

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR MEETING @ 7 PM
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

November 15, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: George Armstrong – Supervisor
John Rozell-Councilperson
Stephanie Safka – Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley-Councilperson

ABSENT: David Hollister-Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Highway Superintendent, Louis D. Pratt II; Town Attorney, Erika Sellar-Ryan; Whitehall Times Reporter, Matt Saari; Heritage Director, Carol Greenough; Compliance Officer, Vernon Scribner, John Millett Jr, S.E.P. Rep.; Deputy Town Clerk, Patti Gordon, David Waters, Chris Dudley and students from the Whitehall Central School Government Class.

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

Motion to approve prior minutes of October 18, 2017 by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Heritage Report- verbal report by Carol Greenough

- Washington County Historical members visited the museum.
- Museum now closed to the public.
- Putting up Christmas tree at Riverside Park for memory bulbs.
- Additional committee that wants to help with decorations for the holidays.

Rec. Report-no report by Julie Eagan

Dog Control Report- written report by Nancy Quell

Compliance Officer Report- verbal report by Vernon Scribner

- Town, Planning Board and Compliance Officer have all received copies of decommissioning bonds on both solar projects on Cemetery Lane and Buckley Road that were provided by S.E.P. Rep., John Millett Jr. Attorney stated that the applicant should have supplied the Town Planning Board with copies, not the county.
- Property on County Route 9 has cleaned up nicely and no further complaints.
- Property on Grey Lane also looking better.

Town Clerk Report -written report by Julie Millett

Town clerk commented that her report is available usually three weeks before the board meeting if anyone wants to look at it along with the prior minutes.

Town Assessor Report- written report by Bruce Caza

Town Supervisor Report – written report by George Armstrong

-Put an extra \$1500 in the budget because we thought we would have to put the mowing contract for Sciota Cemetery out to bid, but it looks like the association will have enough money for next year.

Planning Board Report- written report by Gregg Chappell

Budget Officer Report & Transfers – written report by Joel Carpenter

Resolution # 50 Budget Transfers

Motion to pass budget transfers made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

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

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

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

-Have one per diem guy working right now and will have to be putting another guy on. He will be starting the first of the year. He is down one man and not sure when he is going to be back. Right now, we are paying \$14/hr. Louie would like to increase it to \$17/hr. to get qualified help. Councilperson Kingsley would like to raise to \$16.50/hr.

Motion to raise the per diem highway help from \$14/hr. to \$16.50/hr. made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Safka. Attorney reviewed the highway contract and could not find anything about per diem help, so the board can decide how they want to pay.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

-Docks have been pulled out of water and water and power have been turned off on the wall. The Canal Corp. will be up to blow the lines out.

-Like to put bid in paper on 1-ton pickup and have them opened at next board meeting. Keeping the plow and sander for new truck.

Motion to put notice in paper made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

-Like Jim Austin to plow the Rec. Center and open the office area up this winter. Louie wants to know what fund to pay him out of. Councilperson Kingsley would like to pay out of the highway fund. Councilperson Safka doesn't want it to come out of the Rec. account without discussing with Julie Eagan. Louie thinks it should come out of the Rec. fund. No decision made at this time.

Motion to approve all reports made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

All Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

-Auditors have finished audit and will be sending report.

-Use of town meeting room on November 16, 2017 for Maplewood Ice.

-Use of Senior Building on November 29, 2017 for United Health Care.
-Use of Park for Sasquatch Calling on September 29, 2018. Concerns on whether they can use the inside of the building. Councilperson Safka stated that Janet Kennedy from Lakes to Locks says it is fine.

Motion for use of town properties made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Still no contract with Nancy Quell for 2017.

ABSTRACT # 11	General Fund V# 17-11-1/21	\$ 5,271.43
	Highway V# 17-11-1/12	\$10,869.93

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

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Public Comments:

Dave Waters would like to address Louie Pratt and the Board on three things:

1. Is the Workers' Comp case work related on his guy that is out right now because Dave heard that it wasn't work related? Louie confirmed that it is work related because the only way they can be out on Workers Comp. is if it is work related. Dave also asked if the case has been investigated and if the proper paperwork has been filed on it. Louie confirmed that he filed the paperwork himself on the employee at the county.
2. Is Whitehall Times still the official paper for the Town because he heard another rumor that another paper might be coming this way. Councilperson Safka stated that the Sun paper is free and has a lot of information in it.
3. It seems that the decommissioning bond discussed earlier got fumbled as to where it is and why it wasn't filed. Has anything been decided on the PILOT on the two solar projects? Supervisor stated still a work in progress.
County Finance Committee will be discussing in December.

John Millett Jr. would like to address the Supervisor and Erika on how IDA loans work.

If those business loans go bad is that taxpayer's dollars? Erika stated that they have different pools of money that business can get, but essentially yes, it is tax payers money. The IDA backs loans that are riskier. The Supervisor will be meeting with the county shortly and getting a status update on these loans. This is Public information that was put in the Whitehall Times. This notice will be posted on the town clerk's signboard as public record.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel for the highway at 7:55 PM made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

The Board would like to invite, Town Attorney Erika Sellar-Ryan, Highway Superintendent Louis Pratt and newly elected Councilperson Chris Dudley into Executive Session at this time.

Motion to come out of Executive Session and resume regular meeting at 8:45 PM made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

No action taken for Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:47 PM made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Millett
Town Clerk