

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
WHITEHALL, NY 12887
7:00PM**

SEPTEMBER 15, 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; Erica Seller-Ryan, Attorney; Louis D. Pratt II Superintendent of Highways; Martin Rocque, Compliance Officer; Genevieve Hollis, Rec Leader; Garbriel Hurlburt, Louis Pratt, SADD; Blaker Bird, Amy Michaud, Tyler Michaud, Penny Hollister

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Amy Michaud approached the Town Board about her son Tyler Michaud not being hired by the Town to work at the Recreation Center. She stated that Supervisor Rozell said to her that after he interviewed for the position that he told her and that he would try to find him 10 to 15 hours a week if he could after he aged out of L.E.A.P. at age 21. She also stated that he told her that once Tyler turned 21, they would meet with the Board and discuss it, which she does not believe happened. Ms. Michaud called Supervisor Rozell to see what the status of Tyler's employment Supervisor Rozell informed her that the board "shot him down" and that Tyler was not going to be hired. She said "Supervisor Rozell stated that if Tyler were to get pushed down and hit his head that would become a liability" and she asked Supervisor Rozell if that was right, Supervisor Rozell said that that was correct but she was missing one part that we discussed that Tyler would have to work with somebody and Ms. Michaud questioned why he would have to work with somebody. Ms. Michaud questioned Supervisor Rozell on Tyler being a liability now then why wasn't he a liability the other times that he worked. She stated him being a liability is against the American Disability Act and that it is against the law and that he has been cleared by all Doctors. Ms. Michaud then stated that the current Recreation Leader brings her own child to work and that should be a liability. She then stated she spoke with another board member who said Tyler did not get the job because he was not the best fit for the job. Ms. Michaud again stated that Supervisor Rozell's response was against law. Supervisor Rozell tried to explain to Ms. Michaud that Tyler has always worked with supervision. Ms. Michaud stated that there is always more than one person working accept, for the last hour. Ms. Michaud accused Supervisor Rozell of lying about meeting with the Board. Supervisor Rozell informed Ms. Michaud that he did meet with Board. He also said the conversation he had had with her, Tyler, and her mother was that he would try to get 10-15 hours a week for Tyler. Ms. Michaud stated Supervisor Rozell said he would find 10-15 hours, not try too. Ms. Michaud also stated that she was not mad that he did not get the job she was mad with Supervisor Rozell for his reply. Supervisor Rozell said then he would accept the blame. Ms. Michaud still believes that the board never met to discuss the matter and Supervisor Rozell stated that the board did meet the week before, which she then stated the board member she spoke with previously did not mention that. Councilperson Dudley spoke up and stated he was the board member Ms. Michaud spoke with and he was the person that said Tyler wasn't the best fit for the job. He stated the meeting they had was not a special meeting about Tyler but a regular meeting and it was discussed in execution session with a lot of other stuff. He did say that Supervisor Rozell did advocate for 10-15 hours a week for Tyler. He also said

he does not know anything about the conversation between Supervisor Rozell and Ms. Michaud. Ms. Michaud said that the Town lawyer will be hearing from the American Disability Act lawyers. Ms. Michaud then asked Councilperson Dudley if the board met again after the interview meeting and Councilperson Dudley said they meet about four times since they interviewed Tyler, there was no exclusive interview about Tyler. Supervisor told Ms. Michaud he is still proud of the way Tyler handled his interview. Ms. Michaud stated that Tyler is having a hell of a time finding a place to work now, its hard for a kid with his disability to find a place to work and he loved that rec center.

Louis Pratt, President and Blake Bird, Vice President of S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) came to the monthly Town Board meeting to ask to the Board to sign their Seatbelt Safety Contract promising to wear their seatbelts in any and all vehicles. All Town Board members signed the contract along with the Town Clerk and Town Attorney.

Motion to approve the monthly minutes from the August 18, 2021 Town Board Meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Town Heritage Report by Carol Greenough – No Report

Town Recreation Report by Genevieve Hollis – Written

Supervisor Rozell stated that the bathrooms have been repaired as well as the Water Fountain (hydration station).

Penny Hollister wanted to let the Board know her son was one of the Coaches for the youth football league and was very impressed on well the rec center looked and how well it was run.

Town Dog Control Report by Nancy Quell – No Report

Town Compliance Officer Report by Martin Rocque

Nothing new to report at this time.

Supervisor Rozell stated that he has received several calls from the trailer park tenants. On Friday September 5th Supervisor Rozell spend 2 ½ hours with two Code Enforcement Officers from Washington County walking the drain ditches and sewer. The sewer does not fall under code which is Public Health. There is a law on the trailer park and one of the things we can actually address is lighting. There are two street lights on the south side and two on the north side. One of the lights on the one of them is out. The other is the garbage, there are refrigerators, stoves and toilets on the property. The County has recorded that as well. These are misdemeanor infractions. We can not make him come to court because he lives out of the County. We can impose fines and if he gets a ticket in our Town then he would be forced to go to court for the outstanding fines. Councilperson Safka asked if any of these issues would fall under the Nuisance Law and Supervisor Rozell stated that it only covers violations and convictions. Attorney Seller-Ryan asked about the Department Health, Supervisor Rozell stated that Code Enforcement is getting in contact with them. Town Compliance Officer Rocque asked if the County was moving forward with this situation or does the Town need too. Supervisor Rozell said that the County would be moving forward.

Supervisor stated that as far as our trailer park ordinance there is required lighting (which one is out) and keeping the lots clean.

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

The County has picked up all the Vital Records. They will be held at the County building until Secure Scan picks them up. I will still access to them it will just a couple days before I can get them.

Tentative Budgets were handed out and placed in everyone's mailbox on 9/15/2021.

I still have not been able to locate the missing Minutes from the 1989 to 2003 and I have also discovered that there are no birth records from 1981 to 2012, they end at 1980 and begin again 2013. Supervisor Rozell and myself went up to the Pavilion basement to look for the records and were unable to locate them. I spoke with a former Town employee and she had no knowledge of where they could be as well.

Town Assessor Report by Roberta Stone

Town Supervisor Report by John Rozell

There will be a vaccination clinic at Whitehall Central School September 30, 2021 from 3:00 to 6:00pm. The Town hired the EFPR Group, CPAs to audit our A.U.D's for the last two years for the American Rescue Plan Act for the revenue loss calculation to see what we could use out of the \$141,000.00 that the Town received for COVID relief. The audit came back that we can use \$130,949.00 that can be put back in the general fund. The Town has already received approximately \$70,000.00 of that amount already. Joel is working on the paperwork for S.A.M. which is where the funds will come from.

I received a phone call from Hudson Headwaters has the paperwork needed to proceed forward with coming to Whitehall with the mobile health unit. There will be sending a new contract that needs to be signed because the original was for two days a week and it will now be one day a week which will be on a Friday. If they have full day which would be 12 patients they will consider adding an additional day.

Town Budget Officer and Transfers by Joel Carpenter – Written

Resolution # 42 Budget Transfer

Motion to approve Resolution #43 budget transfer made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Town Planning Board by Gregg Chappel – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D. Pratt II -Written

Annual inventory list was handed into the Town Board and will be included in the minutes.

An invoice was sent to Washington County for reimbursement for the \$50,000.00 project. That money should be received hopefully by November 2021.

Should be receiving the \$150,000.00 for C.H.I.P.S. any day.

Rec center parking was black topped (repaired).

New truck is at Zwack's and the new box should be ready the 1st part of October.

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

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

Business to Discuss

Boat donations to date are \$407.00.

Motion to reappointment Richard Bruce to the Board of Assessment Review made by Councilperson Kingsley and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Supervisor Rozell stated that there is an empty seat on the Board of Assessment Review and asked the Board if they might know of anyone who would be interested in doing it. There is mandatory training that they must take and it will be in the spring of 2022.

Motion to schedule the budget workshop for September 29, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Whitehall Municipal Center made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Abstract #9 of 2021

General Fund V# 1/19 **\$ 8,629.75**
Highway Fund V# 1/15 **\$15,660.12**

Motion to approve the monthly vouchers for abstract #9 of 2021 made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

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

Motion to go into Executive Session for 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 accept and sign the Union contract and return made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Motion to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 8:25pm made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

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

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk

Internal amendment prior to final approval.