

Town of St. Armand  
Tuesday, November 7, 2019  
Public Hearing – St. Armand 2020 Town Budget 6:15 pm  
Public Hearing – St. Armand Water and Sewer Rates for 2020 6:15 pm  
Regular Board Meeting 6:30 PM

*These Meeting Minutes were approved by the Town Board on December 10, 2019.*

Two Public Hearings and the Regular Board Meeting of the Town of St. Armand were held on the above date and times at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Town Supervisor Davina Winemiller, Councilperson Donald Amell and Councilperson Jennifer Fuller.  
*A quorum of the Board was in attendance.*

**TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT:**

Town Justice Arthur. J. Niederbuhl, Water Superintendent Jeffrey Cotter, Wastewater Superintendent Stanley Ingison, Town Accountant Donna Bramer and Town Clerk Barbara Darrah.

**EXCUSED:** Deputy Supervisor D. Joseph Bates, Councilperson Karl Law, and Code Enforcement Officer Derrick Martineau was excused from this meeting. Highway Superintendent Douglas Snickles was absent due to the necessity for plowing.

**GUESTS:** Justyna Babcock, Dean Everritt, Sandy Hayes, and Warren McCarthy, all from the community.

Notice was posted regarding the date and times of the Public Hearings and Regular Board Meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Town of St. Armand 2020 Budget

Supervisor Davina Winemiller called the Public Hearing to order at 6:15 pm and immediately asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Winemiller asked Town Clerk Barbara Darrah to read the Public Notice aloud.

Darrah: Public Notice is hereby given that the Preliminary Budget Town Board of the Town of St. Armand for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 has been completed and filed in the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY, where it is available for inspection by any interested parties Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Further notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand will hold Public Hearings thereon at the St. Armand Town Hall, 1702 NYS Route 3, Bloomingdale, NY on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 beginning at 6:15 pm for discussion on the 2020 Town budget and the Water and Sewer Rates for 2020 and that at such hearings any person may be heard in favor or against any item(s) contained therein. By Order of the Town Board this Notice was published on: October 28, 2019.

Winemiller: Let us begin.

Sandy Hayes: I did want to make one statement before I get into the budget items. The most important thing that this Town Board does in the calendar year is to develop a budget and have a public hearing and approve that budget. I am disappointed that two of the Board members are not here. I feel that it is a dereliction of duty unless it's a family emergency. I would suggest that in the future, either vacations or town budget and public hearings are arranged so they are not in conflict. This is a big matter. I know there were not many weeks on the budget, but I am disappointed that two of the members are not here tonight. So, they anticipated that it would be passed apparently, and that nobody would get sick or injured and unable to make it and the quorum was going to be unable to be met. You are just able to make a quorum tonight and I don't think it's right. I talked to three other town leaders and they could not believe that a full board was not at the budget hearing and did not approve the budget. Having said that I also have talked to my budget guru, and last year we had a lot of issues. We had three or four budget hearings because things were not answered and there were issues. My guru assured me we have a good budget; we are under the tax cap and a lot of the items that have been neglected or misplaced have been corrected. I do have a lot of faith in the Board and the Accountant that put the budget together. I probably have four hours studying it and talking to my person about it and I am just going to go over a few of the items that I had questions about:

1: Page 2, salaries. I don't know the reason. Maybe the Town Clerk did not ask for a raise, didn't want a raise, but other town personnel except the Board and Supervisor got raises. I would like to see her get the 3% raise that everybody else got. It amounts to less than \$400 and brings her up to \$13,500. I think that \$393 increase in salary is more than justified. I have never come in this Town Hall that she wasn't here. I would like to suggest that that be changed. I can't imagine it would affect the budget that much.

Winemiller: I will say I asked Barb if she wanted a raise and she did not. A lot of work was done last year to bring her up to where she needed to be. Barb, do you want to comment on that?

Darrah: I was asked, and I said I was happy this year. I am happy this year. Thank you though, I appreciate it. I do.

Warrene McCarthy: You deserve one.

Winemiller: Please know that we asked her, and she declined.

Hayes: Well, I anticipated that, and I know Barb, so I would like to respectfully overrule her.

McCarthy: I second that, Sandy.

Darrah: Next year.

Hayes: Along that line, in Records Management, you had a budget last year of \$3,000. Year to date if \$542, and now we are at \$34,453. I looked, are you getting \$30,000 in a grant?

Winemiller: We are getting a grant for \$30,000. Barb applied for a grant and we got the grant. \$16,000 has already been received. It is under revenue.

Hayes: On page 3, the Town Hall Building appropriations. Is that because things were categorized wrong?

Winemiller: That is absolutely correct, Sandy. Last year there were errors made in the budget last year where the columns were not adding up correctly, etc. This year, I personally made a brand new budget in an Excel spread sheet format. This is entirely a brand new program that I wrote for this budget. I spent a lot of time on the phone with the Comptroller's office. I spent a lot of time with Mike and with Donna. A lot of things changed because they were not being appropriated in the correct area last year. So, when you see a 300% change, please know it was wrong and now it is right. The biggest one you will see that in is the Highway Outside fund.

Donna Bramer: Instead of things being lumped in, many more categories were created, and items are broken down much more to assist in knowing what the expenditures are.

Hayes: There were a couple of things. For one, does that Town pay itself for its water and sewer?

Winemiller: Yes, we do pay a water and sewer bill for the Highway garage, the Town Hall and the Youth Building. They are all metered and the meters are read.

Hayes: The fuel oil account; your year to date is \$2991, and you budgeted \$7400. That is \$4500 increase for only the next three months.

Winemiller: Things were being lumped together, before they were being categorized correctly. If you go back to page 2 on the very bottom, you will see building and grounds \$19,000. What that \$19,000 from last year is for example represented on page 3, for example, everything in town hall building is broken down, for example,

Hayes: Contingency Emergency Repairs; was that all lumped sum?

Winemiller: We had an issue with last year's budget, and we had to make some adjustments in this year's budget in order to even it all out. We do have a General Fund savings account. That is why we brought that down to zero because in the Supervisor's Report in our General Fund building account we have \$60,921. We decided to bring that to zero because we had this lot to fall back on. We did a lot of repairs this year, and we do not expect to have a lot of repairs next year, and we have the \$60,000 here, so we took it out of here.

Hayes: Page 4, Capital Outlay Youth Building: Was zero last year, is \$5,000 this year. Was that another adjustment?

Winemiller: Yes. That is actually represented on the Revenue side. We had a donation a few years ago. This year, we spent a chunk of change this year on the youth building, on the ball field, we painted and put in a drainage ditch and a frost-free standpipe for flooding the ice rink. Our insurance company recommended we take the grass out and put sand in the playground area.

Hayes: Page 5, Town Garage building. Same thing with the fuel prices?

Winemiller: Yes. You will see all the categories now broken down.

Hayes: Street lighting is anticipated to go up, substantially?

Winemiller: Yes. That is typical. By the end of the year, it usually is around \$9,000.

Hayes: Page 6, Youth Programs.

Winemiller: Also broken down into many more categories. This is going to help us because now we have the Winter Director (pond hockey), the Summer Director, (the Boosters). We are going to partner with the Town of Harrietstown for our summer youth program because our program is only 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. There were days last year where we had one child. Parents are taking their kids to Harrietstown. Saranac Lake (Harrietstown) charges them. The County gives us \$5,000 every summer for the summer youth program, so our hope is that we will use the \$5,000 to cover the costs of parents to send their children to Harrietstown. If not, we will reduce the cost dramatically with it. There is an additional \$2700 money to hire one summer youth program worker and we can still hire one person and the County will pay for that person to work at Harrietstown Summer program.

Justyna Babcock: You are aware of the program in Vermontville, right? It is also 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. They are free and they get a free lunch.

Winemiller: We felt that there were so many kids already participating in the Harrietstown Program that it made more sense just to keep it there. Because probably 90% of our kids went there. And the parents had to pay. So, we are hoping that we can supplement it 100%. If we can foot the bill for them, that's even better.

Hayes: Page 7. The Historian A7510.4. What is that all about?

Winemiller: Point 2 is equipment. And he (historian) is going to be purchasing some recording equipment so he can start taking oral histories from our senior citizens so that we have them for record. Point 4 is for some shadowboxing and picture frames that he is going to be doing. We will be installing those down at the Youth Building.

Hayes: A8160.2. Last year it was \$500; this year it is \$2800.

Winemiller: The decks at the refuse center are unstable. We are going to replace all those decks in that area.

Sandy, did you want to look at the Revenues areas we spoke of? Go to page 11, there is the Records Management Grant, the \$32,453...A4000. Down a little bit further is A4810 and A4820 is the \$2700 for the St. Armand youth to work there and the \$5,000 County money for the program.

Hayes: It looks good and I am very happy with the amount of work you put into it. I was not a happy camper last year.

Winemiller: Does anyone else have any questions about the Budget?

Warrene McCarthy: Last year the budget had to be passed on the final night they met. That was terrible. No matter what the budget is, whether you like it or not, or want to pass it, you have to pass it because it has to be passed.

Winemiller: Well, yes. We have to pass our budget by a certain date. Barb, can you give a rundown?

Darrah: The budget has to be passed by November 20<sup>th</sup>. We have to have a public hearing, Sandy, when you were talking about the Board members not being here, there has to be a public hearing held the Thursday following the General Election. That changes every year. Next year, the General Election is November 3, so our Public Hearing has to be held November 5<sup>th</sup>. That doesn't mean we have to pass the budget at that point, we could hold the meeting to pass the budget on the following Tuesday like we hold it every month for the Regular Board meeting and the passing of the budget. In fact, I would like to suggest that.

Hayes: You set your calendar next month, in December, so all Board members should be aware of those dates, it should be adjusted at that point, not a bunch of empty chairs.

Winemiller: Are there any more questions on the budget? We worked hard to go under the 2% tax cap, and I think we had \$628 to spare. It is now 6:50 pm. Can I get a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Budget?

Councilperson Jennifer Fuller made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Budget.

Councilperson Donald Amell seconded the motion to close the Public Hearing on the Budget.

All in favor.

#### PUBLIC HEARING: 2020 Town of St. Armand Water and Sewer Rates

The Public Hearing for the 2020 Town of St. Armand Water and Sewer Rates opened at 6:51 pm.

Winemiller: The 2020 Water and Sewer Rates are as follows: After a lot of work, the Water Usage Rate shall decrease from \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons to \$6.18 per 1,000 gallons. The Sewer Usage Rate will increase from \$12.36 per 1,000 gallons to \$15.14 per 1,000 gallons. The Water Debt Service will remain at \$8.00 per quarter and the Sewer Debt Service will remain at \$68.00 per quarter and the Capital Reserve Sewer Improvement Fund shall remain at \$11.12 per quarter.

Before anyone says anything, I just want to point out that last year at this time, the rate was increased to \$18.75 per 1,000 gallons and when I came in, I worked the numbers and found some money and was able to convince the Board to drop it to the current \$12.36. After this budget, we had to increase it in order to meet all the needs of the Wastewater department, but it is still substantially less than what it was in January 2019. Even though we roller coasted this year, I think everything will even out. Does anyone have any questions on the rates?

Dean Everritt: Davina, did you say the Water Usage was going down?

Winemiller: Yes, the Water Usage is \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons right now, and starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, it will go down to \$6.18 per 1,000 gallons. And the Sewer Usage right now is \$12.36 per 1,000 gallons and on January 1<sup>st</sup>, it will increase to \$15.14 per 1,000 gallons.

Darrah: It is actually inclusive of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 through December 31, 2019, but then billed in January 2020.

Winemiller: What's the matter Dean?

Everritt: That's a lot of money.

Winemiller: I know. Trust me I know. Donna and I picked through this thing with a fine-tooth comb. I will tell you I had a meeting at the DEC on Election Day, so I feel that there may be some relief coming next year with this. I don't have anything yet. I am trying.

Babcock: Does this have to do with the repairs that were made?

Winemiller: No. Basically, Water and Sewer is an entity onto itself. So, everything the Water Department needs, the Water users pay for and everything the Sewer Department needs, the Sewer users pay for. Any Wastewater Treatment Plant costs 3 times more the expense to run than it does to run a water plant. There are a lot more chemicals involved, a lot more processes involved, a lot more electricity involved; the costs go up exponentially. I will tell you we have a \$50,000 grant that we are using to install another array of solar panels at the Wastewater Treatment plant, hoping to reduce electricity costs. I am researching everything that I can to get the costs down. I know it's not where we want to be. Please know I am trying everything I can to get the rates down.

Babcock: So, we have a Sewer Treatment Plant? I did not know that.

Winemiller: Yes. It's where the Transfer Station is.

Dean Everritt: I'm just crunching some numbers. It's been a crazy few years. 120% increase in one year, predicated on poor workmanship; all the contractors, we got sold a lousy product, and we continue to pay them to fix it. 120% increase which was tough on a lot of people, and then as you said, you found a way to bring it down, so then we were down to a 45% increase, and now we're back up to a 78% increase than what we were paying three years ago.

Winemiller: The User rate changed big time because of the cost to treat the wastewater and because of the requirements the DEC put on St. Armand that our effluent has to meet. In order to run into our stream, it has to test at "X" level. They knew we couldn't do it with our plant that was built in 1985, so they worked with us. Unfortunately, we have to treat it chemically, and the chemicals are costly. I will tell you, the DEC wants us to decrease our phosphorus to 1.0, and we are currently at 1.7. I told them we can't do it. We have 307 units bearing the load of this cost. The DEC is talking about an optimizational grant. The DEC would do a study on our Wastewater Treatment plant on what we could do to optimize in meeting the requirements. That is what my goal is and that is what I'm trying for.

Everitt: No, I know that, and I appreciate that, for sure. No question. I think the frustration just comes from; if it's all about clean water, and that's exactly what we are paying for, then hey, that's a benefit. But last year and the year before, I heard about broken this and broken that and this failing and that failing and this company coming in fixing things.....and we just pay them for it. The other part, too, the amount of money that I imagine we took in, seemed to far out way the line item. (The matching funds).

Winemiller: I can tell you right now, what I found is we had collected \$20,500 in the first two billing cycles towards the matching grant fund. And then we had the \$9600 from ESD and \$9329 from CDBG, we had all those monies left over and combined all the money, and if we collect the \$11.12 Reserve Fund. We needed to collect \$141,000 for the matching grant funds. That is what we are doing right now.

Everitt: So, it sounds like there was some extra and we are using that toward the needed money. Other than that, anecdotally, they cannot believe how much we are paying for water.

Winemiller: I will tell you that I called around to other towns. I spoke with Saranac Lake, and everybody pays an automatic flat rate of 8,500 gallons, even if their reading indicates less used. And, then if they use above 8,500 gallons, they pay an additional fee per 1,000 gallons.

Everitt: Barb, correct me if I'm wrong, but last year when I asked, you said the sewer rate was 75% of the water rate.

Darrah: The water rate is \$6.50 per thousand and the sewer rate is \$12.36, so it is approximate 50% more, but at the time you had asked me the sewer rate was \$18.75 per 1,000, so yes, it was approximately 75% at that time.

Everitt: So, when I look at my bill for the sewer, when I look at the charge for the sewer times \$12.36, but then there is the charge for the water on top of that. I don't see the gallon usage for the sewer.

Winemiller: The meters only measure how much water goes into your home. We do not measure the amount of sewage that leaves. It is based on the amount of water. It is the exact same number.

Everitt: I guess what I am saying, the charge for the sewer is \$281.00, so if I multiply Barbara went over to where Dean Everitt was sitting to go over his bill with him.

Darrah: You have 22,800 gallons. So,  $22.8 \times \$6.50 =$  this, and then  $22.8 \times \$12.36 =$  almost double the water charge. So, the same water usage is used for both.

Winemiller: I really would like to meet with you (to Dean Everitt) and we can discuss the costs.

Does anyone else have any questions on the Water and Sewer rates?

Darrah: (To Winemiller): Just remind them, also, that you are working on getting more users.

Winemiller: That is another part of the Income Survey. We sent it to the un-sewered streets. The biggest thing we have to do is upgrade our infrastructure. A lot of our infrastructure was built in 1930. Vine Street, Poplar Street, and Whiteface are the three streets thus far, that we are going to try and increase our number of users, which will result in the entire cost being shared by more users.

The clay content of our soil in St. Armand is very, very high. For a municipality to have town sewer in 1930 is unheard of in New York State. We are probably the first ones, because everybody's septic systems were failing because of the clay content. We are focusing on those three streets because we know how desperately they need sewer on those streets. If we get it there, we will be getting the CDBG Lateral Grant, so it won't cost those homeowners anything to hook on. But they will be required by our sewer ordinance, which is already in place, to hook up. It will be better for our town. Any other questions?

Winemiller: Are there any other questions regarding the Water and Sewer Rates Public Hearing? None.

May I get a motion to close this Public Hearing?

Councilperson Donald Amell made the motion to close the Public Hearing.

Councilperson Jennifer Fuller seconded the motion to close the Public Hearing.

All in Favor. The Water and Sewer 2020 Rates Public Hearing closed at 7:20 pm.

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Davina Winemiller opened the Regular Board Meeting and announced Highway Superintendent Douglas Snickles was out plowing and therefore could not be present at the meeting.

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Highway Superintendent Douglas Snickles submitted the following written report to the Board:

### Town of St. Armand Highway Report for the November 7, 2019 Meeting

- 1) We completed the floor painting in the office breakroom, parts room, and utility room.
- 2) All trucks are ready for plowing.
- 3) We assisted Stan at the Sewer Plant.
- 4) We brought millings up to Rockledge and did the turnaround spots.
- 5) The Youth Building is complete.
- 6) We shouldered Main Street after it was paved.
- 7) We fixed the soffit and fascia at the Youth Building.
- 8) We brought the wooden bleachers to the garage for insurance purposes.
- 9) Nortrax came up to scan the Loader for any issues. Everything is good.
- 10) We brought 2 loads of scrap metal to Morrisonville
- 11) We are still cleaning up after the windstorm. Most of Bloomingdale is done.  
River Road is next.
- 12) Help Jeff at the Youth Field with the Ice Rink Hydrant

13) Charlebois is coming Tuesday to make sure the specs on the new truck are good. Then we'll get it ordered.

## WATER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Water Superintendent Jeffrey Cotter presented the following report to the Board:

### Water Report for the Town of St. Armand Board Meeting on November 7, 2019

1. Verified Meter Readings For Barb - On 10/9/19, I completed verifying 26 meter readings for Barb.
2. Abendroth Residence on River Road - I spoke with Jim Abendroth who lives on the River Road about his curb stop that does not work. He would like to install a new curb stop before winter to enable him to shut the water off to his house. He wanted to know if I could help.

Winemiller: He did call me, and I did speak with him regarding this issue. I feel we need to have one set of rules for everyone. I feel it would be unfair to help one individual and not another. The rules state they do own the curb stop. As much as we want to, but the next thing we know.....

3. Checked Reader On 33 Main Street - I 10/8/19, I checked the reader on 33 Main St. at Barbs request. The reader is very hard to read as it is faded out and it should be replaced.
4. Received Annual Heath Department Inspection Results - On 10/23/19, we received the results from our annual water system inspection conducted on 6/24/19 by Marlene Martin of the Saranac Lake Health Department and Todd Hodgson, P.E from Essex County. There were no violations noted and they made recommendations for future Capital projects.
5. Reading at 1681 Rt. #3 - On 10/15/19, I verified the meter reading at 1681 Rt. #3 for Barb.
6. Reading at 37 Poplar - On 10/15/19, I verified the meter reading at 37 Poplar for Barb.
7. Readings at 6 Prospect and 15 Blue Spruce - On 11/4/19, I obtained readings from both 15 Blue Spruce and 6 Prospect for Barb as there are new residents there.
8. Test Ran Diesel Generator with no issues to report.
9. Monthly Coliform Sample was submitted to the lab from the Youth Center on 10/29/19 and it came back negative.
10. Ice Rink Yard Hydrant - On 11/6/19, I installed the new yard hydrant at the youth center that will be used to flood the ice rinks. I hit and broke an old 3/4" cooper line that was capped off with a closed curb stop. I had to repair the line live by installing another new curb stop. Thanks to the Highway Dept. for assisting me with this project!

Winemiller: Brian Goetz has a 1" canvas hose that they would like to donate to the town for use for the flooding.

Jeff reported the bee problem was resolved at the Pump Station.

Winemiller: Are there any questions for Jeff?

Everritt: I have a question for Jeff. Jeff, do you know if there is any water going to the old church at the split.

Cotter: There's got to be. I have to locate that. They were looking for it the other day and asked me to locate it. It's on my list for tomorrow, more than likely.

Everritt: The reason I ask, is because I thought to myself, well, could that have contributed to the freezing of the lines perhaps, if they don't have their curb stop turned off and they are not using their water could it freeze back to the main?

Cotter: I don't think so. First off, I will locate where it's at and see if it's anywhere around yours. If nobody is in there, we don't know if it is actually frozen or not?

Everritt: They are not using it. But the question is, is it shut off at the curb stop or not?

Cotter: It's not. That's why they want me to locate it. So, they can shut it off so they can install a meter.

Apparently, it's still on. They verified it was on and they want me to shut it off so they can put in a new meter.

Everritt: So, hypothetically, in the middle of winter, that could freeze back toward the main. If it's not being used, if it's not being trickled....

Cotter: If it's deep enough it would never freeze, but if it was around yours, the same depth, it could.

Everritt: With mine, I don't have the history, I don't know why it would be a whole lot less deep than anybody else's...

Cotter: I will let you know, because I am going to locate it tomorrow.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer Derrick Martineau submitted the following written report to the Board:

### Code Enforcement Officer Report for the Town Board Meeting on November 7, 2019

1. Returned 10 calls and 4 emails with questions on codes.
2. Issued 2 permits: JP Oneil, Dean Montroy
3. Total: \$1300.00 in permits; some was owed from previous permits.
4. Inspection complete on Gladd property and writing report to send to town Attorney as he will handle further action on this case.

5. I apologize because I have to reschedule the court date for Moose Pond Rd as I was at NYS class the week I had originally scheduled it. It will be within the next couple of weeks.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Wastewater Superintendent Stanley Ingison presented the following report to the Board.

Summary of last month’s activities for the November 7, 2019 Meeting

- 1) Did daily collections, testing and recorded data.
- 2) Did daily checks of all systems at the PTB and WWTP and recorded the data.
- 3) Wrote up the DEC monthly operating report and the discharge monitoring report and submitted them digitally.
- 4) Did weekly generator checks.
- 5) Did weekly greasing of the paddle wheel drive and clarifier drives.
- 6) I did the weekly flexing of all the aeration diffusers.
- 7) I have gotten the PTB south side gutters completed and they are working great. Now we need to see how well they make it through the winters. We will start finding out soon.
- 8) Even without the clarifier valve key installations completed I did get the #2 clarifier shut down, drained out and covered over for the winter along with changing the pumps over to discharge to the lagoons for the winter to prevent ice damage in the lines and valves.
- 9) I did get the lagoon effluent box exterior sealant installed and with Doug’s help we got the DO probe’s drop tube cut to the correct length along with installing a new flow meter scale to replace the original; now unusable rusted one. While I was in there, I was also able to get the flow meter working accurately for the first time, so now the two meters read evenly.
- 10) The highway department and I did get the lagoon sludge depth and dissolved oxygen readings completed for this year while the weather was still pleasant.
- 11) I did get a final mowing for the year done over much of the main plant site but haven’t gotten to other locations yet.
- 12) After the last rainstorm I did get a second set of sewage tracer samples along with phosphorus and ammonia bottles sent out for testing to look for sewage waste in the stream.
- 13) I am still working on getting material to get the collapsed School street manhole chimney replaced before the weather gets too bad. I am hoping for nice enough day to get it done.
- 14) I continue to work on the St. Armand Wastewater Department Comprehensive Improvement and Repair Program.

Supervisor Winemiller asked if there were any questions for Stan? There were none.

RESOLUTIONS # 85 - # 89

RESOLUTION # 85 OF 2019

ADOPTION OF THE 2020 BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND

Councilperson Donald Amell, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS A Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand, hereby authorizes the adoption of the 2020 Town Budget with a tax levy of all funds and districts in the amount of \$ 878,603.00.

THIS RESOLUTION was duly seconded by Councilperson Jennifer Fuller, and adopted by Roll Call Vote as follows:

Supervisor Davina Winemiller	AYE
Deputy Supervisor D. Joseph Bates	ABSENT
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Jennifer Fuller	AYE
Councilperson Karl Law	ABSENT

Dated: November 7, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

Councilperson Jennifer Fuller, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS a Public Hearing was held on November 7, 2019 with regards to the 2020 Budget, and

WHEREAS, as the Town of St. Armand Water & Sewer District is currently operating on an “On-Consent” Order by the NYS DEC for our SPDES Permit, and

WHEREAS, some of the cost of this construction and operation must be brought to the Users of the St. Armand Sewer District, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the 2020 Water Usage Rate shall decrease from \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons to \$6.18 per 1,000 gallons, and the 2020 Sewer Usage Rate shall increase from \$12.36 per 1,000 gallons to \$15.14 per 1,000 gallons, and the 2020 Water Debt Service shall remain at \$8.00 per quarter for properties that are connected, and the 2020 Sewer Debt Service shall remain at \$68.00 per quarter for properties that are connected. The Capital Reserve Sewer Improvement Fund for 2020 shall remain at \$11.12.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in reference to NYS Town Law, vacant properties (lots) where the location of the lot runs along existing water and sewer lines within the Town of St. Armand Water and Sewer District are to be charged an amount determined by the Board for Water Debt service and Sewer Debt service. The Water Debt charge for vacant lots will remain at \$4.00 per quarter and the Sewer Debt charge for vacant lots will remain at \$34.00 per quarter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED these new billing rates shall become effective during the first quarter of 2020, which includes the dates of October 1st through December 31st of 2019 and billed in January 2020 as adopted in the 2020 Budget for the Town of St. Armand.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Councilperson Donald Amell, and adopted by Roll Call Vote as follows:

Supervisor Davina Winemiller	AYE
Deputy Supervisor D. Joseph Bates	ABSENT
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Jennifer Fuller	AYE
Councilperson Karl Law	ABSENT

Dated: November 7, 2019

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND’S TOWN BOARD  
APPROVAL FOR THE NEW YORK STATE  
UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT (NYSERDA)  
\$50,000 GRANT AWARD APPLICATION FROM  
TOWN OWNERSHIP OF STREET LIGHTS TO  
INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS AT THE  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Councilperson Jennifer Fuller, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of St. Armand is desirous of participating in the unified permitting process, thereby increasing the Town’s eligibility for various incentives and grants through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and

WHEREAS, the Town of St. Armand has been awarded the NYSERDA grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the purchase of the streetlights within the Town of St. Armand, and the Town would then maintain the streetlights (changing bulbs, etc.) at an additional quoted cost to the Town, and

WHEREAS, after further investigation, it was discovered National Grid can replace the streetlights with LED lighting at no cost to the Town and National Grid would still maintain ownership of the streetlights, and

WHEREAS, NYSERDA is allowing the Town of St. Armand to submit a new grant application to change the original approved application to request the Town to change their request, which must be submitted by December 27, 2019,



WHEREAS, a Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand is necessary to apply for and execute a Grant Agreement with the Justice Court Assistance Program (NYS), and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand authorizes the Town of St. Armand Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2019 – 2020 grant cycle for up to \$20,000.00 (Twenty thousand dollars) and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Board hereby rescinds Resolution # 67 of 2019 previously passed on August 13, 2019 regarding the NYS Justice Court Grant Fund.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Jennifer Fuller and adopted by Roll Call Vote as follows:

Supervisor Davina Winemiller	AYE
Deputy Supervisor D. Joseph Bates	ABSENT
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Jennifer Fuller	AYE
Councilperson Karl Law	ABSENT

Dated: November 7, 2019

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

**MOTION TO PAY MONTHLY BILLS**

The payment vouchers for November 2019 were presented for the Board’s approval as follows:

- General Vouchers # 303 - # 328 in the amount of \$ 16,815.56
- Trust and Agency Fund Vouchers # 20 - # 24 in the amount of \$ 972.02
- Highway Vouchers # 180 - # 195 in the amount of \$ 7,869.01
- Highway Outside Vouchers # 16 - # 17 in the amount of \$ 1,628.61
- Water and Sewer Vouchers # 157 - # 175 in the amount of \$ 32,644.28
- B Fund Vouchers # 9 - # 10 in the amount of \$ 709.38
- Rockledge Water District Vouchers # 6 - # 7 in the amount of \$8,690.00
- Water Meter Initiative Voucher # 1 in the amount of \$297.50

Councilperson Jennifer Fuller made the Motion to approve payment of this month’s bills; the Motion was seconded by Councilperson Donald Amell. A Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Supervisor Davina Winemiller	AYE
Deputy Supervisor D. Joseph Bates	ABSENT
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Jennifer Fuller	AYE
Councilperson Karl Law	ABSENT

All in favor. Motion carried.

Dated: November 7, 2019

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Barbara J. Darrah,  
St. Armand Town Clerk

**MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE SUPERVISOR**

Supervisor Winemiller presented the Supervisor’s Monthly Report for October 2019. Councilperson Jennifer Fuller made the Motion to approve the Supervisor’s Report for November 2019. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Donald Amell. All in favor. Motion carried.

**REVIEW AND MOTION TO APPROVE PREVIOUS MONTH’S MINUTES**

Councilperson Jennifer Fuller made the Motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2019. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Donald Amell. The Board also approved a request for an extension in preparing the Budget Work Session minutes from October. All in favor. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

Town Clerk Barbara Darrah gave the following report for the month of October 9, 2019:

There were (14) Dog Licenses for October 2019:

Spayed Females (8) and Neutered Males (5)	\$ 91.00
Unspayed Female (1)	\$ 14.00

Total Revenue Earned      \$ 105.00

Paid to Town Supervisor: \$ 89.00      Paid to NYS Agriculture & Markets: \$ 16.00

WATER AND SEWER BILLING MONTHLY REPORT:

The Water and Sewer receivables as of November 7, 2019 is \$ 49,011.14. The final due date for all balances is Wednesday, November 13, 2019. Late fees will be applied on November 14, and balances will then be transferred to Essex County Office of Real Property for Re-levy on the 2020 property tax bills. A Resolution with the exact amount of the Re-levy will be prepared for the December 10, 2019 Board Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Winemiller addressed the first item, the Department of Transportation and the State Route 3 contract. The gist of their letter is they will not reimburse us for costs associated with plowing NYS Route 3 in the past three years.

Winemiller reported a preliminary inspection was completed by AEDA on the Highway Garage Damage and they will be returning one more time and they will be completing their report. She also stated the Mini bid for the new Highway Truck is finalized and she is waiting to hear from the Comptroller's office.

Winemiller: The I&I Study Grant: All surveys were mailed out on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The number of surveys mailed to sewer users was 252. Surveys mailed to un-sewered streets was 24. Total of surveys mailed was 276. The number of surveys received from sewer users is 79. Surveys received from un-sewered streets is 8. Total number of surveys received is 87. The response rate is 32% so far. We have to receive a response rate of 70% or 193 surveys in order for this to be a valid survey.

Warrene McCarthy: When do you have to have them back in?

Winemiller: There is no timeline on it right now. The sooner the better. I am going to do this until we get 70%.

Warrene McCarthy: I'll be on the site tomorrow to let people know.

Winemiller: Thank you. I'm hoping to have it all done by December, but we need to hit that 70%. So, if any of you know neighbors who have not sent their surveys back, please beg them to do so. I did send a Letter to the Editor encouraging St. Armand residents to send in their surveys. Peter Crowley responded with an email they don't publish letters to the Editor from candidates before the elections. He did email her on Wednesday after the election asking if she wanted the letter published and she responded she did.

Dean Everett: Have you put that on the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Facebook page?

Winemiller: I have not done that.

McCarthy: I will put it on tomorrow.

Everrett: If people understand what the benefit could be to them and they are reminded of it, they might do it. I guaranteed you more people look at the Facebook page then read the paper.

Winemiller: The Moody Pond parking issue: I sent the Board an email with pictures. I emailed Clyde Rabideau. I emailed John Sweeney who did respond. Dougie and I went down there to take a look and we were thinking to put big boulders and put a bunch more no parking signs and handle the parking that way. I asked Doug if the boulders would prevent plowing and he said no, but it would prohibit people from parking there.

Winemiller reported she composed a letter to NYMIR, our insurance, basically listing all the improvements we have made based on their recommendations.

North Elba Rockledge water is still being worked on by the attorneys.

Winemiller reported she had a meeting with Paul Smiths College regarding the purchase of our well field land. They really didn't want to sell us the land. The reason, originally, the college had 52,000 acres and over the years they have sold off so much acreage that now they only have 14,000 acres. Their present Board they have is all about preserving the acreage that they have left. Winemiller explained to them that we cannot apply for grant funds unless we own the land. They talked about another long-term lease. Winemiller also talked to them about a land swap where we buy piece of property with acreage in equal value and we give them that and they give us the well field. I'm still working through the details with that.

Donald Amell: What land would you swap?

Winemiller: We would have to buy something. I did ask Anna Reynolds and I talked to Dan Manning about this and it is possible for the grant funds to pay for that. Especially because they are not for profit. It would have to be voted on at the state level, but it has happened before, and it is a possibility. Are you (the Board) okay if I continue pursuing it?

The Board agreed Winemiller could continue.

Winemiller gave an update on the Trudeau property for Brookside Cemetery. Winemiller received a letter from the APA and they are going to require us to submit a full application. Winemiller has completed the paperwork and needs Mrs. Trudeau to sign it and it will move forward.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Winemiller stated a gentleman came into the Town Hall and asked about when the Town would be bidding for fuel oil and diesel. She emailed some information from the County to the Board, but she would like to hold off until the next meeting when everyone is here to figure out which direction the Board wants to go with that.

On October 29<sup>th</sup> Winemiller attended and spoke at the Capital Region Forum in Lake George. This was a water quality task force created by Assemblyman Dan Stec, for the purpose of looking at infrastructure issues and grant funds for the Lake George and Lake Champlain communities. There were three other members of the legislature there who work on proposing funds for the upcoming budget and the challenges of small communities trying to meet the mandates with the million-dollar costs.

Winemiller emailed the Board a copy of the free energy audit report that was conducted for the water and wastewater systems.

Recently, a person contacted the Town about purchasing a lot at Franklin Falls/Union Falls Cemetery. Winemiller asked Charles Whitson to go with her to the cemetery and go through the maps. Winemiller and Robert Stephenson from the Highway crew went to the cemetery and measured the lots placed pegs for mapping purposes.

Winemiller reported on the Hex and Hop music complaint recently received. She feels we were done with it this year because of the cold weather, but before the good weather comes back around and maybe they could come in and meet with the Board and come up with a solution.

Winemiller stated she emailed the Board a copy of the Lakes to Locks Passage and Economic Impact of Tourism report.

Winemiller talked briefly about the Town Supervisors meeting with the NYS DEC held on November 5, 2019. She felt it was one of the best meetings with DEC she has had.

#### QUESTION OR CONCERNS FROM GUESTS AND STAFF:

Supervisor Winemiller asked if there were any questions or concerns from guests or staff?

Justice Arthur J. Niederbuhl asked if he could have a copy of Resolution # 89 prepared for the following day so he could forward it to the NYS Justice Court Grant Funds for final submission for the grant.

Donald Amell verified the December Board Meeting was December 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Councilperson Donald Amell made a Motion to Adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Jennifer Fuller and the Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

I, Barbara J. Darrah, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Regular Board Meeting minutes held on the above-referenced date.

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Barbara J. Darrah  
St. Armand Town Clerk

Dated: November 7, 2019