

June 18, 2024 Regular Meeting 6:00PM

PRESENT: Mayor Eagan; Trustees LaChapelle, Putorti, Watson and Norton; Sgt. Richard LaChapelle; EJ Conzola; Laurentine Hart; Lawrence Hart; Javier Minor

Laura Hart had a complaint of her neighbors' properties not being maintained. There is high grass at two different locations. The roof is falling in on a property. Trustee Putorti stated that any building code issues would have to be handled through Washington County Code Enforcement and that the high grass issue would be reported to the Zoning/Compliance Officer.

Javier Minor stated that this is the second time that he has come to the Board regarding the fence that he would like to enclose on his property at 134 Broadway. He is trying to keep his three children from going into the street and keeping garbage from coming onto his property. He understands that part of the fence may have to be moved but he is willing to do whatever the Board tells him so that he can finish the fence. Mayor Eagan stated that the Board needed to see plans for this fence. Mr. Minor left a survey map for the Board to review.

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to approve the minutes of the May 21st meeting, all voting in favor, CARRIED

LETTERS: Charter Communications sent correspondence regarding upcoming programming changes. Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company sent a letter regarding the proposed OSHA changes to the Fire Brigade Standard which if approved will have a significant impact on volunteer fire companies. Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to accept the correspondence and to place it on file, all voting in favor, CARRIED

BILLS: Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Putorti to approve payment of the abstract covering claims #25-00001-25-00005 and 25-00008-25-00059 totaling \$127,041.65, all voting in favor, CARRIED

REPORTS: May report was received from Justice Nichols. A report from the Police Department was submitted. Motion made by Trustee Putorti, seconded by Trustee Norton to accept and file the reports, all voting in favor, CARRIED

APPLICATIONS: Adam Bradstreet submitted a resume for the position of Police Officer. Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Watson to accept the resume and to place it on file, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Norton to adopt the attached resolution recognizing Juneteenth as a paid Village holiday, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee Watson to approve two applications for corrected tax roll for the properties with Tax Map #60.6-3-19 and #60.9-5-1 from a total of \$2,129.37 to \$0.00 as the two properties are now owned by Washington County and should have exemptions on them to make them wholly exempt, all voting in favor, CARRIED

A discussion took place regarding the Police Department. Washington County Sheriff Murphy gave a cost estimate of \$418,908.00/year for 4 Deputies to cover the Village 7 days a week including fringe benefits and overtime. The total expenses for the Police Department covered by the Village budget is \$585,728.35. Trustee Norton stated that going with the Sheriff's Dept. the Village would save over \$100,000.00. Mayor Eagan asked what Sgt. LaChapelle's opinion was regarding the Police Department. Sgt. LaChapelle stated that the Village can't keep sending people to the Police Academy for six months, then one month of on-the-job training just to have that person leave within a year to go to another Police Department. He also stated that the Village definitely needs police coverage. Mayor Eagan stated that there are steps that need to be taken if the Village is going to dissolve the Police Department and the first step is to hold a public hearing. Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Norton to adopt the attached resolution introducing a proposed Local Law abolishing the Village of Whitehall Police Department and setting a Public Hearing to be held on July 16, 2024 at 5:00PM at the Village Hall, all voting in favor, CARRIED

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Trustee Norton reported that the shed at the Water Treatment Plant is being cleaned out to use for storage. Trustee Putorti reported that Michael Lemnotis is willing to do whatever is necessary with regards to the roof drains at his apartment building on School Street. Trustee LaChapelle reported that some trees on North Williams Street look like they may fall into the canal. The area in question with the trees is owned by NYS Canal Corporation who would have to be notified of this situation. Trustee Watson reported that the Dept. of Public Works have been repairing water leaks, filling in potholes and locating water/sewer lines for UDig. Mayor Eagan reported that CHPE will close Bellamy Street the week of June 29th and only local traffic will be allowed through. The Chamber of Commerce will be holding a gala on July 19th at the Skenesborough Museum to benefit the museum, the Whitehall Festival will be held on June 22nd with a Legend and Lore Marker dedication for Sasquatch to be conducted at 5:00PM and Music in the Park will be held throughout the summer. Mayor Eagan stated that the Youth League requested lights for a softball tournament and she advised them to contact CHPE. CHPE has agreed to loan lights for the softball tournament plus a donation of \$5,000.00.

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to convene into executive session to discuss specific personnel at 6:47PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Norton to adjourn executive session and to reconvene into regular session at 7:01PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to hire Dawn Anthony as Clerk-Treasurer starting with a salary of \$50,000.00/yr. plus one week vacation pending a background check, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Watson to adjourn the meeting at 7:10PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Stephanie A. LaChapelle
Clerk-Treasurer