

July 15, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held Wednesday, July 15, 2020 and called to order at 7:00 PM. Masks were worn and social distancing was practiced per COVID regulations. Present were: Supervisor Thisse; Councilmen Brad Allen, Janusz Karelus and Michael McGrath; Attorney Joseph Russell; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Beth Steria, CTHC; Matt Cooper from Barton and Loguidice; County Legislator Greg Kulzer; Tax Collector Deanna Doviak; Cork Jantzi; Robert Jones and John Swartzentruber from the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Department. Absent: Councilman Darren Jantzi.

MINUTES

The minutes were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS – Abstract #7-2020

General:	Voucher #142-161	\$69,955.74
Highway:	Voucher #108-124	\$15,863.62
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #61-68	\$32,745.94
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #27-31	\$ 1,831.33
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #35-43	\$ 8,843.69
Martinsburg Water #2:	Voucher #3	\$17,035.25
Street Lighting:	Voucher #11-12	\$ 663.55
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #23-31	\$ 1,695.08

After some discussion and questions, Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to transfer money from General to Martinsburg Water #2 and to pay bills as presented. The transfer is a loan to be paid back to General. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – No comments.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to accept the Town Clerk report for June. Total State and Local Revenue was \$8,386.37. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Steria reported on SARA workshops for records management grant; new records retention schedule which will have to be accepted by the town board at a future meeting; online Zoning and Planning workshops; cyber security workshop; Tug Hill Commission fall meeting; Tug Hill Tomorrow magazine/Guide.

7:10 PM Attorney Joseph Russell arrived.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT

Mr. Kulzer reported that there was a meeting on the reuse of the Glenfield Elementary School building when the students are moved to South Lewis. A committee is doing a condition report. Advertising to sell the building will start in January. He also reported on the County draft Event Law.

HIGHWAY

Mr. Jones reported that they are ditching the French Road and putting in new culverts. Mr. Thisse reminded him that the historical society would like them to work on the road to Staring Cemetery. Mr. Jones asked what kind of right-of-way the Town has. He stated that there is a tree to be removed so they can get the tandem truck in. It was also mentioned that a tree at Strader Cemetery on Borkowski Road needs to be removed.

Discussion was held on the driveway at Keystone Lumber in the hamlet of Glenfield. Trucks unloading supplies block the driveway of a resident. Mr. Russell said this is a civil matter, not town matter, if blocking a private resident.

Dyanne Boucher has asked if signs could be put up on Flat Rock Road warning windmill construction traffic about speed and her driveway entrance. Mr. Jones will speak to Avangrid representatives.

#### MARTINSBURG WATER #2

A resident in Martinsburg Water District #2 asked if his excessive water bill due to a water leak could be reduced. The Supervisor said probably not since this is not water produced by the town but the Village of Lowville. The Town has a request in to the Village of Lowville asking for a reduction in our bill and has not heard anything from them. The matter is tabled until Lowville responds to our request.

#### MARTINSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The fire department has asked the town board for a statement of authority to provide public Emergency Medical Services. They showed proof of insurance. Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath authorizing the Supervisor sign an amended fire contract with the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Department which includes the language "is hereby amended to include rescue and EMS services to be provided by the Fire Department during the Term of the Contract". All were in favor. Motion carried.

The fire department would like a meeting with the town assessor to go over how fire tax is calculated. Supervisor Thisse will set up a meeting between the assessor, a member of the fire department and a couple board members to research this.

The fire department would like a key to the gate at Whitaker Park in case of an emergency. Recently there was an emergency at the Park and the gate was closed. The department needed to do a rescue.

Cork Jantzi addressed the emergency – a fall from a ledge where the person landed on his property. He is concerned about liability. In this instance, people were trespassing, as the Park is closed due to the COVID pandemic. The fire department asked if there was an easier access route to the bottom of the falls in case of another emergency. Attorney Russell stated that to limit litigation exposure, the Town should put warning signs up. A recreational easement with Mr. Jantzi was discussed.

#### GLENFIELD WATER PROJECT

Mr. Cooper gave an update on the progress of the project:

- Substantial completion was issued June 23, 2020
- Meter software training and turf establishment needed before final payment
- Preliminary well investigation ongoing
- Pearson and Timmerman proposal for 3G well has been accepted but will not start until there is an agreement with 3G
- Appraisals are being scheduled for 3G land

#### GLENFIELD SEWER PROJECT

Mr. Cooper gave an update on the progress of the project:

- Discussed getting an additional income survey done to apply for CDBG grant
- Schedule Special Meeting for SEQRA Part 1
- Three different grants we should apply for – WQIP; EFC; CDBG

Mr. Cooper presented Amendment No. 2 for engineering services for Glenfield Sewer Flow Management Plan and Preliminary Engineering Report for Barton and Loguidice.

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen authorizing Supervisor Thisse sign Amendment No. 2 – Owner/Engineer Agreement with Barton and Loguidice. This amendment adjusts the services and fees to include completion of a SEQR for a lump sum of \$2,500.00. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A Special Meeting was set for July 28, 2020 at 5:00 PM to commence the environmental review for the Glenfield Sewer Infiltration Project and any other matter that might come before the board.

Supervisor Thisse reported on the cleaning of ~~sewer beds~~ septic tanks. Discussed adding a product to the beds to break down solids. Discussed borrowing a “crust buster” to do the same.

Supervisor Thisse said there was nothing to report on LED street lighting.

#### JUSTICE COURT

The town received a request from Eric Virkler, Lewis County Treasurer, asking information from Justice Court to help assess the financial impact of the new bail reform law.

#### MARTINSBURG WATER #1

The town has received another request from Demko Farms to hook into Martinsburg Water District #1 at the Alger Road. They would put their own line in. Mr. Jones said a pressure test should be done at Carl Morrisons. He will also check water supply permit to see what production limit is. There should be no need to do a water district extension if their property abuts the district. Need to look at district boundary map.

Discussion was held on repair to the foundation of the old West Martinsburg Town Hall building.

Supervisor Thisse reported that NYMIR insurance agent Kevin Townsend will do sexual harassment training classes at our offices.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to go into executive session at 8:45 PM to discuss negotiations. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to leave executive session at 9:00 PM and return to regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The board authorized Supervisor Thisse to negotiate with 3-G Volunteer Fire Department on the purchase of land for well development for the Glenfield Water District. If an agreement can be reached on a purchase price, Attorney Russell will put together a purchase agreement to be approved at the next board meeting.

Residents have inquired as to whether natural gas can be made available on Blue Street in the hamlet of Glenfield. They would have to petition to the Public Service Commission.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath to adjourn at 9:10 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk



