

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
7 PM
PUBLIC HEARING
REGULAR MEETING TO FOLLOW
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

October 19, 2016

PRESENT: George Armstrong – Supervisor
John Rozell-Councilperson
Stephanie Safka – Councilperson
ABSENT: David Hollister-Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Highway Superintendent, Louis D. Pratt II; Heritage Director, Carol Greenough; Whitehall Times Reporter, Catherine Tobin; Town Attorney, Erika Sellar-Ryan; Compliance Officer, Vernon Scribner, John Millett Jr.; and students from the government class at Whitehall Central School.
Sign in sheet will be filed with the minutes.

Supervisor opened up with Pledge of Allegiance to Flag and prayers for Farrell Prefontaine's family in his passing on October 17, 2016.

Supervisor opened up the Public Hearing at 7 PM on consideration to override the tax cap. Public Hearing Notice put in the Whitehall Times on 9/29/16 and also on Town/Village web page and town clerk signboard.

A lot of towns are doing this just for protection and the County will be doing it on Friday. We have adopted a Preliminary Budget that is well under the cap so we will take comments, but we are not going to pass a law to override the tax cap. With no comments the Public Hearing was closed at 7:04 PM.

Supervisor opened Regular Meeting at 7:05 PM.

Motion to accept the prior minutes of September 21, 2016 made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 3 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka**
 Nays 0

Heritage Report- written report by Carol Greenough

Rec. Report-no report by Julie Eagan

Dog Control Report-written report by Nancy Quell

Compliance Officer Report-verbal report by Vernon Scribner

A lady called him and wanted to know if she could pasture cattle on her sub-division land. Vernon told her that the Town has a "Right to Farm Law" and he felt it was all right. She has read the paperwork and it didn't say anything about not being able to do it. Vernon told her to go ahead. He referred a case back to the County and they didn't like what the County told them so they came to Vernon. Their neighbor has put up one of those canvas huts to put one vehicle in and it is about six feet from the property line and they were having a problem with it. He referred them to the County to see what their stipulation was on it. Vernon thinks it is three feet. Vernon explained to them that he wasn't code enforcement, the County was. He has one subject that he is looking into for the Planning Board for a junkyard or business or both.

Town Clerk Report -written report by Julie Millett

Election Day November 8, 2016 from 6 AM – 9 PM.

Leslie from Board of Elections called concerned on the kids riding through the Rec. parking lot last year the day of election. She would like police patrol from 4 PM till 9 PM. Supervisor did mention it to Julie Eagan.

Town Assessor Report- written report by Bruce Caza

Attended a solar workshop last week.

Town Supervisor Report – written report by George Armstrong

Planning Board Report- written report by Gregg Chappell

Budget Officer Report – written report by Joel Carpenter

Town Highway Report- verbal report by Louis D. Pratt II

Monthly Highway reports are here for anyone to see.

CHIPS – received 1st payment just under \$30,000.

Sent in paperwork on second one for \$75,000 and hopefully will get it in December 2016. This money is used to repair and maintain our roads.

We have been putting in culverts and ditching.

Sent in our five- year DEC tank registration in and it has been paid because it just missed the last board meeting.

Highway Inventory Sheets are being submitted to the Board and will be filed with the minutes.

Councilperson Rozell asked about the County fixing Beckett Road and some of the other town roads that have been ruined by the big trucks going over them.

Louie had a talk with Mr. Haskins who is the Superintendent of Public Works for Washington County and Louie can't believe what is going on and the shape County Route 18 & 21 are in.

They did fix Winters Road already. They got a wheel track started on Beckett Road and blacktop has cracked. In five years, it will probably blow out and who will have to pay for it, but the town taxpayers. Beckwith Road is just a disaster on the north end. They are supposed to shim it this year. He wants to come in and cut a section out in two spots and fix it and Louie refused. Louie wants the road ground up and start fresh because if they put blacktop on top of what is there it is not going to work.

This Fall they will patch it to hold it for the year and come back next year and fix it. Louie will now have to change his plans for next year. It costs about \$20,000 a mile to plane over and \$70,000 for just the blacktop. Louie is talking \$90,000 to \$100,000 to do one mile. Louie also told them that they shouldn't of tore up so much on 18 & 21. He thinks in a couple of years the County will be in deep trouble with the highway dept. If there was a fire on Perry Lane they would have been in trouble. County equipment is junk and not being properly maintained. Louie will be writing a letter to the County. All the Friday work they are doing is on overtime. Supervisor stated that the County has paid out \$10,000 so far on punctured tires that occurred on County Route 18 & 21. Louie would like in the future to have some of the Town Highway Superintendents sit in on interviews for the County Highway Superintendent position and have some input on who gets the job.

All Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

Motion made to accept reports by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 3 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka**
 Nays 0

Abstract # 10 of 2016 General Fund V#16-10- 1/1-17 \$ 5,181.43
 Highway Fund V#16-10-1/1-9 \$ 49,448.81

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

ADOPTED **Ayes 3 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka**
 Nays 0

Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget on Thursday, October 27th at 10 AM.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 3 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka**
 Nays 0

Adjourned @ 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Millett
Town Clerk

