

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

SEPTEMBER 18, 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; Brian Brooks, Chief Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company; E.J. Conzola, Whitehall Times

Supervisor Rozell opened the regular monthly Town Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 7:03pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Brian Brooks presented a letter to the Town Board proposing the Town Board the formation of Fire District within the Town. Chief Brooks presented a second letter to the Town Board stating that they are looking for a space to for an indoor training center and are interested in using the Mountain Street building formerly know as the Troy Shirt Factory building. They would make the necessary modifications and upgrades necessary including rewiring and possibly adding a furnace for winter use. He also stated that this last spring the fire company applied to the State of New York for a grant of \$400,000.00 for a live fire training building for the area in the Town garage; as well as a FEMA grant for \$253,000.00 for 20 new SCBA air packs, spare bottles and a new Revolveair SCBA compressor and fill station. Both letters will be included in the monthly minutes. Supervisor stated that he felt if the Volunteer Fire Department had several more members, they would have a better chance of getting fire district and Chief Brooks stated that membership has nothing to do with establishing a fire district. The district would be based on the assessed value or the property and should not increase the tax burden on the taxpayers. Attorney Seller-Ryan stated as of now the Town and Village are obligated by municipal law to provide services, if a district is in place the Town or Village have that responsibility. If that is the case and there are not enough volunteer firefighters who and you will have to hire paid fire fighters who will pay for that? Chief Brooks explained that there is a mutual aid agreement with 32 other departments if more man power is needed. **MOTION** to approve the monthly minutes from the August 21,2024 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

- New score board that was donated has been installed, just waiting on electrical work.
- Would like to purchase another load of “wood chips” for the playground area.
- The Town received two estimates to upgrade the camera system at the Recreation Center. The first is for \$6,288.00 from Saratoga Surveillance, the second is for \$4,214.80 from Foresight. The Town Board discussed both estimates and decided to contact both companies and get a more specific breakdown of estimate to make a reasonable comparison and to get a possible third estimate. Also, Recreation Leader Martindale was not in attendance at the Board Meeting to give his opinion but did meet with both security companies at the Recreation Center, walked the property and explained how many cameras he thought were needed and their placement.
- New score board that was donated has been installed, just waiting on electrical work.
- Would like to purchase another load of “wood chips” for the playground area.
- Supervisor Rozell stated the County contacted him about the possibility of more grants being available for the Recreation Center in 2025, in turn Supervisor spoke with Rec Leader Martindale and he is working on them with the County.

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall – No report

Town Compliance Report by Martin Rocque – Verbal

-The property owner on the corner of County Route 12 and Cemetery Lane 45-day time-period is up and would like to know how the Board would like to proceed. The Board discussed the situation and decided to wait on further action until the other property in litigation is resolved. The deadline for that property to be completely cleaned up is 10/7/2024, if the property is not cleaned up to the Town’s satisfaction, the Town will move forward with clean-up by an independent third party and a lien will be placed on the property. Supervisor stated that he received a written estimate to clean up the property for \$5,000.00 or possibly up to \$10,000.00 depending on when he can walk the property and see what it actually entails. This original estimate does include the vehicles on the property currently that are in plain sight. Attorney Seller-Ryan asked Supervisor Rozell to contact other companies as well. Attorney Seller-Ryan will be drawing up the contract with all specifics pertaining to cleaning up the property for legal purposes. Attorney Seller Ryan explained that this is a permanent injunction that means once the Town cleans up the property and will have the right to continue to remove other items that are brought onto the property in the future.

MOTION for Supervisor Rozell to proceed with doing a walk through of the property, finalize the contract with proof of insurance and or get more bids made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

Town Clerk Gordon distributed the 2025 tentative budget to all Town Board members including Supervisor Rozell, Highway Superintendent Pratt and Town Attorney Seller-Ryan.

Town Assessors Report by Roberta Stone – Written

Town Supervisor's Report by John Rozell – Verbal

-Working on getting estimates to replace the roof on the South end of the building where the Town offices are located.

-Received an estimate from Greenwood Industries stating that we did not need a completely new roof but only needs a seam repair for \$16,500.00. The estimate will be included in the minutes. Supervisor Rozell explained that the roof has been repaired twice this year from another contractor basically repairing some of the seams and there is still an issue with it leaking as well as Highway Superintendent Pratt and one of his men who have also worked on the roof prior to the actual roofing company. The Board discussed the estimate and suggested getting other estimates for both a new roof or repair which ever is necessary.

-Supervisor Rozell read a letter he received stating that in May 2025 Niagara Mohawk Company file amendments to their electrical and gas tariff schedule. They are proposing a 20% price increase on electrical revenues and 28% on gas revenues.

-Received a letter from God's Family Theater Company looking for a large space to gather and created content and hold rehearsals. The Town Board discussed the requests but determined that the park building cannot be used. First of all, the building is for tourism first and foremost and what they are proposing with deter and or block visitors from using it for its intended use. Also, the building is only open to the public from mid-May through Columbus Day and is not heated during the winter months. Councilperson Safka will be contacting Nancy McGrath regarding the request.

Town Budget Officers and Transfer report by Joel Carpenter – Written

-Resolution #41 Budget Transfer

MOTION to approve Resolution #41 Budget Transfer made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Resolution will be included in the resolution book, minutes and website.

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D. Pratt II -Written

Resolution #42 Speed reduction for County Route 9A

MOTION to approve Resolution #42 for Speed Reduction Request for County Route 9A from 55MPH to 40MPH made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Resolution will be included in the resolution book, minutes and website.

Resolution #43 Speed reduction for Welch Road

MOTION to approve Resolution #43 for Speed Reduction Request for Welch Road from 55 MPH to 40MPH made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Resolution will be included in the resolution book, minutes and website.

Both resolutions once approved will be submitted to Washington County Department of Public Works.

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

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

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS:

Reappointment of Nancy Brooks-Smith to the Board of Assessment Review.

MOTION to reappoint Nancy Brooks-Smith to the Board of Assessment Review with a 5-year term beginning 10/1/2024 thru 9/30/2029 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Park/Dock donations August-September \$67.00. YTD \$214.00.

There is a noticeable decline in donations this year even though boat traffic seems stable. The decrease is mostly likely due to the vandalism and loitering in the park that has taken place this summer.

-Supervisor stated that the Board will have to discuss the necessary repairs of the building that the Town is required to do, not the Canal Corporation. We are waiting on the repairs until the cameras are placed.

Scheduling of the 2025 Budget Workshop.

MOTION to schedule the 2025 Budget Workshop for October 2, 2024 at 6:00pm made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

Park Requests:

MOTION to allow Out of the Box Worship to use the park on July 17, 18, 19, 20 of 2025 for Christian Services with the understanding they will provide insurance for all days and will be acquiring porta potties and will be responsible for trash removal made by Councilperson Hollister and Supervisor Rozell.

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

ABSTRACT # 9 OF 2024

General Fund V/1-26 \$ 13,525.73
Highway Fund V/1-3 \$219,051.35

MOTION to approve the monthly abstract #9 of 2024 made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

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

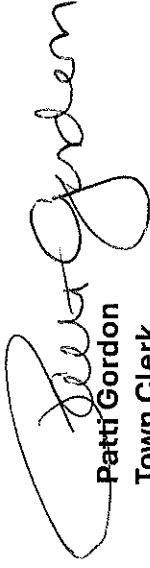
MOTION to go into Executive Session for contract negotiations made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES 5 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 Dudley.

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

ADJOURNED
Respectfully submitted


Patti Gordon
Town Clerk