

**PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2025 AMENDING LOCAL
LAW #7 OF 1990, SITE PLAN REVIEW, TO REGULATE SOLAR
ENERGY SYSTEMS, INCLUDING BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEMS
AND REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF**

**THE TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887
7:00PM**

May 21, 2025

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Erika Seller-Ryan, Town Attorney; Louis D Pratt II, Highway Superintendent; Jamie Barnhill, Town Clerk; E.J. Conzola, Whitehall Times; Gregg Chappell, Secretary of Town Planning Board; Ian Boule, Randy Lambert; N Steves; Ernie Steves

Supervisor Rozell called the board meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm, and opened the Public Hearing on LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2025 AMENDING LOCAL LAW #7 OF 1990, SITE PLAN REVIEW, TO REGULATE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS, INCLUDING BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEMS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Town Supervisor Rozell asked for any comments to the law. Ernie Steves wants to know more about what the new amendments are, and how they will restrict development. He has been waiting a year and a half for this law, and he could have installed and operated by now. Ernie is concerned that the law will deter developers from Whitehall. Supervisor Rozell said this should not hold up any contractors, or the solar companies. Supervisor Rozell explained the reason why this law is needed in the Town of Whitehall. Erika Seller- Ryan explained that this law was drafted by the residents of Whitehall and proposed to the Town Board to vote on the law. The Town Board will vote at the next meeting on June 18th.

Supervisor Rozell read the Instructions for Completing the SEQR Part 1- Project Information packet. Next, he read several questions and answered no to all on SEQR Part 2- Impact Assessment packet. Lastly, Supervisor Rozell read SEQR Part 3- Determination of Significance which states Without this local law amendment, all solar, wind, and battery storage facilities sited in the Town of Whitehall will have minimal review. The local law as proposed will enable the Town Planning Board to evaluate each new facility and the environmental impact of each facility and craft solutions that will minimize impact to the Town of Whitehall. For these reasons, there is no adverse impact of this Local Law.

MOTION be made that the First Resolution declares the Town of Whitehall as the lead agency for reviewing the Local Law proposed to regulate Solar Energy Systems, including Battery Storage Systems. Motion made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka
ADOPTED **AYES** **5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**

NAYS 0

MOTION be made that a Resolution be made for the Town of Whitehall to approve SEQR 1,2, and 3 which were read; authorizing the Town Supervisor to sign the appropriate resolution. Motion made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

ADOPTED **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**

NAYS 0

Supervisor Rozell adjourned the Public Hearing meeting at 7:19 pm.

Supervisor Rozell opened the Regular Town Board meeting for Public Comments. Randy Lambert stated W.I.N committee submitted 501c 3, and waiting on IRS for status. Supervisor Rozell praised all members of the group for beautification at the museum. Randy stated it was other committees besides WIN that all worked together.

MOTION to approve the monthly minutes from April 16, 2025 Town Board regular meeting motion made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

ADOPTED **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**

NAYS 0

MONTHLY REPORTS

Town Recreation Report by Timothy Martindale – Written

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall- No Report

Town Compliance Report by Martin Rocque – No Report

Town Clerk Report by Jamie Barnhill – Written and the Final Tax Report for 2025 prepared by Patti Gordon was read

Town Assessor Report by Roberta Stone – No Report

Town Supervisor's Report by John Rozell- There was a presentation at County last week about the Medicaid situation happening with the federal government and how it affects us locally. Supervisor Rozell met Dr. Spokane from the Healthcare Coalition of the North Country. They are looking for the town to make a resolution to send a letter to all relevant state and federal representatives to protect Medicaid from harmful changes and ensure all residents have access to the healthcare services they need. Supervisor Rozell read the county's resolution they approved to send to representatives.

MOTION made by Supervisor Rozell to move this vote to next month and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

ADOPTED **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**

NAYS 0

Town Budget Officer's Report by Joel Carpenter – No report

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D Pratt – Written/Verbal

- Highway Superintendent Pratt discussed the state budget passed on the CHIPS program and increased our budget from last year by about \$13,000

- Highway Superintendent Pratt would like to do some preventative paving in the future needs to speak to Joel about money transfer. All is going well with his crew, they are busy installing culverts, and mowing cemeteries.

MOTION to allow Highway Superintendent Pratt to pay the bill for the mower as soon as it delivered made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

ADOPTED **AYES 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**

NAYS 0

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

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

Incoming Correspondence:

Need approval for Santore's Fireworks to set up display at the Recreation Center on June 21st requested by Christopher Jones of the Dept. of Code Enforcement. Town Board Approved

MOTION to approve the Sasquatch Festival to be held on September 27,2025 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

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

ABSTRACT #5 OF 2025 **General Fund V/ #1-30** **\$ 33,132.02**
Highway Fund V/ #1- 11 **\$ 49,218.68**
Youth Budget V/ #1-6 **\$ 254.89**

MOTION to approve the monthly abstract #5 of 2025 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

MOTION to adjourn the regular Town Board meeting at 7:56 pm made by Town Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

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

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Barnhill
Town Clerk