

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR MEETING
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

January 18, 2017

PRESENT: George Armstrong – Supervisor
John Rozell-Councilperson
Stephanie Safka – Councilperson
David Hollister-Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley-Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Highway Superintendent, Louis D. Pratt II; Compliance Officer, Vernon Scribner; Whitehall Times Reporter, Donna Frischknecht; Deputy Town Clerk, Elaine Jones, Catherine Tobin, and John Millett Jr.

Supervisor opened up meeting with Pledge of Allegiance to Flag and prayer.

Motion to accept the prior minutes of December 21, 2016, made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Heritage Report- no written report by Carol Greenough
Carol still recovering from her fall in front of the building.

Rec. Report-no report by Julie Eagan
Supervisor met with her earlier in the day and everything is going well.

Dog Control Report-written report by Nancy Quell

Compliance Officer Report-verbal report by Vernon Scribner
Nothing to report

Town Clerk Report -written report by Julie Millett, collecting taxes this month and turned over to Supervisor \$331, 259.14 so far to cover the 2017 budget. Expecting within the next week to receive enough to cover the 2017 budget.

Town Assessor Report- written report by Bruce Caza

Town Supervisor Report – written report by George Armstrong
Supervisor stated that we will be getting around \$4,000 for the cameras over at the pavilion for the work Saratoga Surveillance will be doing so the police can now monitor the pavilion from their cars. Councilperson Rozell questioned when they had talked about spending more money to have the police being able to look at the cameras. Supervisor stated that he had that request

in for a year for the grant money to Dan Stec. Councilperson Safka also questioned it. She thought we had put it out to bid so she thought this new work should have been put out to bid. Supervisor had been working with the mayor on this and understanding what the police would need done to be able to look at the cameras from their car. Supervisor stated that it is one of those deals where you have to spend the money first before you get the grant money. Supervisor stated that we could have gone out to four or five places, but I was working with the mayor on what he felt and the village already has Saratoga Surveillance so they went with them. Councilperson Rozell wanted to know when we had talked to them because he remembers that when the first cameras were installed we were not going to tie them in to the police because it was going to cost money every month through the internet. Councilperson Safka thought we had agreed that we would just go to the cameras in the pavilion and review the tape if we had vandalism. Councilperson Safka feels that the Supervisor bypassed the Board by doing this. Councilperson Safka stated that it is not about the money so much as it is about the procedure and she feels that the Board was not consulted before this happened. Councilperson Safka stated that she also feels that she has been left out of meetings such as the park committee meetings. Councilperson Rozell also commented that he was told that the Canal Corp. couldn't discuss anything with them and that it had to go through the Supervisor. Councilperson Safka stated that this surprised all of us because this is the first we have heard of this spending the \$4,000 grant money on tying in the cameras. Councilperson Rozell and Councilperson Safka both feel that the \$4,000 grant money was supposed to go toward paying for the first work that was done with the cameras. Supervisor takes full responsibility for any misunderstanding or lack of communications on the cameras.

The grant money from Betty Little's office looks promising for the \$82,000, but we will not know until the Fall. We have got to do the fence at the Rec. Center. Councilperson Safka has some fencing that has never been used. Louie also has some fence at the town garage that was up at the playground. Councilperson Kingsley feels that when you piece stuff together it doesn't work out. The Board will have to be put in the paper for a sealed bid. We will need prevailing wage rates and there are forms that need to be signed by the companies that submit bids. This fence needs to be done this year. The budget officer will need to take the money out of fund balance until we are reimbursed. Someone will need to draw up spec sheets as to what you want done. The Highway crew will take the old fence out, but not put the new fence in. The brush will need to be cut out of there. If it is over \$20,000 it will have to be put out for sealed bids.

LED Lighting under Integra proposal that the Board talked about at the last meeting. Councilperson Safka and Councilperson Rozell both agree that the Town should just replace lights as they blow. Louie agrees that we should just replace as we go.

Motion to table the LED lighting proposal made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
Nays 0

Planning Board Report- written report by Gregg Chappell

Budget Officer Report & Budget Transfers – written report by Joel Carpenter

Resolution # 30 & 31 Budget Transfers

Motion to approve budget transfers made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Resolution will be filed with the minutes and in the Resolution Book.

Town Highway Report- verbal report by Louis D. Pratt II

Highway monthly reports have been submitted to the Board for their review.

Motion made to accept reports by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Tractor Quotes

Capital Tractor **\$30, 633.10**

Salem Farm Supply **\$31, 934.00**

This is with a trade-in of old tractor. Both have given us the option of selling the old tractor on our own until time of delivery. We can put old tractor on Auction’s International to see what we can get for it. It is up to the Board. Both of these companies have good service.

Motion to go with Capital Tractor made by Supervisor Armstrong and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Louie will put the old tractor on Auction’s International and see what we can get. This will not cost us anything to do this. We might have one guy interested and I will let you know next meeting.

We have a letter from Whitehall School Superintendent Patrick Dee on the condition of the county roads for winter. Supervisor will hand over to our attorney for review.

Letter will be filed with the minutes.

Annual Historian Report by Carol Senecal filed with the minutes.

Working on trails from Hudson Falls to Fort Ann to Whitehall. Asking 18 towns for \$1,000 per town to match a grant, but Board refused. Landowners along trail are not happy. Park & Trails Group will be having a separate meeting and have the landowners talk to them and ask them what their concerns are.

Supervisor would like permission to buy a new vacuum cleaner.

Motion to purchase a vacuum cleaner for the Town made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Janet Kennedy with Lakes to Locks working with Canal Corp. on ways to promote Whitehall on a kiosk for the pavilion and she is asking for a donation from the Town.

Motion to donate \$500 to Lakes to Locks by Supervisor Armstrong and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

All Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

Motion to pay the monthly vouchers made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Budget Officer should have for next meeting how much the Town has spent and how much is left to go back into the fund balance for 2016.

Motion to approve the 2017 Fire Contract for \$130,034.51 made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Motion to close the meeting made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Hollister, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Adjourned @ 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Millett
Town Clerk