

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

AUGUST 21, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Erika Seller-Ryan, Town Attorney; Louis Pratt, Highway Superintendent; Martin Rocque, Town Compliance Officer, Tammy Rocque, Solar Task Force, Gregg Chappell, Solar Task Force, E.J. Conzola, Whitehall Times

Supervisor Rozell opened the regular monthly Town Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MOTION to approve the monthly minutes from the July 17th, 2024 Town Board meeting 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

-Discussed upgrading the security cameras again with the Town Board due to the most recent vandalism activity in the building. The Town will get quotes to upgrade and/or install a new camera system.

-Highway Superintendent Pratt also wanted to thank Hadeka Slate for donating additional slate dust on top of \$1,000.00 worth that the Town purchased for the ball fields at the recreation center.

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall – No report

Town Compliance Report by Martin Rocque – Verbal

-C.O. Rocque stated that he has not been able to make contact with either party who appear to be to living camping trailers at two separate locations in the Town without board approval, he will continue to try to reach them.

-Rivers property on County Route 12 has had no improvement and has approximately ten more days left on his notice of violation as of the date of this meeting.

- Received a call from a resident who claims that the neighbor placed a shed on "his" property not theirs. CO Rocque suggested the property owner should consider getting a property survey to determine the property lines.
- Washington County received a letter from a concerned citizen regarding the living conditions at the McKinney property on State Route 4; Supervisor Rozell read the letter to the Town Board members and the public. Supervisor Rozell also stated that this property has had three to four New York State code compliance charges filed against the owners in court unfortunately the County DA and County Attorney did not feel that they had enough to move forward with it in court and Washington County Code Enforcement pulled the violations from court.
- The Town Board also discussed the other property located at 10098 State Route 4. This property has an injunction against it to have it completely cleaned up by September 30 2024, or the town has full authority to have it cleaned up at the Town's expense. The Town discussed getting quotes/bid for the project and to select one at the September 2024 Town Board meeting if necessary.

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

Town Assessors Report by Roberta Stone – No report

- Has currently only received transfers up to the month May of this year. The County is still very behind in getting them out.

Town Supervisor's Report by John Rozell - Verbal

- Discussed the ongoing vandalism in the park. Councilperson Safka got a new estimate to repair/upgrade the cameras at the park and in the building; there are two that currently do not work at all. The estimate is approximately \$2,600.00 to complete. The Board discussed it and agreed to go ahead and due what is necessary to upgrade the camera system.
- Met with Matt Simpson, Mayor Julie Eagan to discuss the impact of Great Meadow Prison closure and the effect it would have on Washington County and also discussed FEMA flood zone regulations and the Champlain Hudson Power project coming through the Village and Town of Whitehall.
- Matt Simpson organized a trip to Albany to meet with the head of DOC (Department of Corrections) several Washington County Supervisors were in attendance, Supervisor Rozell stated he was unable to attend because he had to chair and audit committee meeting at the County.

Town Budget Officers and Transfer report by Joel Carpenter – Written

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D. Pratt II -Written

- Highway Superintendent Pratt wanted to clarify that he was not in charge of maintaining the "Skenesborough Park". (Highway Superintendent Pratt received a letter at his home from an individual with not return address complaining about the current condition of the picnic area in the pavilion)

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

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

NAYS 0

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS:

The Town received a letter from Justic Thomas Nichols rescinding his letter of retirement dated 7/3/2024 until further notice. The Board accepted Justice Nichols letter.

The Town received a letter from the Historical Society accepting the 2024 agreement. The Town accepted the letter from the Historical Society, both parties have signed the contract and payment is included in the monthly abstract for August of 2024.

Solar Task Force Update:

Gregg Chappell and Tammy Rocque from the Solar Task Force presented the Town Board with a draft of the proposed local law for Solar, Wind and Battery Storage Systems in the Town of Whitehall. Mrs. Rocque stated the language used in the proposed law was taken from the New York State guidelines and templates. Gregg Chappell also stated that the lack of zoning made it more difficult to draft the proposed local law. A discussion was had concerning the first solar project (Whitehall was the first Town in Washington County) and what they learned from it, thus the need to come up with a local law with more stringent regulations and a change in how the Town will be compensated for these projects. The Town has now opted out of the PILOTS (payment in leu of taxes), any new projects will have to pay full value of property taxes. Supervisor stated that the Board will review the “draft” the Solar Task Force presented and will establish a committee to review it as well as the Town Attorney Erika Seller-Ryan and if they have any questions they will meet with the Solar Task Force. The current moratorium expires in December and if the Town wishes to extend it, it needs to be done in November.

The Town received a letter from NYMIR regarding the increase in rates for 2025. The letter will be included in the minutes.

Dock/Park donations July-August \$26.00 YTD \$147.00

Park Requests:

Center Stage Dance on 8/29/2024 or 8/30/2024 (rain date) from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

The Town received a letter from the Whitehall Central School District Athletic Director requesting permission to use the recreation center again this year for the Homecoming festivities on October 10, 2024 at 6:00pm

MOTION to allow all requests made by Councilperson Hollister and Councilperson Dudley.

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

MOTION to approve the monthly abstract #8 of 2024 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

MOTION to go into Executive Session made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

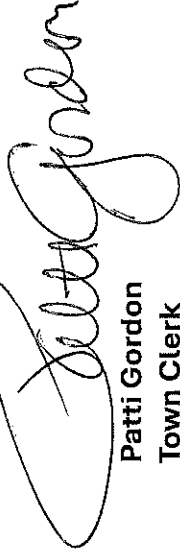
ADOPTED **AYES 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur**
NAYS 0

MOTION to come out of Executive Session with no action taken and to adjourn the monthly Town Board meeting made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patti Gordon", is written over the printed name and title.

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk