

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE  
7:00PM**

**October 16, 2019**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Clerk, Patti Gordon; Town Attorney, Erika Sellar-Ryan; Highway Superintendent, Louis D. Pratt II.; Compliance Officer, Martin Rocque; Rec Leader, Julie Eagan; Whitehall Times Reporter, PJ Ferguson.

Supervisor Rozell opened the Public Hearing with the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Rozell opened the Public Hearing at 7PM on the 2020 Preliminary Town Budget and Fire Contract for the Town of Whitehall at 7:02pm.

Supervisor Rozell asked for Public Comments three times.

There were no comments. Public Hearing was closed at 7:03PM.

Supervisor Rozell opened the Regular meeting to discuss the Preliminary Budget and Fire Contract and considered passing them. There were no further discussions of objections. The Board was content with the outcome of the Budget Workshop on October 3, 2019.

**Resolution # 52**

**Motion** to pass the 2020 Preliminary Budget as the final budget for the Town of Whitehall made by Councilperson Kingsley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

**ADOPTED**                   **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**  
**NAYS 0**

**Motion** to approve the Whitehall Fire Contract for 2020 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

**ADOPTED**                   **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**

**NAYS**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from September 18, 2019 and October 3, 2019 meetings made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

**ADOPTED**                   **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**  
**NAYS 0**

**Heritage Report**- No report by Carol Greenough

**Rec. Report** – Written report by Julie Eagan

-Water cooler has been installed on the Senior side but the water fountain for the Rec side was delivered to the Health Center on mistake and would like to thank Highway Superintendent Louis Pratt, for picking it up and delivering to the Rec Center.

-The Food Hub dropped of the commercial refrigerator to the Rec Center. The Rec staff will not be responsible for distributing the food. Someone from the Food Hub will have a key to the Rec as well as from the Library and the Food pantry to distribute it. Attorney Seller-Ryan suggested contacting the insurance company and getting special insurance for it because they are extremely expensive and if it fails it will cover the unit and the food in it.

-She would also like to thank Grace Baptist Church for the community service they did at the Rec Center on 10/15/19.

-Home coming is Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>, the bonfire will be Friday night after the parade. People are not bringing things to burn the cheerleader coaches have made arrangements to have it dropped off and cleaned up. Gould's will be doing the cleanup. Dave Waters asked why a fence bordering the canal was not locked. The Rec leader explained because the basketball court is so close and the far baseball field is there that when balls go over the fence, they need to go get them and won't have to go around the whole property.

-Supervisor Rozell asked Rec Leader Eagan about what she thought about Out of Box Worship using the Senior Center. Rec Leader Eagan said her concern was some people approached her that it wasn't fair to have just one church meet over there every single Saturday. Also, it would make the building not available for basket parties. Supervisor Rozell would like to speak to Ginny Currier who runs the Senior program first as well. Councilperson Hollister does not want to give them a blanket statement saying they could use it every Saturday. They would need to reserve it on a weekly basis. Councilperson Dudley asked if there were any set guide lines as to who can use it; is it established it's a non for profit. The building was built by a grant for the seniors. Attorney Seller-Ryan suggested putting a policy for ruse in place before we let anyone else use it. The Park has a use policy as to who can use it and maybe it is time to write a policy in consultation with the Seniors as to use for their facility. Supervisor Rozell Made a motion to table it until we can look into it further.

**Motion** to table the discussion on the use of the Senior Building for Out of the Box Worship until next month's meeting so there is to look into the matter and consult with Seniors made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

**ADOPTED**                   **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**

**NAYS 0**

**Dog Control Report-** Written by Nancy Quell  
**Compliance Officer Report** – by Martin Rocque

Nothing to Report at this time.

**Town Clerk Report** – written by Patti Gordon

-Received a complaint on “Miss Kitty’s” on Route 4, I informed them that the Town is aware of the situation and is working on remedying it. Attorney Seller-Ryan state that there still is an issue of the Judge not being here so she still does not have a return date to put on the paper work.

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

**Town Supervisors Report** Written by John Rozell

Met with Code Enforcement & Health Departments at the Trail Park for violations.

-Still working on getting the rest of the cameras up and running in the Park.

-Grant opportunity from Hudson River Valley Greenway; we need to get to work on the grant we have now for the offices and that finished up.

-Supervisor Rozell had Jim finish the painting the walls in the pavilion. We are still waiting on the decals to arrive.

-The Canal locks closed today 10/16/2019 at 5:00pm for the winter.

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

**Resolution #53 Budget Transfer of 2019**

**Motion** made to pass Resolution #53 budget transfer made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

**ADOPTED**                    **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**

**NAYS 0**

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

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

**Town Highway Report-** Written report by Louie Pratt

-CHIPS will be going in in the next week or two and the Town should be getting approximately \$50,000 in December.

-New hire Keith Sayers started September 23, 2019 to replace the man hired back in July because he went back to the Village.

-There is another employee leaving next week so I have hired a person to start October 28th, Cordell Loveland, he currently works for the County.

-Highway Superintendent will be in contract with Tim at the Canal Corp. and will turn the water off at the docks. The docks will be removed in the next couple weeks.

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

**ADOPTED**                    **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**

**NAYS 0**

Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

### **Other Business:**

Discussion of the creation of a Fire District. The Village did not reach a decision at the meeting last night 10/15/2019. The motion was brought to a vote with no second. Supervisor Rozell asked the Town Board members what they are in favor of doing. Councilperson Kingsley said he was disappointed in the lack of information from the joint meeting, he thought they would have told us how much money they were going to need to start and how much taxes would actually go up. Supervisor Rozell stated that they did give him a copy of their budget after the meeting. Their budget is \$213,000.00; there is, suppose to, be a cap of \$1,000 per million. The Town has \$193,362,170.00 for assessed taxes for 2020 town wide. With the cap they shouldn't be getting over \$193,620.00 and that is what they are getting, not including what they are getting from the Village. Their projected budget is more than \$20,000.00 over that and with a little bit of respect for the system they should have been a little bit closer to the \$193,000. If you take the \$213,000.00 and divide by 2, \$106,500. That would lower our budget here in the town \$32,000 and it would raise the Village portion \$53,000.00. With that said, Supervisor Rozell feels he has to represent his taxpayers and decline. Councilperson Dudley commented that how is the volunteer board of trustees going to be any different from the board that is running it now. Mr. Hannigan, the representative for the Fire Department stated that the WVFC should be giving the Village Board a projected budget every year and the Mayor stated he has never seen one. Mr. Brooks stated every year it is in their annual report; that is the actual budget not the projected one, stated Supervisor Rozell. Councilperson Dudley said he wants to support the Fire Company any way but they need to go in a different direction. David Waters asked why this isn't a village decision because it is a Village entity and the Town contracts them for their services. Attorney Seller-Ryan responded it is because what they are trying to do is provided in the Law, to create a Joint Fire District, both boards do have to vote under the legislature because they appoint the first board members. Something that make this a better option is that Whitehall, only has one fire company and that's what it's basically doing already. When there are multiple companies there seems to be in fighting about who gets what money. Other alternatives to getting a fire district, you would have to bring it to court with a permissive referendum. Highway Superintendent Pratt asked what it would be if we joined the whole fire district together what would it cost the tax payers per \$1000.00. The Town tax rate is currently at \$1.03, the new rate would be approximately \$1.10 (that figure does not account for the exemptions). Councilperson Safka said the only allowance over their budget is a capital expenditure which can be bonded out. Supervisor Rozell told the Board that Mr. Hannigan state that if the joint fire districts folds, all the debt goes to the TOWN. Attorney Seller-Ryan said that if it folds now, not being a fire district, it comes back to the Village. She suggested maybe getting someone from the Department of State to come and talk to everyone and see what other options we have because this is not a unique problem to Whitehall, the fire service is aging out. If the fire company does fold however, the Town will have to contract out fire services and it will be very expensive.

Supervisor Rozell asked if there was a motion to accept the Fire District to bring it to a vote.

**Motion** to accept the creation of a Fire District and bring it to a vote made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

**DEFEATED**

**AYES 1 Hollister**

**NAYS 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**

The Whitehall and Fair Haven AA Group has donated \$100.00 toward the park. They recently had the annual picnic there and said the charcoal grills were in need of repair.

Washington County WIC is requesting to rent the Rec Center again for their 201920120 year. They will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly, from 8:30am to 4:00pm with the exception to this, would be December 2019 when we will be there Monday 12/23/2019 with a rental fee of \$900.00 yearly.

Motion to allow Washington County WIC Program to use the Rec Center for WIC clinic purposes On the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month, from 8:30am to 4:00pm with the exception of December 2019 due to the Christmas Holiday, it will be Monday 12/23/2019. The rental fee will be \$900.00 annually or \$75.00 per month starting October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019 made by Councilperson Kingsley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

**ADOPTED**

**AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**

**NAYS 0**

**ABSTRACT #10 OF 2019**

General Fund V# 19-10-1 19-10-26 \$ 3,194.33

Highway Fund V# 19-10-1 19-10-12

\$102,268.28

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

**ADOPTED**

**AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**

**NAYS 0**

Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

**Motion** to adjourn October 16, 2019 Town Board Meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley

**ADOPTED**

**AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley Safka, Kingsley**

**NAYS 0**

**Adjourned**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Patti Gordon**

**Town Clerk**

