

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

**JANUARY 20,2021**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Town Attorney Erica Seller-Ryan; Julie Eagan, Rec Leader; Jay Mullin, Whitehall Times.

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

**Public Comments:** No Public Comments.

**Motion** to approve the monthly minutes from December 16, 2020 Town Board Meeting and the January 2, 2021 Organizational Meeting minutes made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

**Heritage Report** by Carol Greenough- Written Annual Finance Report

**Recreation Report** by Julie Eagan – Verbal

-Michael Vandenburg put up a new flag pole at the Rec Center for his Eagle Scout community service project.

-There has been very low attendance perhaps due to the weather and the fact that so many families have had to quarantine for possible COVID exposure.

-Bruce has been working on winterizing the building. He has also replaced the broken floor tiles and we are working on cleaning out the storage areas.

-AA has been meeting on the Senior side of the building again.

Supervisor Rozell asked about the dumpster usage. Rec Leader Eagan stated it is low at this time of year. Typically, during sport season, it is a lot more. Supervisor Rozell stated the rates from our current carrier have gone up and may be changing the collection schedule or changing companies altogether to get a better rate. Supervisor Rozell also asked about possibly closing the Rec Center due to lack of attendance. Rec Leader Eagan stated they have cut back to one person working instead of two at this time. Most of all the jobs that needed to be done are caught up on the inside and there is not anything else that can be done on the outside.

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

**Town Compliance Officer Report** by Martin Rocque – No Report

Compliance Officer asked the Town Board if they had any complaints or concerns.

-Supervisor Rozell stated that he had a couple complaints brought to him about property on Route 4 (the old dump). This property is currently condemned. Councilperson Safka stated that the few laws

that the Town has, the current owners have broken everyone of them. There are cars, mobile homes, and junk located on the property. Councilperson Safka asked what could be done, Supervisor Rozell stated that he needed to look into the situation further at the County. Attorney Seller-Ryan stated that the Junk Law is against the owner or operator of the property; you can take them to court to order them to clean it up. The recourse is limited however. If they don't show up you can get a court order that the town is going to clean it up, but is that something the Town would be willing to take on the attorney asked. Attorney Seller-Ryan suggested if the town does clean it up, they should hire an outside contractor to do the work and bill the owner for the clean-up. Due to the fact the property is condemned Supervisor does not want to put lien on it for clean-up and have to take the property back. Supervisor Rozell stated that he would look into other alternatives and attorney Seller-Ryan suggested contacting Washington County Code Enforcement for other alternatives as well.

The second property in question, is currently in litigation. The current owners appear to living in a recreation vehicle and a camper on the property. Attorney Seller-Ryan stated she would send a letter to the Judge to have them put it back on through the court.

**Motion** to direct Attorney Erika Seller-Ryan to contact the court system concerning "Miss Kitty's" made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

In reference to the first property discussed, Councilperson Safka asked what other alternatives we had. She mentioned possibly contacting the New York State sales tax because most likely they were not paying/collecting sales tax on the items are being sold; Attorney Seller-Ryan said to start there. Supervisor Rozell stated he would contact the County and the County Attorney Wickes to discuss the matter and Town Attorney Seller-Ryan said would join in on the call to see what can be done as well.

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

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

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

-There are two accounts for electric that are currently with Engie, all other accounts are with Constellation. American Power and Gas has contacted me about switching to them. I have agreed to switch the two smaller until the rate increased then we will be switching over to constellation for all the accounts.

- I have been in contact with Senator Stec's office pertaining to the Senate and Assembly bill to put the Nature Conservancy property on it. If New York State purchases it, it will enable us to tax the property. Senator's Stec's office has required some information on this, which was provided so we will have to wait and see where it goes from here.

-At the county level, the County Administrator has left and gone to be a bigger county. We have hired the current head of personnel to replace him. We now have an opening in personnel. Also, Patti Hunt, the Public Health Nurse will retire at the end of the month after thirty years of service.

**Budget Officers Report** by Joel Carpenter

**Resolution #31 Budget Transfer**

**Motion** to pass budget transfer #31 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

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

**Town Planning Board Report** by Gregg Chappell - Written

**Town Highway Report** by Louis D. Pratt II – Written

-Grant for the culvert on Hollister Road Extension has been approved for next summer.

The wood stove at the garage is just about burnt up. We can get by this year but will need to do something for next year, it is much more efficient to use the wood stove.

-284 Agreement for general repairs which gives Highway Superintendent the right to spend \$154,515.67 for 35.29 miles of town highways. When the CHIPS money comes in, we will have to amend it.

**Motion** to approve the 284 agreement made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**John Rozell, Supervisor** AYE

**David Hollister, Councilperson** AYE

**Christopher Dudley, Councilperson** AYE

**Stephanie Safka, Councilperson** AYE

**Timothy Kingsley, Councilperson** AYE

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

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

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

**In-coming Correspondence**

Town Clerk read a Thank You letter to the Town Board from the Whitehall Volunteer Fire Department for their show of support for James Brooks. The letter is included in the minutes.

**Business to discuss**

There is some small repair work that needs to be done around the building.

**Abstract #13 of 2020** General Fund V# 1/20 \$6,046.42  
Highway Fund V# 1/9 \$6,583.99

**Abstract #1 2021** General Fund V#1/11 \$3,090.82

**Motion** to approve the monthly vouchers for Abstract #13 of 2020 and Abstract #1 Of 2021 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

**Motion** to go into executive session for contract negotiations made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

**Motion** to come out of executive session made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

**NAYS 9**

No action was required from executive session.

**Motion** to adjourn the Town Board meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

**Adjourned**  
**Respectfully Submitted**

**Patti Gordon**  
**Town Clerk**