

Public Hearing on 2026 Preliminary Budget/ Fire Contract &
Regular Town Board Meeting of
THE TOWN OF WHITEHALL
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887
7:00PM
October 15, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Rozell, Town Supervisor
David Hollister, Councilperson
Christopher Dudley, Councilperson
Stephanie Safka, Councilperson
Francis Wilbur, Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Erika Seller-Ryan, Town Attorney; Louis D Pratt II, Superintendent of Highways; E.J. Conzola, Sentinel- Times; Timothy Martindale, Rec. Supervisor; Jessie Neddo, Town Compliance Officer; Gavin Boule; Marianne Blanchard; Randy Lambert, Whitehall Improvement Network; Orson Kingsley; Dale Senecal; Matthew Atwood; Joe & Hillary Rozell; Nancy B. Smith; Judy Benjamin; Anne Bittle; Dave Morse; Kevin Smith; Keith Sayer; Scott Tracy; Frank & Dawn Usher; Pam Putorti; Rebecca Putorti; Brian Brooks; Samantha Simmes; Jared Mowatt; Lukas Longtin; Olivia ; Rebecca Stephens

Supervisor Rozell opened the Public Hearing on 2026 Preliminary Budget and the Fire Contract to order at 7:00 pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

-Summary 2.1% increase, \$891,946.00 amount to be raised by taxes

Supervisor Rozell closed the public hearing at 7:02pm

MOTION to approve Resolution #39 of 2025, which adopts the 2026 Preliminary Budget as the 2026 Final Town Budget motion made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

Supervisor Rozell announced all public comments will be limited to 3 minutes per person

Discussion and Summary- Several residents are upset over very high property assessment increases, inconsistencies and unfairness between similar properties, and many asking for a new assessment to be performed. Many stated Assessor never returned calls or went to their properties.

MOTION to approve the monthly minutes from September 17,2025 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 & Verbal
-Duck Hunt scheduled for 10/19

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-Complaint adults using fields/ courts, on the playground when building is closed, not sure how to keep them out. Need signage about adults playing on the playground equipment

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall- No Report

Town Compliance Report by Jessie Neddo Written and Read on Record

Town Clerk Report by Jamie Barnhill – Written

Town Assessor Report by Roberta Stone – Written & Read on record

Town Supervisor’s Report by John Rozell

-Working on the County Budget

-Whitehall Volunteer Fire Co- Requesting permission for Mountain St. property for Fire Training year-round. Whitehall Volunteer Fire would upgrade the electrical services / work with DPW. Louie has feelings about them not using the space he gave them at the highway barn.

MOTION to table the request from the Whitehall Volunteer Fire Co. to use the Mountain St property year-round made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

ADOPTED

AYES 5

Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur

NAYS 0

-Town Park Bicycle Regulations provided by a citizen. Supervisor Rozell needs to confirm even can do with canal corp. as owners. Also, he pointed out that it might be superseded by fact that NYS Bike Path through there.

MOTION to table Town Park Bicycle Regulations made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

ADOPTED

AYES 5

Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur

NAYS 0

Town Budget Officer’s Report by Joel Carpenter – Written

-Resolution #40 Budget Transfer, explained by Superintendent of Highways Pratt to the Town Board
MOTION to approve Resolution #40 Budget Transfer made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

ADOPTED

AYES 5

Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur

NAYS 0

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D Pratt – Nothing to report

MOTION to approve the Monthly Reports made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

ADOPTED

AYES 5

Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur

NAYS 0

PARK REQUESTS:

-Donations- Park/Dock – Sept./Oct.-\$38.00 YTD \$288.00

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MOTION to approve the bills contained on Abstract #10 of 2025 that have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

ABSTRACT #10 OF 2025
General Fund V/ 1- 16 \$ 8,259.44
Highway Fund V/ 1- 5 \$ 52,916.79
Youth Budget V/ 1- 7 \$ 583.33

MOTION to adjourn the Regular Town Board meeting at 9:02 pm made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

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

ADJOURNED
Respectfully Submitted



Jamie Barnhill
Town Clerk

Not Present at Meeting