

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL
PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023 TOWN BUDGET &
2023 FIRE CONTRACT AND REGULAR MEETING
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY
7:00PM**

OCTOBER 19, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Hollister, Deputy Supervisor/Councilman
Christoher Dudley, Councilperson
Stephanie Safka, Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley, Councilperson
ABSENT: John Rozell, Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Erika Seller-Ryan, Town Attorney; Louis Pratt II, Highway Superintendent; Kathy Hall, Dog Control Officer; Genny Hollis, Rec Leader; Brandon Sparks, Skenesborough EMS Captain; Caton Deuso, Whitehall Times.

Deputy Supervisor David Hollister called the Public Hearing on the 2023 Town Budget & Fire Contract to order at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Deputy Supervisor asked if there where any comments on the proposed budget, he asked a second time and Brandon Sparks, Capt. Of the Skenesborough EMS asked to speak. He informed the Board that the EMS is understaff due to a lack of volunteers which has made them have to have paid staff. Due to this situation, they are paying out more than what is coming in. Mr. Sparks stated that if it continues this way, he fears that they may have to dissolve in 2024. He gave an example that in 2021 they had an income of \$197,000.00 and of that \$144,000.00 was for paid wages only; that does not include operating expenses to maintain the building or medical supplies for the ambulances. It was also discussed that the Town does not currently have a contract with the Skenesborough EMS and has not for some time. The reasoning was because several years ago the Town asked them for their financials and they would not provide them. Attorney Seller-Ryan stated that the Town has a fiduciary obligation and that they are a service well within the public bid but they have to make sure any entity they give money too are using it appropriately that is where the financials come into play. Attorney Seller-Ryan asked if they received any of the COVID relief funds and Capt. Sparks said that they did not. They did make \$8,000.00 from their coin drop this year which is the most they have made in a long time but overall, the total donations they used to receive is way down. Attorney Seller-Ryan told Capt. Sparks if they could provide the Town with their balance sheets & taxes from the last two years, financial policies, bi-laws that would be a good start. Deputy Supervisor stated the Town Board will have to work on starting a new budget line for 2023 budget for the EMS but does not know if there will be anything we can do this year.

Deputy Supervisor Hollister asked one more time if there were any more comments. There were no more comments.

MOTION to approve the 2023 Town Budget and Fire Contract made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley
 NAYS **0**

MOTION to close the Public Hearing on the 2023 Town Budget at 7:34pm made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley
 NAYS **0**

Deputy Supervisor Hollister opened the regular Town Board meeting at 7:34pm. There were no public comments.

MOTION to approval the monthly minutes from the 21st, 2022 regular Town Board meeting and the October 5th, 2022 Budget Workshop made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley
 NAYS **0**

ABSTRACT #10 OF 2022

General Fund V/1-24 \$ 10,434.50
Highway Fund V/1-11 \$ 5,846.86

MOTION to approve the monthly vouchers Abstract #10 of 2022 made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley
 NAYS **0**

Town Heritage Report by Carol Greenough – No Report

Town Recreation Report by Genevieve Hollis – Verbal

-Will be passing out candy for Halloween from 4:30-5:30 will be closing at 6:00pm.

-Highway Superintendent Louis Pratt II did an inspection with NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation of the Recreation Center property. Sometime between 1985-1987 the Town received a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and are periodically inspected to make sure that they are maintained and continued to be used for outdoor recreation. The only issue was that they could not locate a mandatory sign. NYS P, R, & HP will be emailing the Town with the correction signage information so it can be ordered and hung.

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall – Verbal

-Whitehall is very active, she is here almost every day.

-Currently working with McKinney's to get their dogs licensed, they have had the rabies shots and should be in in the next week or so to get them licensed.

-There was a dog bite reported on Saunders Street, had to have the police assist in the matter. Gave them a week to have the licensed and they have not been as of yet.

-Another compliant on Saunders Street with loose pit bulls.

-Two dead dogs were reported on Baker Road.

-She believes there are several people breeding pit bulls in Town.

Town Compliance Officer Report by Martin Rocque – Verbal

-Nothing to report at this time.

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

Town Assessor Report by Roberta Stone – Written
Town Supervisors Report by John Rozell – No Report
Town Budget Officers Report by Joel Carpenter - Written
Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written
Town Highway Report by Louis Pratt II – Written

- Will be submitting CHIPS paperwork to get reimbursement.
- Power is off on the wall, water was already off. The water valves will need to be repaired before the water is turned back on in the spring.
- Trees have been trimmed in the park area around the museum, caboose and the boat.
- Would like to discuss the bonuses at the next board meeting.

MOTION to approve the monthly reports made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** **Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS

Road use agreement for Ryder Road for the Champlain Power Express Project.

MOTION to allow Town Supervisor Rozell to sign the road use agreement for Ryder Road after attorney review has been completed made by Councilperson Kingsley and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** **Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

MOTION to purchase food for the election workers for the November 8, 2022 election made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** **Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

Park/Dock donations Sept. 20th thru Oct. 13th 2022 was \$7.00. Total for 2022 was \$527.30, total electric charges were \$374.76 for 2022.

Highway Superintendent handed his inventory for 2022 for the Highway Department over to the Town Clerk to be put on file.

MOTION to go into Executive Session at 8:30pm for personnel reasons made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** **Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

MOTION to come out of Executive Session with no action taken at 9:14 made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Deputy Supervisor Hollister.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** **Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

MOTION to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 9:20pm made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley
 NAYS **0**

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk