

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL**  
**REGULAR MEETING @ 7:30 PM**  
**57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE**

**February 15, 2017**

**PRESENT:** George Armstrong – Supervisor  
John Rozell-Councilperson  
Stephanie Safka – Councilperson  
David Hollister-Councilperson  
Timothy Kingsley-Councilperson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Highway Superintendent, Louis D. Pratt II; Compliance Officer, Vernon Scribner; Whitehall Times Reporter, Matt Saari, Town Attorney, Erika Sellar-Ryan and Karen Beckwith.

Supervisor opened up meeting with Pledge of Allegiance to Flag and prayer.

**Motion** to accept the prior minutes of January 18, 2017:  
Public Hearing on Fire Contract  
Organizational Meeting  
Regular Meeting  
Safka and Rozell.

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

**Heritage Report**- no written report by Carol Greenough  
Carol will not be coming until the weather gets better.  
She did hand in an Annual Finance Report for 2016 for the Museum and it will be filed with the minutes.

**Rec. Report**-no report by Julie Eagan

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

Supervisor stated that looking into maybe the Washington County Sheriff taking over. There is money out there for consolidated services and we might be able to have the County take over for the towns.

Louie would like to mention that Bobby Putorti does not have the scanner for dogs because the Town never purchased one.

Inspection report of Ag. & Markets for DCO shelter on 2/9/17. Everything was satisfactory and will be filed with the minutes.

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

Nothing to report

**Town Clerk Report** -written report by Julie Millett, continue to collect taxes for the County until March 31, 2017. Have turned over total for the 2017 town budget to the Supervisor. Also, sent a check down to Washington County on February 3, 2017 for \$731,561.88. Town will get to keep any penalties collected through March 31, 2017.

Annual Town Clerk Report submitted for 2016 for Board to review and will be filed with the minutes.

**Town Assessor Report**- no report by Bruce Caza

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

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

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

**Resolution # 32 & 33 Budget Transfers**

**Motion** to approve budget transfers made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

**Hopefully by the end of next month Joel will be able to tell us what was left at the end of 2016 to put back into our fund balance.**

Resolution will be filed with the minutes and in the Resolution Book.

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

County agreed to give us 10% more for mowing per mileage so we should get \$270/mile. Snow contractual is border line so we will have to move some money around. Highway monthly reports have been submitted to the Board for their review.

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

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

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

Nancy Quell wants to become an LLC and that way we wouldn't pay her as a town employee. Supervisor has talked to Granville Supervisor and they are not doing it with her. Town of Hartford switched to LLC and now he wishes he didn't. Erika will look into it because she thinks it would be better for the Town to let Nancy be a LLC as far as a liability standpoint.

**Motion** to accept Catherine Tobin's resignation letter from the Board of Assessment Review effective immediately made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Councilperson Kingsley will ask his wife if she would be interested. She used to be on the Dresden BAR. He will get back to the Board.

**Resolution # 34 Annual Audit Report**

**Motion** to accept 2015 annual audit report by Jenkins, Beecher & Bethel made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

**ADOPTED**

**Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**

**Nays 0**

Supervisor would like to continue with them.

In their findings, they would like all board members to sign the vouchers. Councilperson Rozell asked if he doesn't sign a voucher does the Town still pay it. Supervisor believes that if you have three out of five Board members sign the voucher, it can be paid. We could make mention in the minutes what vouchers Board members refuse to sign and on the voucher, itself.

Supervisor and Councilperson Rozell sat down with Janet Kennedy from Lakes to Locks. She would like to set up a kiosk in the pavilion for information. They would also like the gates removed over there in the pavilion.

NYS Canal Corp. found 17 violations at the pavilion. They mention missing stones among other things. NYS canal Corp. came in and fixed the woman's shower and the stairway outside.

Supervisor stated that they have an agreement with the Town where the Canal Corp. put the building up and the Town will be responsible to maintain it. Councilperson Rozell stated that they want it all done by Memorial Day. Councilperson Kingsley wanted to know why we still pay for water and sewer over at the pavilion. Supervisor stated that the village says it is because people are using the pavilion that are not residents of the community. Councilperson Safka stated that anything structural with the building, the Canal Cop. is supposed to fix.

Supervisor will give the Board copies of the violations. Councilperson Rozell thinks the deck has already been sealed by James Austin. Canal Corp. wants the outside of building sealed, but that will be expensive.

Supervisor thinks the meeting went well.

Supervisor has received a request from Whitehall Central School to put an ad in the yearbook.

Erika stated that the Town can't do that because it is not appropriate.

**Committee Selections**

Rec. Center- Kingsley, Safka

Park/levies- Rozell, Safka

Union & Labor- Safka, Kingsley

Senior Citizen- Hollister, Armstrong

Highway- Rozell, Hollister

Fence at the Rec. Center will need to be done soon and the highway crew can take the old one down, but will need to clear out the brush. Louie feels that probably will have a couple of weeks where there will be no fence up. This will probably have to be put out to bid and specs will need to be done for the bid so companies know what will need to be done.

Supervisor has received a letter from Gregg Chappell, Secretary of the Planning Board concerning complaints on Azzil Granite Materials. They have applied to DEC to expand their hours. Attorney attended the Planning Board meeting in 2015 and thinks that the permit had a condition where the company would have to notify the municipality and the neighbors of when they were going to be changing their hours of operation. Attorney will contact Gregg to see what the Planning Board granted at the time. Vernon Scribner stated that the Planning Board felt that the company should have come before the Planning Board before they changed their hours. Erika stated that if that was the understanding the Planning Board could site them in

violation for this because they didn't come before the Planning Board first. She will get in touch with Gregg before the next Planning Board meeting.

Highway Superintendent has an employee that will be retiring June 1, 2017. He would like Erika and Budget Officer, Joel Carpenter discuss how he could be paid for his sick time that he will be due at retirement and whether he can use his sick time towards his health insurance or take it as a lump sum, etc. Louie would like a signed contract on this so there are no questions. Louie should have his retirement letter by the next Board meeting.

Karen Beckwith would like to speak on snowmobiles going across the cemetery out back of her house. She would like signs put up so they stop doing it. We could have James Austin make some signs "No Motorized Vehicles" and we can post on each entrance to the cemetery. Councilperson Kingsley suggested this and the Board will have them made up and posted.

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

<b><u>ABSTRACT # 2</u></b>	General Fund V# 1/28	\$ 45,465.09
	B Fund V#1	\$ 5,555.00
	Fire V#1	\$119,734.00
	Highway V#1/14	\$ 40,783.48

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

**Motion** to go into Executive Session at 8:45 PM to discuss ongoing litigation made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

**Motion** to resume regular meeting at 8:57 PM by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

**Motion** for the town attorney to settle ongoing litigation with offer of settlement made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

**Motion** to close the meeting at 9:05 PM made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

**Adjourned @ 9:05 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Julie Millett**  
**Town Clerk**

