

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL**  
**7 PM**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL**  
**57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE**

**April 20, 2016**

**PRESENT:** George Armstrong – Supervisor  
John Rozell-Councilperson  
Stephanie Safka – Councilperson  
David Hollister-Councilperson  
Farrell Prefontaine – Councilperson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Town Highway Superintendent, Louis D. Pratt II; Heritage Director, Carol Greenough; Whitehall Times Reporter, Dan King; Attorney, Erika Sellar-Ryan; Compliance Officer, Vernon Scribner.

Supervisor opened the board meeting with Pledge to the Flag and prayer.

**Motion** to approve prior minutes of March 16, 2016 made by Councilperson Prefontaine and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

**ADOPTED**           **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Prefontaine, Hollister**  
                             **Nays 0**

**Heritage Report**- written report by Carol Greenough

She has inspected the inside of the caboose and found no leaks. She has called James Lafayette and asked his expertise on the situation. Nick LaPlaca donated the caboose to the Historical Society.

**Rec. Report**-no report

**Dog Control Report**-written report by Nancy Quell

Supervisor will speak to Nancy Quell about getting a more detailed report in the future and making sure cases are followed up with. Councilperson Safka is concerned about who should be following up on these cases to make sure the town is getting some of this money. The Supervisor stated that they will be discussing a case in Executive Session in regards to a dog. Town Clerk received a report from the NYS Ag. & Markets and Nancy has passed inspection. This report will be filed with the minutes. The Supervisor stated that Nancy normally has between 3 and 7 animal cruelty cases and she has had 35. Some of the dogs were in really bad shape. Councilperson Safka would like to know how each case ends and she doesn't feel we are getting that right now. Nancy has told George that she is frustrated because she gets no help

from the judges. Supervisor stated that it seems that as an animal lover Councilperson Safka is more concerned with the animals than the legal aspect as far as the town is concerned.

**Compliance Officer Report-verbal report by Vernon Scribner**

Vernon wanted everyone to know that Ruth Scribner will be honored for NYS Senior of the Year for Washington County at the Grace Baptist Church on May 15, 2016 from 2 PM -5 PM.

Supervisor and Vernon went to the trailer park and most of the trailers are on crushed stone. The new trailer will be put on a concrete pad. He would like permission from the board to go see an owner on County Route 21. There are new owners and he thinks he is staying in the camper all the time. He thinks the prior owner was granted permission to use the property just on the weekends. Vernon thinks that the new owner should come before the new board to get permission if he wants to live there year round. Vernon would like to discuss an issue on the fees for the trailer park in Executive Session.

**Town Clerk Report** -written report by Julie Millett

Taxes have been returned to the county on April 5, 2016. We ended up receiving over \$6,000 in revenue in penalties. The budget officer had estimated \$5,000 so we are ahead by \$1,000. She would also like to let the public know about the IRS scam that has been happening. She gave the reporter an informational brochure from the Attorney General's Office and asked if something could be put in the paper on it.

**Town Assessor Report**- no written report

Supervisor stated that the assessor's computer is at the county right now getting updated. He has literally gone to every single piece of property. Laura Chadwick from Real Property has asked him to teach some classes.

**Town Supervisor Report** – report by George Armstrong

Rabies Clinic a success with 115 dogs coming in. There is going to be a meeting on solar arrays at the county. The update on the DMV mobile unit is that it shouldn't be too much longer before they are up and running. The contract talk according to Farrell is ongoing and hopefully we will have something to report in May. Councilperson Prefontaine wants to go into Executive Session on it tonight. Use of the meeting room for the religious group and the tutoring has stopped. The insulation project is complete on the town building. We selected a piece of property for the Habitat for Humanity. There was some confusion on the voting for the Presidential Primary on Tuesday. Voters were confused as to what time and where to vote. Betty Little came up and Supervisor took her around and showed her the courtroom. Councilperson Rozell has taken the lead on it. She has grants out there and we could qualify for up to \$50,000 for capital projects. We could put some toward the Rec. fence and town office and wall for the birding group at the pavilion. Supervisor will contact Laurie La Fond to see what her intentions are on using the building this year. The board members thought when we agreed to let her in there that it was going to have volunteers in there watching the building. James Austin is working on the stage down at the amphitheater in the park to get ready for the play in August. Councilperson Safka thinks we should have a roof over it.

**Planning Board Report**- written report by Gregg Chappell

**Budget Officer Report – written report by Joel Carpenter**

**Highway Report**- verbal report by Louis Pratt

Mowers are ready at the park and Rec. Center for this year.

The docks have been put in and the water and power will be turned on May 1, 2016.

We have been putting in culverts and cutting brush. We will be helping with the Clean Sweep. Highway inventory reports have been submitted to the board. CHIPS money will be getting another \$7,000 this year and hopefully another 5 years. Highway School in Ithaca in June. The new 1 ton has come in at Ross's. He would like prior approval to pay for it ahead of next month's bills. On the remaining loan of the excavator, we paid \$25,000 in February on it, but we didn't pay the interest payment. That will be due in May. Louie would like the board's permission for Erika to contact Community Bank to set up another year's loan and interest rate will be the same at 2.39%. We are just rolling it over for another year and shouldn't have to be put in the paper.

**Motion** to pay for the truck as soon as we take possession made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Prefontaine.

**ADOPTED**                    **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Prefontaine, Hollister**  
**Nays 0**

**Motion** to accept all reports made by Councilperson Prefontaine and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

**ADOPTED**                    **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Prefontaine, Hollister**  
**Nays 0**

**All Written reports will be filed with the minutes.**

Bids will be opened for the excessive highway equipment that was advertised in the Whitehall Times on 3/24/16.

1 Bid on (5) Ford front mounted tractor weights received from John Greenwood for \$100.00.  
"Non-collusive bidding certificate "received, signed by John Greenwood.

1 Bid on front mounted scarifies received from Winmill Equipment Co. for \$500.00  
"Non-collusive bidding certificate "received, signed by Reginald Lussier.

**Motion** to accept bids made by Councilperson Prefontaine and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

**ADOPTED**                    **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Prefontaine, Hollister**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION # 33 TOWN OF WHITEHALL TO ELECT DIRECT PAYMENT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY SALES AND COMPENSATING USE TAX ALLOCATION**

**Motion** to accept resolution made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

**ADOPTED**                    **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Prefontaine, Hollister**  
**Nays 0**

Use of park by AA Group on June 12, 2016 for a picnic in the park. They do not have additional insurance, but Erika stated that it was fine to go ahead and let them use it.

**Motion** made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

**ADOPTED**                    **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Prefontaine, Hollister**  
**Nays 0**

**RESOLUTION # 34 STANDARD WORK DAY FOR NYS EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT**

**Motion** to accept resolution made by Councilperson Prefontaine and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

**ADOPTED**                   Ayes   5   Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Prefontaine, Hollister  
                                      Nays   0

**RESOLUTIONS WIL BE FILED IN RESOLUTION BOOK AND WITH THESE MINUTES.**

<b><u>Monthly Vouchers for Abstract # 4 of 2016</u></b>	General Fund V#16-4-1/25 \$	7,409.86
	B Fund            V# 16-4-1   \$	100.20
	Highway Fund V#16-4-1/13 \$	11,824.48

**Motion** to pay the monthly vouchers made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

**ADOPTED**                   Ayes   5   Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Prefontaine, Hollister  
                                      Nays   0

**Public Comments: None at this time**

**Motion** to go into Executive Session at 7:55 PM to discuss contract negotiations and legal issues made by Councilperson Prefontaine and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

**ADOPTED**                   Ayes   5   Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Prefontaine, Hollister  
                                      Nays   0

**Motion** to return to regular session and close meeting made by Councilperson Prefontaine and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

**No motions made for Executive Session.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Julie Millett  
Town Clerk**