

165) Roll Call

Board Members	Present	Excused	Town Officials	Present	Excused
Supervisor Joe Denis	X		Town Clerk, Paige Phillips	X	
Councilmember Carol Dimond	X		Highway Superintendent, Jay Rust		X
Councilmember Gina Sarazen	X				
Councilmember Angela Rust	X				
Councilmember Tom Snye	X				

Guest : Leo Sarazen, Patty Reandeau, Marlene Ashton, Don Mauer, Peg Mauer.

166) Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Supervisor Joe Denis.

167) Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Councilmember Carol Dimond, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust, the minutes of September 12, 2024 as presented by the Town Clerk be approved. AYES: Town Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Rust, Dimond, Snye, Sarazen. NAYS: 0

168) Public Hearing

Town Supervisor Joe Denis convened a public hearing at 7:30pm on Proposed Local Law #1 of 2024: TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW 3-C. Retired Town Clerk and Piercefield Resident Don Mauer spoke to say he is “in favor of the Town of Piercefield enacting a local law to override the tax cap for the year 2025.” Concurring with Don, Town Supervisor Joe Denis stated there are many things that have gone up that are just out of the Town’s control (insurance, retirement, etc.). The public hearing was closed at 7:37pm.

169) Monies Received

Refuse &Garbage	\$1,902.00
Insurance Recoveries	\$228.68
Licenses & Permits	\$1,125.00
Fines, Forfeits,Bail	\$1,247.00
Licenses	\$52.00
Unclassified Revenues	\$19.49

Privilege of Floor

170) Marlene Ashton

Marlene would like to set a date and time to host a meeting with Andrea Montgomery, Director of the Office for the Aging in St. Lawrence County. The Town Clerk will open the Town Hall on October 23 at 10:00am for the meeting. Andrea will leave flyers along with other forms for anyone that can not make it to the presentation. She has also offered to meet one on one with individuals that are unable to attend but are seeking information.

171) Patty Reandeau

Patty came to the meeting to see if any work has started on the Youth Center yet. Town Supervisor Joe Denis advised that the Highway Department is on a deadline to finish their summer road work along with prepping for winter. The intentions are to open for February 2025 once the Highway Department has some down time to work on the Youth Center. Patty raised a complaint that she has seen balls and frisbees left outside that were brand new; she’s not sure how they got outside when the youth center is closed. Supervisor Denis will do some investigating into the complaint. Patty also requested a raise from \$15/hr to \$20/hr for herself and Makayla Larose. Bookkeeper Linda Pickering advised if any part time employee gets a raise all part time employees get a raise of the same rate. Patty’s request will be considered during the budget discussion.

172) Don Mauer

Don came to the meeting to express his opinion on the highway budget while also sharing his recommendations regarding the transition zones between RT 3 at the Setting Pole Dam Road and the Raquette Flow Road. Don states “Whether it is the State’s or Town’s responsibility is of little consequence to the residents of Racquette Flow.” Don recommends that the crush mix used on Setting Pole Dam Road be placed on the Flow Road and packed in with the roller. Don also suggests tearing up the disintegrating pavement on the Setting Pole Dam Road and replacing it with the crusher run mixture. While it is more expensive it would increase the longevity of the road decreasing the need for frequent repairs. Don stated “The Town needs to do what is necessary to

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serve the Town appropriately and good roads make good sense. Give the highway department what they need to do their job and don't be stingy." Councilmember Tom Snye agrees with the above statements from Don, but says the Town needs to get in contact with the state DOT before considering any road work.

173) Highway

Jay Rust was unable to attend this month's meeting; Angela Rust reported on his behalf. Blacktopping will be finished in Conifer on Monday October 21st. Jay is estimating the cost to be around 50-55 thousand, reimbursable by CHIPS. With the remaining CHIPS money Jay would like to buy a new truck equipped with a dump box and a bigger engine for hauling. Town Supervisor Joe Denis suggested waiting until February 2025 to make the purchase with the idea that other loans will be paid off at that time. On a motion by Town Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Carol Dimond, the purchase of a new truck using the remainder of CHIPS money in February of 2025 be approved AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Dimond, Rust, Snye, Sarazen. NAYS:0.

174) Code Officer Report

Nicholas Snyder submitted his report September. He has issued 5 new building permits, attended a meeting with the planning board, and has completed inspections. Councilmember Carol Dimond would like to see a more detailed report from Nicholas. Carol suggested adding dates when the permits are reviewed, attaching minutes from planning board meetings, follow up when APA approves projects, signature on his monthly report etc. Town Supervisor Joe Denis will address Nicholas providing a more detailed report.

Old Business

175) Verizon

Town Supervisor Joe Denis has not received any further plans from Verizon. Town Clerk will update when new information is available.

176) Water User Charges

On a motion by Town Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Tom Snye, the following resolution be adopted: AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Dimond and Snye NAYS: Councilmember Rust and Sarazen. Adopted

RESOLUTION NO.: 32-10-2024

DATED: October 17, 2024

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2025 PIERCEFIELD AND CONIFER WATER DISTRICT AND USER CHARGES

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield authorizes the establishment of the 2025 Piercefield Water User fee at \$225.00 and the Conifer Water User fee at \$245.00; and

RESOLVED, payment schedule established with full payment being made by February 28, 2025 without penalty, and 2% interest in March and 1% interest per payment month thereafter. Collection period set from January 1, 2025 through October 1, 2025, and

RESOLVED, payments not made by October 1, 2025 shall be assessed a total of 12% penalty for the year, which penalty plus Water User Fee shall be re-levied onto the January 2026 Town/County Property Tax bill, and

RESOLVED, establish the 2025 Piercefield Water District Debt Service at \$12,024.00 (83 @ \$144.86) and the Conifer Water District Debt Service at \$4,515.00 (43 @ \$105.00), which will appear on the January 2025 Town/County Property Tax bill.

New Business

177) Local Law NO.1 of 2024

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2024 TO OVERRIDE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C

WHEREAS, local law number 1 of 2024 was duly introduced to the Town Board on September 12, 2024; and

WHEREAS, legal notice of the Public Hearing regarding the proposed local law was published and advertised and copies of the proposed local law were made available at the Town Clerk's office for public review; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing on the proposed law was held on October 17, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the town of Piercefield Town Hall, with 1 public comment being offered; and

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Town of Piercefield, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Town Board has acted as lead agency in this matter; and

WHEREAS the adoption to said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, the said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet contractual obligations, bond payments, increase facilities, fund health insurance expenses, fund pension contribution payments, fund the cost of increasing commodities and other town purposes; and

WHEREAS this resolution is adopted pursuant to subdivision five of Gen. Municipal Law section 3-C, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a resolution approved by vote of 60% over the Town Board;

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NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2024 is an unlisted action, there are no other involved agencies, and this Board acts as lead agency in this matter for purposes of SEQR review; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the Town Board has determined this action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment; and that, accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQR; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2025 on behalf of the Town of Piercefield that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law section 3-C; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 1 of 2024 titled "A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit established in General Municipal Law section 3-C."

178) Part Time Employee Pay Rate

RESOLUTION No.: 32-10-2024

DATED: August 8, 2024

AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE PAY RATE FOR PART TIME EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, The pay rate of part time employees of the Town of Piercefield, was reviewed by The Town of Piercefield Board,

RESOLVED, That the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield hereby authorizes the Supervisor to increase the pay rate of part time employees from \$15/hr to \$17.50/hr

RESOLVED, That the sum of wages at a pay rate of \$17.50/hr for all part time employees is hereby appropriated to the payroll budget effective January 1st, 2025

Motion Offered by: Acting Supervisor Joe Denis

Seconded by: Councilmember Gina Sarazen

Vote: AYES: Acting Supervisor Joe Denis NAYS: None
Councilmember Carol Dimond
Councilmember Gina Sarazen
Councilmember Angela Rust
Councilmember Tom Snye

179) Adopt Tentative Budget

RESOLUTION NO: 10-31-2024

DATED: October 17, 2024

On a motion by Councilmember Carol Dimond, seconded by Town Supervisor Joe Denis, the following resolution be adopted: AYES: Town Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Dimond, Snye, Rust, Sarazen NAYS: 0 Adopted.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE BUDGET

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Piercefield adopts the Tentative Budget for the year 2025, the amount to be raised by taxes being 473,192.00 to exceed the NYS tax cap over the final budget of the previous year.

RESOLVED, the adopted Tentative Budget shall henceforth be known as the Preliminary Budget for the year 2025, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby ordered to publish a legal notice of Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget to be held at 7:30 PM at the Piercefield Town Hall on the 13th day of November, 2024, at which time all interested persons may be heard.

180) Rescheduled Board Meeting

The Bookkeeper has requested the regularly scheduled board meeting be rescheduled to November 13, 2024. On a motion by Town Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Carol Dimond, the regularly scheduled board meeting be rescheduled to November 13, 2024. AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Dimond, Rust, Snye, Sarazen. NAYS:0. The Town Clerk will notify the public via sign board outside the front office along with an ad in the Free Press.

181) Maintenance

Councilmember Gina Sarazen would like to be on record requesting that the beach be mowed at a maximum of twice a year. Highway Superintendent Jay Rust has denied the request to mow the beach since the Town Board has officially shut it down. Councilmember Tom Snye and Supervisor Joe Denis agreed the Beach cannot be mowed and maintained if it is shut down. Maintaining the beach would lead people to believe it is open for operation making the Town liable if an incident were to occur. Gina also asked if the flags can be taken down at the monuments to preserve them in the winter months. Town Clerk will contact Highway Superintendent to see if they can be taken down.

182) Short Term Rental

James Dwyer of Paradise Point contacted Supervisor Joe Denis requesting the Town of Piercefield put a Policy/Local Law in place regarding Short Term Rentals. The Town Board has previously discussed STR laws but decided not to enact them. Enacting STR laws would require STR owners to pay a county tax and the Town of Piercefield would need to pay the code officer for all inspections. Councilmembers have agreed to meet with James to hear his concerns.

183) Freedom Energy Logistics

Freedom Energy Logistics contacted Town Supervisor Joe Denis. This company would like to have a meeting regarding solar energy. Town Councilmembers agree this is something they would like more information on. Supervisor Denis will reach out and follow up at the next meeting.

184) Dog Shelter

The NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets conducted their annual inspection on the Town’s dog holding area. The area is up to code for this year, but will need updating by December of 2025 to remain in compliance.

185) Approval of Town Clerk Monthly Reports

On a motion by Councilmember Angela Rust, seconded by Councilmember Tom Snye the Clerk Reports for September 2024 be approved: AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers, Rust, Snye, Dimond, Sarazen. NAYS: 0

186) Payment of Bills

On a motion by Town Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust the following payments be approved AYES: Supervisor Denis, Councilmembers Rust, Dimond, Snye, Sarazen NAYS: 0

General Fund:	\$17,769.46
Highway Fund:	\$29,389.10
Lighting District	\$343.84
Conifer Water:	\$564.47
Piercefield Water:	\$1,195.06
Trust and Agency	\$8,398.39
Total	\$57,660.32

187) Adjournment

On a motion by Town Supervisor Joe Denis, seconded by Councilmember Angela Rust the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 7:30pm.

Paige Phillips, Town Clerk

Date Approved