

April 20, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at the Municipal Offices on Cemetery Road and called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were: Deputy Supervisor Darren Jantzi; Councilmen Janusz Karelus, Brad Allen and Michael McGrath; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Attorney Joseph Russell; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; CTHC Circuit Riders Beth Steria and Kelley Martin; County Legislator Josh Leviker; and Tax Collector Deanna Doviak; Jesse Frederick, Security Consultant with Chimera. Absent: Supervisor Terrence Thisse.

MINUTES

The minutes were mailed to the board members prior to the meeting. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to approve payment of the bills as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS – Abstract 04-2022

General:	Voucher #75-100	\$11,120.82
Highway:	Voucher #57-81	\$44,855.79
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #20-28	\$11,086.98
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #18-20	\$ 3,423.04
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #16-18	\$ 631.72
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #3	\$ 98.06

After some discussion, Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to approve payment of the bills as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – no comments.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Steria introduced Kelley Martin, the new circuit rider for Martinsburg. She had the following announcements:

- CTHC recreation guide is available online only
- Cybersecurity Primer for Local Governments Leaders has been published
- Tug Hill Tomorrow is searching for a new director
- A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) presentation will be made May 21, 2022
- Local Government Records Retention and Disposition Schedule has been updated
- Burn ban is in effect
- Pomeroy Roadside Marker grant deadline is May 2

TOWN CLERK REPORT

The Town Clerk Report for March was presented. Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath to accept the March Town Clerk Report. Total State and Local Revenues were \$4,237.53. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT

Mr. Leviker gave updates and reported on the following:

- Lewis County is upgrading to a new radio system and will donate their old radios to town governments
- Streetscape/façade grants
- Highway and hospital expansion projects
- Mr. Leviker reported he has been looking for grants for the Martinsburg Fire Department to upgrade their side by side emergency vehicle
- IDA Property revitalization grant
- Snirt Run – Barnes Corners Sno Pals say they will only pay for the number of people registered for event
- Roaring Brook Wind Farm went live on 9/24/2021 but no commercial operation date yet

Mr. Frederick gave an updated proposal on a new telephone system. He stated that the dedicated alarm system would need to be addressed also. A maintenance plan would be 10% of the total cost. Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to go with the hosted option for phone service and authorizing the Supervisor sign a contract with Chimera. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jones reported that there was minimal damage from the Snirt Run.

He has asked if the Town would switch uniform providers from CINTAS to Unifirst. With Unifirst we can save \$5000 a year. There would be a 5 year contract with a 2% increase each year. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to go with Unifirst to provide uniform service. All were in favor. Motion carried.

GLENFIELD WATER

Still waiting for end point replacement parts. Still need easement signed by Jim Kiernan.

LED STREET LIGHTING

Mr. Jones will do a conference call with the project engineer to go over the punch list.

DOG CONTROL

The Town has an Intermunicipal Agreement with Turin but not one with Greig yet.

JUNKYARD LAW

The attorney is working on the local law for our Junkyard Law and IMA with Lewis County.

A question was asked the attorney if a fire department can purchase fuel from the Town. Mr. Russell said they can if there is an agreement with them. He will draw one up.

WHITAKER PARK

The board approved the replacement of rotting wooden steps leading down to the falls. A natural path will take the place of the steps. Three quotes for a trimmer with attachments were reviewed by the board: White's \$ 912.98; Cazenovia \$1,023.23; All Seasons \$1,030.00. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath to purchase the trimmer with attachments from White's for \$912.98. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the recent purchase of the field day grounds in Glenfield. It was asked if an ATV parking lot could be added to the grounds where people could park and unload their ATV's. The reason for this is so Blue Street could possibly be opened to ATV traffic. This matter was tabled for further discussion at a later date.

FARMLAND PROTECTION GRANT

At this point in the meeting, Councilman Janusz Karelus recused himself and left the meeting.

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to approve the following resolution.

RESOLUTION

DAIRY TRANSITIONS FARMLAND PROTECTION INITIATIVE GRANTS PROJECT TUG HILL TOMORROW LAND TRUST AS THE APPLICANT

WHEREAS, Mark & Jennifer Karelus are the owners of Karelus Farms, consisting of approximately 140 acres in tax parcel 227.00-01-14.100 in the Town of Martinsburg, Lewis County (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust as a New York not-for-profit corporation to accept, purchase and hold conservation easements under section 170(h) of the Code and Treasury Regulation Section 1,170A-14(c); and

WHEREAS, the Property is located within Lewis County's Agricultural District 6 created pursuant to Article 25-AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets. It is the purpose of the article to provide a locally-initiated mechanism for the protection and enhancement of New York State's agricultural land as a viable segment of the local and state economies and as an economic and environmental resource of major importance; and

WHEREAS, the Property is located within Lewis County, which adopted an Agricultural Enhancement Plan in April 2021, with an updated comprehensive plan addressing Agricultural and Forested land use in October 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Property is located within the Town of Martinsburg, which adopted a comprehensive plan on April 15, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Property consists of primarily of productive agricultural land. The Property, which is 140 acres, contains 130 acres in active crop production, 88 acres of prime soils and 31 acres of soils of statewide importance as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service; and

WHEREAS, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust determined that accepting this easement on the Property will enhance the long-term agricultural values of the Property and forwards its mission of protecting the wildlands, working forests and farms of the Tug Hill region and surrounding areas, and to promote appreciation of the region's natural and cultural heritage, for present and the future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Karelus Family and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust agree the purpose of the agricultural easement will be to perpetually conserve viable agricultural land by preventing the conversion for non-farm uses. In achieving such prevention, the Property shall be forever reserved for continued agricultural use; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Martinsburg Town Board passed a resolution on April 20, 2022 at a regular meeting to endorse the submission of an application for a Farmland Protection Initiative Grant for the Karelus Farm by Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. If funded, this grant will provide funding from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to purchase the development rights (Agricultural conservation easement) on the Karelus Farm.

By Order of the Town Board of the Town of Martinsburg by the following vote thereon: (with Supervisor Thisse absent)

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Recused: 1

Motion carried.

There being no further business, Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to adjourn at 8:35 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk

