

**December 14, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Town of Hartland, County of Niagara, State of New York, was held on the above date at the Town Hall, 8942 Ridge Road, Gasport convening at 7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Supervisor:	W. Ross Annable
Town Clerk:	Judy Slabyk
Councilman:	Joseph Reed
	David Huntington
	Cliff Grant
	David Hill - Absent
Attorney:	Daniel Seaman
Attended by:	Sign in sheet attached.

Supervisor Annable called the meeting to order with all present standing for the pledge to the flag.

**Supervisor Annable:** Welcome everyone. We will start our meeting with an approval of our minutes.

**RESOLUTION 114-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Huntington to approve the minutes from November 13<sup>th</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Grant:** I'll second them.

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed

Nays: 0

Adopted

**Supervisor Annable:** Next up approval of our bills

**RESOLUTION 115-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Reed, the bills have been checked and as always they are in perfect order. I move that we pay them.

**Councilman Huntington:** I second.

General:	\$58,810.11		
Part Town:	\$22,484.48		
Highway:	\$88,916.37		
Refuse:	\$26,301.25		
Water	\$26,876.77		
Total	\$223,388.98		
Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed	Nays: 0		Carried

**Supervisor Annable:** And up, our reports with our assessor.

**ASSESSOR/ZONING REPORT:**

Read and Filed

**Assessor Hartman:** We have the building report, it was requested I give the number of new houses that we've had recently. Since 2005 there have been 68 houses built in the Town of Hartland and 130 in the Town of Royalton since 2012.

**Supervisor Annable:** thank you for your work on that.

**HIGHWAY/WATER REPORT:**

Read and Filed

**Superintendent Hurtgam:** Nineteen months ago, we put in a bid for an F150 pickup truck and it finally came in. I don't have the paperwork yet that I just finished an hour ago, but I will. I will have everything but for now the trade-in amount is \$15,100. So, if the board chooses we need a motion for the lift and a motion for the pickup truck. The pickup truck is through Orleans Ford.

**Councilman Huntington:** Did we have a motion on a pickup truck before?

**Superintendent Hurtgam:** Yes, we did but the trade value is different because it took nineteen months. I actually don't need one because we approved the bid before but it was not supposed to have over 10,000 miles but since it's been 19 months so it affects the value of the trade, it now has 20,000 miles on it.

**Supervisor Annable:** So, we just need a motion.

**RESOLUTION 116-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Huntington for a high lift in the amount of \$48,675.00

**Councilman Reed:** I'll second it.

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed                      Nays: 0                      Carried

**Supervisor Annable:** And a motion to approve the purchase of the truck.

**RESOLUTION 117-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Reed for the purchase of an F150 pickup truck.

**Councilman Grant:** Second.

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed                      Nays: 0                      Carried

**Supervisor Annable:** thank you Keith. I'm going to move up the certificates of appreciation for some Tri-Town members tonight and I'd like to take care of that up front. I am going to call some names so if you'd come up and receive your certificate:

- Jean Morse 10 years volunteer with Tri-Town Ambulance
- Cheryl Confer 25 years volunteer with Tri-Town Ambulance
- Roland Graham – not present
- Chad Fuller - not present
- Don Ingersol – not present

And last but not least, Cliff Grant for 50 years of service to Tri-Town

**Councilman Grant:** That's a long time buddy!

**Supervisor Annable:** That is a long time!

And on another note, our Highway Superintendent, I know, shake your head, recently completed 50 years with the town. We recognize him for that. This year he is completing 40 years as Highway Superintendent of the Town of Hartland. So, I have a certificate of recognition for you Keith. I can't tell you how important Keith has been to this town for the last 50 years. I always tell people I sleep good at night knowing Keith is taking care of the highways because it's an important job and it's a hard job. It's a job that is 24-7 on call and Keith puts his heart and soul into this town, always looking to be as efficient as we can. We have one of the best operations bar none in the area. If you look at the other highway and water departments in the area, ours is a very efficient operation and that is because Keith has been at the helm. So, I am looking to see, you will probably do another 10 years! We appreciate your service.

**Superintendent Hurtgam:** Thank you. I enjoy it most days and it's a joint effort. I've always had a board I could work with and I appreciate everybody. Look at this room, it's a great community and I am proud to be part of it.

**Supervisor Annable:** Just to go back to Tri-Town for a minute, Tri-Town's been a huge service to the Town of Hartland and surrounding areas and it's a struggle for all of our EMS, fire departments, volunteers are needed for all of our emergency management services so we hope that Tri-Town will be around for many more years but I know they are always in need of volunteers so anybody who would be interested, they could always use the help. We appreciate the service of all those volunteers because in rural America it's volunteers that make us work. We don't have paid professional firefighters or ambulance crews to come out and take care of us so we are reliant on all our neighbors. Thank you all from Tri-Town.

Next up is public comment on all agenda items.

**Bob Harris:** I've got a couple questions, one deals with the order of operations here, how do we comment on something we are not certain is happening down below?

**Supervisor Annable:** What are you looking for?

**Bob Harris:** Has there been an appointment to the planning board?

**Supervisor Annable:** We have some members here this evening for the planning board, a member for the planning board.

**Bob Harris:** The appointment's been made?

**Supervisor Annable:** We're doing that this evening.

**Bob Harris:** Okay. Those EDF payments, is this something we have already paid?

**Supervisor Annable:** Yes, so we inquired with EDF. Apparently, it's a standard that these companies would reimburse townships/municipalities, for services that they had to pay for in both attorneys' fees and engineering fees. We requested that they reimburse us and they did,

initially \$25,000.00, then we requested additional funds because we had additional expenses so this is funds to reimburse the town because they in the process of the Article 10 used to provide intervenor fundings earlier the Article 94C does not provide for intervenor funding until after the developer applies for the permit. So that leaves the town responsible for paying for those costs so that's why we requested they pay this prior to the permit process.

**Bob Harris:** One other thing, why has the planning board been left in the dark about this new member that we've been looking for, for a year now?

**Supervisor Annable:** It's the town board's responsibility to provide the membership for the planning board.

**Bob Harris:** True, true. It would be nice to know ahead of time who you're considering, we'll leave it at that.

**Supervisor Annable:** Okay, anyone else. We are done with the agenda items.

**Barb Outten:** On the fireman's retirement, what exactly where you intending to do this evening about that?

**Supervisor Annable:** set it in motion and I will go over the whole thing.

**Barb Outten:** So, then it will just be a done deal?

**Supervisor Annable:** Well, it'll be in motion to have a vote for it, but there's a whole process that has to be done over the course of the next few months.

**Councilman Huntington:** That has to be voted on by the community, right?

**Supervisor Annable:** Yes

**Barb Outten:** So, it will go up for a vote?

**Supervisor Annable:** Yes, that's what we are putting up to start the process.

**Barb Outten:** So that can go up for a vote but the solar project couldn't?

**Supervisor Annable:** Nope.

**Barb Outten:** Have a referendum.

**Supervisor Annable:** Nope. We've already been advised by our attorney that is not a referendum able item. Anyone else? Okay, moving along.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Supervisor Annable:** Just an update on the inclusive playground that we have been working on. With the grant process, it has gone to the Niagara County Legislative Committee that oversees the parks recreations with the Greenway money. We received Greenway funding several years ago for our park for the lighting system, so we have gone back and asked them for additional funding for an inclusive playground. Recently in the last few years we put in our comprehensive plan that we would be installing an inclusive playground within a 10 year period, by Federal State law we are required to have an inclusive playground so we have set that in motion. We are waiting to hear back from the legislative committee to push this forward. They were very receptive to this and very favorable on this so we're hopeful that will continue through the pipeline and we will be able to get funding for that part. So that's where we are with that.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Supervisor Annable:** We need to have a resolution to change the bank signing authority. Effective January 1, 2024 to Margaret Zaepfel and Elizabeth Neadow at the Tompkins Bank and M&T Bank.

## **RESOLUTION 118-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Huntington, motion.

**Councilman Reed:** Second.

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed

Nays: 0

Carried

**Supervisor Annable:** LOSAP fireman retirement, so this is a project we started working on earlier this year. When Royalton started their retirement program initially they thought Hartland had to be included in the Royalton fire department's district and as we investigated this and researched it we found out the districts in Hartland that are covered by example Gasport, Middleport, Wrights Corners, and Miller Hose. We don't have to be part, our residents do not have to pay a portion of those retirements. The municipalities that oversees them and the people who are in those municipalities have a vote and they pay for that program if it's approved. Being that we were not involved in the Royalton aspect we have the Hartland Fire Department in our municipality. Hartland Fire Department is the only full volunteer fire department located in the Town of Hartland, the other four districts are all located outside the Town of Hartland and we contract with them for fire service but that's all we contract with them for is for them to provide the fire service. So currently our residents all pay one tax rate for fire service, it's divided up amongst all the fire companies but we have one rate at this particular time. What will happen in this particular case is that there will be districts created, taxation districts created, so that just those people that are in the Hartland Fire Company's district will have the opportunity to vote. If it passes we will have to pay for additional taxes for that retirement program. We did not have a

broken out taxing district because we have not taxed everybody separately in all those districts. Therefore, Mike had to spend 2 or 3 months going through all the parcels and locating all the homes and parcels in the Hartland fire district so that we could put this forward, figure out what the pricing is going to be for those residents and then there will be a vote. So, I have a lengthy resolution which I am not going to read the whole thing, but I will explain basically, the LOSAP program is a retirement program for fire service members after a certain period of time. Annually they have to receive 50 point of service and those 50 points are broken out as to responding to incidents, fire calls, training, and meetings. They have to reach 50 points in a given year for that year to be counted towards a retirement program if 3 years from now they don't get 50 points, that year does not count towards the retirement program. The basis of this is that fire departments are looking for recruitment for volunteers and they believe this is a way to help recruit people to come into the business looking at having some type of compensation when they retire. That's the crux of what this program offers so we are going to put this into play. Those people in that district will have to vote and the town will have to be responsible for the vote. The election board will provide the equipment but the town needs to provide the inspectors and come up with a plan how to identify those individuals, probably by their driver's licenses some form of identification to show that they live in that district as they go through to vote. Just a couple of highlights of what the program is for us, you have to be 65 years of age to receive any form of payment. The estimated total cost with the administrative fees, annually for 10 years will be \$51,126.00 that includes an annual administrative fee of \$3,432.00, so the annual tax to be raised is \$51,126.00 and that's estimated to be .64 cents per thousand of the assessed valuation of the property. Again, this is only going to be those that vote in the Hartland District and to begin the participation you must be 18 years of age. The current membership right now breaks out to \$2,130.00 per member, so the \$51,000, the insurance company will oversee this. It is basically type of plan that for the next 10 years the town will pay \$51,000 per year as basically a self-insurance type of a plan. So that will go into an account to be there at the end of the people's retirement age. After 10 years they'll have to do an assessment of where that fund is at and there's a couple different ways to invest it so that will have to be determined what type of investment they're going to use and then they will determine what the cost will be after the 10 years which should come down in cost because you've invested the money up front before anyone really has the opportunity to retire. So that is the basics of the program. The defined benefit award is projected to be \$20.00 per month for each qualified year of active firefighting service not to exceed 20 years with payment in any month not to exceed \$400.00. So, an individual 65 years of age and has maxed out on the points system can receive up to \$400.00 per month. Down the road depending on inflation that could be something that could be addressed, down the road, but at this point in time that's what it is set at. So that's basically the program, does anybody have any questions on how this works? It's a complicated, we've spent several months trying to get this sorted out and it's complicated. Royalton has 3 different fire department systems that they've had to go through so it's not a simple thing to figure out, but what we want to do this evening is set this in motion. Yes Sir

**Resident:** So, what about the residents that are in other districts, are they still paying the tax?

**Supervisor Annable:** The residents that are in other districts will only continue to pay the fire protection at the current rate. Those in Hartland's fire district, if they vote to approve this, those individuals will pay an additional .64 cents per 1000. So, on a \$100,000.00 house that would be \$64.00 additional over the top of what you pay for fire district tax coverage now. We have set a date with the Board of Elections which will be August 14, 2024, 12:00 noon until 9:00PM, August 14<sup>th</sup> which I believe is a Wednesday. They will provide the equipment and the town has to provide the inspectors and pay for any other additional costs that might be associated with that. That's how it will work.

**Resident:** As a member of the Royalton department, I can say it's worked. We were stale on membership and we picked up five active members since this was put in implement. It is not considered a retirement, it's a length of service award program.

**Supervisor Annable:** So, in the future as we get closer to August information will have to be put out not only by the town but by the fire department service will have to be involved with you know educating the public as to what this entails but it gives you a few months to garner support for this and then it will go out for a vote. What we are doing tonight is just initiating this to put it on for a vote for the public to be able to put his in and then if the vote, the public turns it down, then it won't go through but if they support it then it would be put into place the following January, January of 2025. This can't start in the middle of the year, this has to start the January after the vote, so that would be January 2025. That being explained if no one has any further questions.

**Cheryl Confer:** And I just wanted to clarify this does not include EMS because Tri-Town is its own entity. We do not get taxpayer money, so I am just putting that out there.

**Supervisor Annable:** I don't believe they have anything that includes for volunteers.

**Cheryl Confer:** no, it does not include it

**Councilman Grant:** We met with the insurance agency that is behind all of this and Tri-Town, because we're not receiving taxpayers' money of any shape or form, we're out of the picture.

**Cheryl Confer:** Yeah, because it was like \$100,000.00 to start and we don't have that you know, we're a volunteer agency.

**Councilman Grant:** Well, how many people in Hartland Fire currently are 65 and over that would qualify? You must have a rough number.

**Carleen Baughman:** Maybe 3 that would qualify right now.

**Supervisor Annable:** So, one other thing that when we initiate this program it doesn't go backwards, up to five years it goes back. So, it doesn't go back 20 years or 15 years, it goes back 5 years for current members.

**Scott Wymyczak:** We just went through this in Royalton. To get the 5 year buy back a member has to be active and hit the points. Your year would be 2025, with us its 2024. You do not get the points in that year, you do not get the buy back so they lose the 5 years.

**Councilman Grant:** Or if you choose not to participate right at the beginning.

**Scott Wymyczak:** You lose it.

**Councilman Grant:** That's right you wait a year or two it's too late.

**Scott Wymyczak:** It's gone, they get one shot.

**Supervisor Annable:** and for expenses the chairman inspectors election shall each be paid at the rate of \$15.00 per hour for the time necessary to prepare the register an additional sum of \$125.00 each for conducting the special election. Those will be costs borne by the town. Any other questions? So, we resolve that the town board acting as commissioners of the Town of Hartland Fire Protection District hear by approve the adoption of length of service award program, LOSAP, as provided in section 216 of the general municipal law to conduct a mandatory referendum to determine whether the Town of Hartland Fire Protection District shall establish and provide a defined benefit program for active volunteer fire fighters as provided in section 216 and 219 of the general municipal law. So, if I could have a motion.

[LOSAP Resolution.docx](#)

### **RESOLUTION 119-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Grant to set everything into motion for the LOSAP program.

**Councilman Reed:** I second.

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed

Nays: 0

Carried

**Supervisor Annable:** Fire Department , you have an opportunity to get that taken care of.

Next up is our helicopter that the town received under the US Army donation program. We applied several years ago to get some type of display from the government, they kept telling me every year that they were using everything. We went ahead and did our Veteran's Monument earlier this year not thinking we were going to get anything anytime soon so we went ahead put that in display out in the front yard and of course right after we get a call that they had a piece of equipment for us, so we have a decision to make on where its going to go. I've asked the local Gasport American Legion if they would be involved so we could put a committee together to study the best location for this. I know they've already met to have some discussion on this even

to fundraising efforts. I know there's some different entities that have reached out already that are looking forward to putting time and or money into the effort, so I have a list of individuals that was provided by Commander Wymyczak so we can have a volunteer citizens committee for the placement of the helicopter. Floyd Snyder, Cliff Grant, Scott Wymyczak, Lisa Glana, Dan Fuller, Kent Hinkley, Dave Patton, Bill Harrod, Gary Torriere, I would place Dave Huntington on that list as the representative from the town board to work with you.

**Scott Wymyczak:** We have two more names, Norm Pearson, and Norm LaJoie.

**Supervisor Annable:** Okay

**Scott Wymyczak:** and Mark Haight, so pretty much it's looking like the whole Legion Post is going to give you a hand.

**Supervisor Annable:** Well, that's good, that's fine! I'm happy to see the commitment and the efforts.

**Councilman Grant:** Speaking on behalf, myself personally that there are several of us Veterans in the Town of Hartland enjoyed riding in those babies in combat. They would physically take you out in the field and you sat in the door strapped to nothing and when the chopper comes down they never physically touch the ground. They come down and hover, the Door Gunner tapped you on the shoulder and it was your turn to get off. So, everybody got off but the thing was you been out in the field for up to 2-3 weeks, you haven't had any food, shower or anything. It was a great sound to hear that chopper coming to pick you up.

**Councilman Huntington:** Just to clarify, you are not going to ride this one!

**Councilman Grant:** No! To me, for the Vietnam Era Veterans, it's a nice contribution to the town and unfortunately we've tried for many years to get this here and finally it shows up after we went through the trouble of the monument and all that stuff but it will go up. Just to update everybody, is that what you want? We had conversations with the Hartland Fire Company, their President and Chief I believe and they would like to see it on their property as well as we would like to see it in Hartland. And of course, the discussion started that they were going to put it way in the back in the park. There's no way as a concerned citizen in Hartland I would allow that to happen. Vandalism would be a prominent thing if it was way back, kids are kids. They will want to investigate, climb on them. Where at least up here, we're talking between the blacktop and the first light as you drive in the driveway, it's still on the fire companies property. With the effort from our team, and their team and whatever else I think we can make it happen. It's a good asset to the town to have that, I know that wasn't what he was looking for, he was looking for a Howitzer or something like that but you know.

**Resident:** What Cliff's saying, this is not going to happen overnight because the helicopter is going to have to be spruced up a bit. We want to do it one time and do it right. We are going to

solicit donations. We're going to have a committee meeting in January and get a letter situated but we want to do it one time and we want to do it right. We want to make it presentable, it might be a possibility of memorial bricks that will be sold which will not be limited to the Town of Hartland because we are as the Gasport Legion Post, Somerset, Hartland, Royalton, we have a Ridgeway member so we don't want to limit the memorial post like the flags are limited so anybody can buy a memorial for a Veteran and that would work for fund raising. We want it done right and we want it to look nice. I work construction, there are other guys, anybody from the town that wants to help, we're not going to have a problem.

**Resident:** And we've got all the schematics on how to mount it and everything else so.

**Supervisor Annable:** Excellent, well I'm glad to see the enthusiasm.

**Resident:** Ross has said that hopefully the new supervisor keeps it posted up on the website for the town. And like I said if a town resident wants to show up at one of our committee meetings we are not going to reject to their help.

**Supervisor Annable:** Well, I'm happy to see the enthusiasm from your organization, it's great to see. That's why our tribute is for our Veterans, we have a rich history of recognizing our Veterans and remembering them. The town has rich history going way back to all the conflicts that have been fought in this country. So, I just need a motion to approve the formation of the committee.

### **RESOLUTION 120-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Huntington to form a committee for the refurbishing and placement of the helicopter.

**Councilman Reed:** I second.

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed

Nays: 0

Carried

**Supervisor Annable:** Next up is the EDF agreement. The EDF reimbursed us \$25,000.00 initially and are providing another \$15,000.00 additional to cover the costs that we have picked up so far, between attorneys and the engineering firm. So, I just need a motion to approve the acceptance of those fees.

### **RESOLUTION 121-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Huntington to approve the acceptance of fees paid by EDF.

**Councilman Grant:** I second.

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed

Nays: 0

Carried

**Peggy Zaepfel:** Ross, can I ask a question about that? In the future are there going to be any more bills that are not covered until 94C?

**Supervisor Annable:** No not of as right now, no. That was basically for covering all the educational portions and components, the meetings, local law and any meetings that we had to get taken care of up until this point.

**Next up we have some board appointments:**

Planning Board - Michael Cairns

Zoning Board - Vicky Winters

Ethics Board – David Huntington as the Town’s representative

Recreation Board – Amy Colley

**Supervisor Annable:** Just need a motion to approve those appointments.

**RESOLUTION 122-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Grant to approve all board appointments.

**Councilman Reed:** I second.

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed                      Nays: 0                      Carried

**Next we need to set up the 2024 Organizational Meeting in January**

Typically, we do the first Thursday which is January 4<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, if that’s alright with everybody we’ll use that as the organizational meeting? And we need the approval to make year end budget transfers.

**Supervisor Annable:** Just need a motion to approve both of those.

**RESOLUTION 123-2023**

**MOTION** by Council Reed to approve both the date for the Organizational Meeting, January 4, 2024 at 7:00pm, and Year End Budget Transfers.

**Councilman Huntington:** I second.

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed                      Nays: 0                      Carried

**Councilman Huntington:** Is that going to 6:00 on the 4<sup>th</sup>?

**Supervisor Annable:** Yeah, so the books have to be audited prior to that so

**Councilman Reed:** What time on the 4<sup>th</sup>?

**SA:** The meeting is the 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 on the 4<sup>th</sup> but the board members will have to come early, 5:30-6. Agreed 6:00 PM for the Board to audit the books. Okay.

### **Public Comment**

**Grant Kushing:** I am here today to represent the Team for Media Renewables. This letter was prepared by Kevin Campbell,:

“Dear Hartland Residents and Town Board,

We want to thank the current Town Board and Supervisor for taking our project seriously for informing themselves and the community of fact-based information by reaching out to credible sources, for visiting existing sites, and consulting with independent reputable professionals. You have provided this community incredible service by providing trustworthy information to them.

The Ridgeview Solar Project being proposed to the Town of Hartland is supported by many. Many of the residents see this as a way to secure their long term financial livelihoods to create long term significant new revenue for the town, county, and school without needing to raise taxes for important services and infrastructure that can be maintained and approved in the future.

We face a time of global uncertainty, extreme weather events are occurring causing trillions of dollars to repair and refurbish cities and critical infrastructures. We do not know how much longer we can depend on fossil fuels, where it will come from and how much it will cost making solar electricity right here in Hartland helps to secure our energy future domestically protect and conserve our air, soil, and water resources for future generations and help the community to thrive through significant and guaranteed long term revenues that it will bring.

Again, we’d like to thank the Town Board and Supervisor for very carefully taking into account everyone’s interests and their diligence and research to discuss the facts. We look forward to continuing to work with the community by talking about the facts and the truth and to consider all interests so that we may develop, permit, build, operate, maintain, and decommission a project that will benefit the community for generations to come. Thank you all very much.”

**Supervisor Annable:** Anyone else this evening?

**Barb Outten:** Question on the ethics committee, is Dave Huntington on the board? How would I get a list of who is on the Ethics Board? Where is that published?

**Supervisor Annable:** It's on our website, you can go to the organizational minutes to find those individuals list there.

**Barb Outten:** This one is for the Town Attorney, he said that you knew why we couldn't do public referendum for the solar project?

**Supervisor Annable:** You cannot do a referendum for solar.

**Barb Outten:** He said that you had the legal reason why, the law of why that wasn't possible, when they can vote on LOSAP.

**Attorney Seaman:** I am not going to go into that tonight.

**Barb Outten:** If you could get that documentation that would be great. Thank you.

**Supervisor Annable:** Anyone else?

**Bob Spencer:** Can I ask a question about the choice you made for the Planning Board?

**Supervisor Annable:** What about it?

**Bob Spencer:** Did you get the application that was submitted for the second person?

**Supervisor Annable:** I got an application a day or two ago.

**Bob Spencer:** That should have been last Friday, it was turned in last Friday.

**Supervisor Annable:** It may have been last Friday but we already selected somebody so it's the Town Board's decision as to who they appoint to those boards. Anyone else?

**Scott Wymyczak:** Yeah real quick, there's got to be more Veterans sitting in this room other than us and the Legion Post. Our numbers are super dwindling, it now only requires one day of service to join The Legion so if you want to join get a hold of one of us.

**Supervisor Annable:** Our younger generation that's served need to get involved.

**Superintendent Hurtgam:** I just wanted to thank Cliff and Ross for the time that we worked together. As far as I'm concerned I'm keeping my own opinions of solar to myself. As Highway Superintendent I'm friends with everybody but it's kind of ruined this community because your either for it or against it. There's families that are broken apart from it. Friends that won't, I won't even bring it up, it causes problems and it's sad. It's here and we can't do anything about it and there's arguments all over the place. I'm not getting into that, but it's just as a person who's lived my whole life here, it's hurt this community. As far as the people that are getting along and when their own families have different opinions, it's just hurtful and as the Highway Superintendent I'm trying to be friends with everybody and take care of this person if they are for solar and this person if they are against solar just because that's what we do, um it's just sad. Cliff and I, we've had some lively discussions. Anybody that knows me, they always thinks the board votes 100% yes on everything, well that isn't true because behind the scenes we have some healthy arguments but we always come to an agreement, a working agreement when we're done and I hope that continues in the future. Thank you, thank all of you but thank you both.

**Supervisor Annable:** Anyone else?

**Councilman Grant:** Can I make a comment?

**Supervisor Annable:** Sure, absolutely.

**Councilman Grant:** It's been a pleasure to serve everybody in the Town of Hartland. As you know I'm the only guy from Tri-Town that's got 50 years of active duty here, that makes me old, I know. The other side of it. I've donated, well not totally donated, I've been involved in Town politics for 41 years. I started on the Planning Board for 3 years, I went to the Zoning Board for 30 years, and then when Dave Snyder stepped out of the Councilman's slot, I volunteered to run there for 8 years. So, I've got 41 years of time serving this community. It's been a pleasure and I guess I can publicly make a comment tonight, you people voted out a no vote. I realize solar is not the answer and the real understanding, Grant and I have been involved almost since day one coming here. It's still, we're an agricultural community. If you watch RFD at all there's a movement out in the Midwest to stop the sale of agricultural land for anything including housing and this is everything because there's going to be shortage of land to farm. So, I just had to vent my frustration tonight I guess but I felt I was doing the right thing for the public because I had several people ask me after meetings, well what's your position on it? We could not make a position on it because we still haven't got the application for the solar project in the Town of Hartland. I don't understand where people come off half loaded that it's a done deal. They still have to apply to the State of New York for this permit. Am I right, Grant, I mean it's not 100% done deal? I was taking the position that I was just going to look at it, listen to everybody's arguments both ways and I guess you guys want a change so thank you for putting up with me for 41 years and I'll be around. I still enjoy this helicopter business. I gotta tell you one story about the helicopter, the amazing part was when they took us guys to the field they never strapped you in, centrifugal force kept you in that helicopter. The first time I went out in the field the chopper turned about a 40 degree angle, and I was a machine gun carrier, I should've slid out of the damn thing but the inertia kept me up in there. You ever think of, you're not strapped into something and they tip ya like this, turn ya! You know if we had a brown uniform on you would understand why we did! The point is, I was drafted into the Army, I know most of you know that I got to see a lot of this world because of the Army sending me all over the world, that I wouldn't have gotten out of Western New York probably. And I guess that is the reason I have physically volunteered for 50 years Tri-Town because I see what war does to people and what happens and I told my son, I told my granddaughter and I told all my family, friends, sisters we don't want a war in this country. You see what's going on overseas now, we don't want it here. To have to sleep in a bunker every night to just protect yourself, no. Anyways I'm done with my pitch here Sir.

**Supervisor Annable:** Thank you, anyone else this evening?

**Dave Snyder:** After 29 years, before this gentleman I was Councilman, I had the very, very great luck of serving with Ross's Dad. I want to tell you that I have to comment on the honesty and integrity of all of you guys. Now we've heard all kinds of stories and the stories need to stop. Truth will win the battle, only truth will win the battle. I'm really one of those guys that was in that helicopter only they pushed me out at 50 feet off the ground. I have a bad back from it but you know something I look back and this is my way, at 79 years old to leave something to the Town of Hartland that I believe so strongly in that we have to take care and bring new people

aboard. I will be one of those guys that was a PTSD survivor of Vietnam, spent 11 years until I met a lovely lady who happened to be a farmgirl on the Chapman Rd. and I am being honest with you, she straightened me around got me going straight. I used to sit in the corner, back to the wall, I didn't want a part. These kids today in school, and I'm hoping with his gentleman here, we will get Boces involved I some of the structural welding so that we can teach them how to go on and be better tradesman. I'm an operating engineer for 26 years, I worked at the power plant in Lockport where I ended up buying fuel and I using my college degree at the end. I will tell you something, never was I so appreciative of meeting this gentleman, and this gentleman and everyone who's got this hat on and I can't say enough, Thank you. Along with the fireman in this group, I want to serve and help you to make this happen, the LOSAP program. We have got to keep the Town of Hartland a viable place, and we've got to have young people come here and live. I had the supervisor of the Town of Lockport come to me, because my Dad was Floyd Snyder, he came to me said you know I met Mr. Poloncarz and Mr. Poloncarz met the supervisor and Poloncarz got right in his face, you know we're building Goodrich Rd so all the residents in Niagara County can go back and forth to Buffalo. He said we're losing people, buying houses in Royalton, am I right or wrong? Now you're going to see some more houses coming farther this way because people are realizing that an average lot, and I built a lot of subdivisions in Amherst and I can tell you what they are, \$85,000 to \$100,000,00 per lot, we need to look, people who would be willing to have a lot and it wouldn't be farmland, I won't get into that because I know I'll get in trouble, to bring more people here because we've got to maintain the schools, school districts in Barker and Roy Hart,. We've got to maintain our fire district and that's all I'd like to say. I say God bless you all and thank you all for coming.

**Linda Ark:** As a town resident I would like to thank Cliff and especially you Ross for your professionalism and integrity. You've taken a lot of punches and you've taken it well. You will be greatly missed. I know I haven't been a part of this for many years but I've been here all my life and really piggyback off of Keith. You don't have to be for or against, we don't need to know that, but I feel the division and it is sad. There's certain places I don't feel comfortable going because you're eyeballed, it shouldn't be. I know that as a Christian man he's got good things in store for you and Audrey both and I know, I might not have been here long, but it was long enough to know, was it so bad not being here, not at all. Good things came after I left, there will be good things for you and I wish nothing but good things for you. Thank you for the good job that you've done and you too Cliff.

**Elizabeth Neadow:** I wanted to thank Cliff for your service to our country and the rest of your Veterans, I really appreciate it. I appreciate your no vote and this Town has a great fight coming up and I hope that you continue to fight with us with your no vote. Because we need you, we need unity, backing community

**Councilman Grant:** Nope.

**Elizabeth Neadow:** Well, that's sad because this still is your community

**Councilman Grant:** That's something to debate down the road.

**Supervisor Annable:** Anyone else this evening?

**Attorney Seaman:** I'm going to be leaving the Town of Hartland. I want to make something very clear, I've been asked to stay on by the Supervisor elect. I am about David's age and I know I could run for President but I know when it's time to step back. I appreciate the Board and all the past boards that I've worked with. I want to say one thing, I've got about 200 files in my office that have to do with the Town of Hartland and only one of them has to do with solar. The Town of Hartland has done a lot of things for a lot of people. It's been a real pleasure for me to serve the Town, thank you.

**Supervisor Annable:** Anyone else?

Kent Hinkley: One thing I'd like to say to people, anyone that has relation that's getting out of school and not sure what they're going to do, tell them join the service. It gives them a chance for schooling afterwards and like me, I'd never been out of New York before I was drafted. It sets you on your own two feet makes you grow up in a hurry and you see a lot of the world. It's a good place for anybody to go.

**Supervisor Annable:** Anyone else this evening?

**Councilman Huntington:** I wish you all Happy Holidays. We're all going to come together and make that Town work so Happy Holidays guys.

**Supervisor Annable:** Anyone else? Going once, twice

### **RESOLUTION 124-2023**

**MOTION** by Councilman Huntington to adjourn at 8:05 PM.

**Supervisor Annable:** Motion to adjourn

**Councilman Grant:** Second

Ayes: Annable Huntington, Grant, Reed

Nays: 0

Carried

Thank you all and Merry Christmas to everyone.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Date: 12/14/2023

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Address:</u>	<u>Phone:</u>
Lisa Glenn	4212 Day Road Lockport NY 14094	
Donna Weeks	3170 Hosmer Rd Gasport	
George Cook	7470 Dempsey Rd Gasport	
MURPHY	4822 B POST CAMBRIDGE Lockport 1253	
Grant Cushing	1000 Gilroy St Cushing NY	
CARLEEN BAUGHMAN		
Shirley Amable	313 Hosmer Rd	
JAMES L ADAM	2605 Hosmer Rd.	
GLULAV	2247 Montford Tr 7	

**PLEASE PRINT**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Address:</u>	<u>Phone:</u>
Liz Neadow	Johnson Creek	716-807 2963
Jerry Ark	Root Road	
Leigh Lindahl	Quaker Rd.	
Darren Lindahl	Quaker Rd	
Karen Seawarp	Hosmer rd	
Floyd Snyder	8464 Clipperton Rd	
April Valko	Hartland Rd	
David Pattor	3567 Hartland Rd	