

THE TOWN OF WHITEHALL
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 18,2026
7:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Erika Sella-Ryan, Town Attorney; Louis D Pratt II, Superintendent of Highways; Jamie Barnhill, Town Clerk; E.J. Conzola, Sentinel- Times; Timothy Martindale, Rec. Supervisor; Gavin Boule; Randy Lambert; Lukas Longtin, Deputy Superintendent of Highways; Luke Rehm, Scott Tracy

Supervisor Rozell called the February 18,2026, Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

-Mr. Lambert stated the Parks and Trails application is submitted. Randy read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce asking the Town Board for a donation for the Whitehall Naval 250th Celebration in October. It can be a monetary donation, or we can purchase flags for the event. Supervisor Rozell said he would look at the budget and see what the Town Board can do.

-Mr. Tracy wanting answers to the Re-Assessment status. Supervisor Rozell said we are on a 4-year cycle with the State for our next assessment. The Town Board needs to investigate the options of who will do the assessment.

MOTION to approve the monthly minutes from January 21,2026 Town Board regular meeting motion made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Town Recreation Report by Timothy Martindale- Written

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall-No Report

Town Compliance Report by Jessie Neddo- No Report

Town Clerk Report by Jamie Barnhill – Written

Town Assessor Report by Roberta Stone – Written

Town Supervisor’s Report by John Rozell- Verbal

-Met with the Insurance rep overall rate is going up 10%

-Met with the NYS Canal Corp. we oversee this side of the canal and the village for the other side of canal. The Town needs to do the maintenance repairs. The Town still cannot press charges since Canal Corp. owns it. We can call them and report it.

Town Budget Officer’s Report by Joel Carpenter – Written

Resolution #33 Budget Transfer

MOTION to approve Resolution #33 Budget Transfer made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

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

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REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D Pratt – Written & Verbal

- Mr. Pratt handed out a 3-page proposed bill that's at the assembly about Salt Sheds
- Stated cannot receive any salt because of the Hudson River being frozen, no barges can deliver.
- Spent a lot of money on truck repairs only 20% of budget left for the year.

MOTION to approve the 284 Agreement for the expenditure of highway moneys made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

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

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

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

ABSTRACT #2 OF 2026

General Fund No.1 through 29 \$ 14,282.31

Highway Fund No.1 through 13 \$ 35,126.82

Youth Budget No.1 through 5 \$ 483.77

B Fund No.1 \$15,810.00

MOTION to approve the Monthly Abstract #2 of 2026 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Safka

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

MOTION to go into Executive Session at 8:34 pm for Hiring/Firing 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 at 9:02 pm made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

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

MOTION to adjourn the Regular Town Board meeting at 9:03 pm made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

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

ADJOURNED
Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Barnhill
Town Clerk

February 2026

Rec Notes

2/18/2026

- Any update on parking lot lights?
- Youth League Spring Signs Ups were the last 2 weeks, I know we are all excited for Spring and the fields filled with kids
- Any update on the Youth Leagues request for the concession stand door install? They will be starting to open it in May.
- Being to plan the 2026 Easter Egg Hunt, reaching out to see if the Elks is interested in co-sponsoring again. Possibly see if the American Legion wants to jump in as the event is getting bigger each year. Last year we hid over 3000 filled eggs and would like to match that this year. Tentative Date: Sat March 28th. How much can the Town afford to spend out of the Rec Budget?
- New Rec Attendant Gwen Gordon started this week, I would still like to hire 1 more for Spring/ Summer. Did we get any applications from the add?

Assessors' Report
February 18, 2026

Exemption renewals have been coming back steadily, as a reminder they are due back no later than 03/01/2026. If any taxpayer is unsure as to whether they qualify for an exemption they should call the assessor to inquire. All exemption renewals require proof of income.

Aged Exemption and Disability Exemptions – require either a 1040 form from their 2024 tax return, if they do not file taxes then income statements are required from their social security and pensions.

Agricultural Exemption Renewals – a copy of their schedule F (profit & loss from farming) from 2024 if they are their own farmer, if they lease their land they need to be sure they have an active lease and a schedule F from the farmer that rents their land.

Enhanced Star Exemption – if you turn 65 before the end of the year, then you are entitled to this exemption pending you make less than \$110,750 and also had a basic star exemption in the 2015-2016 school tax year. NYS will let me know if you qualify and I will add it to the assessment roll.

The State has been sending letters to some property owners stating that they need them to verify their income. This is not a scam, if you need help completing the task, let me know and I can help.

Bobbi Stone