library collection from the water leak. Bill said that the damage was to the ceiling tiles, insulation and some of the carpet. Councilperson Howard asked Bill what days business recycling gets done. Bill said Mondays and Fridays. Councilperson Howard asked Eugene Darling Highway Superintendent if he was working with Parks & Rec crew to get the security cameras installed. Eugene said no that Vector One the Towns I.T. Support company was helping install them. Councilperson Howard asked Kylie Cannan Events and Marketing assistant how many lifeguards that we have for summer. Kylie responded with five lifeguards, three being senior lifeguards and two being junior lifeguards. Councilperson Howard asked Kylie about the T-mobile Grant, Kylie said that Christine handles all these grants so she wasn't sure. Councilperson Howard asked Mechanic Jacob Wells if he would be able to get a list of the trucks who is the main operator for each truck. Jacob said he could get a list for her. Eugene said that the trucks she was questioning, he knew who was operating them. Truck #180 was Eugene truck #185 was Steve and truck #182 was Howard jr. Councilperson Howard stated that the reason she asked was because if we were spending a lot of money for maintenance to keep repairing the truck, that next budget we can start to look at budgeting for a new one. Supervisor Wells wanted to compliment Eugene on the Chain Lakes South Road it is great to the gate. Supervisor Wells was wondering if DEC has reached out to Eugene about maintaining from the gate to the old barn. Eugene said no they have not. Kylie Cannan addressed all in the meeting regarding the upcoming Memorial Day parade and welcomed anyone who would be willing to volunteer to come to the Volunteer recruitment party they were having at Puterko's for the Black Fly challenge on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Kylie also talked about that she was researching different company's for the stencils to have the Indian Lake Logo on the side on the bank by the Adirondack Lake spillway. She stated this is something Parks and Rec crew could do. We would purchase the stencil and use spray paint to fill in the logo. Supervisor Wells thanked her for the research and wanted the board members to think about the possibility of doing this.

Supervisor Wells addressed the board with a new interview form. This is a form that would be filled out during the interview of candidates. Supervisor Wells motioned to adopt this form for the new employee handbook. Councilperson Howard seconded. All were in favor.

**ADK Dam Update:**

Supervisor Wells gave a brief update on the dam project. He stated that they are hoping to be done at the beginning of September so they can start clearing equipment and have everything out by the end of

September. Supervisor Wells said that they are moving along well, and he has been impressed with how things are progressing. He said that there are currently some deep drainage issues that they are currently working on. Supervisor Wells spoke to them regarding keeping the back of Byron Park Area clear of equipment and materials because that will be open to the public this summer for usage. Councilperson Rathbun asked if there was going to be a park attendant now that Byron Park will be open Bill Laprairie from Parks & Rec said that Bill Zellner would be the attendant.

#### **Office for Aging meeting:**

Supervisor Wells said he had a meeting earlier this week with the Office for the Aging. The Town of Indian Lake has a meal site, and it is one of the more active ones in Hamilton County. He said that they are pretty concerned with the cuts that are coming down the line, they have started to look at consolidating services. Supervisor Wells stated that they have closed the Johnsburg meal site, they are currently sending meals up from the Warrensburg meal site. Supervisor Wells stated that we are doing everything we can to keep ours open. Bonnie Eldridge stated that she subs at the Indian Lake meal site occasionally and they do anywhere from 8-17 congregate and it picks up in the summertime. Right now, they are making 8/9 deliveries.

#### **Health Care Coalition for the North Country:**

Supervisor Wells said that this ties in with another meeting he had with a new group called Health Care Coalition for the North Country with the representative Hiedi Shemp, she is a local resident and an administrator for the Elderwood nursing home. They are another organization that is concerned about federal funding cuts. She provided a letter that they want us to send to our government officials and there is also a resolution and fact sheet. Supervisor Wells stated that he was going to start working with this organization and Heidi will be the contact person. Supervisor Wells offered Resolution number 8 urging federal officials to consult with healthcare practitioners when considering such reductions. Seconded by councilperson Rathbun.

#### **Discussion:**

Councilperson Howard stated that she personally had talked to a lot of the republicans in the community and she has a hard time passing this because of the improper payments and fraud that is going on in the federal government. She stated she feels that for her to vote aye on this resolution knowing what the government suggested cuts are feels irresponsible and encourages fear. Supervisor Wells said that it is asking that the federal government consults with healthcare practitioners before making cuts. Councilperson Howard said that she feels it is scaring the public.

#### **Roll Call:**

Councilperson Mahoney: Aye  
Councilperson Eldridge: Aye  
Councilperson Rathbun: Aye  
Councilperson Howard: Nay  
Supervisor Wells: Aye

#### **Annual Trash Days:**

Supervisor Wells stated that the Trash Pick up days will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> the first Tuesday and Wednesday in June. Supervisor Wells asked Bill Laprairie and Eugene Darling to put together a road schedule and to get it to Christine to post on the town website.

#### **Townsend's Grant:**

Supervisor Wells said that after quite some time our grant disbursement agreement for the Townsends project has finally been signed and authorized. The grant is \$300,000; we are currently working on our reimbursements. Christine and Kimberley have been working on the costs so we can get it up. We have a share of \$6,800. Supervisor Wells stated that the amount will be reached when the building gets torn down.

**Request from Zoning Board of Appeals:**

Supervisor Wells addressed the board with the request from Irene Hutchins secretary to the zoning board to amend two individual's terms, somewhere along the way there was a mix up with year end of terms and to appoint Darrin Harr Jr to the Zoning Board of appeals. Supervisor Wells motioned to appoint Darrin Harr Jr to the Zoning Board of appeals. Seconded by Councilperson Eldridge. All in favor.

Supervisor Wells motioned to amend the year end date for the term of Licino Marques to 12/31/2026. Councilperson Howard asked if a person on the Board of Assessment review could be on the Planning Board as well. Supervisor Wells stated he wasn't sure and that we would get more clarification on that. Motion was tabled. Supervisor Wells motioned to amend the year end date for the term of Geroge Virgil to 12/31/2029 for the Zoning Board of appeals. Councilperson Mahoney seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Sign Application:**

Victoria Moore a representative from 4 rivers alliance had submitted an application for the approval to put 4 road signs on Town property to encourage Sober Boating. All board members were in favor.

**Public Comments:**

There was discussion regarding the Adk dam height from concerned residents around Adk Lake. There was discussion regarding the idea of possibly getting a permit to fix the boat launch on Adk Lake, residents stated that with the water being lower it has created a hazardous environment to get the boats in and out of the lake.

**Supervisor Comments:**

Supervisor Wells stated that Band for the ADK dam has been renewed. The court of appeals stated that even year election is constitutional and they could do it. Supervisor Wells stated that AATV membership meeting is June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lake Placid for any board members wanting to attend. May-June issue of the Adk Explorer has an article in it regarding ADK Communities at a disadvantage for state funding.

**Other Town Business:**

Councilperson Mahoney asked Bill Laprairie how BTI treatments were going. Bill stated that everything is going well, and all the treatments are up to date. Councilperson Howard asked what the status of everything regarding the Museum was. Supervisor Wells stated that he had reached out to Wayne, and he is doing a lot of research for people that contact him with questions. There is a group that is coming up that would like to scan certain documents. Bill stated that his crew and Wayne have been working to clear the building out, right now they have stuff up at the ski hut in a controlled environment on shelves like the way it was set up in the museum. Councilperson Howard addressed her concern with the fact that some town buildings have no smoking signs and some do not. Bill stated that once he is told where on the buildings they should be hung he will hang them, he did not just want to put them wherever he felt they should go. Daisy discussed her concerns regarding the museum and the Towns effort on getting the important artifacts out of there. Councilperson Rathbun asked about the Chain Lakes road sign by where the rafters put in, if we could contact someone to get it re-done. Councilperson Rathbun wanted to thank the town for usage of the Ski Hut for his boater safety course. He stated that he had 22 people attend the course from all over the County. Councilperson Howard wanted to thank Patrick Mahoney for his dedication and many years hard work over the years. Councilperson Rathbun wanted to let everyone know behind the Townsends property there will be a History Timeline Event. Over 200 kids from various schools are expected to attend. Saturday 9 to 5 and Sunday 9-2 the event will be open. Councilperson Rathbun wanted to thank everyone who had their hand in helping put this all together, it is very much appreciated.

**Abstracts and Bills**

41901 to 41952

41960 to 42107

Supervisor Wells motioned to approve the abstracts and bills. Seconded by Councilperson Howard

Supervisor Wells motioned to go into executive session for the discussion of personnel at 8:25 p.m. Seconded by Councilperson Eldridge. All were in favor.

Councilperson Howard motioned to exit executive session at 9:12 p.m. Seconded by Councilperson Rathbun.

No action was taken.

Councilperson Howard motioned to appoint Evan Laprairie to foreman of Sewer and Water department at starting foreman rate of \$26.82. Seconded by Councilperson Mahoney. Councilperson Eldridge recused herself from the vote. All board members were in favor.

Supervisor Wells motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Seconded by Councilperson Howard. All were in favor.