

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

DECEMBER 18, 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; Whitehall Times Reporter, Matt Saari, Sue Hurlbert, Riley Ballard, Joanne Eagan

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

Supervisor Rozell asked for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Robert Humiston, Highway Superintendent of Argyle.

Public Comments:

Sue Hurlbert spoke representing Christmas in the Park Committee. She read a letter addressed to the board; it is attached with the minutes.

Supervisor Rozell stated that he did indeed give verbal permission to decorate this year and that they had done a fabulous job decorating the Pavilion. He did not personally attend the tree lighting but did go by and was impressed with the amount of people that were there.

Supervisor Rozell said he would inquire about decorating the poles that line Main Street next year, but believes the reason the telephone poles are no longer decorated is because a permit is now required for each pole, as well as a fee for each permit to hang anything from them.

Councilperson Safka stated in past years that she personally purchased decorations, but does not know where they have gone. She volunteered to be the contact person for the Town Board to meet with the group in October. Fundraising can be done in the future to purchase.

Councilperson Dudley also stated he was very pleased with the decorations this year.

A member of the audience, a property owner, came to express how frustrated he was that the recycling center now charges for recycling. He also inquired about the Solar fields and who the "solar" belongs to. The solar belongs to the Solar Company who owns the equipment not the property owner stated Rozell. Supervisor Rozell explained that the Recycling Center no longer is owned by the County. It is currently owned by a private company.

Mr. and Mrs. Huntington asked the Board if it were possible, to send Mr. Johnson, his neighbor a copy of the Local Nuisance Law. For the last 30+ years his horses have been causing damage to his property. The horses are there from Pond Hill, they are not his. He lives in New York City and is only here on weekends. Over the last few weeks there have a couple more incidents of damage and would like something to be done. The 1st time he contacted the caretaker, but not the police. 2nd incident the Sheriff came, they tried to get the horses in. They did make a report of the damages done by the horses. DEC can also be contacted.

Motion made send a letter to the property owner, Mr. Malcom Johnson, at 179 Gould Lane, Whitehall NY 12887 and a copy of the law "Regulation of Control of Domestic Animals, Including Cows and Horses Within the Town of Whitehall, Local Law No. 1 of 2015 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

Councilperson Kingsley asked Mr. Huntington if he knew the dates when the most recent incidents occurred. Mr. Huntington stated either November 20th or 21st, and December 13. The first incident the care taker was called, Mr. Whalen, who was of no help. Mr. Huntington sent a letter to the land owner about the damage and informed him he was getting an estimate from a landscaper to repair the damages The December 13th incident was documented by law enforcement as well as photos.

Motion to approve minutes from November 20, 2019 made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Heritage Report- Written report by Carol Greenough

Rec. Report – No report by Julie Eagan

Dog Control Report- Written by Nancy Quell

Compliance Officer Report – by Martin Rocque
Nothing to report at this time.

Councilperson Kingsley would like to know the status of "Miss Kittys". Town attorney Seller-Ryan informed the Board was there a court date set for the proceeding.

Town Clerk Report – Written by Patti Gordon

Town Assessor Report- No report by Bruce Caza

Town Supervisor Report- Verbal report by John Rozell

-Have been very busy at the County Level- 2020 Budget passed.

-January meeting will be the election of department heads.

Budget Officer Report & Transfers– by Joel Carpenter

Resolution #56 Budget Transfer of 2019

Motion made to pass Resolution #56 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 the minutes, website and in the Resolution Book.

Town Planning Board Report- written report by Gregg Chappell

Town Highway Report- Written by Superintendent Pratt

-Supervisor Rozell stated that Superintendent has been working a lot of overtime and was not able to come to the meeting this evening. He did speak with him however and feels like it is going to be close with December storms on the budget.

Motion to approve the monthly reports made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

Business to Discuss

Skene Valley Country Club would like to renew their liquor license for 2020.

Motion made to approve the renewal of Skene Valley Country Club for their liquor license made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

The Organizational Meeting will be January 2, 2020 at 7:00PM.

-We will establish who will be on each committee.

Supervisor Rozell asked about the Highway Garage roof. Councilperson Hollister stated that Ken Martin was there the other day and went over it with him and Louis Pratt and is going to give a couple of suggestions on what to do to repair it. One is going to be a rubber membrane and one will be a standing seam. He will give rough estimate cost and warranties for each option. Once he writes up specs, we will put it out to bid.

Councilperson Kingsley asked where we are with the Pilots. Town Attorney stated that they have changed legal council four times since the beginning of the project. The last correspondence from them was approximately 3 months ago. She reached out approximately a month ago and resent everything she had and informed them there were issues because the time frame is now off. They were supposed to get back with her before the board meeting. They have since reached out and said they are willing to do a lump payment for what is due and she told them there would be penalties involved and they understood that. Our one "card" to play is that before we they went on line they were supposed to get signed off by the Town to make sure they were in compliance but they did not do so, and Seller-Ryan is unsure who actually let them go on line.

Supervisor explained that we cannot tax the property on the solar produced or the equipment, just the actual property. We opted out of that. If the property value does increase, the PILOT stays the same for the 15 years.

ABSTRACT #12 2019

General Fund V# 19-12/1-24 \$8016.69
Highway Fund V# 19-12/1-7 \$3,740.02

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 and on the website.

Motion made to go into execution session @ 7:40 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Motion made to come out of executive session @ 7:55 by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

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

Motion to pay the appraiser \$800.00 for litigation purposes when we receive it made by Councilperson Hollister and Councilperson Kingsley.

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

Motion to adjourn November 20, 2019 Town Board Meeting made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk