

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR MEETING @ 7 PM
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

April 18, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rozell – Supervisor
Christopher Dudley Sr.-Councilperson
Stephanie Safka – Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley-Councilperson
David Hollister-Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Deputy Town Clerk, Patti Gordon; Highway Superintendent Louis D. Pratt II; Town Attorney, Erika Sellar-Ryan; Whitehall Times Reporter, Matt Saari; Heritage Director, Carol Greenough; Rec. Leader Julie Eagan; Compliance Officer, Vernon Scribner; Town Justice Robert Putorti Jr., John Millett Jr., Barry Lane and Priscilla Lane.

Meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Whitehall Town Supervisor, John Rozell.

Congrats to Chris Dudley’s daughter Olivia on winning Whitehall Junior Miss.
Pledge to the Flag and prayer by Supervisor Rozell.

Motion to approve prior minutes of March 21, 2018 by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Justice Putorti would like to address the Board on establishing a part-time court clerk position. He handed out a letter to all board members. Requesting 8 hours a week, 4 for village and 4 for town. He has money in his town budget under his contractual that would cover most of the year which he is figuring around \$1,140.00 from June - December. He would like to pay them \$11.50/hr. He no longer has to pay for the SCI computer system out of the town budget because it was purchased by the state. He would like to start around June 1st. Next year we would need to budget a little bit more. He handed out a pamphlet of everything the court clerk is responsible for and if employed they would qualify for free training. We went from three judges to two judges. Councilperson Safka asked Julie Eagan how she felt about this since she did the job and Julie stated that she feels that it is needed. It is very hard to process all the paperwork now.

Board decided to **table** tonight by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Heritage Report- verbal report Carol Greenough

-Planning museum opening last week in June. It will be open daily till Labor Day and then weekends through the middle of October.

-Festival dates this year will be July 6th & 7th. Already have food and ride vendors set up.

-Music in the park the following Friday through August 17th.

-Advertised the museum in the North Country Magazine and at Big Apple.

Rec. Report-written report by Julie Eagan

-Request from Lee Gosselin for permission to put up some plastic strips along the portion of the fence that runs behind his place for some privacy. The cost would be around \$120 and he is asking the Town to pay for half of it. She would like thank you notes sent out to all who donated to the Rec. program. She will get names and addresses to town clerk.

Motion made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Safka to pay for half of the cost of the plastic strips.

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

Supervisor stated that on Monday there will be training for Violence in the Workplace by the county that is mandatory in Granville from 9 AM – Noon. Julie Eagan has already had training for this so she is excused. She should get a letter from Phil Spezio stating she has had the training for her file.

Dog Control Report- no report by Nancy Quell

Update from Ag & Markets stating she is approved for her shelter now, but still do not have a current contract for 2018 between her and the Town. Contract drawn up by attorney has been mailed to her. No response as of today.

Compliance Officer Report- verbal report by Vernon Scribner

-One complaint on Ryder Road about bags of garbage. He went down and found no garbage.

-There seems to be a dog situation down there. We really need a dog enumeration.

-Mud boggers in Granville wanted to rent a piece of land in Whitehall near their operation.

Vernon spoke to the landowner and told him that he would have to go in front of the Planning Board.

-Vernon will be stepping down as Compliance Officer and Alternate to the Planning Board. He will stay on until the Town finds someone.

Motion to advertise the positions in the Whitehall Times made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Town Clerk Report -written report by Julie Millett

Collected \$5,413.01 in tax penalties before returning to the county. Joel had budgeted \$5,100 for the year. Orkin has been going behind the building for the rat traps and he shouldn't be until he has signed off with the railroad. Louie has the paperwork and he will get it out for Orkin to sign off on it. They will need the proper equipment when they go behind the building. Louie will get in touch with Orkin guy and have him fill out paperwork.

Town Assessor Report- no report by Bruce Caza

Town Supervisor Report – written report by John Rozell

-½ marathon to be held June 9, 2018 in the Town & Village of Whitehall, attorney saw no problems with it.

- Received letter from Dan Stec on the resolution the Town passed on the PILOTS/state land.
 - Sciota Road Cemetery, Town will have to budget money probably next year to take it over.
 - American Legion invites Town Board to the Memorial Day Parade.
 - Meeting with Verizon on phones. We had an old Board member who was still using his town cell phone from years ago. We have gotten it switched over to his name.
- Supervisor got quotes on new phones and lines for six phones that include the highway, museum, playground and three phones in office for supervisor, assessor and clerk. Just to have the service is \$190 per month. The internet cost would be separate along with the Mahoney Notifier line. Cost of phone for clerk \$169, \$155 for supervisor's desk and another \$155 for assessor's desk. Set up fee besides would be \$300 to \$400 and we should upgrade the router. Louie's trucks could also get GPS service. I guess we won't go that route.
- Met with Northern Insurance and we lowered some pieces of highway equipment while our insurance rates went up 3% to keep pace with the rising construction cost.
 - At the county he is working on a resolution when people purchase auction properties. Councilperson Safka would like it set up so when a property owner has a code violation they can't purchase any more properties at the tax sale. Right now, no one can purchase any more properties if they owe back taxes. This resolution would be in addition to that.
 - County received a letter from Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation about the Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company property being nominated to the National Registry for Historic Places.
 - Decommissioning bonds on the solar projects are being taken care of.
 - Trail meeting is coming along.
 - Meeting with Dennis Ryan on Thursday the 19th at the Lane Farm to hear his ideas on what he wants to do with the land.
 - Supervisor applied for Destination of Opportunity Zone. Three Townships in Washington County have applied for it. It is for businesses who invest in this area. They will not have to pay a capital gains tax.

Budget Officer Report & Transfers – written report by Joel Carpenter

Planning Board Report- written report by Gregg Chappell

Received a letter from Gregg Chappell to ask the Board to do something with the decommissioning bonds on the solar projects. Town attorney will be drafting a letter to Borrego notifying them of the renewal date of bonds and amounts.

Highway Report- verbal report by Louie

- Highway fuel report submitted to the Board.
 - Salt Contract for 2018-19 has been sent in to the State.
 - CHIPS amount same as last year.
 - Docks will be put in soon.
 - Park & Rec. mowers are all ready to go.
 - April 23rd is Earth Day for clean-up. Working with Teresa Austin and kids from the school from 8:30 to 10 AM.
 - Town of Dresden wants our 2009 Ford 1 ton for \$8,000. Replacement one is still not here.
- Motion** to accept offer of \$8,000 from the Town of Dresden made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

Councilperson Hollister asked what the book value was on it. It would be \$10,500 with a good box, but it doesn't so Eric figured a good price would be \$7,500.

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

- People will be parking at the Town Highway Garage again next Thursday for Plywood.
- Supervisor stated that next Thursday the county will be having a meeting at the Armory. Begins at 10 AM if anyone wants to attend and they will be going up to the Plywood Plant.
- Alarm system that NYMIR recommended at the Highway Garage. Louie got some quotes:
Mahoney Notifier \$6,090 with monthly monitor fee \$28.50
New York Fire & Security \$5,325 with monthly monitor \$29.95
- Supervisor and Louie met with NYMIR rep and asked questions and NYMIR said if this is installed it wouldn't lower our insurance rates and if we don't do it our insurance will not be cancelled. We will still be covered if there is a fire at the garage. These will be placed on file.
- Truck ran into the garage door. Louie called and received two quotes to repair:
Adirondack Door \$2,300
Winchip Overhead Door \$2,342

Louie called insurance company and Town has already received a check for \$2,322.12
Motion to give Louie permission to call Adirondack to come up and repair garage door made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

- Fire Company contacted him and they are bringing out two more boxes for training purposes.
- Motion** to approve monthly reports made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

Update on Part-time Assessor Clerk Position by Councilperson Dudley and Councilperson Safka. We had three applicants and one pulled out already. We both discussed with the assessor and we were trying to get someone in the position that could work with Bruce and eventually take over when Bruce retired in September of 2019. We did not feel the two applicants that applied would fit into those qualifications. Bruce is going to go back to the way it was and we will try to get something together in the future. Supervisor has spoken to Bruce and Bruce is now looking for a part-time clerk to just file and do work on the computer for one day a week.

Councilperson Safka asked if that person could perhaps share with the part-time court clerk position that was discussed.
Board decided to **table** tonight by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Councilperson Safka received an email on March 27, 2018 on the grant money that they are currently still waiting on one more review. Once completed this file will be reviewed by our Counsel's office. Once review is complete they will send the grant to the State for final approval.

Councilperson Kingsley wanted to know how much money of the grant is for the pavilion in the park. Councilperson Safka stated that for that part it is \$24,000. We are not going to get a check just handed to us. We are going to submit vouchers to use against this money. We would take

vouchers from the model of the park and turn it into them for reimbursement. If we only spend \$8,000 out of the \$80,000 that is what we will submit. Councilperson Kingsley is concerned that if we don't get the grant the Town will have to pay for all the work that has been done so far. Councilperson Safka stated that Lakes to Locks came through with the offer on a handshake. She thinks it would poor on our part to basically let Lakes to Locks hang out to dry. They are a Not-for-Profit group that voted on taking on the project based on what the past Board decided. Past Supervisor had made this agreement and there were some people on this Board that had gone over and talked about the remodel of the pavilion. Attorney stated that it sounds like this is an oral contract. This is tricky in municipalities because it isn't usually done this way. Supervisor Rozell stated that when we started this program with Lakes to Locks he was under the assumption that all the hours and materials paid by the Town were going to be reimbursed through Lakes to Locks. A week ago, Supervisor found out that these amounts were included in the grant. Councilperson Kingsley wants to know what has been spent so far and how much more are we going to spend. Supervisor will get some figures from Joel Carpenter for the next board meeting.

Approval for Use of Senior Building for Glens Falls Hospital on May 16, 2018 for eye screenings.

Approval for Park Use for Family Reunion on 8/11/18.

Approval for Park Use for Graduation Party on 6/30/18.

Approval for Park Use for Anniversary Party on 7/22/18.

Motion to approve dates made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Councilperson Safka stated someone wants to put up a donation box. Attorney stated the Town really can't request donations. She will look into some wording on how we can post something.

Resolution # 35 "Introducing Proposed Local Law # 1 of 2018 Providing for an Exemption for Cold War Veterans from Real Property Tax Pursuant to Real Property Law Section 458-b"

Town clerk spoke to assessor on this and he said it would affect 7 property owners with a \$8,000 exemption multiplied by 7 owners would amount to \$56,000 exemption total multiplied by the current town tax rate would amount between \$400 to \$500. That amount would be spread over the entire tax base. The county and several towns already have this in place.

Supervisor feels that it is a good idea to adopt a local law for this exemption for our veterans. Town clerk has handed out the proposed local law to Board where it will rest for their review and town clerk will set up a public hearing for next month to consider passing the local law.

Motion to pass such resolution made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

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

Resolution # 36 Standard Work Day Resolution for Employees' Retirement System

Required by the NYS Retirement System to establish work days for newly elected and appointed officials that belong to the retirement system that are being paid salary.

Copy will be forwarded to retirement system and Joel Carpenter who is the reporting officer for the Town. A copy will also be posted on the town clerk's signboard for 30 days.

Motion to approve resolution made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

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

Board established daily hours for the park as follows:

May 1, 2018 – May 31, 2018 7 AM – 5 PM

June 1, 2018 – Labor Day 7 AM – 9 PM

Labor Day – November 1, 2018 7 AM – 4 PM

Keith Pratt will be given copies to post.

Carol Greenough stated that this year there will be no fee for going through the locks due to the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the locks.

Supervisor asked attorney how we can ask for the donation that the Nature Conservancy gives us every year. Erika suggested having a conversation with them on a mutual beneficial relationship that would benefit both parties. Benefit to the Town for the services the Town provides for Nature Conservancy land such as fire protection while at the same time Nature Conservancy providing the increase of their presence in the Town.

ABSTRACT # 4 of 2018 General Fund V#18-4/1-31 \$ 8,644.02

Highway FundV#18-4/1- 6 \$ 1,866.58

Motion made to approve the monthly vouchers by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

Motion at 8:40 PM to convene into Executive Session to discuss health insurance for personnel in regards to the Highway Union Contract made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Motion made by Councilperson Safka to end Executive Session and reconvene into regular session.

Motion made by Councilperson Kingsley to make sure that Barry Lane is reimbursed for his health insurance pursuant to the union contract and motion was seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

ADOPTED

Ayes 5 Rozell, Safka, Kingsley, Hollister, Dudley

Nays 0

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Millett

Town Clerk