

Town of St. Armand
Special Board Meeting
Monday, June 30th, 2021
6:30 PM

These Meeting Minutes were approved by the St. Armand Town Board on July 13, 2021.

A Special Board Meeting of the Town of St. Armand was held on the above date and time at the Town Highway Garage, 1702 NYS Route 3, Bloomingdale, NY. The meeting was also advertised as a webinar meeting, however, the local internet provider experienced an outage during that time and the webinar portion could not be conducted. The topic of the Special Board Meeting was the Rockledge Water districting and Rockledge Sewer lines.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Supervisor Davina Winemiller, Deputy Supervisor D. Joseph Bates, Councilperson Donald Amell, Councilperson Jennifer Fuller and Councilperson Karl Law.

A quorum of the Board was in attendance.

TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Town Clerk Barbara Darrah.

GUESTS: Bill Allen, Ona Allen, James Ammon, Ivan Bickford, Chris Brescia, Mary Suzan Conroy, Rohan Estling, Phoebe Everson, Thomas Gannon, Tom Gannon, Chris Gosling, Linda Hilbert, Dan Jantzen, Katie Laba, Becky Ladue, Chad Ladue, Phyllis Magnus, Klaus Meissner, Lisa Meissner, Katie Nehmer, Judy Odell, David Salamy, Lauri Salamy, Ben Shubert, Mark Simkins, and Bruce Thompson, all representing Rockledge residents.

Public Notice was published in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise regarding the date and time of this meeting, and posted on the Town of St. Armand's website and Facebook page. Letters were mailed to the Rockledge Water District users, advising them of the meeting date and time.

Supervisor Winemiller called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m., after diligently trying to engage the webinar meeting. Winemiller asked everyone to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Winemiller then introduced herself, members of the Town Board, and the Town Clerk to the audience.

Several maps of the Rockledge properties and water district were on display during the meeting using large tables and a portable easel. In addition, packets of the MJ Engineering findings were prepared for distribution to those in attendance.

Supervisor Winemiller began the presentation with a discussion on the history of the Rockledge Development, Water District and water and sewer line infrastructures. When Dean Montroy was Town Supervisor, the Town hired MJ Engineering to do a Rockledge Water District report. They did an excellent job and their mapping is very good, as well. Specific problems were highlighted. Winemiller wanted to ensure the Rockledge property owners are aware of the following for the record:

ROCKLEDGE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Rockledge subdivision began in 1911. In 1914, the Village of Saranac Lake provided Rockledge with water and wastewater collection. In the 1960's, the property was purchased by Frank Casier. Frank Cashier installed all of the water and sewer lines that are in the Rockledge subdivision right now. At that time, he and the Village of Saranac Lake had a written agreement that the village would provide the lots and homes with water and sewer. In the 1980's, because Rockledge was not in the Village's district, the Village began charging the Rockledge residents double the rate for providing water and collecting sewer, which was supported by the Village of Saranac Lake Water and Sewer regulations. The Rockledge Water District came about in the early 90's after Frank Cashier did the Rockledge subdivision. The residents from Rockledge with Frank Cashier approached the Town of St. Armand and requested St. Armand create a Water District. The people of Rockledge with Frank Cashier convinced the Town of St. Armand's Town Board at that time, that because all the lines were new, if St. Armand took it over, the regular rate would be charged because they then belonged to a "district". The Town Board agreed back then. Early in 1992, the Town of St. Armand and the Village of Saranac Lake came upon an agreement that the Village would provide water, and this agreement could be renewed every five years. During one of the renewal periods, the Village of Saranac Lake decided not to renew the agreement. The majority of Rockledge is in the Town of St. Armand with some parcels (5) in the Town of North Elba. Twelve parcels are hooked into the Village of Saranac Lake sewer system.

There is no Rockledge Sewer District, at all. When St. Armand took over the Water district, they never took over the Sewer District. What was supposed to happen was the homeowners of Rockledge were supposed to form a Homeowners' Association, and everyone was supposed to contribute to up-keeping the Sewer lines and it has never been done. That means if there is a sewer main break, there is no one responsible except for the homeowners themselves.

In 2015, the Town of St. Armand hired an engineering company to complete a report to identify problems with the Rockledge Water District, IE; the water lines kept freezing in a particular area. St. Armand Water Superintendent Jeff

Councilperson Donald Amell AYE
Councilperson Jennifer Fuller AYE
Councilperson Karl Law AYE

Dated: June 30, 2021

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

RESOLUTION #51 OF 2021

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND TOWN BOARD AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE NYS DEC ORDER ON CONSENT #R5 – 20210312-2347 EFFECTIVE THE DATE SIGNED BY THE DEC COMMISSIONER OR COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE.

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand received notification of an Order On Consent from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and

WHEREAS, the provisions of this Order shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Department and Respondent, its agents, employees, successors, and assigns, and all persons, firms, or corporations acting subordinate thereto, and

WHEREAS, this Order on Consent shall constitute the entire agreement of the Department and Respondent with respect to settlement of the violations specifically referenced herein, and

WHEREAS, the effective date of this Order on Consent shall be the date it is signed by the Commissioner or Commissioner's designee. This Order on Consent shall terminate upon Respondent's full and timely compliance with its terms.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand hereby authorizes Town Supervisor Davina Winemiller to sign the NYS DEC Order on Consent, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, simultaneously with the submission of this signed Order on Consent, Respondent shall pay to the Commissioner the sum of \$500.00, which can be made by mail or electronically.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Deputy Supervisor D. Joseph Bates and adopted by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Dated: June 30, 2021

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

There were no other questions or comments.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Deputy Supervisor D. Joseph Bates made a Motion to Adjourn the Special Board Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Karl Law and the Special Board Meeting adjourned at 8:26 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 Special Board Meeting minutes held on the above-referenced date.

Dated: June 30, 2021

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk