

A Regular meeting was held by the Town Board of the Town of Allen, located at 4949 Klein Road in the Town of Allen, County of Allegany was held on January 16, 2024

PRESENT	Deputy Supervisor	Zach Badgley
	Councilman	Dale Gelser
		Jeffrey Steadman
		Richard Hunt
	Town Clerk	Jame J. VanDewalker
	Hwy Superintendent	Raymond Dennis

ABSENT:	Councilman	Todd Krzeminski
	Supervisor	Erica Torrey

OTHERS PRESENT 6 Townspeople

Deputy Supervisor Badgley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

CLERK REPORT:

Resolution 01-2024

Clerk VanDewalker presented the Clerk’s report and statements for the month of November for review.

On a motion made by Councilman Steadman, seconded by Councilman Gelser, the Clerk’s report is ACCEPTED

3 AYES –Gelser, Steadman, Hunt

0 NOES

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 03-2024

Clerk VanDewalker presented the Clerk’s report and statements for the month of December for review.

On a motion made by Councilman Hunt, seconded by Councilman Gelser, the Clerk’s report is ACCEPTED

3 AYES –Gelser, Steadman, Hunt

0 NOES

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

The monthly Statements for the Supervisor for the month of November and December.

Resolution 02-2023

On a motion made by Councilman Gelser, seconded by Councilman Steadman the November supervisor Statement is ACCEPTED

3 AYES –Gelser, Steadman, Hunt

Town of Allen, Regular Meeting

January 16, 2024, Page Two

0 NOES

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 04-2023

On a motion made by Councilman Steadman, seconded by Councilman Hunt the December supervisor Statement is ACCEPTED

3 AYES –Gelser, Steadman, Hunt

0 NOES

MOTION CARRIED

HIGHWAY REPORT:

Superintendent Dennis raises the question if anything can be done to have bills paid if meetings, such as last December, are cancelled. When the bills don't get paid on time, lines of credit get cut off, making it difficult to purchase much needed items.

The Town of Castile has another truck coming up for sale in the Spring. It has 70,000 miles. The Sterling would be replaced by a new truck. It is believed they will be asking around \$150,000 for the truck. What can be done about a loan? A new truck is at least 18 months away from delivery once ordered.

Where is the sale of the gravel pit at?

The town board has asked the Clerk to email the lawyer and ask exactly what needs to be done to sell.

A few bids have been collected for a new grader. The current grader is now 28 years old, with untold hours. The equipment payment line was removed from the budget, and the equipment line needs to be maintained. CHIPS will pay for a grader; the Town will need to pay the interest. The prices are based on Government contract. The CAT grader is 171 hp, the John Deere is 155hp. Superintendent Dennis is looking for 6-wheel drive.

Employee handbook issues changes.

The employees are requesting that the personal days be changed from 2 to 4. The employees currently only have 7 holidays.

Resolution 5-2024

On a motion made by Councilman Hunt, seconded by Councilman Steadman, the Employees will be granted 4 total personal days per year.

3 AYES –Gelser, Steadman, Hunt

0 NOES

MOTION CARRIED

The insurance buyout needs to be redacted as the Town no longer offers insurance.

The Town has historically given a 3% annual raise to the employees, however it has never been included in the Handbook.

The starting wages need to be addressed as NYS minimum wage has just increased again.

It is increasingly difficult to find employees at the \$16.50/hr rate.

Town of Allen, Regular Meeting

January 16, 2024, Page Three

Resolution 6-2024

On a motion made by Councilman Hunt, seconded by Councilman Steadman the following changes to the employee hand book have been approved.

3 AYES –Gelser, Steadman, Hunt

0 NOES

MOTION CARRIED

The starting pay of new fulltime hires to be hired at \$18.00/hour. After a 90 day review has been given, employee is eligible for a \$1.00/hr raise in pay. After the conclusion of another 90 days employee will be eligible for another \$1.00/hr raise in pay bringing employee hourly rate to \$20.00/hr after 180 days total.

New hires will receive a 3% raise at the one year anniversary of their non probationary status. Annual 3% raise to be received at the first of the year for all employees.

Resolution 7-2024

On a motion made by Councilman Hunt, seconded by Councilman Steadman, the Town Board will allow the employees up to \$200.00 towards a new pair of boots.

3 AYES –Gelser, Steadman, Hunt

0 NOES

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 8-2024

The rate that an employee must use “sick time” is stated that it must be used in a minimum of per day. The employees are asking to change the minimum to per hour. In the event they use “sick time” for an appointment, they may come to work for a partial day opposed to taking a whole day off.

On a motion made by Councilman Gelser, seconded by Councilman Hunt, the Town Board will changed the per day to per hour in section 306

3 AYES –Gelser, Steadman, Hunt

0 NOES

MOTION CARRIED

Last year Superintendent Dennis was an employee. At the December meeting he was going to address the Town Board about his owed vacation time. The handbook does state that an employee leaving in good standing would be granted all of their unpaid vacation time. The Town Board did not meet in the month of December. He would like to be paid his owed vacation hours.

The Town Supervisor should reach out to the Comptrollers office to inquire about how to pay Superintendent Dennis his owed time, it was beyond his control that it could not be requested in December.

Superintendent Dennis has prepared Local Law 1 of 2024 A LOCAL LAW LIMIT IN THE USE OF CERTAIN TOWN OF ALLEN ROADS BY VEHICLES IN EXCESS OF EIGHT (8) TONS TOTAL WEIGHT.

It’s something to consider in regard to bonding vehicles and trying to maintain the roads after the effects of heavy vehicles.

Town of Allen, Regular Meeting

January 16, 2024, Page Four

Superintendent Dennis will be shopping for a new welder.

NEW BUSINESS:

All oaths of office have been taken and filed.

There was a property in the Town that was eligible for the Town to purchase on the tax auction. The shape of the home is unknown, The Town could purchase the property for very little. Supervisor Torrey was going to reach out to the County to see what the price would be. It would need to be inspected. It could expand yard space or possible storage.

MTS has sent a bill \$4274.50 for services. The Town of Allen does not have a contract with them. They just send a bill, the Town has never paid them.

ARPA funds have been received in the amount of \$25,000, this is undesignated money.

The justice has submitted for a grant to have the electrical redone and a heating and cooling unit. The furnace has been an ongoing issue and the electrical needs to be updated.

Gutters on the building have been torn down by ice and what comes into the garage.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

Resolution 9-2024

On a motion made by Councilman Gelser seconded Councilman Steadman, the Town Board has approved the Highway Fund, voucher #108-123 and authorized for payment \$33,586.79 and voucher #1-4 and authorized for payment \$ 610.15. For the General fund, Voucher #108-123 and authorized for payment \$11,312.12 and vouchers #1-14 and authorized for payment \$11,833.40. For Fire and Safety Voucher #1-3 and authorized for payment \$15,175.00

3 Ayes- Gelser, Hunt, Steadman

0 Nays

MOTION CARRIED

The next board meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of February at 7pm

With no further business, on a motion made by Councilman Gelser seconded by Councilman Steadman the meeting is adjourned at 9:22 pm unanimously.

