

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887
7:00PM**

November 16, 2022

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 Sellar-Ryan, Attorney; Jeff Thomas, Brandon Sparks, Skenesborough EMS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Brandon Sparks from the Skenesborough Rescue Squad came to discuss the financial status that the Rescue Squad is in. He gave the Town Board an example of the current situation; year to date they have taken in \$207,000.00 and have paid out \$275,000.00. (Mr. Sparks attended the last Town Board meeting on 10/19/2022 and the Town Attorney asked him to provide more financial documentation to the Town Board for their review.) Supervisor Rozell stated that unfortunately our “budget time” has passed for 2023 budget but the Town will see what they can do before then. Mr. Sparks stated that the majority of the money goes to payroll to pay for the Fireman/EMTs who are on staff from the City Glens Falls and the liability insurance cost alone is almost \$22,000.00 a year. At the County level, they are trying to come up with ways to assist them Emergency Squads in the County one of which is helping pay for fuel for their buildings. Councilperson Hollister asked about the money coming from the powerline, if a portion can be used to give to the Rescue Squad? Supervisor Rozell said they would have to set up a capital project for that money and he will look into if a portion can go to them.

Jeff Thomas addressed the Town Board and wanted to inquire about the Troy Shirt Factory building which is currently owned by the Town. Mr. Thomas is a customer cabinet and furniture maker and would like to possibly purchase the building for his business. He has toured the building with Councilperson Hollister and noted it needed many upgrades including an electrical panel, heat, water & sewer. Councilperson Safka stated that she has been investigating this this week whether or not the building is usable at this point. Several years ago, there was a gasoline spill on the property and at one point it was signed off on in 2010 but then it was revoked. She explained that at this time we do not have any control over the use of the building. She has contacted Ray Brook and has asked them to look into it to see if they would issue a release or not and she is waiting to hear back from them. As soon as Councilperson Safka hears back from DEC, the Town will inform Mr. Thomas the status of the building.

Motion to approve the monthly minutes from October 19, 2022 Town Board meeting for the 2023 Town Budget & Fire Contract and the regular Town Board meeting made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Town Heritage Report by Carol Greenough – No Report

Town Recreation Report by Geneveive Hollis – No Report

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall – No Report

-The Town received satisfactory reports from Ag & Markets for both the Dog Control Officer and Shelter.

-The Town Board discussed the current contract with Kathy Hall and agreed to change wording for reimbursement due to Hall. These changes do not affect the budget.

Town Compliance Officer by Martin Rocque – No Report

Compliance Officer Rocque and Town Attorney Seller-Ryan were in Court on 11/16/2022 for litigation on the McKinney property located on 10597 State Route 4. Attorney Seller-Ryan stated that she told them they need to get a mobile home permit, a junk yard permit and to clean up their items that are in view. Town offered if the owners installed a fence on the property and cleaned up the property the Town would possibly waive the fees if these conditions are meant when they return to court on 01/04/2022.

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

Town Assessor Report by Roberta Stone – Written

Town Supervisors Report by John Rozell – Verbal

-Attended a zoom meeting for the Champlain Power Hudson Express Powerline. There will be a project work site off Ryder Road. The land will be leased from Bruce Kastor, 6.2 acres in total. There is a Road Use Agreement that will be signed by them because of their use of Ryder Road. The Town owns 742 feet of old Route 22. Kiewit Construction will be in charge of the worksite. The Town Board discussed the Road Use Agreement with Town Attorney Seller-Ryan and agreed to it as written.

-Supervisor Rozell ask the Town Board for permission to sign the Business Associate Agreement with Marshal & Sterling for 2023. This agreement is to declare that Marshal & Sterling will represent the Town for Employee benefits as a broker, agent and consulting service; this agreement is done yearly. The Town Board members agreed, no motion was necessary.

-Supervisor Rozell discussed with the Town Board the Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC. Attorney Seller-Ryan suggested amending the contract so that the Town would be notified in writing before any work begins as well as a few other changes. The Town Board discussed scheduling a Public Hearing for December 21st, 2022 Town Board meeting for the Franchise Agreement.

Motion to schedule a Public Hearing for the Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc and the Town of Whitehall made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

-Supervisor Rozell asked the Town Board for permission to sign to the MVP Health Plan Small Group Recertification for 2023.

Motion to allow Supervisor Rozell to sign the MVP Health Plan Small Group Recertification f 2023 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Town Budget Officers Report by Joel Carpenter – Written

Resolution #39 Budget Transfer

Motion made to approve Budget Transfer #39 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

Resolution will be filed in the Resolution Book and Minute Book.

Resolution #40 Budget Transfer

Motion to approve Budget Transfer #40 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

Resolution will be filed in the Resolution Book, Town website and Minute Book.

Supervisor Rozell discussed with the Town Board paying for the new roof on Highway garage. The money has been transferred but a motion is necessary to go ahead and actually pay for it. (The Board previously voted on replacing the roof which was put out to public bid earlier in the year and they accepted a bid from Mid State Industries. Work is currently in progress and should be completed soon.)

Motion made to proceed with the payment for the new roof on the Highway garage made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis Pratt II – Written

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

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

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS:

All business on the Agenda for tonight’s meeting was discussed during the “Reports”.

ABSTRACT #11 OF 2022

General Fund V/# 1-24 \$ 11,605.10
Highway Fund V/# 1-9 \$ 8,664.67

Motion to approve the monthly vouchers made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Motion to go into Executive Session for personnel reasons at 8:50 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

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

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:52 with no action taken made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Motion to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 9:53pm made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk