

**THE TOWN OF WHITEHALL
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL, NY 12887
Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Meeting
7:00 PM
September 16,2026**

PRESENT: John Rozell, Town Supervisor
David Hollister, Councilperson
Christopher Dudley, Councilperson
Francis Wilbur, Councilperson
Kirstin Thomas, Town Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Erika Seller-Ryan, Attorney for the Town
Louis D Pratt II, Superintendent of Highways
Timothy Martindale, Rec. Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe & Hillary Rozell; Scott & Barb Tracy; Carrie Downs; John Hoagland; Hunter Gordon; Lucas Longtin; Sheri Gordon; Keith ?; & Randy Lambert, Village Mayor.

Supervisor Rozell called the board meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the monthly minutes from August 19, 2026 Town Board regular meeting motion made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur**
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

MONTHLY REPORTS

Town Recreation Report by Timothy Martindale- Written

The youth league is working with us to run their ninja warrior club, encouraging kids to use the new playground equipment.

Shelby from the youth league and Sam from the rec are volunteering at the club. They had 30 kids sign up for the six-week program. The new playground equipment is installed with the exception of one piece that came damaged. They are waiting upon the replacement ladder. D.A. Collins donated the wood chips for a new playground. Thank you to Louie and his crew for the assistance of spreading them.

The softball clinic is scheduled for October 4th, with Brittany Sprague coming again. The parking lot will be open and available again this year for the Sasquatch festival.

The Rec Center has requested new security cameras. A deal on Amazon.com for \$299.00 for the solar powered cameras was found.

The Rec Center was recently donated a large quantity of Easter baskets, eggs, and egg coloring kits. The staff at the Rec Center was inquiring on where they could store the supplies. It was suggested that they could use space in the shirt factory building where the Christmas Committee stores their holiday decorations.

A list of fixes that need to be completed in the Rec Center was mentioned and it was discussed that Supervisor Rozell would check on the items on the list.

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REC CENTER SECURITY CAMERA PURCHASE

MOTION made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister to approve the purchase of new security cameras for the Rec Center.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur**
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

PUBLIC HEARING On Law No. 2, Tax Cap Override:

Town Supervisor Rozell called to order the public hearing on the Tax Cap Override at 7:05PM. Supervisory Rozell asked for any public comments or questions on the Tax Cap Override. There were no questions or comments from the attendees. Supervisor Rozell explained the Override. With Pilot money coming into Whitehall, that money would have an effect on the 2% cap allowed by the State of New York. By Overriding the Tax cap, the Pilot funds will not negatively impact the Tax funds collected. It was noted that other Towns who will also be receiving Pilot funds have also passed a Tax Cap Override or are in the process of doing so. A formal vote on the Tax Cap Override Law is scheduled for the October 21, 2026 Town Board Meeting. Supervisor Rozell asked the meeting attendees again if there were any questions or comments on the Tax Cap Override. There were no further questions, and he closed the hearing at 7:12PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr Hoagland brought up problems with a property on County Route 18 that has started to become an unauthorized junk yard. Supervisor Rozell commented that letters have been issued and there have been no permits requested or granted for the issues being addressed in the complaints. It was also mentioned that the property was behind on property taxes and could potentially end up auctioned off by the county.

MONTHLY REPORTS continued....

Town Dog Control Report by Kathy Hall- No Report

Town Compliance Report by Jessie Neddo- Written

More animal complaint issues with property at 10597 State Route 4. A coordinated effort between Animal Control and the Sheriff's office seized multiple cats from property. Additional complaints were lodged regarding junk and debris on property. Owners are currently incarcerated and citations will be issued after owners are released.

A violation notice has been issued for 142 County Route 18 for garbage and accumulated junk on property. Property owner has not yet responded.

Water diversion was reported at 186 Abair Road. Neighboring property was reported to have dug a swale which was sending water unto resident's culvert. Complaints were forwarded to the County. County has responded that they are unable to intervene unless water runoff creates a public nuisance. Tenant complaint received regarding mobile home park at 9850 State Route 4. Complaint included plumbing/sewer and electrical issues for outside lighting. Attempts are being made to reach property owner.

Town Clerk Report by Kirstin Thomas – Written

4 Dog Licenses issued

30 Hunting/Fishing Licenses issued

3 Marriage Licenses issued

Total August Town of Whitehall Revenue from Licenses and Certified Copies was \$327.95

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MONTHLY REPORTS continued....

Town Budget Officer's Report by Joel Carpenter – Written

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D Pratt – Written

Submitted a Highway Department Equipment inventory report

Town Assessors' Report by Roberta Stone – Written

June 2026 – 22 Property Transfers / 6 were arms length

All Arms lengths sales have been logged for ratio study purposes and will be included in ongoing market trend analysis.

Transfers for July 2026 have been received and reviewed.

Current STAR Credit Eligibility list is available. Anyone with questions on their STAR eligibility is encouraged to reach out.

Town Supervisors Report by John Rozell

Supervisor had been very busy with County meetings. 2027 Budget workshop for Whitehall is scheduled for October 7th 2026 at 4pm. Upgrades to the emergency exits in the Town Building are ongoing.

A Smoke Shop located on Route 4 has changed owners. There are concerns about what that shop is selling and if they are contributing to the Adult Use Cannabis Products Tax that benefits Whitehall.

There is also concern about Kratom sales since Washington County has outlawed Kratom Sales, but businesses are still selling the product in their stores. Village Mayor Lambert stated the new owner of the smoke shop would be attending the planning board meeting on October 6th.

Town is getting ready for Sasquatch Festival and will have all the bathrooms stocked with toilet paper.

There are no budget transfer requests this month from the Budget Officer.

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

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

MOTION to approve Highway Department Equipment inventory list was made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS:

Resolution 42 – Town of Whitehall to adopt the Washington County 2026 Hazardous Mitigation Plan

This is an updated for 2026 mitigation plan previous adopted by the Town of Whitehall

MOTION to approve the Resolution 42 was made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

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-Sally Raino's term on the Board of Assessment Review is set to expire on 9/30/26.

MOTION to re-appoint Sally Raino to the Board of Assessment Review was made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Wilbur

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur**
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

PARK REQUESTS: Sasquatch Festival September 26th 2026 and Heritage Weekend October 2-3, 2026 – both events previously Approved

-**Pavillion building** closes each night at 7pm. Since Lock 12 will close after Friday, October 16th, the last open day for the Pavillion Building will be Sunday, October 18th 2026 until re-opening in the spring of 2027. Notice of closing date will be posted on the Pavillion Building.

-**Donations** received for Park/Dock for the month were \$24.50, YTD Total is **\$165.25**

AUDIT OF CLAIMS

MOTION made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell that the bills contained on the below Abstracts #9-2026 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payments in the below amounts.

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur**
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

ABSTRACTS #9 OF 2026

General Fund No.1 through 26	\$ 6,121.95
Highway Fund No.1 through 13	\$ 14,204.88
Youth Budget No.1 through 10	\$ 3,952.25

Executive Session:

MOTION to go into Executive Session at 8:07PM for Legal Updates from Attorney made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur**
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

MOTION to come out of Executive Session at 9:30PM made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell

ADOPTED **Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur**
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

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MOTION to adjourn the Regular Town Board meeting at 9:30PM made by Supervisor Rozell and
Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Wilbur
 Nays 0
 Absent 1 Safka
 Motion Carried 4:0

ADJOURNED
Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirstin Thomas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirstin Thomas
Town Clerk