

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL
PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW #4 OF 2024
AND REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF WHITEHALL
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887
7:00PM**

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Erika Seller-Ryan, Town Attorney; Louis D. Pratt, Highway Superintendent; Tim Martindale; Rec Leader; Martin Rocque, Town Compliance Officer; Gregg Chappel, Planning Board Secretary and Solar Task Force; Scott Ray, Solar Task Force; Joseph Pinkowski, Lukas Longtin, WHDPW; Dennis Johnson, E.J. Conzola, Whitehall Times.

Supervisor Rozell asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm and called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Rozell opened the Public Hearing
at 7:01pm on A Local Law Enacting an Extension of the Moratorium on Commercial Solar, Wind and Battery Storage Systems.

Supervisor Rozell asked if there were any comments or on Local Law #4 of 2024 an Extension of the Moratorium on Commercial Solar, Wind and Battery Storage Systems; there were no comments. Supervisor Rozell asked a second time; no comments. Supervisor Rozell asked a third and final time and there were no comments. Supervisor Rozell called the the Public Hearing on Local Law #4 of 2024, An Extension of the Moratorium on Commercial Solar, Wind and Battery Storage Systems to a close at 7:05 pm.

Supervisor Rozell opened the regular Town Board meeting at 7:05pm.

MOTION to accept Resolution #45 for Local Law #4 of 2024, An Extension of the Moratorium on Commercial Solar, Wind and Battery Storage Systems made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Gregg Chappell, Solar Task Force stated that he quickly reviewed some of the proposed changes that were made by the Town's Attorney's office and is going to bring them to the other members of the Task Force for their review. He thanked the Town and the Town's Attorney for their work on the changes. Supervisor Rozell asked Mr. Chappell to review all the changes with the Task Force and Town Attorney Seller-Ryan told Mr. Chappell he may contact her office directly with any questions or comments.

MOTION to approve the monthly minutes from the October 16, 2024 Public Hearing and monthly Town board meeting made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Supervisor.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Town Recreation Report by Timothy Martindale – Written

-There is currently an issue with several people parking in the parking lot, he is concerned it will be an issue this winter with plowing. Highway Superintendent Pratt thinks it is most likely due to the paving on William Street and should resolve on its own. In the past there have been a few cars that park there due to the parking-ban on Village streets but the Town has not given anyone permission to park in the parking lot any time. Rec Leader Martindale stated that there are at least two cars parked there that have not moved in several months. The Town Board discussed the issue and gave Rec Leader Martindale permission to deal with the two cars have that been parked there indefinitely. Attorney Seller-Ryan stated that Rec Martindale should put a sign on the vehicles stating that they need to be moved by a certain date or it would be towed at their expense. (This is necessary because there is not a sign that says no overnight parking.)

-Supervisor Rozell read the bids for upgrading the cameras at the recreation center that Rec Martindale received. Further investigation will need to be done on the bids before a decision is made.

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall – No Report

Town compliance Report by Martin Rocque – Verbal

-Commented that the clean-up has taken place on 10098 State Route 4. He did asked about everything on the back of the lot that is still visible in a structure, Supervisor Rozell stated that whatever is in the building in the back that is still visible the Town cannot touch and he also stated that before the RV was demolished, that they had already removed over eight ton of debris. Compliance Officer Rocque asked if there were any stipulations against her doing it again and Town Attorney Seller-Ryan explained again that it is an ongoing injunction so it begins to accumulate once again the Town has the authority to remove it at the Town's expense without having to go back to court. The cost of any additional fees for will also be subject to additional liens on the property.

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

Town Assessors Report by Roberta Stone – Written

Town Supervisor Report by John Rozell – Verbal

-Has already discussed the clean-up on 10098 State Route 4.

-Mortgage tax checks should be received shortly.

-Supervisor Rozell will be signing the mowing contract and returning it to the County.

Budget Officers Report by Joel Carpenter – Written

Resolution #46 Budget Transfer

MOTION to approve Resolution #46 Budget Transfer made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur

NAYS 0

Resolutions will be recorded in the resolution book, meeting minutes, and Town website.

TOWN PLANNING BOARD REPORT by Gregg Chappell – Written

TOWN HIGHWAY REPORT by Louis D. Pratt II – Written

-Received an estimate from Water Guard Roofing to repair the roof over the Town's Office for \$3,200.00. It was a completely detailed quote but when he opened it up, it was more deteriorated than suspected, and it required a change order for an additional \$3,200.00 for a total of \$6,400.00 with a three year warranty. The last quote was for \$16,000.00 so there was a substantial savings to the Town.

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

ADOPTED AYES 4 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Wilbur

NAYS 0

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS

Vandalism in the Skenesborough Park is still on going. Most recently they have knocked down a portion of the stone retaining wall in several areas. The Sheriff's Department has down loaded the footage and is in contact with the NYS Canal Corporation who is the entity that needs to press charges. The investigation is still ongoing from the incidents that occurred in June as well other incidents which were mostly on camera and footages were downloaded by a multiple of law enforcement agencies (Whitehall Village PD, Wash. Co. Sheriff's Department and NY State Troopers.)

A resident contacted the Town Clerk's Office to inquire about the possibility of starting a soup kitchen in the Senior Center. The Town Board and Town Attorney discussed the matter and agreed it would be up to the "Seniors" to decide if it would be possibility and to pass his information to Ann Coulter at the Senior Center.

Another resident inquired about using the smaller pavilion area near the boat launch in February for a wedding. The Town attorney Selle-Ryan stated they would need to fill out an application like everyone else and the Board would vote on it.

ABSTRACT #11 OF 2024

General Fund V#1-27 \$26,647.50

Highway Fund V#1-12 \$ 7,217.27

MOTION to approve the monthly abstract #11 of 2024 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

MOTION to go into Executive Session for contact negotiations & hiring of personnel made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

MOTION to come out of Executive Session and reconvene the regular monthly Town board meeting with the following actions to be taken made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

MOTION to pass a Resolution to appoint Dennis D. Johnson on 11/20/2024 as Town Justice for the Town of Whitehall, replacing Justice Thomas Nichols for a term effective 1/1/2025 thru 12/31/2025 in order for him to meet the requirements to attend "Taking the Bench School" in December of 2024 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

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

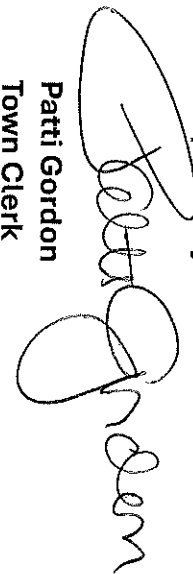
MOTION to accept the Teamster's Contract for the Town of Whitehall made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

MOTION to close the November monthly Town Board meeting made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

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

Adjourned
Respectfully submitted



Patti Gordon
Town Clerk