

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

AUGUST 17, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Roberta Stone, Town Assessor; Phil Smith, Bob Parker, Rec Leader, Genevieve Hollis, Jess Hantsbarger, Dana Grant, Beth Reynolds, Mike Decsi, David Rathbun, Caton Deuso, Whitehall Times; John Daly, Darrell Russell, Gregg Knapp.

Supervisor Rozell called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comments: Several members of the community stated they came to hear about the reassessment the Town Board is considering for 2023. Supervisor Rozell stated that we would continue with the Regular meeting agenda and it would be discussed when we reached the Assessor Report.

Motion to approve the monthly minutes from the July 20, 2022 Regular Town Board meeting and the July 28, 2022 Special 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 Genevieve Hollis – Written

Rec Leader Hollis discussed with the Town Board the donation they received for the lunch program and asked if they could continue to use it for snacks after school until it was used up.

Motion to allow the Recreation Center to use the donation for the lunch program for snacks after school made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall – No Report

Town Compliance Report – No Report

Town Clerk Report – Written

-Clerk computer issues have been resolved.

-Reminded Rec Leader Hollis that there is an election on August 23, 2022 so the Rec Center will be closed on 8/22 and 8/23 and can reopen on 8/24 in the afternoon.

Supervisor Rozell discussed with Rec Leader Hollis that Pam Bolton from Out of Box Worship would like to use the Recreation Center on Saturday September 3, 2022 in the afternoon to offer hair cuts and back to school supplies.

Motion made to allow Out of the Box Worship to use the Recreation Center on September 3, 2022 to offer free hair cuts and back to school supplies by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Town Assessor Report by Roberta Stone – Written & Verbal

Supervisor Rozell introduced Resolution #37 for the Town Wide Reassessment and opened it up for discussion. Several questions were asked including if there was time line when it needed to be done. Assessor Stone stated there is no timeline to do it, it can be done at any time. She explained that there are six towns in Washington County that are not at 100% and the closer you are at 100% that the more likely you get grant and funding from New York state and the taxes will be spread out more equally among the property owners. Supervisor Rozell stated that just because your assessment goes up, it does not mean that your taxes will go up and that after discussing this at the County it is something that should be done every ten years. When this was done last in 2007 the current assessor charged the Town over \$11,000.00 on top of her wage. This year, the Assessor has agreed to do it at her current wage with no extra. Now if you go with the current market and have G.A.R. to come in, it could cost the Town upward of \$120,000.00. Another question was is there a standard operating procedure for reassessing. Assessor Stone stated that you cannot just reassess one parcel, that is select reassessment which is illegal. There must be a reason such as a building permit. She explained if a property sells for \$200,000.00 and it is assessed for \$100,000.00 the assessment cannot be raised based on sales price only unless it is done during a revaluation year. There must be a reason such as added inventory that was not there before such as an addition, an extra bathroom, a deck. There are many variables in assessing properties that will be considered.

Motion made to proceed with Resolution #37 Town-Wide Reassessment for the year 2023 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Supervisor Rozell, Aye
Councilperson Hollister, Aye
Councilperson Dudley, Nay
Councilperson Safka, Aye
Councilperson Kingsley, Aye

Motion was adopted and Assessor Stone will proceed the reassessment process.

Town Supervisor Report by John Rozell – Verbal

- Budget season has begun at the County
- There is a work committee for Amish in Washington County
- There was also a work committee meeting for re-doing some of the campus at Washington County
- Currently working on the electrical bills, trying to lock in rates
- Sasquatch has been repaired
- Chamber of Commerce has been working on the back side of the Museum

Motion made to allow the Chamber of Commerce to use the Municipal Building for presenters for the Sasquatch Festival on September 24, 2022 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

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

Town Budget Officer Report and Transfers by Joel Carpenter – Written
Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written
Town Highway Report by Louis Pratt II – Written
-Currently paving Wescott Road
-Hollister Road is not completed as yet.

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

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

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS:

Lake Champlain propane contract. Last year we purchased 1650 gallons for \$1.78 with a total of \$2,937.00. They are currently offering it at \$2.19 gallon for the new contract and the Town has a current credit of \$619.26. Supervisor Rozell will contact Lake Champlain Coal to discuss the new contract and decide how much to purchase.

Motion to allow Supervisor Rozell to decide on how much propane to pre-buy after he discusses it with Lake Champlain Coal Company made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Park/donations from July 16th thru August 16th 2022 total \$196.30.

Motion to schedule the Budget Workshop for Wednesday October 5th, 2022 at 6:00pm made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

ABSTRACT #8 OF 2022

General Fund V/# 1-17	\$ 3,637.37
Highway Fund V/# 1-11	\$38,419.38

Motion to approve the monthly vouchers Abstract #8 of 2022 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

David Rathbun, President of the Youth League came to ask for direction about the parent who would like to volunteer at the Recreation Center that was previously charged with a crime against a minor but at this time has not been convicted. Supervisor Rozell stated that he needs to speak with the Town Attorney, who is unfortunately not present at the meeting. Once he speaks with the attorney he will contact Mr. Rathbun on how to proceed.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:50 regarding personnel issues made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

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

Motion to come out of executive session at 9:45pm with no action taken 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 9:55 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk