

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887**

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

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

Others Present: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Erica Seller Ryan, Town Attorney; Jay Mullin, Whitehall Times; Hillary Rozell

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

Public Comments: Hillary Rozell appeared before the Board to see if the Board had made any decisions on the ATV trails. Supervisor Rozell stated that the New York Vehicle Traffic Law prohibits travel on TOWN roads unless it connects one of a trail to another end. Supervisor Rozell cited N.Y. S. Vehicle and Traffic Law 2403 and Section 2405 which are included in the minutes. Also included in the minutes are the regulations for the Town of Hartford for the use of their roads. A discussion of the use of the snowmobile trails as a possibility. Ms. Rozell asked if it was possible to use the snowmobile trails if they had permission. Supervisor Rozell stated the snowmobile trails are designated for CROSSING ONLY; snowmobiles cannot use the roads. NO roads are snowmobile trails. Supervisor Rozell suggested going to the snowmobile club and see if they could use their trails during a designated time of year. Basically, all Town roads are surrounded by County Roads and there are no County Roads open to four wheelers or ATVs. Supervisor Rozell told Ms. Rozell she could contact someone at the County level to discuss road usage. Supervisor Rozell stated they didn't have a problem opening up roads they just need to come with a plan and trails to connect to. Ms. Rozell stated she will keep us up dated on progress of the trails.

Motion to approve the monthly minutes from August 19,2020 Town Board Meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Heritage Report by Carol Greenough – No report
Museum is closed due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Recreation Report by Julie Eagan -No report

Dog Control Report by Nancy Quell – No report

Compliance Officer Report by Martin Rocque – No report

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

Town Assessors Report by Bruce Caza – No report

Town Supervisors Report by John Rozell – Oral

Flood update:

-Dryers were placed in the Museum to dry it out. The chimney cap blew off in the storm and was put back on. That flat roof was cleaned and the drains cleaned out. The eaves are cleaned out on this side and currently working on replacing them.

-The Town, Village and School did not have flood insurance. The Village called Quick Response to dry everything out. The bathrooms still are wet in the Town office and courtroom, everything else is dried out. The Police Department floor was completely destroyed and needs to be replaced which the Village will address.

-In our office, we are in the process of remodeling so we took the floor up and are going to follow through with the same floor that is in the meeting room now if the Board agrees. The estimate is \$5,300.00. We will be using the DASNY Grant Funds to cover the floor.

-Councilperson Kingsley inquired about the cost of flood insurance. Supervisor stated basic flood insurance for \$200,000.00 would be approximately \$9980,00 with a \$2,000.00 deductible. The whole building at \$300,000.00 would cost the Town approximately \$16,000.00 with a \$2,000.00 deductible. These rates are based on the fact that we are in a flood plain “A”. We do have flood insurance on the playground through FEMA. Supervisor Rozell stated he doesn’t feel it is feasible to pay \$16,300.00 a year for something that does not normally occur. The water was not from the canal, it all came from Broadway.

The bill for the cleanup from Quick Response is \$41,508.97. Supervisor spoke with the Mayor and the Town will pay the bill in full and work with the Village of Whitehall on the balance.

-Supervisor Rozell would like to give credit to the Kingsbury Fire Company, the Whitehall Fire Department and First Responders and Public Safety for their great work during the flood.

Town Budget Officer Report & Transfers by Joel Carpenter – No Report

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis Pratt II – Written

-Annual inventory report attached with minutes

- C.H.I.P.S money should be received by the end of September
- Storm Water Project completed.
- Currently working on a grant with the County engineers on Hollister Rd Ext. for next year.
- New employee started two weeks ago, finally have a full crew.

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

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

-The Tentative budget has been handed out to all Town Board Members on 9/16,2020.

The Tentative budget workshop will be Wednesday, September 30 2020 at 6:00PM.

-The Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget and Fire Contract will be held Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 7:00pm

-The men’s shower in the pavilion has been down since before last summer and now the ladies is leaking. Canal Corp. started to work on them and the inspector from The Canal Corp. put a stop work order on it and stated it needs to be tested for asbestos before they could continue. Restrooms are open to the public but showers are not operational.

-AA is using the park on Wednesday evening for their meetings. They will continue to use the park weather permitting until the building is closed for the winter.

-Office remodeling project: \$5,300.00 for floor repair

Motion made to move forward to have Tuft Coat to re-do the office floor at the cost of \$5,300.00 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Abstract #9 or 2020

General Fund V# 20-9/1-26 \$50,031.86

Highway Fund V# 20-9/1-15 \$89,096.64

Motion to approve the monthly vouchers made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

ADPOTED: AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley

NAYS 0

-Town Highway Superintendent stated that he meet to see New York State DEC to discuss where Ward Lane ended. There are two houses on the road and they are in beginning stages of being subdivided.

Motion to go in to executive session to discuss possibly litigation made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley

ADOPTED AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley

NAYS 0

Executive Session

Motion made to proceed with litigation made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley Safka, Kingsley

NAYS 0

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell

ADOPTED AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley

NAYS 0

Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Patti Gordon

Town Clerk