

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR MEETING @ 7:00 PM
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

March 15, 2017

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Whitehall Times Reporter, Matt Saari, Town Attorney, Erika Sellar-Ryan; Rec. leader, Julie Eagan, Marge Mohn, Dana Grant, Paula & Kevin Steves, Fra Putorti, Dave Perkins, Bradley Chapin, John Ayers and Elizabeth Robinson.

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

Supervisor asked if anyone wanted to make a public comment at this time. None at this time.

Dave Perkins will now speak on the Canalway Trail. There have been several meetings in the Town of Whitehall regarding the trail coming to Whitehall. One of the things he would hear most often is that you will never see a trail in Whitehall. We really don't know what route it will take at this time. The municipalities along the trail need to decide on what route the trail will go. We are trying to figure out how to market a short trail. We want to see a trail for economic development. Laura Oswald met with us this afternoon from Washington County. We will be able to connect with two main trails being the Champlain Area Trail and Vermont Bikeways. We want them to get on these trails and come to the communities and spend their money. The people working on these trails are all volunteers and meet monthly. The working group has no authority on telling the municipalities where these trails will go. The working group also works with municipalities for funding. First a feasibility study needs to be done. The second is a design study by an engineering firm to decide what is it going to take to build this and where do we get the funding for it. The third stage is the actual construction. The Town board would have to approve a route and the Town has already approved a resolution in support of a trail. The working group that met this afternoon have applied for and received a grant for a feasibility study.

Public Comments:

John Ayers wanted to know why none of the landowners were notified of the meetings. Do we really have to cross private land? Dave Perkins stated that right now we just don't know the best route yet.

Brad Chapin stated there are issues along the canal with water and ¾ of that is privately owned. He feels it would be cheaper to right down Route 4. He doesn't want snowmobiles going by his house at two o'clock in the morning.

Kevin Steves also feels that it would be cheaper to just go down Route 4. He feels that the Canal Corp. should worry about taking care of the shoulders of the canal.

Councilperson Kingsley wants to know who will carry the insurance on this trail.

Paula Steves feels that they will still be able to sue the landowner if the trail runs across their land.

Dana Grant wants to know why can't we get Crown Point to end in Whitehall.

Dana Grant would like to ask the Board's permission to start a new program for kids from school to greet the boaters when they arrive with information as a community service project.

Liz Robinson handed out a program already in place at Phoenix, NY. She is going to talk to the school for community service for the kids.

The Board has no problem with this program.

Motion to accept the prior minutes of February 15, 2017 with corrections made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Heritage Report- no written report by Carol Greenough

Rec. Report-written report by Julie Eagan

Dog Control Report-written report by Nancy Quell

Compliance Officer Report-no report by Vernon Scribner

Town Clerk Report -written report by Julie Millett

Town Assessor Report- written 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 # 35 Budget Transfer

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

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

Joel has also submitted a sheet showing fund balances.

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

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

Highway monthly reports have been submitted to the Board for their review.

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

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

Nays 0

Louie has asked Supervisor Armstrong to go over his business tonight for him in his absence. Supervisor stated that the Town is getting a new tractor and the Board has to declare the 1980 John Deere tractor as surplus equipment.

Motion to declare the 1980 John Deere tractor as surplus equipment made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

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

Motion to now sell the 1980 tractor to the Town of Hartford, NY as is for \$16,750 by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

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

Supervisor stated that because it is a municipality purchasing it, we don't need to go through the bidding process.

All Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

New Business:

Supervisor received a letter back from NYS DOT on reducing the speed on Route 4 near the old McDonald's. They have denied the Town's request to do so at this time. Letter will be submitted with the minutes.

County had a presentation by an organization looking for money from towns to have spay/neuter services for cats. Asking the towns for \$1,000 to be matched by the county.

Washington County came up and did inspections at the office and Rec. Center and library and found some problems. Paperwork was given to the mayor for corrections to be done. Copy will be filed with the minutes. Letter will be sent to Real Property Office and town assessor.

Supervisor has received one letter of interest to replace Catherine Senecal Tobin on the Board of Assessment Review. Town Clerk posted the position on the Town & Village website and also on her sign board on 2/28/17. Pat Kingsley is interested and has served on the Dresden Board in the past.

Motion to appoint Pat Kingsley to 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

Supervisor mentioned that he and Vernon Scribner went up to Azzil Granite because there were complaints of the noise with the blasting. DEC has extended the hours on their crusher and some neighbors are upset about it. Erika feels that there had been discussion that they would come back to the Planning Board prior to making any decision about extending their hours of operation, but Gregg doesn't feel that this condition made it into the final site plan review application. She discussed with him and he was going to research and call her if needed. She did note that DEC noted that if the neighbor's wells go dry or become contaminated then the company will have to replace the wells. Azzil told the Supervisor that they blast once a day usually in the middle of the day.

Tim Kingsley read a letter he drafted to landowners that border the Rec. Center property informing them that the Town will be taking out the old fence and putting in a new fence in the

near future. Erika has reviewed the letters and they will be sent out to the property owners. Julie Eagan had gotten quotes previously on what it would cost, but it will have to be put out to bid

Motion to give permission to the Supervisor to sign the letters of engagement to have Jenkins, Beecher & Bethel do the 2016 audit for the Town made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

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

Fire Contract for 2017 has been signed by mayor, supervisor and fire president and will be filed with the minutes.

Janet Kennedy from Lakes to Locks will be here next month to do a presentation.

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

ABSTRACT # 3 General Fund V# 17-3-1/23 \$ 8,016.89
 Highway V#17-3-1/15 \$11,217.34

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

Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:40 PM to discuss pending litigation made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Motion to resume regular meeting at 8:53 PM by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

No action taken.

Motion to close the meeting at 8:55 PM made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Adjourned @ 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Millett
Town Clerk

