

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887
7:00PM**

FEBRUARY 19, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rozell-Supervisor
David Hollister-Councilperson
Stephanie Safka-Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley-Councilperson

ABSENT: Christopher Dudley-Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Patti Gordon; Highway Superintendent Louis Pratt; Rec Leader, Julie Eagan; Compliance Officer, Martin Rocque; Town Attorney, Erica Seller-Ryan; Barbara Spoor, Vicky Mattison, Everette Mattison, Tom Trepanier.

Supervisor opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at 7:00pm.

Public Comments: Everette Mattison came to comment about the current tenants at the "Whitehall Studios". He feels they current tenants are worse than the last ones and would like to know who keeps track of point system for the Nuisance Law. Occupants and visitors are going through the parking lot at high speeds and the dumpsters have been over flowing. The sheriffs' and State Police Departments have both been contacted and have been out to the property. Supervisor Rozell stated in order for the Nuisance Law to work people have to call and make a complaint. Then they have to contact the law enforcement agency to get a copy of calls for the month, which includes total calls not just ones for a particular address, but includes the entire district. Once they sort through the complaints, a list can be compiled for the properties in questions then documented. Town attorney Erica-Seller Ryan stated unfortunately the owner cannot control the occupants. Supervisor Rozell stated he also doesn't believe Washington County is currently sending anyone there at this time but is not certain whether or not any of them are from Warren County. Mr. Mattison also questioned Zoning and change of use. Town Attorney Ryan stated that Whitehall has no zoning and since the new owners are not changing the footprint it shouldn't be an issue. Supervisor Rozell he would contact Andre Hagadorn from the planning board and discuss the matter.

Barbara Spoor would like to request the use of the park on April 18th for a community clean up event with the park being the central location for the event and September 26th for Sasquatch Festival.

Motion to approve the use of the park area on April 18th for a community clean up day and on September 26th for the Sasquatch Festival made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 ROZELL, HOLLISTER, SAFKA, KINGSLEY**
NAYS 0

-Barbara Spoor questioned how to have beer & wine in the Park Pavilion. Supervisor Rozell stated if you have a vendor who supplies their own beer and liquor license, their own beer and liquor, and insurance to cover it than it is possible to have it; at least that is how it worked previously for the all class reunion. Councilperson Safka questioned the Canal Corp contract whether or not alcohol is allowed. Attorney Seller-Ryan said the process would be to get the permit application would be completed with the attached liquor license all together and then you would VOTE on it.

-Also, Barbara Spoor made a verbal request to see if the Town was able to donate financially to the Sasquatch Festival this year. There has been a large response already and its only February. The goal is to make it even more family friendly this year. Supervisor Rozell stated the Town cannot donate financially but could donate services. The festival is run under the Chamber Commerce and not a 501C3. Town attorney Seller-Ryan suggested that the festival become a 501C3 in the future and it will be able to get more donations, not necessarily from the Town but in general. Seller-Ryan told Ms. Spoor to come up with some ideas for the next meeting and she will look into and see what she can come up with as well.

Motion to approve the month minutes from January 15, 2020 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 ROZELL, HOLLISTER, SAFKA, KINGSLEY**
NAYS 0

Heritage Report – Written by Carol Greenough

Recreation Report -Verbal by Julie Eagan

-It's a pretty slow right now. Sign up for Baseball, Softball and T-ball are up. There are two employees still funded through LEAP and one employee is part-time employee is subsidized through Social Security because he is disabled. The Youth League is working with Colleen at Dept of Health for the snack bar. The snack bar cannot open until they get their certificate, the current one has expired. The food hub is taking a break due to the lack of food. The Rec is working on an agreement with the Library and Food Panty so the Rec employees will deliver the food to them to insure it gets out to people who need it.

Dog Control Report – Written Report by Nancy Quell

Compliance Officer Report – Verbal by Martin Rocque

-Received a complaint on January 27th of overflowing dumpsters at the "Budget Inn" (New Whitehall Studios). Spoke with head of maintenance and was assured they would be emptied ASAP. On return visit, two of the three were empty.

-The ongoing situation with Carver's Falls Road and the trailer is still active.

Town Clerk Report – Written by Patti Gordon

Town Assessors Report - No Report by Bruce Caza

Town Supervisor Report - Verbal by John Rozell

-Councilperson Kingsley and myself attended NY Thruway Authority Canal Corp walk through on the locks and the repair they are currently doing which is done every ten years.

The walls in the pavilion have been completed for spring, there were several decals put on the walls and kiosk. There are still some geese that needs to be hung in the rafters. It did require the heat being turned on during the work so there might be an increase in the bill for the month.

Budget Officer Report & Transfers

Motion to pass Resolution # 33 budget transfer made by Councilperson and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

ADOPTED **AYES 4** **Rozell, Hollister, Safka, Kingsley**

NAYS 0

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

Town Planning Board Report – Written by Greg Chappell

Town Highway Report – Verbal by Louis Pratt

-CHIPS is going March 4th to Albany

-Extreme winter recovery money is not available at this time, but we should be getting PAID NY for the next 2-4 years possibly.

-I dismissed an employee on Martin Luther King Day. There is a new hire starting February 10th, 2020. There is also another employee still out on short term disability. We have used 45% of the salt and sand budget.

-\$15,000 Federal grant from storm water project-Town will do all the work and will be reimbursed for the \$15,000, it is a 100% match grant. Reimbursement is only for materials not labor.

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

ADOPTED **AYES 4** **Rozell, Hollister, Safka, Kingsley**

NAYS 0

Business to Discuss

PILOTS are ready to be signed with a 5%penalty included. The amount due this year will be higher because of the penalties added. The County will receive 32% from the total amount due and the balance will be divided 60% to the Town and 40% to the school. Approximately totals due the Town and School will be a little \$9,000.00 and \$6,000.00 respectively. The school is receiving this least amount because they did not apply for it; if they did however, they would have received the 60% and the Town would have been left with the 40%.

Motion made by Supervisor Rozell to allow Supervisor Rozell to sign the three PILOTS with the 5% penalty included from back taxes and Seconded from Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **AYES 4** **Rozell, Hollister, Safka, Kingsley**

NAYS 0

Nature Conservancy

-At our last meeting we signed a resolution saying we were in favor of the state taking over the nature conservancy property. We still have, a five-year PILOT contract with them so they still pay us \$5,000.00 year but in that contract in such time when they turn it over to the state, they will not pay it any more. The property includes 2400+ acres in East Bay. In the Senate and Assembly there is a bill that currently includes three townships coming up to be rewritten which are Kingsbury, Fort Edward, and Argyle. It is an Act to amend the real property tax law, in relation to taxation of state-owned land. Currently the state-owned land located in the Town and Village are assessed by our assessor. They state makes the decision on what they are going to pay. What these two bills do will be when the nature Conservancy turns that property over to the state that property will be assessed at tax fully due to the assessment not what the state wants to give us. It protects us and we should gain substantially on that when it happens. After speaking with Betty Little's Office in the Senate and Dan Stec's Office in the Assembly, since the bill is still in committee our chances of having Whitehall added to the bill are very good. If the bill goes thru starting on 2021 calendar year amount of taxes paid 10%, 2022 15%, 2023 20%, and year 2025 and there after 30% if we do not get on the bill.

NYCLASS as of week ago, we were drawing 1.52%. Literature was put in everyone mail box pertaining the current rates Community Bank was offering which was asked for from the Board members at last month's meeting.

<u>ABSTRACT #2 OF 2020</u>	General Fund V# 20-2/1-37	\$172,753.88
	Highway Fund V# 20-2/1-15	84,497.91
	B Fund V# 20-2/1-2	5,640.00

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

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Hollister, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS 0

Motion to go in to Executive Session made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Hollister, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS 0

Motion to come out of executive session made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Hollister, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS 0

Motion to allow Town Attorney Erica Seller-Ryan to proceed on with settlement for properties located on Blinn Street and Davis Street made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Hollister, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS 0

Motion to Adjourn meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED: **NAYS 4 Rozell, Hollister, Safka, Kingsley**
AYES 0

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Patti L. Gordon
Town Clerk