

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR MEETING 7 PM
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

July 19, 2017

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Highway Superintendent, Louis D. Pratt II; Town Attorney, Erika Sellar-Ryan; Whitehall Times Reporter, Matt Saari; Heritage Director, Carol Greenough; Compliance Officer, Vernon Scribner, Bethe Reynolds.

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

Motion to approve prior minutes of June 1, 21 & 23, 2017 made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Heritage Report- verbal report by Carol Greenough

We had a Naval Retirement Ceremony last Saturday for someone at their request.

We had music in the amphitheater for the festival and someone fell on the steps. The lighting was very poor in that area. The steps adjacent to the picnic shelter on the right- hand side need to be checked out. Carol will call the Canal Corp. if they like to have them be aware of it. Bethe Reynolds also feels that it was very bad lighting for the movies last year.

Festival had a very good turnout this year.

Rec. Report-no report by Julie Eagan

New help has been hired for the Rec. Center.

Motion to approve Jason Ashline effective 6/14/17, Janice Persons effective 6/29/17 and Jessica Sharpe at \$9.70/hr. for Rec. Center made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Dog Control Report- no report by Nancy Quell

Compliance Officer Report- verbal report by Vernon Scribner

Leon Wilbur has contacted the Supervisor and Vernon Scribner on the County Route 9 property. He wants a letter stating that he has until November 1, 2017 to clean up the property. Vernon and George will go out to look at the property around July 20, 2017 to see how much has been cleared up. They are also going to check on the one on Route 4. We also had a call from a property owner County Route 9 that wants to stay in their camper until their house is done on the property. Vernon would like to go out with George and meet with her. Attorney stated that she has to follow the mobile home/trailer camper law in place. Attorney stated that they need to fill out application and pay fee and can't exceed 18 months if going to be temporary. They might not be able to meet the thresholds of the solid waste requirements. Vernon also signed a building permit for Grant Burns out on Beckett Road. He also wants the Board to know that he is putting up a storage garage and it doesn't need a permit because it is ag. related. His grandson is taking over his syrup business and they need the new building for storage. He is also turning over about an acre of land to Stacey Trevellyan that borders his property that has her leach field on it. The Planning Board is aware of it and will do a property line adjustment for it.

John Rozell would also like everyone to know that he applied for a building permit for property out on County Route 12 for an addition on a barn and the county returned his check and said he didn't need to do a permit because ag. related.

Councilperson Rozell would like to make a motion to send a letter to Leon Wilbur giving him the end of November 2017 to get his junk cleaned up. Councilperson Safka would like to add that there will be monthly inspections.

Councilperson Kingsley feels that this is too long.

Motion rescinded by Councilperson Rozell.

Motion for attorney to send both the owner and Leon Wilbur a letter stating the time frame of October 1, 2017 to have all the junk removed from the County Route 9 property and that there will be fees for ongoing violations for every week that this continues which the Board might consider waiving if all junk is removed made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
Nays 0

Attorney suggested to document the monthly visits with pictures of the property.

Town Clerk Report -written report by Julie Millett, we have received over \$500 so far for donations in memory of Bart Cuomo for Rec. lunch program.

Town Assessor Report- no report by Bruce Caza

His hours have changed again. He has been working 4 PM – 7 PM the last week. Will be changing them back to Monday & Tuesday from 7 AM – 1 PM.

Town Supervisor Report – written report by George Armstrong

Many phone calls from NYS Dept. of Health on the trailer park with raw sewage on ground. Owner has been contacted and remedying the problem. Supervisor will keep checking on it. Canalway Trail would like a support letter for the trail. Supervisor read the letter and will be filed with the minutes.

Motion to send a letter of support made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Supervisor Armstrong.

Councilperson Rozell wanted to know who was going to pay for it. Supervisor is sure it will be state money. Some landowners don't want it. Councilperson Kingsley wanted to know if the Town gets to vote on the route. Councilperson Rozell was under the impression that it was up to the Town Board whether we accepted the route or not. Attorney doesn't think the Board has any authority on it, but maybe they would ask for input from the Town. Only way the Board could deny it is if it was on a town road.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
Nays 0

Planning Board Report- written report by Gregg Chappell

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

Resolution # 44 Budget Transfers

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

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
Nays 0

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

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

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

Motion to approve all reports made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
Nays 0

All Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

-CHIPS forms have been sent in.

-Still doing shared services with blacktopping with the county.

-Quote for the new mower from Salem Farm Supply under state contract for \$8,520.00. Mower we have right now is a 2008. Only two of the new mowers left after they are gone will have to go to a hydraulic system. They cost about \$3,000 more. We can probably get \$1,000 for the old mower or if we put it in the Whitehall Times we could get more.

Motion to order the new mower from Salem Farm Supply made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
Nays 0

-Rec. fence should go out for bid per attorney. Louie only has time to do two sides this year. A lot of trees need to be taken out. Rec. Committee will get together and write up some specs so it can be put in the paper. Should include 9- gauge fence and six feet tall, footage of fence, prevailing wage rate applies. Please list new fence to go inside of the posts and that you want a tension wire. Snow fence will need to go up until new fence complete.

-New basketball posts and entrance to Rec. Center have been done.

-We had another issue with the power at the park wall. Boater got a shock off of it. Jim Austin checked it out and found no problems.

We have received the propane contract for next year from Lake Champlain. Last year we prepaid it at @1.24/gal. This year it is \$1.34/gal. due to increase in oil and propane.

Motion to pre-pay with 2,000 gallons to Lake Champlain made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

-Grant updates by Councilperson Safka. She has sent in the one for Betty Little money and they had some questions that were answered and sent back in. She is still working on the \$4,000 grant because she has to do an amendment on it.

-DCO issue wanting to become a LLC. Attorney has been trying to get information from Nancy Quell and still working on it. The law states that the Town has to contract with a dog control officer or a not-for-profit like the humane society. Town Clerk will email her 2016 dog control contract for review and she will come up with something. Town clerk stated that the Town does not have a current 2017 agreement with Nancy Quell for dog sheltering because she wants to be set up as a LLC.

-Attorney will also draw up contracts for use of town building for village and fire dept. requested by NYMIR.

-Use of park for wedding on August 19, 2017.

Motion for use of park for wedding made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Supervisor Armstrong.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

ABSTRACT # 7	General Fund V# 17-7-1/22	\$ 6,435.45
	Highway V#17-7-1/10	\$ 120,691.74

Motion made to approve the monthly vouchers by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

-Bethe Reynolds mentioned the Chamber Mixer at the Whitehall Marina on July 26, 2017.

-Farmer's Market hours are now Tuesday & Friday from 2 PM – 5 PM.

-Louie had a meeting at the county to consolidate and do shared services through the county. Governor Cuomo wants a plan in place to show where we can save money. This meeting was led by the county supervisors and they had the option to invite the school superintendents. The schools have a lot more issues going on. Louie was very impressed with Patrick Dee from Whitehall School. The school buses sit outside all winter and have to be plugged in at 3 AM. Louie would like to see a garage at the town highway for all the buses and equipment instead of

town highway with the county. The school also has very good mechanics that could be shared. Whitehall is paying for these school buses with our tax dollars.
-Government Operations Meeting at the county on Monday that will include PILOT on the solar. The Board hasn't heard anything back on the PILOTS on the two solar projects in Whitehall. Supervisor stated that if they don't want to do a PILOT then maybe they can pay full taxes.

Motion to close the meeting at 8:54 PM made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4** **Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley**
 Nays 0

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Millett
Town Clerk