

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

**August 19, 2020**

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

**Others Present:** Patti Gordon; Town Clerk; Erica Seller-Ryan, Town Attorney, Martin Rocque, Compliance Officer; Jay Mullen, Whitehall Times; Matthew Saari, Whitehall Times; Paul Thompson, Hillary Rozell, Everett Mattison, Vicky Mattison, Thomas Trepanier, JoAnna N.

**Public Comments:**

Paul Thompson inquiring about holding the Sasquatch Festival in the Park. He stated he will be adhering to social distancing guidelines. Supervisor Rozell stated that as a municipality now through the state we are restricted to 50 people per gathering. Councilperson Safka suggested breaking the event up into several smaller venues so the gathering size would be more acceptable. Supervisor Rozell stated again as a municipality we cannot do over 50 people.

Hillary Rozell would like to present an idea to the Town Board to open some roads in the Town of Whitehall and possible village with proper signage and proper laws and possible charge yearly fees and membership fees for ATVs/UTVs. Supervisor Rozell asked if she knew the logistics of how it is done in New Hampshire, she did not know specifics. However, Hartford currently allows such a club and Supervisor Rozell stated he would contact Hartford Supervisor to see how it is done there. She did state you follow the rules of the road, stop at stop signs and light, speed limits, helmets and the vehicles are registered and insured. Supervisor Rozell said he would check on seeing what roads could be opened up

and if there are trails in the area that could be connected as well. Ms. Rozell said she would be willing to organize a club in the area as well.

Thomas Trepanier owns the building where Mattison Sport is located and the house behind it. He is concerned about what has been happening at the "Whitehall Studios" formerly the Budget Inn. Within the last month there has been several problems at that motel that have disturbed his tenants and one tenant is moving out because she is afraid. Then, there is the meth lab problem which was an extreme danger. There has been many issues that have been addressed however and he would like to thank the Board and Martin Rocque. He would like to know if the law is being enforced. Supervisor stated at this time we need to go to the state troopers to get the information. The law is easy to enforce it's the information we need to get to enforce it. The process is you need to go to Granville and ask for a monthly docket, that goes through Albany before we can get it. If we wanted just that information it would need to be foiled. This process will need to be done for two agencies, the State Police and Washington Sheriff's Office. Everett Mattison stated the law has been in place months ago and it has been since then, things have gotten out of control and its not fair that he will be getting away everything up until now. The law does not refer to him until he bought the property stated Supervisor Rozell. In the first couple months there hasn't been enough to get but, there is now. Supervisor stated we will take the necessary steps to move forward. As far as the occupancy issue, Town Attorney Erica Seller-Ryan stated that part of what is compounding this is if he turned it into apartments there is a moratorium on evictions right now. He can not even get them out at this time. Supervisor Rozell stated through the court system he evicted two or three tenants already, even with the state law. Town Attorney Erica Seller-Ryan stated there is more than enough to start a local or supreme court action against him because of the point and the local law. Supervisor Rozell is working with the County right now with what is taken place, he has had code enforcement there as well.

Mr. Trepanier asked how we go forward with the nuisance law. Supervisor Rozell stated again we need to go to the NYS Trooper and Sheriff to get the information. Attorney Seller-Ryan said she would take the steps to get the information

**Motion** made to proceed with the Nuisance Law action against Whitehall Studios made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

**NAYS 0**

Attorney Seller-Ryan recommends going straight to Supreme Court instead of Local court because local court is so backed up because of COVID. Supreme Court is also backed up but we could go to the top and get an injunction if we needed one. Town court has limited jurisdiction so all they can do is fine but if you want to do an injunction or have the CO removed you have to go to Supreme Court

**Motion** to approve the monthly minutes from July 15, 2020 made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

**NAYS 0**

**Heritage Report** by Carol Greenough – No Report

Museum is closed due to COVID

**Recreation Report** by Julie Eagan – No Report

The recreation center is open according to Facebook. The building is only open for bathrooms, vending machines, bottle dispenser and toys can be signed out and will be cleaned when returned. It will be cleaned on a nightly basis.

**Dog Control Report** by Nancy Quell – No Report

Received letter from NYS Ag. & Markets for Municipal Shelter Inspection Report rated "Satisfactory".

**Town Compliance Report** by Martin Rocque – Verbal

Nothing to report at this time.

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

**Town Assessor Report** by Bruce Caza – No Report

**Town Supervisors Report** by John Rozell – Verbal

-I spoke with Rocco Losavio regarding Union business. Will be setting up a meeting in the near future.

-Bruce Cranston contacted the Town regarding a new phone system.

-The Canal opened as well as the pavilion and it will be cleaned every morning.

-There has been some stones removed in the park around the bbq area from vandals. The camera was off at the time but has since been turned back on.

-Will attend a board meeting for the county to discuss how SUNY Adirondack wants a 2% increase which translates into \$30,000.00 from the County.

Supervisor Rozell asked the Board if they backed him voting no on the increase and they were all in favor of his decision.

### **Resolution #40**

**Motion** to accept Resolution #40 Exemption to Matters of Local Concern from County Planning Agency Review Agreement made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

**NAYS 0**

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

**Motion** made to accept the Lake Champlain pre-buy Option one for \$1.20 per gallon for 1725 gallons of propane for a total of \$2070.00 for the year by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

**NAYS 0**

### **Resolution #39 Budget Transfer for 2020**

**Motion** to pass budget transfer #39 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 Resolution Book.

**Town Planning Board** by Gregg Chappell – Written

Highway Report by Louis D. Pratt II – Verbal

-Town of Whitehall Highway Garage Stormwater Control Project Grant for \$15,000 is in process.

-Currently running an ad for applications.

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

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

**NAYS 0**

**Motion** made to continue with Potentia Management for the next two years as our energy supplier made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

**NAYS 0**

Discussed the purchasing of new tables and chair for the meeting with the DASNY Grant funds.

**Motion** to allow Councilperson Safka to pick out the new table and chairs for the meeting room with the DASNY Grant Funds made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley

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

NAYS 0

Judge Putorti would like to have a bailiff for court proceedings for the next few months for D.A. days due to the back up from COVID. He would like to split the cost with the Village either 50/50 or 60/40. Currently he stated the Village is covering the cost of the bailiff at this time. The cost would be approximately \$20.00 to \$21.00 an hour, six hours a month. Supervisor Rozell suggested talking to the Mayor and to the Police Chief concerning the matter.

**Motion** to agree to pay half the cost for a bailiff made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

NAYS 1 Rozell

<b><u>ABSTRACT #8 of 2020</u></b>	General Fund V# 20-8/1-24	\$9,373.45
	Highway Fund V# 20-8/1-9	\$24,556.26

**Motion** made to approve the monthly vouchers made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

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

NAYS 0

### **Executive Session**

**Motion** to adjourn meeting at 8:55pm made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

NAYS 0

**Adjourned**

**Respectfully Submitted**

Patti Gordon  
Town Clerk

