

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

MARCH 18, 2020

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

Others Present: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; PJ Ferguson, Whitehall Times.

Supervisor opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at @6:55.

Due to the current pandemic from the Coronavirus all open meeting laws have been suspended and the Town Board meeting was closed to the Public for the March 18, 2020 Town Board meeting.

Motion to approve the monthly minutes from February 11, 2020 Compliance Officer workshop and February 19, 2020 regular board meeting made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Heritage Report – No Report by Carol Greenough

Dog Control Report – Written by Nancy Quell

Compliance Officer Report – Verbal by Martin Rocque

On the 26th of February spoke with Maurice Combs concerning the certified mail packet and is moving forward with the process to move the said trailer and would keep the Compliance Officer informed. Spoke with Mr. Combs on March 17,2020 and he would keep him informed as the eviction processes is going on.

- On March 5th I spoke with Russ with Ray Signs for a sign permit.

Town Clerk Report – Written by Patti Gordon

Tax collection is going good so far. Total collected to date is approximately, \$1,914,000.00 with \$2,681.87 in penalties. Penalties are down from last year at this time but there is only a week and half left and we should get approximately another \$1,000.00 from them.

Town Assessors Report – No Report by Bruce Caza

Budget officer Report & Transfers

-Resolution #34 Budget Transfer

Motion to pass Resolution #43 budget transfer made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

NAYS 0

Town Planning Board – No report

Town Highway Report – Verbal by Louis Pratt

-lawn mowers are currently being worked on for the summer season.

-The docks will be going in 1st of April. One of them is in need of repair, it needs to be rewelded but we are not responsible for repair. We will need to contact the Canal Corporation. Lois said will get in touch with someone to repair it.

-Need to look into the who is responsible for the dikes. Will be down to the Rec center with the excavator when it dries up to work on the banks.

-As of now we are ahead on salt and sand budget for the year.

-There is a full tank of fuel.

-Truck Repair: There are several trucks in need of paint and repairs which will cost several thousand dollars.

-2016 Chevy needs to be painted approximately \$1000.00.

-2001 Single axle is in need of approximately \$1500.00 in repairs.

-2009 Needs chain replacement and other repairs approximately \$5,100.00.

-2014 Needs to be painted approximately \$2,000.00.

Usually one truck year gets painted, last year just wasn't possible and this year we were down a man so we were behind. After board discussion they were all in agreement that the work needed to be done and to go ahead and do what is necessary to bring the equipment up to standards. Supervisor Rozell stated that we do really well when we go to resell/trade any equipment because we take such good care of what we have and maintain it.

-Hopefully we will be receiving Paved New York and CHIPS moneys if they are still available.

Recreation Report – No report by Julie Eagan

Recreation center has been closed along with the school closing. Employees there do not receive a lot of money but do make some. Supervisor Rozell asked the boards opinion on what they would like to do with the employees. On April 25th WIC is scheduled to use the rec center, but at this point Pat Rozell from WIC is not sure if they are still going to be able to meet. If they do supervisor told her they rec employees would go in and sanitize the center before they get there and the WIC employees will sanitize when they are finished. Supervisor Rozell went through the last five weeks and average out the hours of the rec employees and asked the board if they want to continue to pay them while it is shut down. Councilperson asked what other Towns are doing and currently some are doing just that. Councilperson Kingsley inquired if the Towns are declaring a State of Emergency and Supervisor Rozell stated they were not at this time but the County has which opens it up to continue to pay the employees even though they are not working.

Supervisor Rozell asked if he could get a motion to continue paying the recreation employees an average of their last five pay period while the Rec Center is closed due to the County State of Emergency.

Motion made to continue to pay the Recreation employees during the County State of Emergency an average pay per week of their last five weeks worked made by Councilperson Kingsley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

Roll Call Vote

Supervisor Rozell	AYE
Councilperson Hollister	AYE
Councilperson Dudley	AYE
Councilperson Safka	AYE
Councilperson Kingsley	AYE
<u>ADOPTED:</u>	5 AYES
	0 NAYS

-Supervisor Rozell stated the State of Emergency for the County opens up a lot of things for instance. The WHS Superintendent contacted him for his backing for declaring a State of Emergency for the County so they would be able to receive State Aid. At that point in the time the County could not recognized just the

school to open up the money for the state and federal government to come in. It was passed Monday afternoon for the County to declare a State of Emergency.

- At the County level they are required to have extra secretaries come into public health to answer the phones. They are per diem help. -There is a line item of expenses set up for the COVID 19 for expenses to reimburse the County by the State. Also, at this time, the County workforce has had its work force cut down to 50%. At this point the highway department is considered the least needed at the County. The County DPW workers did not get laid off, they are still receiving full pay but have been sent home at this time.

- The Village has also cut their workforce down 50% and are paying their employees even though they have been sent home. I have been discussing this with Louis Pratt, Highway Superintendent, since Sunday. We have a small crew and Louis said he has enough work to keep them separated by themselves. He feels it would be more productive to just keep them working at this point. His men are in agreement and don't want to go home at this time. After discussing the matter in much detail, the Board had decided to leave it up to Louis Pratt, Highway Superintendent's discretion.

-Supervisor Rozell brought up the Recreation Center employees if this continues for a long period of time that maybe they could have two people go in at a time and maintain the grounds, moving and weed wacking. It will be something that will have to be discussed at a later time if needed.

-This letter from the County states measures currently implemented: a creation of The Virus Management Team consists of the Public Health, Public safety, County attorney, County Administrator and Chairman of the Board. All non-essential meetings, internal and external have been cancelled. The Municipal center has been closed to the general public, and members of the public have been instructed to make appointments prior to visiting the Municipal center to conduct business. Each department has been instructed to send all non-essential employees home immediately. Visitation at the County Jail has been suspended and events and classes and other gatherings coordinated by the County have been cancelled. IT equipment is being provided for employees to work remotely from home. Policies have been enacted by the Board of Supervisors providing increased flexibility for department heads and administrators to limit interpersonal contact by allowing critical work to be accomplished.

-Supervisor Rozell stated he has been working with the Village and that we have already implemented these here. The Court is also closed for 45 days. The Judge

and clerk will still have to be in for arraignments but other than that the court is closed which was mandated from the state.

Supervisor Rozell asked if there were any park requests before April 19th and asked the Board to make a motion to close the Park to gatherings until further notice.

Motion made by to Close the Park until further notice for any outside usage by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

-NYCLASS report: Percentage rate has increased from February until this Monday from 1.48% to 1.53%. We have drawn out a total of \$605,000.00 and left \$200,000. The reason for the with drawl was in case something happened with the stock market we wouldn't have been able to get the money. January to February interest earned is \$1,988.48.

Motion to allow Darren Downs to use the Park on August 22, 2020 between the hours of 1pm and 5pm for a Wedding made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Motion to accept monthly reports made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

PILOT update: The current figures are incorrect and they will be recalculated by the attorney for the solar company. The error is in our favor.

Cemetery bids need to go out for Sciota Cemetery. This year it will be advertise for 12 mowings for the year. Last year it was late and we only advertised for 7. The add will run for one week and be opened at the April Monthly Board Meeting.

ABSTRACT #3 OF 2020

General Fund V# 20-3/1-23 \$ 9,238.52

Highway Fund V# 20-3/1-11 \$ 5,071.45

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

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

Motion to go into executive session made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Motion to come out of executive sessions with no decisions made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:05pm made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Patti L. Gordon
Town Clerk