

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE  
WHITEHALL, NY 12886  
7:00PM**

**JANUARY 15, 2020**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Clerk, Patti Gordon; Deputy Town Clerk, Patricia Kingsley; Rec Leader, Julie Eagan; Compliance Officer, Martin Rocque, Whitehall Times Reporter, PJ Ferguson; and several students from Whitehall High School Government class including Josiah Lavin, Tyler Tisi, Richard Wescott, Martha Ingelston.

Supervisor Rozell opened the meeting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at 7:00pm.

Comments from the Public: No comments

**Motion** to approve the minutes from December 18, 2019 and January 2, 2020 Organizational meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

**Heritage Report** - Written by Carol Greenough  
Written yearly report was submitted and is included with the Minutes as well as an expense report from the Town Historian Gary Hart for the year 2019 also included with the minutes.

**Rec. Report** by Julie Eagan-

-Rec Leader Julie Eagan asked the Town Board to agree to a grant called Healthy Meeting Policy; Healthy Food, Beverage and Wellness Policy

**Dog Control Report** – Written by Nancy Quell

**Compliance Officer Report** – Verbal by Martin Rocque

No Report at this time. Compliance Officer Rocque would like to discuss a recent article that is coming out in the Whitehall Times pertaining to comments that Supervisor Rozell had supposedly said at the Organizational Meeting held on January 2, 2020. After discussing the situation, Supervisor Rozell was misquoted by the Whitehall Times Reporter, PJ Ferguson; who apologized for the error. Mr. Rozell publicly apologized to Compliance Officer Rocque for any misunderstanding that may have caused. After reviewing the issues and board decided to hold a Public Workshop for the duties and responsibilities of the Compliance Officer. Councilperson Safka suggested that we have someone from the County as well to help clear up any confusion with the matter. She will get in touch with Pam Landry from Washington County and ask her to attend the meeting.

**Motion** to hold a Public Workshop for Duties and Responsibilities of a Compliance Officer for the Town of Whitehall On February 11, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Whitehall Municipal Center made by Stephanie Safka and Seconded David Hollister.

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

**Town Clerk Report** - Written by Patti Gordon

**Town Supervisor Report** - Verbal by John Rozell

-Spoke with Erica Seller-Ryan several time this month on insurance/disability and PILOTS.

-The County has been very busy with elections and voting of officers for the Board and the budgets.

**Budget Officer Report & Transfers**

**Resolution #30 Budget Transfer for 2020**

**Motion** to pass Resolution #30, budget transfer made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

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

**Resolution #31 Budget Transfer for 2020**

**Motion** to pass Resolution #31, budget transfer made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

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

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

**Town Planning Board Report** – Written by Gregg Chappell

**Town Highway Report** – Written report by Louis Pratt

-Superintendent Pratt was not at the meeting but Supervisor Rozell informed everyone that we received a grant from Lake Champlain Basin Program in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Whitehall Highway Garage Stormwater Control Project. The project should be starting in June and will be engineered by the county. It is a reimbursement type grant so the Town will pay for it first and will be reimbursed when it is finished.

**Motion** to approve the monthly reports made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

**Business to Discuss**

Supervisor Rozell read a letter from District Attorney Tony Jordan pertaining to the cameras in the Police Department. DA Jordan stated that we had to remove the cameras from the Police Department and relocate them to the Town Office. The Town already has access to the cameras so they will not need to be relocated but just disconnected from the Police Department. The letter is included with the minutes.

**Motion** to remove the software from the Village Police Department computer for the cameras in the park/pavilion and allow the police full access to the Town Office computer when needed for a criminal investigation, which at that time, can be put on a thumb drive as evidence for the Police Department made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

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

-Councilperson Hollister inquired about the expense to have the internet hooked up to the pavilion in order to have access to the cameras for the police department in the beginning. Supervisor Rozell said we had to pay in order to have it connected to this building in general not just the police station so that we would be able to view it from the Town Offices. Councilperson Safka wanted to make sure we didn't have to have a special agreement with Police Department in order to have the Police Department view the recordings. Supervisor Rozell said we do not, they will need to put it on a thumb drive for to keep as evidence.

-NYCLASS investments for 2020. Supervisor Rozell stated the interest rate if down to 1.52% and is not sure what Community Bank is currently offering. Due to the fact that Glens Falls National took such a big hit with so many pulling out last year they are offering 1.5%. If Community Bank would come up to 1.5%, we would leave it there? Both options are by the Federal Government, but not insured. Councilperson Dudley is concerned because NYCLASS is not insured even tho it is protected. He stated that there is a disclaimer that you are risking your money. He said if the rate drops to a "negative" your out and the money is gone, which means we can be out all the money and owe several thousand dollars. Supervisor Rozell asked the Board how they wanted to proceed. They would like to see what Community Bank has to offer before they make any decisions. If they match the 1.5%, they would go with community, if not Supervisor Rozell would like to let Joel make the decision to invest in NYCLASS what we can after we cover payroll. We will make the most interest when we have the most money available to invest, which is now from collecting taxes. Supervisor Rozell said he was leaving it up to the Board to make the decision he is just the transferring of information. Councilperson Dudley can't get past the fact that were not comparing apples to apples and that an insured investment from one that's not. Councilperson Safka is also concerned with that fact as well. Supervisor Rozell stated it only takes two days to transfer in case we needed to pull it out quickly.

**Motion** to let the Town Budget Officer, Joel Carpenter, to make the decision on how much to invest in at this time in NYCLASS at this time and to see if community bank is willing to match the 1.5% rate from NYCLASS, if so we will move the money back to Community Bank with the option of leaving a \$1,000.00 in NYCLASS being if the rate increases we can still move money in to it from Community Bank made by Councilperson Kingsley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

**ADOPTED**                    **AYES 3 Rozell, Hollister, and Kingsley**

**NAYS 2 Dudley, Safka**

**ABSTRACT #13 OF 2019**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund V# 19-13/1-7 | \$ 943.88   |
| Highway Fund V# 19-13/1-7 | \$ 4,045.15 |

**ABSTRACT #1 OF 2020**

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund V# 20-1/1-18 | \$ 4,279.50  |
| Highway Fund V# 20-1/1-4  | \$ 20,870.55 |

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

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

**Motion** to adjourn the January 15, 2020 Town Board Meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

**Adjourned**  
**Respectfully Submitted**

**Patti Gordon**  
**Town Clerk**