

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR MEETING 7 PM
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

September 20, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: George Armstrong – Supervisor
John Rozell-Councilperson
Stephanie Safka – Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley-Councilperson
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; Rec. Leader Julie Eagan, John Millett Jr S.E.P. Rep., David Waters, Teresa Austin, Amy Michaud, Greg Gross, Eva Lane and students from the Whitehall Central School Government Class.

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

Eva Lane would like to speak on her water bill. She lives in Dresden, but pays Whitehall for use of water. She feels that she is grossly overpaying on her water. Erika stated that the Village of Whitehall sets rates for out of town users and you will really need to talk to the village on it. Supervisor suggested she go to a village board meeting.

Greg Gross would like to speak on his property on Grey Lane. He has been waiting patiently for a letter from the town board be sent to his neighbor about moving the gate. He has a paper where the road was measured several months ago that determined the gate is on the town road. He spoke to Supervisor and was assured that the neighbor would be contacted to move the gate. Erika stated that until the town is brought into the lawsuit the town is not getting involved. If the town is sued then whatever the judge decides the town will do. Greg doesn't know why the town spent the time to measure the road if they aren't going to do anything. Highway Superintendent stated that is why we had it measured to see exactly where the line was. The gate has been there for several years and highway has always maintained the road to the gate. John Millett Jr. commented that people are getting locked in and can't get out. Louie stated that he just can't go up there and take the gate down. He has been advised by the town attorney and Association of Town's attorney not to do anything.

David Waters concerned that several vehicles have been parking at the highway garage. Nelson's Tree Service has been parking their trucks there to do work on the trees in the area. The town has a certificate of liability insurance from the company. They have cut several trees for the town so the town doesn't have to pay Gould's to do it.

Dave would also like to know what is going on with the PILOT on the solar projects. He wants to know why they were allowed to start the solar project on Cemetery Lane without settling the PILOT first.

Councilperson Safka stated that if they don't settle on a PILOT with the town then they will not get the exemption and have to pay full taxes on it. The town is not going to lose anything by them not settling on the PILOT. Dave claims the town can charge what they want for the PILOT. He has spoken to the assessor and the town can charge twice, three times, etc. Supervisor stated the bottom line is that whatever we get is a plus then what we were getting before. Attorney stated that it is not a wise decision on the solar company's part. If they don't respond and do the PILOT, they will be taxed on whatever the assessed value is on the project. John Millett Jr. stated that until the project is complete they don't know their final costs. They will get their final cost into the assessor's office with their exemption form and the assessor will assess the project and place a value on it. You can't really do the PILOT until the project is complete. The solar company went through the Whitehall Planning Board and received approval to start the project. Supervisor had a complaint about them starting work at 6 AM and he brought them a copy of the Town's noise ordinance and they have been better about starting after 7 AM. Amy Michaud stated that so far, they are following the ordinance. Supervisor would like to be able to have more projects like this because he feels we need more alternative energy.

Amy Michaud would like to know if they are still putting up the sound barriers and who will be checking on it to make sure it is done before they leave. The compliance officer will probably have to check on this when they get done. She also would like the hoarder to clean up on the corner of Cemetery Lane. She feels there is going to be accidents. Supervisor and Vernon will go out and speak to him. She also would like to thank the Board for standing behind the kids at the last meeting on writing on the road out on Buckley Road.

Teresa Austin would like to talk about getting some flags for the Veterans to be placed around town. Original quote for 50 flags with poles is \$899 and she is still working on the figures and will get back to the town. She will approach the Chamber of Commerce, Legion, Village of Whitehall and Elks for donations. Stephanie Safka stated that a local business had bought them in the past and she will go ask if they can do it again. Teresa also invited all the students at the meeting to volunteer to help with decorating the town at Christmas time and also when we plant the flowers in the spring.

Motion to approve prior minutes of August 16 & August 29, 2017 made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Heritage Report- verbal report by Carol Greenough

Museum has had a very good year. People coming from as far as New Zealand and Switzerland. We are still open on the weekends through October 15, 2017 and can-do requests.

Rec. Report-written report by Julie Eagan

Motion to allow Homecoming at Rec. field with additional chaperones be present from the school made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

ADOPTED

Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley, Hollister

Nays 0

School will be contacted for request of additional chaperones.

Police will also have a couple of officers available for traffic control for the parade and drive through the parking lot occasionally. She would like the board to send a thank you letter to Foresight Security for their donation of security system.

Dog Control Report- written report by Nancy Quell

Had a recent complaint on Neddo Street with 2 pit bulls caged in a small area. Neighbor and town clerk both left messages for Nancy Quell with no response. Supervisor spoke to her earlier tonight and she will be checking on the situation.

Compliance Officer Report- verbal report by Vernon Scribner

We have a lady on Baker Road that would like to replace her old trailer with a newer one. That trailer had been grandfathered in when the trailer ordinance went into effect. She is having trouble getting someone to move the old trailer out so she wanted to leave the old trailer on the property. Vernon told her to come to the board and ask permission. The board feels that the old trailer will have to be removed. John Millett Jr. asked if the IDA would help in a situation like that. Attorney didn't feel that the IDA would help with something like that.

Town Clerk Report -written report by Julie Millett, we have \$1,449 in donations in memory of the Bart & Tom Cuomo for the Rec. lunch program so should be able to purchase that refrigerator.

Motion to give permission to purchase refrigerator for Rec. Center made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED

Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley, Hollister

Nays 0

General election will be 11/7/17 and Julie Eagan has been notified.

Town Assessor Report- no report by Bruce Caza

Town Supervisor Report – verbal report by George Armstrong

-Thanks to David & Julie for help with payroll and checks in his absence.

-Monday, we will be having a budget workshop on the 2018 budget at 11 AM.

-Have received new schedule for mobile DMV unit.

-Martell's garage will be put back on the assessment roll in the spring of 2018. The county passed a resolution. Jared Mowatt is happy that he can finally start paying taxes on the property.

-He sat down with the mayor and Dick Look from Northern Insuring to go over the insurance. The town is covering this building. The village is paying on the old village building and that needs to be adjusted. Louie sits down every year with Dick Look to make sure the highway equipment is up to date.

-John Rozell and Louie attended the shared service meeting in the Supervisor's absence.

-The county is having their budget workshops this week.

-We need to replace our cleaner, Sandy Schult at the town building.

-John Rozell reported on the trail meeting he attended. The trail should be complete by 2020. Waterford to Whitehall bike path. Received 12 million from Greenway project.

-John Rozell met with Janet Kennedy from Lakes to Locks and NYS Canal Corp. They came up and met at the Visitor's Center in the park. Lakes to Locks will reimburse the town for painting

inside the pavilion. James Austin will be able to do this. We went through what the Canal Corp. is responsible for and what the town is responsible for and 90% of repairs are the responsibility of the Canal Corp. Will need someone to accept delivery at pavilion Monday morning around 8 AM.

George will speak to Keith Pratt.

Teresa planted a bunch of perennials around the shed and Keith pulled them all up. She will speak to him about it.

Planning Board Report- written report by Gregg Chappell

Budget Officer Report – written report by Joel Carpenter

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

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

-Finishing up with winter sand and mowing.

-\$121,000 reimbursement for CHIPS

-Voucher for county mowing contract has been signed by Supervisor and sent in.

-Would like board's permission to put Ford 4000 tractor on Auction International.

Motion to put tractor on Auction International site by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Rozell.

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

-Submitted Inventory on highway equipment to the board. Will be filed with the minutes.

-Sept. 6 had a safety seminar by NYMIR.

-Would like to talk about his annual equipment replacement schedule at the budget workshop.

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

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

All Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

-Grant updates by Councilperson Safka.

Looks like the town will receive the \$4,000 grant on the cameras. Still working on the \$80,000 grant, but looks promising. Supervisor Armstrong thanked her for all her hard work.

-Attorney still working on drawing up contract for Dog Control Officer for 2017 and lease contracts between the village and the town. She has given the Supervisor the contract between the fire company and the town and waiting for their reply.

-Amy Michaud wanted to know if there was any law on the town books that says how much land you need for large animals. Her neighbor has three horses crammed in a little area behind his house. She thinks it will be a good idea to do something for the future.

Supervisor has a meeting with Cooperative Extension next week and he will ask that question.

-Use of park for class reunion on October 13, 2017.

Motion for use of park made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Board will now discuss reappointing Wayne Senecal to the Board of Assessment Review. Wayne is willing to do it again and has submitted his letter for another 5 - year term. **Motion** to approve appointment by Councilperson Rozell and second by Councilperson Hollister to open for discussion. Councilperson Hollister has heard some things about the last Board of Assessment Review meeting and some comments that were made by Wayne Senecal that were not appropriate. Board all voting no to reappoint Wayne Senecal to Board of Assessment Review. Supervisor will call Wayne and inform him that they will be appointing someone else.

Tentative Budget has been prepared by Joel Carpenter and has been handed out to all board members. Budget Workshop set for September 25, 2017 at 11 AM at town municipal building. Copies have been made available for the public.

<u>ABSTRACT # 9</u>	General Fund V# 17-9-1/22	\$ 8,866.01
	Highway V#17-9-1/11	\$12,619.83

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

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:25 PM made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Millett
Town Clerk