

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT
AND REGULAR MEETING
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887**

MARCH 15, 2023

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Erika Seller-Ryan, Attorney; Timothy Martindale, Rec Leader; Rachel McNamara, WVFD; Bryan Brooks, WVFD; Christine Brock, WVFD; Samantha Kingsley, Youth League; E.J. Conzola, Whitehall Times.

Supervisor Rozell opened the Public Hearing at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Supervisor Rozell asked if anyone had any comments on the Franchise Agreement. Supervisor Rozell asked for a second time for comments. Supervisor Rozell asked a third and final time if there were any comments. No comments were made. Supervisor Rozell closed the Public Hearing on the Franchise Agreement at 7:03 pm.

Supervisor Rozell opened the regular monthly board meeting at 7:03pm.

MOTION to accept Resolution #33 Franchise Renewal Agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Resolution will be filled in the Resolution Book, Minute Book and Town Website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Comments.

MOTION to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2023 regular Town Board meeting made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Town Recreation Report by Timothy Martindale – Written

The Youth League would like help with refreshing the ball fields.

David Waters from the newly formed Recreation Committee told the Town Board what the committee would like to accomplish. They have a tentative three-year plan that would allow the to work on designated projects. By establishing a Booster Club, they will be able to ask for donations and do fund raisers which the Town itself cannot. There are several new programs they would like to implement in the future. The first big project would be to move the basketball court to the tennis court area and

create a new ball field. There will be a public meeting held in two weeks at the Recreation Center that will be open to anyone who would like to attend and make suggestions.

Dog Control Officer by Kathy Hall – No Report

Town Compliance Officer by Marting Rocque – Nothing new to report at this time.

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

Town Assessors Report by Roberta Stone – Written

Town Supervisors Report by John Rozell – Verbal

-Working on current litigation matters

-Received an email from Kiewitt Construction looking for local organizations they can work with such as “Toys for Tots” and local churches for donation purposes.

-The Town, Village and School will be receiving the following amounts from the Champlain Hudson Powerline Express project the first year of operation:

PILOT (which will be for the tax levy)

\$136,700.00 Town

\$232,934.00 Village

\$382,932.00 School

Host Package (to be used for capital projects)

\$172,563.00 Town

\$108,860.00 Village

\$382,932.00 School

This is a 30-year agreement with the amounts increasing approximately 2% each year. Payment begins once construction is complete.

Town Budget Officer and Transfers by Joel Carpenter – Written

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D. Pratt II - Written

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

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

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS:

Fireman’ Exemption RP-466-a-vol

On Dec. 9, 2022 Governor Hochul signed legislation that creates an opt-in for all local governments to provide a 10% property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers. The law took effect immediately and can be implemented by your local governments now. The new law will be included in the minutes. The Town Board members and others present discussed the new law from Governor Hochul and it’s qualifications for the exemption. The Town Board has asked the Town Attorney Seller-Ryan to draw up a new local law for the Town to be considered and discussed having a Public Hearing on it next month.

MOTION to schedule a Public Hearing on New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a Partial exemption for volunteer firefighter and Ambulance workers on April 19, 2023 at 7:00pm made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

Supervisor Rozell introduced Resolution #34, the mowing contract with Washington County. The Town has been doing this with Washington County for several years, last year the rates paid to the Town increased due to the overall rising cost.

MOTION approve Resolution #34 to approve the mowing contract between the Town of Whitehall and Washington County made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

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

Councilperson Safka addressed the Town Board about code enforcement within the Village and the Town. Councilperson Safka would like to see Washington Code Enforcement become more involved with the properties that are in violation or maybe the possibility of the Town and Village hiring their Code Enforcement Officer and sharing the expense. Supervisor Rozell said that he would look into the process at the County level.

The Town Board discussed who is responsible for the cleaning and approval of the use of the Senior Building.

ABSTRACT #3 OF 2023

General Fund V/#1-25 \$11,649.14
Highway Fund V/#1-14 \$14,139.74

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

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

MOTION to go into Executive Session at 8:16pm for contract negotiations and personnel made by Supervisor Rozell and Councilperson Kingsley.

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

MOTION to come out of Executive Session at 9:36pm with no action taken made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

MOTION to adjourn the monthly Town Board meeting at 9:37 pm made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk

