

TOWN OF ARIETTA
December 4, 2023
Regular Town Board Meeting

Supervisor Rhodes opened the meeting at 5:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Jacqui Grier present
Douglas Stobo present
Sarah Rudes present
Christy Wilt present
Chris Rhodes present
Craig Small- Superintendent of Highways-present
Mel LaScola- Codes and Zoning-present
William Hotaling- Assessor

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marie Buanno
John Rajca
Sheila Crouse
Mary Kiewicz

At this time Supervisor Rhodes read the Proclamation for Mary Kiewicz Thanking her for all her time and efforts she gave to the Town of Arietta while on the Planning Board. A round of applause from all in attendance followed.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the November 20,2023 minutes as presented. Sarah Rudes offered the motion and seconded by Jacqui Grier all members were in favor. Motion passed.

Agenda
December 4, 2023 At 5 PM
at Piseco Common School
Town of Arietta

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Proclamation for Mary Kiewicz
- Motion to approve minutes for the November 20, 2023 meeting
- Resolutions
 - **23-12-56** **Support Enhancing Cellular Coverage**
 - **23-12-57** **Establish Last Payroll 2023**
 - **23-12-58** **Holiday Schedule 2024**
 - **23-12-59** **Snow and Ice Agreement**

- **Snowmobile Trails –Grier**
- **Town Buildings and Grounds - Stobo**
- **Internal Management / Insurance,**
- **Recreation, Website & Chamber- C Wilt**
- **Finance / Airport-C. Rhodes**
- **Lake / Dam / Invasive/campsite -Rudes**
- **Superintendent report– Craig Small**

- **Codes and Zoning – Mel Lascola**
- **Old Business**
 - Frontier Lease
- **New Business**
 - Permission to advertise for bids on heating fuel and avgas, open bids at the January 2, 2024 meeting
 - Set last meeting for 2023 for December 20th at 5pm
- Motion to accept the bills
- Motion to accept the financial statements
- Public Comment
- Designation of next Meeting Wednesday December 20, 2023
- **Motion to adjourn**

TOWN OF ARIETTA

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School at 1722 State Route 8 in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York on:

December 4, 2023 at 5:00pm

Resolution # 23-11-56

Subject: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT’S (ESD) DESIGNATION OF A CELLULAR-SPECIFIC POINT PERSON TO LEAD THE STATE’S EFFORTS ON ENHANCING CELLULAR COVERAGE, AND FURTHER ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO IMPLEMENT A UNIFIED STRATEGY TO ASSURE EVERY MAJOR ROAD CORRIDOR HAS RELIABLE CELL COVERAGE AS RECOMMENDED BY ESD’S UPSTATE CELLULAR COVERAGE TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

Resolution Offered By: Jacqui Grier

WHEREAS, cellular service is vital to public safety and the economic wellbeing of communities throughout the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, county officials report that approximately 70 percent of 9-1-1 calls originate from cellular phones; and

WHEREAS, in a recent survey hosted on a State Senate website of almost 2,000 Adirondack Park residents, 99 percent of respondents reported owning a cellular phone and 67 percent reported that they rely exclusively on a cellular phone; and

WHEREAS, dependency on cellular service is significant and growing, which speaks to the absolute necessity of improved coverage and service; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York helped respond to this reality in the North Country by working aggressively to deploy COWS (Cells On Wheels) to provide adequate emergency response capacity to serve visitors to the World University Games; and

WHEREAS, state officials are proposing that Empire State Development (ESD) designate a point person to coordinate the state's efforts to enhance cellular coverage, similar to the manner in which ESD designated a point person to coordinate the state's efforts to expand broadband coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), which works to align all state agencies and state policy regarding renewable energy siting and implementation, serves as another successful example of the state coordinating its strategy on important infrastructure matters; and

WHEREAS, barriers to achieving the state's goals with respect to both broadband and cellular coverage enhancement continue to exist within some state agencies, including but not limited to NYSDOT right-of-way requirements, tax policy, and APA restrictions, and an approach similar to ORES would be beneficial in overcoming these barriers; and

WHEREAS, improving broadband and cellular coverage is a safety issue, a public imperative widely demanded by our constituents, and has become increasingly regarded as a basic necessity; and

WHEREAS, some state policies, especially the APA's "substantial invisibility" standard, are not keeping pace with these trends and instead becoming antiquated and counterproductive from the perspective of emergency services best-practices in place elsewhere in New York State, including co-location of multiple telecommunication systems on cell towers; and

WHEREAS, APA's longstanding claim that the telecommunications industry does not oppose the "substantial invisibility" standard is inaccurate, demonstrated most recently in comments entered by Nixon Peabody into review of the 2002 APA Tower Policy, which recommend "that the Agency modify its 2002 policy that requires telecommunications facilities over 40' tall be 'substantially invisible,'" and which characterize that requirement as an "arbitrary standard [that] is the main impediment to delivering much needed reliable wireless telecommunications service to a greater portion of the Park;" and

WHEREAS, the general public is increasingly supportive of common-sense policy changes that promote a more appropriate balance between public safety and aesthetics while maintaining sensitivity to the environment, as reflected in the aforementioned public opinion survey, in which 90 percent of respondents supported changes to the APA's "substantial invisibility" standard; and

WHEREAS, the state has begun taking steps indicating that policymakers recognize these challenges, including the issuance of Empire State Development's Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force Final Report and APA's advancement of a General Permit to assist with cellular coverage expansion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Arietta hereby supports the proposed designation by ESD of a point person to coordinate the state's efforts to enhance cellular coverage, and formally asks Governor Kathy Hochul to further enhance the state's efforts on broadband and cellular coverage expansion by employing a model similar to ORES that is respectful of the home rule process and designed to streamline policymaking across state agencies in pursuit of moving the state more expeditiously toward its goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Arietta hereby joins emergency service and telecommunication professionals, and other towns and villages across the Adirondacks, in urging the APA and the Governor to review the 2002 APA Tower Policy's antiquated "substantial invisibility" standard, which stands as the main impediment to delivering reliable telecommunication services necessary for public safety in large portions of the Adirondack Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Adirondack Park Agency Executive Director Barbara Rice, State Senator Dan Stec, State Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Matt Simpson, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, AATV, and Adirondack Inter-County.

Seconded by: Sarah Rudes and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN	ABSENT:
Jacquelyn Grier X_____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____
Sarah Rudes X_____	Sarah Rudes _____	Sarah Rudes _____	Sarah Rudes _____
Douglas Stobo X_____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____
Christy Wilt X_____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____
Christian Rhodes X_____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____

Laura Morehouse 12/4/2023
Town Clerk Date

TOWN OF ARIETTA

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School on 1722 State Route 8 in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York on:

December 4, 2023 at 5:00pm

Resolution # 23- 12 - 57

Subject: **Establish Last Payroll 2023**

Resolution Offered By: Doug Stobo

WHEREAS: the Arietta Town Board will close the payroll for the year 2023, and

WHEREAS: the last date of payroll for 2023 bi-weekly General and Highway payroll will be at 12 midnight on Friday, December 15, 2023, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: the Town Board, Town of Arietta will start the first bi-weekly General and Highway payroll period of the year 2024 on Saturday, December 16, 2023.

Seconded by: Christy Wilt and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN	ABSENT:
Jacquelyn Grier X_____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____
Sarah Rudes X_____	Sarah Rudes _____	Sarah Rudes _____	Sarah Rudes _____
Douglas Stobo X_____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____
Christy Wilt X_____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____
Christian Rhodes X_____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____

Laura Morehouse 12/4/2023
Town Clerk Date

TOWN OF ARIETTA

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School, 1722 State Route 8, in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York on:

December 4, 2023, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 23-12-59

Subject: **Accept Snow and Ice Agreement**

Resolution Offered By: Sarah Wilt

WHEREAS: the Town of Arietta has been presented with an agreement for municipal snow and ice control with Hamilton County for the winter season of 2023-2024, and

WHEREAS: the town must review this agreement on an annual basis

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: the Town Board, Town of Arietta will accept this agreement and shall comply with its obligations according to said agreement.

Seconded by: Doug Stobo and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN	ABSENT:
Jacquelyn Grier <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jacquelyn Grier <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacquelyn Grier <input type="checkbox"/>	Jacquelyn Grier <input type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Rudes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Rudes <input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Rudes <input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Rudes <input type="checkbox"/>
Douglas Stobo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Douglas Stobo <input type="checkbox"/>	Douglas Stobo <input type="checkbox"/>	Douglas Stobo <input type="checkbox"/>
Christy Wilt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christy Wilt <input type="checkbox"/>	Christy Wilt <input type="checkbox"/>	Christy Wilt <input type="checkbox"/>
Christian Rhodes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christian Rhodes <input type="checkbox"/>	Christian Rhodes <input type="checkbox"/>	Christian Rhodes <input type="checkbox"/>

Laura Morehouse 12/4/2023
Town Clerk Date

TOWN OF ARIETTA

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School, State Route 8, Piseco, NY, in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York on:

December 4, 2023, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 23-12-60

Subject: **Transfer of Funds**

Resolution Offered By: Jacqui Grier

WHEREAS: the Town of Arietta will give the Town Supervisor permission to make the following transfer of money:

General Fund

\$ 12,000.00 to #A0-5132-410 Garage Contractual Expense
from #A0-0909 Fund Balance Expense

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the Town Board, Town of Arietta does approve the above money transfers.

Seconded by: Doug Stobo and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN	ABSENT:
Jacquelyn Grier X_____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____
Sarah Rudes X_____	Sarah Rudes _____	Sarah Rudes _____	Sarah Rudes _____
Douglas Stobo X_____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____
Christy Wilt X_____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____
Christian Rhodes X_____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____

Laura Morehouse 12/4/2023
Town Clerk Date

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS: Jacqui Grier had nothing new to report

TOWN BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS-

Doug Stobo has nothing new to report

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT/INSURANCE, RECREATION, WEBSITE & CHAMBER-

Christy Wilt reported she had met with Zach Small regarding the new web site. They discussed the options and what the Town would like on the new web site. They will continue to work on this project.

LAKE/DAM/INVASIVE/CAMPSITESUPERINTENDENT REPORT-

Sarah Rudes had nothing new to report.

CODES AND ZONING:

Mel La Scola had nothing new to report

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:

Craig Small reported that all the trucks are up and running. He stated he also has a new employee starting as a HEO for the Highway Department on December 18, 2023.

AIRPORT AND FINANCE:

Chris Rhodes-Supervisor reported the we had received one request for Qualifications for Airport Engineering and Planning Services from MacFarland-Johnson Inc. He asked the board for a motion to designate them for the

Piseco Airport projects. Motion was offered by Sarah Rudes and seconded by Jacqui Grier. All members were in favor, motion passed. The town also received the grant for the skid steer. The runway grant will be closed out.

Chris Rhodes gave a brief report on the proposed Emergency Communication tower.

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OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Supervisor Rhodes asked permission to advertise for fuel and aviation gas. Motion was offered by Doug Stobo and seconded by Christy Wilt. Bids will be opened at our January 2, 2024 meeting.

The last meeting for 2023 was set for December 20, 2024 at 5pm at Piseco Common School.

General Fund-Vouchers- # 652-689,697,700-701 for a total of \$103,093.94

Highway Fund-Vouchers- #690-696,698-699 for a total of \$52,101.81

Utilities-Vouchers-#629-631,650-651 for a total of \$2631.91

At this time Sarah Rudes spoke regarding the town paying for employee's personal tools. Example if an employee brought a tool or 4-wheeler to use at work and it got broken or damaged, the town cannot reimburse the employee for that tool/machine.

Pay Bills: Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the bills as presented. Motion was offered by Doug Stobo and seconded by Jacqui Grier. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

Approve Financial Report: Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion was offered by Sarah Rudes and seconded by Jacqui Grier. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

Sheila Crouse spoke regarding the activities for the children this year. The new playground, the warming hut/gazebo on the airport. There are now 4 children in lower Arietta that are eligible to get ski lessons. The town currently pays \$100.00 per student for ski lessons. The town and school each pay 50% for recreation activities. A discussion followed; the board will need more information about the costs for 2024.

Marie Buanno- she notified the board that the school now will allow a family member to use the gym with a member.

Bill Hotaling told the board that after 12/31/2023 EMT Chris Laver will not be riding Piseco Ambulance as an EMT. He will all though be a driver. EMT Robert Wilson from Morehouse will be the captain and take care of the Ambulance.

Christy Wilt had some information about teaching high school students to be EMT's then become members of squads who need more medical personnel.

Mary Kiewicz thanked Craig Small for the plowing at the Community Hall parking lot. The plow did not come close to the perennial garden.

The next regular meeting will be December 20,2023 at 5:00pm at Piseco School.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn, Jacqui Grier made the motion and Christy Wilt seconded. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed; meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Morehouse, Town Clerk