

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

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Erika Seller-Ryan, Attorney; Louis D. Pratt, Highway Superintendent; Martin Rocque, Compliance Officer; Brandon Sparks, Scott Ray, E.J. Conzola, Whitehall Times

Supervisor Rozell called the Board meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 pm.

Supervisor Rozell opened the Public Hearing on Local Law #2 of 2024 Amending Local Law #2 of 2014 Providing Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens Who Are Sixty-Five Years of Age or Over Pursuant to Real Property Law §467 to order at 7:03pm.

Supervisor Rozell asked for comments three times, there were no comments.

Supervisor Rozell closed the Public Hearing at 7:06pm.

Supervisor Rozell opened the regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:06pm.
Supervisor Rozell introduced Local Law #2 of 2024 Amending Local Law #2 of 2014 Providing Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens Who Are Sixty-Five Years of Age or Over Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §467.

MOTION to accept Resolution #33 Local Law #2 of 2024 Amending Local Law #2 of 2014 Providing Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens Who Are Sixty-Five Years of Age or Over Pursuant to Real Property Tax law §467 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

**Supervisor Rozell – AYE
Councilperson Hollister – AYE
Councilperson Dudley – AYE
Councilperson Safka – AYE**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Brandon Sparks from the Whitehall Solar Task Force came to give the Town Board an update on what they have been working on and a copy of the minutes from there 1st meeting. They will be posted on the Town Clerks sign board. If anyone is interested in joining the Task Force they can be reached via

Face Book at “Whitehall Solar Coalition”. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00pm located at the Whitehall Municipal Center at 57 Skenesborough Drive.

MOTION to approve the monthly minutes from the January 17, 2024 Town Board meeting made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka**
 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 – Nothing new to report at this time, waiting on ongoing litigation.

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

Town Assessors Report by Roberta Stone – Written

Supervisor Rozell stated the next month the Town will do another resolution to extend the town-wide reassessment due to conflicts with New York State on property values.

Town Supervisors Report by John Rozell – Verbal

-Washington County DPW would like to schedule a Public Hearing on March 20th 2024 @6:30pm on the Gray Lane bridge replacement project at the Whitehall Municipal Center.

-Attended a meeting for FEMA at the County. FEMA has drawn up new proposed flood maps for the Town & Village of Whitehall, between the two there are 232 properties in the potential flood plains.

These maps should be finalized in 2026, what ever properties are located in the flood plain that have mortgages will be required to have flood insurance. Supervisor Rozell that there will be two public meetings held in Washington County concerning the flood plain maps, one in Whitehall and one in Salem. Salem has over 400 properties in the projected flood plain. Supervisor Rozell proposed possibly having the meeting at the high school because they can accommodate a large turnout.

Town Budget Officers Report by Joel Carpenter – Written

Resolution #34 Budget Transfer

MOTION to approve Resolution #34 Budget Transfer made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Resolutions will be filled with the minutes, resolution book and website.

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D. Pratt II – Written

-The new pick-up will hopefully be here in the next couple weeks. The Town will have to declare the other truck surplus before we can sell it to the school.

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

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

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS:

The Town received two letters of interest for the vacant Town Board which was previously held by Timothy Kingsley who passed away on 11/13/2023.

Resolution #35 Town Board appointment to fill vacant Town Board seat that was vacated by the death of Timothy Kingsley.

MOTION to appoint Francis Wilbur to the vacant Town Board seat from February 21, 2024 through December 31, 2024 made by David Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED

ROLL CALL VOTE

Supervisor Rozell - AYE

Councilperson Hollister -AYE

Councilperson Dudley - AYE

Councilperson Safka – AYE

Resolution will be filed with the minutes, resolution book and website.

Computer update:

Mahoney updated the emergency panel; unfortunately, due to the fact that the new panel did not have adequate power supply and additional upgraded was needed. Supervisor Rozell spoke with Mahoney and agreed they could complete the upgrade with and additional cost.

Disability Exemption

The Town does not currently have a disability exemption, it is only on the County level. Attorney Seller-Ryan explained that you cannot receive both exemptions. If someone is receiving the disability exemption, when they turn sixty-five if they are still eligible income-wise they will then receive the Senior Citizen Exemption instead. The Board discussed the options and agreed to offer the exemption. A public hearing will need to be held and a new local law drawn up.

MOTION to schedule a public hearing on the disability exemption made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED: **AYES 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka**
 NAYS 0

ABSTRACT #2 OF 2024

GENERAL FUND V/#1-26 \$173,940.99
HIGHWAY FUND V/#1-15 \$ 28,331.05

MOTION to approve the monthly abstract #2 of 2024 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

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

MOTION to adjourn the February regular Town Board at 8:15pm made by Councilperson and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

MOTION to reconvene the Town Board meeting at 8:20 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED: **AYES 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka**
 NAYS 0

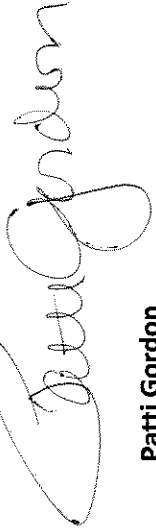
MOTION to amend the operating resolution as passed on January 1, 2024 to strike the increase in the returned check fee, therefore to return it to the New York State returned check fee of \$20.00 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

MOTION to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 8:25pm made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

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

Patti Gordon

TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WHITEHALL
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, STATE OF NEW YORK

Resolution # 33 of 2024
February 21, 2024

Introduced by J. Rozell
Motion made by Councilperson D. Hollister
Seconded by Councilperson C. Dudley

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2024 ENTITLED "A Local Law Amending Local Law #2 of 2014 Providing for Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens who are sixty-five years of age or over Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §467"

WHEREAS, a notice of public hearing on proposed law was published in the Whitehall Times on 2/15/2024 as well as being posted on the Clerks sign board located at 57 Skenesborough Drive, Whitehall, NY 12887. Said notice notified the date and time of said public hearing on this proposed law; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held before the Town Board on February 21 at 7PM at the offices of the Town of Whitehall. The public meeting was commenced at 7 p.m. and immediately opened for public comment on the proposed local law and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf or in opposition to the proposed local law;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Whitehall did deliberate on the passage of proposed local law #2 of 2024 entitled "A Local law Amending Local Law #2 of 2014 Providing for Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens who are sixty-five years of age or over Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §467"

WHEREAS, a motion was made by D. Hollister to adopt Local Law #2 of 2024, titled "Local Law Amending Local Law #2 of 2014 Providing for Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens who are sixty-five years of age or over Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §467", a true and accurate copy of the entire local law is attached and incorporated hereto, and said motion was seconded by C. Dudley. Thereafter, a vote was held and the Local Law was adopted by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays. A roll call of the vote was as follows:

[Signature]
David B. Hollister
[Signature]
[Signature]

Town Supervisor, John Rozell, AYE

Town Councilperson, David Hollister, AYE

Town Councilperson, Christopher Dudley, AYE

Town Councilperson, Stephanie Safka, AYE

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Pursuant to and in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law, The Town Clerk is here by directed to enter this local law into the minutes of this

meeting and file the same with the office of the Secretary of State of New York and will take effect on the date of filing with the Department of State in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

CERTIFICATION

I, Patti Gordon, the duly qualified and acting Town Clerk of the TOWN OF WHITEHALL, New York, do hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted at a board meeting of the TOWN OF WHITEHALL held on February 21, 2024 and is on file and of record, and that resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect.



Patti Gordon
Town Clerk

SEAL:

Town of Whitehall Local Law No 2 of 2024
Local Law Amending Local Law #2 of 2014 Providing for Tax
Exemptions for Senior Citizens who are sixty-five years of age or
over Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §467

Title: A Local Law Amending Local Law #2 of 2014 Providing for Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens who are sixty-five years of age or over Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §467

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Whitehall, in the County of Washington, State of New York as follows:

§1. Legislative Intent; Purpose.

Local Law # 2 of 2014, which amended Local Law #4 of 2006 is hereby amended as follows: Pursuant to the provisions of New York Real Property Tax Law §467 with regard to amending its sliding scale provision for real property tax exemptions for persons who are age sixty-five years or age or over pursuant to the following schedule:

Annual Income Ranges	Exemption Percentage
Up to 28,000	50%
28,000.01-28,999.99	45%
29,000-29,999.99	40%
30,000-30,999.99	35%
31,000-31,899.99	30%
31,900-32,799.99	25%
32,800-33,699.99	20%
33,700-34,599.99	15%
34,600-35,499.99	10%
35,500-36,399.99	5%

§2. Authority.

Authority for this local law is New York Tax Law §467 and Home Rule.

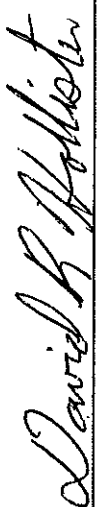
§3. This Local law shall supersede Local Law #2 of 2014 and any law inconsistent herewith. Said local laws are hereby repealed.

§4. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State as required by law.

BE IT ENACTED, this 21st day of February, 2024, by the Town Board of the Town
of Whitehall, Washington County, New York.


JOHN ROZELL, SUPERVISOR

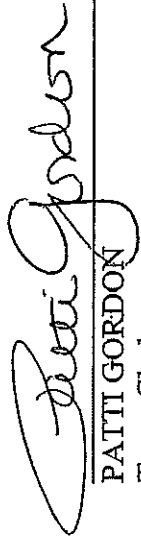

DAVID HOLLISTER, Town Board


STEPHANIE SAFKA, Town Board


CHRISTOPHER DUDLEY, Town Board

[SEAL]

ATTEST:


PATTI GORDON
Town Clerk
Town of Whitehall

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
57 Skenesborough Drive
Whitehall, NY 12887
Phone :(518)-499-1535 Fax :(518)-499-1546
Email: townofwhitehall@live.com
Supervisor, John W. Rozell

Councilperson, David Hollister	Town Assessor, Roberta Stone	Councilperson, Christopher Dudley
Councilperson, Stephanie Safka	Town Clerk, Patti Gordon	Councilperson,

RESOLUTION # 35

Roll call vote to appoint Francis Wilbur as Town Councilperson

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Whitehall is in need of appointing a Town Councilperson to replace Timothy Kingsley who passed away on 11/13/2023; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Whitehall made a motion at the February 21, 2024 Town Board meeting by majority vote to appoint Francis Wilbur as Town Councilperson to serve through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, this action is taken by the Town Board pursuant to New York Town Law Section 64(5), whereby Francis Wilbur is appointed to serve in the vacancy left by the passing of Timothy Kingsley. This appointment is effective until the commencement of the calendar year next succeeding the first annual election at which the **VACANCY** may be filled, being December 31, 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Francis Wilbur will be Town Councilperson for the Town of Whitehall from February 21, 2024 until December 2024.

ROLL CALL VOTE

John Rozell, Supervisor Cayf
David Hollister, Councilperson Cayf
Christopher Dudley, Councilperson Cayf
Stephanie Safka, Councilperson Cayf

CERTIFICATION

I, Patti Gordon, the duly qualified and acting Town Clerk of the Town of Whitehall, New York do hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Town of Whitehall held on February 15, 2024 and is on file and of record, and that said resolution has not been altered, amended, or revoked and is in full force and effect.

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
Whitehall Times

State of New York,
County of Washington County,

The undersigned is the authorized designee of Whitehall Times, a Weekly Newspaper published in Washington County, New York. I certify that the public notice, a printed copy of which is attached hereto, was printed and published in this newspaper on the following dates:

02/15/2024

This newspaper has been designated by the County Clerk of Washington County, as a newspaper of record in this county, and as such, is eligible to publish such notices.

Christina Henke Rea

Signature

Christina Henke Rea

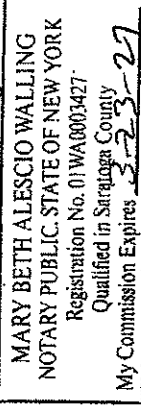
Printed Name

Subscribed and sworn to before me,

This 21 day of February 2024

Mary Beth Alescio Walling

Notary Signature



Notary Public Stamp

**TOWN OF
WHITEHALL
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Whitehall will hold a public hearing on February 21, 2024 at 7:05pm at the Whitehall municipal center, 57 Skenesborough Drive, Whitehall, NY. The purpose of said hearing is to consider Local Law #2 2024 amending Local Law # 2 Of 2014, tax exemptions for senior citizens. pursuant Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York.

Please take further notice, that any member of the public is entitled to be heard upon said proposed local law at such public hearing. Copies of said proposed law are available for review at the Town Clerk's office.

By Order of the Town Board

**Patti Gordon
Town Clerk
2/15/2024**