

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGUALR MEETING
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887**

MARCH 17, 2021

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Erica Seller-Ryan, Town Attorney; Louis D. Pratt II, Highway Superintendent; Caton Deuso, 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 the February 17th Town Board meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Town Heritage Report by Carol Greenough – No Report

Town Recreation Report by Julie Eagan – No Report

Town Dog Control Report by Nancy Quell – No Report

Town Compliance Report by Martin Rocque – No Report

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written Report

Town Assessor Report by Bruce Caza – No Report

Town Supervisors Report by John Rozell – Verbal

The Town of Whitehall has completed a Public Employer Health Emergency Plan for the Town of Whitehall in accordance with NYS legislation S8617B/A10832. Each town board member has been given a copy of the plan in their mailbox. Supervisor Rozell asked the Board Members if they had any questions before moving forward.

Motion to pass Public Health Emergency Plan for the Town of Whitehall made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Supervisor stated that the Town Assessor plans on being done on June 30, 2021. Supervisor Rozell stated that has the necessary paperwork to proceed on with the County taking over the

position or we can discuss what the next step is and asked the Board what they would like to do. Councilperson Safka is not comfortable with the County taking over. She is not satisfied with the fact they took over the compliance area and we have had nothing but problems in that area. Supervisor Rozell explained even though they are getting paid by Washington County, they are doing the job we tell them to do not the County. They will be doing assessing as well as information collection which has not been getting done. The new assessor will be here two days a week. Supervisor Rozell stated either way, we have get started because we need forty-five-day period for a permissive referendum. Councilperson Dudley asked if Bruce was the assessor for the village as well and what if any input would the Village have on the decision. Attorney Seller-Ryan stated that the Village had passed a local law back in the 1980's giving up the right so they are bound by that agreement to go with whatever the Town decides. Councilperson Dudley asked about the other towns currently using the County and if it was going well. Supervisor Rozell stated there are and some of the Towns have actually hired the assessor. We do not get to pick who comes from the County to fill the position but if we are not satisfied with them, we will inform the County of this. Councilperson Safka does not feel someone from the County will be representing Whitehall appropriately. Councilperson Hollister feels we should move forward with County. Councilperson Dudley suggested that we go forward in both directions at once and see if somebody applies for the position at the same time that we are proceeding with the County. Town Attorney Seller-Ryan suggests if we go with the County something more substantial needs to be worked out. The Town needs to ask the County how many special properties do they think would need to be contracted out as far as getting them assessed if any, and who has ultimate decision. Also, the Town should include how they are going to handle issues that relate to the Town of Whitehall, for example, a conflict of interest, who would take over. Who has the power the Town or the County to decide. Supervisor Rozell did state with the last three solar pilots that were not calculated property at the County level and were corrected in office. He also said that someone from Real Property would come up to talk with the Board and answer any questions they may have.

Supervisor Rozell introduced Resolution # 33 authorizing the Town of Whitehall to negotiate an agreement with Washington County for appraisal services, exemption services and assessment services

Motion to accept Resolution #33 to Authorize the Town of Whitehall to negotiate an agreement with Washington County for appraisal services, exemption services and assessment services made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

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

Motion made to publish in the local newspaper a request of designation of interest and potential position of Town Assessor for the Town of Whitehall similar to what was published for this position in the past made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

Town Supervisors Report

There is money coming in from the Federal Government. The County will be getting \$11,870,000.00. The Town and Village of Whitehall will be receiving \$430,000.00. There is a list of how the money is supposed to be spent.

Town Budget Officers Report by Joel Carpenter – Written

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D Pratt II – Written

-Supervisor Rozell stated that “SLIC” approached Superintendent Louis Pratt pertaining to broadband installation. He also mentioned that there will be no franchise agreement necessary due to the fact that they do not transmit television access only internet and phone service. They will not be touching any soil on town roads. They will be coming up Route 4, coming down Route 22, going through the Village of Whitehall on Route 4, going out Route 12, cutting across Route 21 to get back on Route 4. Supervisor Rozell told the SLIC representative Kevin Lynch, if there was going to be any digging what so ever they will need to contact Highway Superintendent Pratt before any ground is to be broken.

-C.H.I.P.S.: Hoping to get the 20% back that was taken last year and possibly an increase this year.

-The Town is getting the \$50,000.00 grant for Hollister Road Extension; we will be paving both sides of the railroad track and Lamphere Lane as well. We will also be doing Upper Turnpike (County Route 12) from the bridge up to Dick Hyatt Road.

Motion to approve the Monthly Reports made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Business to Discuss

An ad will go into the Whitehall Times for bid to mow Sciota Cemetery and will be opened at the April 21, 2021 Town Board meeting.

New court clerk appointment Debora Loomis. She is currently the court clerk in Granville and is completely certified with the NYS Unified Court System.

Motion to appoint Debora Loomis as the new court clerk at the current wage of \$12.50 an hour, as the previous court clerk made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Required Discrimination and Sexual Harassment training will be on April 13th @ 10:30 am in the court room.

The Board discussed purchasing a new vacuum cleaner for the Town building. Supervisor Rozell will look into the matter.

Highway Fund V# 1/14 \$33,771.18

Motion to approve the monthly vouchers for Abstract #3 of 2021 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Motion to into executive session for Union contract negotiations made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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 Dudley.

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

Motion to adjourn the Town Board meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

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

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk

