

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW # 1 of 2019 @ 7 PM
PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW # 2 of 2019 @ 7:05 PM
REGULAR MEETING TO FOLLOW
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

February 20, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rozell – Supervisor
David Hollister-Councilperson
Christopher Dudley Sr.-Councilperson
Stephanie Safka – Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley-Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Julie Millett, Deputy Town Clerk, Patti Gordon; Town Attorney, Erika Sellar-Ryan; Whitehall Times Reporter, Matt Saari; Eugene Fox Jr. from International Paper; Budget Officer, Joel Carpenter.

Supervisor led the meeting at 7 PM with Pledge to the Flag.

Notices of Public Hearings were posted in the Whitehall Times on January 24, 2019 as well as the town clerk signboard and town website.

Supervisor opened the public hearing at 7:05 on Local Law # 1 of 2019 “Amending Local Law # 4 of 2000 Sign Law.”

Supervisor asked three times for any public comments. No public comments were made for or against the local law and public hearing was closed at 7:06 PM.

Supervisor opened public hearing at 7:07 PM on Local Law # 2 of 2019 “Amending Local Law # 1 of 2004 Sign Permit Fee.”

Supervisor asked three times for any public comments. No public comments were made for or against the local law and public hearing was closed at 7:08 PM.

Supervisor opened the regular meeting to consider passing Local Law # 1 & 2 of 2019.

Motion made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka to adopt **Resolution # 31**, Local Law # 1 of 2019 titled, “A Local Law Amending Local Law # 4 of 2000 Town of Whitehall Sign Law” where sign fees will be established by the Town Board by resolution.

ADOPTED **Roll Call Rozell aye, Hollister aye, Dudley aye, Kingsley aye, Safka aye**
NAYS 0

Motion made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister to adopt **Resolution # 32**, Local Law # 2 of 2019 titled, “A Local Law Amending Local Law # 1 of 2004

Town of Whitehall Sign Permit Fee” where sign fees will be established by the Town Board from time to time.

ADOPTED **Roll Call Rozell aye, Hollister aye, Dudley aye, Kingsley aye, Safka aye**
NAYS 0

Resolutions were read by the town clerk and will be filed in the Resolution book and will be filed with the minutes and paperwork on local laws will be sent in to the State of New York to be filed.

Supervisor would like to appoint Councilperson Kingsley as the chairperson and take the lead to work on establishing sign permit fees and present them at the March meeting for consideration.

Eugene Fox would like to speak from Ticonderoga Papermill. He is in charge of recruiting employees. We have quite a few openings at this time at the mill due to retirement and people leaving the area. We have been hiring around 45 employees a year. Right now, we need around 60 people to fill positions and pay starts at \$15.47/hr. and within a month of employment earnings are well over that amount. John Hollister from Whitehall is a great asset at the mill. We need a place to hold a job fair in Whitehall. We would need computers and Wi-Fi hook-up or we could bring computers. Councilperson Dudley will ask at the school if we could use the computer lab some evening. Supervisor will be in touch as soon as we find a place to hold job fair. Supervisor will also check with Washington County EOC. Mr. Fox would like to set up some time possibly in March. Supervisor will check with Rec. Leader, Julie Eagan for times maybe from 4 – 7 PM and she would be there to let them use the wi-fi.

Motion to set up a date and place for job fair made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Supervisor would like a motion to bring NYCLASS resolution off the table from the last board meeting.

Motion made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

Since the last board meeting information on NYCLASS was collected by Councilperson Safka and handed out to all board members. Supervisor also handed out information to the Board from Washington County and what profit they have made on doing this. Supervisor read the resolution on it again to the Board.

Motion made by Supervisor Rozell to accept this resolution and seconded it for discussion by Councilperson Hollister.

Councilperson Dudley made some phone calls to the parent company in Colorado and there is no guarantee the town’s money would be safe. Right now, the rate is about 2.28% and it has been that way for some time, but he doesn’t feel comfortable using the town’s money without having a guarantee and this does not guarantee like a CD would. There is also a management fee for this. He would rather do a guaranteed 90-day CD with Community Bank at 1.15%.

Supervisor stated that Joel Carpenter would be monitoring this to see how the % rates fluctuate every day. The Town is not getting anything for interest right now on the accounts at Community Bank.

Supervisor wanted to know how much Joel would invest of the Town's money in NYCLASS. He stated other local municipalities are heavily investing in NYCLASS to help cover their 2% cap amount. Supervisor would like to put his faith in Joel and trust him enough to go ahead with investing the Town's money. We will keep some money in Community Bank to cover payroll and expenses. Joel stated it only takes a couple of days to pull the money out if you need it for something. The Town just received all the budget money so we have a lot right now. Washington County has put the bulk of their money in NYCLASS. Supervisor stated that other towns are doing this with their town's money. Joel feels we could make \$15,000 this year going with NYCLASS. That amount would help with the tax cap.

Motion to pass Resolution # 33 by Supervisor Rozell to invest the Town's money in NYCLASS and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

Roll Call Vote **Supervisor Rozell, aye**
 Councilperson Kingsley, aye
 Councilperson Dudley, no
 Councilperson Safka, no
 Councilperson Hollister, aye

Adopted

Erika stated that for Joel's protection he should want some type of cap on the money so at some later date he didn't act outside the scope of what the Board wanted him to do. Joel did point out that he is not licensed to be a financial advisor and the Board could hire someone if they wanted to go that route. Supervisor stated that he as Supervisor will be responsible if something happens.

Councilperson Hollister would like to keep some money on hand.

Erika feels that if Joel could send over a report every month on this for the Board to review and have them sign off on it each month. Supervisor stated that it is hard to put a set amount on what we are investing because it will fluctuate from month to month. Joel stated that we could use it as a savings account and put the Town's reserve amount in it and that would be \$300,000 for general fund, \$100,000 for Highway Outside and \$100,000 for Highway Town wide and then we would just leave it there and we wouldn't have to do any transfers. We could leave it there for a year.

Councilperson Hollister feels comfortable investing the \$500,000 that is in reserve.

Supervisor has control from the Board as to what to invest at this time and he is informing Joel Carpenter that the Board does not want to invest over \$500,000 in NYCLASS at this time. The amount we make on investing will go towards keeping the taxes down next year.

Motion to approve minutes from January 16, 2019 meeting made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Heritage Report- no report by Carol Greenough

Rec. Report - no report by Julie Eagan

Some of the staff at the Rec. Center have concerns about getting a vacuum cleaner and rug cleaner and who is responsible to clean and buy supplies for the Rec and seniors. AA Group that uses the senior side would like to pay half for a new industrial air conditioner. Board will give them permission to get some estimates and bring them back to the Board. Supervisor will stop in and speak to Julie some afternoon to address these concerns. Genevieve Scott has started working at the Rec. Center so she will have to be approved.

Motion to hire Genevieve Scott effective 2/13/19 at minimum wage as soon as we receive her paperwork made by Supervisor Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Dog Control Report- report by Nancy Quell

Submitted annual report to the Board. She has presented an agreement for 2019 that must be passed by the end of the month according to NYS Ag. & Markets. Erika stated that she has reviewed the agreement and looks good. Town Clerk stated that the current dog law has different rate amounts from what Nancy submitted. Erika stated that it would be easier to change Nancy's rates then amending the dog law from 2012. Supervisor will contact Nancy Quell and have her adjust amounts to agree with current 2012 dog law.

Motion for Supervisor to sign current dog control contract using the fees in the 2012 dog law made by Supervisor Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Compliance Officer Report- no report by Martin Rocque

Town Clerk Report -written report by Julie Millett

Town Assessor Report-no report by Bruce Caza

Town Supervisor Report-written report submitted by John Rozell

Carol Senecal has resigned due to health reasons as Town Historian. Supervisor has spoken to Gary Hart and would like to appoint him as Town Historian.

Motion to accept Carol Senecal's resignation made by Supervisor Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Motion to appoint Gary Hart as Town Historian made by Supervisor Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

Supervisor will send Carol a thank you card for all her years of dedicated service.

Auditors will be here on Monday to audit Town books.

Supervisor read the budget transfers that were submitted by Joel Carpenter.

RESOLUTION # 34 DECEMBER 2018 BUDGET TRANSFERS BY JOEL CARPENTER

Motion made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

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

Town Planning Board Report-written report submitted by Gregg Chappell

Town Highway Report-Louie was not present, but left his report for all Board to review.

Motion to approve monthly reports made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

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

Written reports will be filed with the minutes.

ABSTRACT # 2 of 2019 General Fund V#19-2-1/31 \$ 166,508.51
 Highway FundV#19-2-1/14 \$ 16,187.67
 B Fund V#19-2-1 \$ 5,555.00

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

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

These amounts are high due to the paying out to the Fire Contract and other annual contracts.

-Bigfoot Tourism Council would like to use the pavilion on a monthly basis this year. Councilperson Safka will speak to them and tell them that they will have to reserve on a month to month basis so as to not lock in for the whole year. Paperwork, liability insurance and a \$200.00 deposit will be required.

Motion to allow them to use the pavilion once a month only if proper paperwork and deposit are in order and if pavilion is available on that date made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

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

-Farmer's Market has also moved from the curb and uses the barbecue pit area all summer and the Board feels they should move back out on the curb so other groups can use the barbecue area. Councilperson Dudley will speak to them this summer.

Resolution # 35 Washington County Mitigation Plan

The plan has been on the website for 30 days and posted on the signboard and can now be approved.

Supervisor read the resolution to the Board and will be filed in the Resolution Book and with the minutes. This is so FEMA will cover us if there is a disaster in the Town.

Motion to adopt the Washington County Hazardous Mitigation Plan made by Supervisor Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Received letter from Valley View Golf Course to renew their summer beer license.

Motion to approve summer beer license made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Town clerk would like to address the Board.

She would like to inform the Board that she will be leaving the end of March and would like to recommend the Board appoint her Deputy Town Clerk, Patti Gordon to replace her April 1, 2019 as Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Vital Registrar.

Supervisor thanked the town clerk for all of her help this past year with him being a new supervisor. Town clerk would like to thank the Board, Patti and Erika for all of their help and insight. Every day there is something new and challenging and she has enjoyed working as Town Clerk over the years.

-Penny Hollister has sent a letter to the Board requesting the use of the park on May 4, 2019 from 8 AM – Noon for Every Child Travels Safety Event.

Motion to approve this date for use of the park made by Supervisor Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

Paperwork and liability insurance will be required for this event.

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

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:15 PM made by Councilperson Safka and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

**Julie Millett
Town Clerk**