

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

JANUARY 15, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

**John Rozell, Supervisor
Christopher Dudley, Councilperson
Stephanie Safka, Councilperson
Francis Wilbur**

ABSENT:

David Hollister

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Town Attorney, Erika Seller-Ryan; Louis Pratt, Highway Superintendent; Timothy Martindale, Rec Leader; EJ Conzola, Whitehall Times.

Supervisor Rozell called the January 15, 2025, regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Comments.

MOTION to approve the monthly minutes from December 18, 2024 Town Board Meeting and the January 2, 2025 Organizational Meeting made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**
NAYS 0

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Town Recreation Report by Timothy Martindale – Written

-Supervisor Rozell discussed allowing Washington County to use the Recreation Center on Mondays and Wednesday from 9:30am to 10:30am for a Thia Chia program.

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall – No Report

Town Compliance Report by Martin Rocque – Verbal

-Made a second trip to Perry concerning “junkyard” violation. Left paperwork in mailbox for property owner on Junkyard Law.

The Town Board discussed the process of proceeding with these types of properties with Town Attorney Seller-Ryan. First step notices are issued that you are in violation, next step is a citation stating that the owner has not complied and have issued a court date for their appearance and fines can be imposed at that time.

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

Town Assessor Report by Roberta Stone – Written

Town Supervisor Report by John Rozell – Verbal

-Been working on collecting information for the Solar Moratorium from the Town of Amsterdam as well as information from DEC and Ducks Unlimited because Whitehall is surrounded by waterways and the runoffs from these projects if there was an incident could be dangerous to aquatic life. Town Attorney Seller-Ryan did state because the Town does not have zoning it may or may not make a difference; she stated she will look into it further. The Town Board also discussed the possibility of requiring a cash escrow instead of decommissioning bonds; this would require them to have an extremely large amount of cash placed in an escrow account equivalent to what a 15 to 20 year decommissioning bond would be equal too as a deterrent.

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

-Presented the Town Board with the annual 284 agreement for 2025.

MOTION to accept the 284 Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Moneys for 2025 with the sum of \$268,791.00 for general repairs upon 35.29 miles of Town highways made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**

NAYS 0

Highway Superintendent Pratt also presented the Town Board with a written estimate for a MB Broom for tractor. This is a state contract so bids are not needed and there is currently \$70,000.00 in the equipment replacement fund. The estimate with complete description will be included in the minutes.

MOTION to purchase the MB Broom Model HL Broom – Rear Mount broom for \$11,700.00 made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**

NAYS 0

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

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**

NAYS 0

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS

None

ABSTRACT #13 OF 2024

GENERAL FUND V/# 1-18 \$ 5,417.71

HIGHWAY FUND V/# 1-6 \$ 17,091.26

ABSTRACT #1 OF 2025

GENERAL FUND V/# 1-14 \$ 2,511.03

MOTION to approve the monthly abstract #13 of 2024 and Abstract #1 of 2025 made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**
 NAYS 0

Executive Session for contract negotiations

MOTION to go into Executive Session @ 8:11pm for contract negotiations made by Supervisor Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**
 NAYS 0

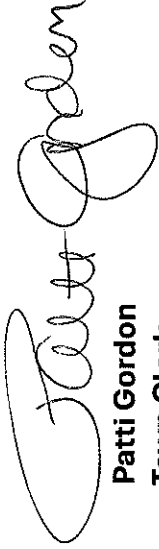
MOTION to come out of Executive Session with the following action taken, to amend Resolution # 1 of 2025 Blanket Undertaking and to add Jamie Barnhill as Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**
 NAYS 0

MOTION to adjourn the January regular Town Board meeting at 9:00pm made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**
 NAYS 0

Adjourned
Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patti Gordon", written in a cursive style.

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk