

June 17, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 and called to order at 7:00 PM. Due to the Covid Pandemic, facemasks were required and the social distancing was in place. Present were: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Brad Allen, Janusz Karelus, Darren Jantzi and Michael McGrath; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Attorney Joseph Russell; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; CTHC circuit rider Beth Steria; County Legislator Greg Kulzer; and Bev Swiernik.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting 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 #6-2020

General:	Voucher #122-141	\$ 5,787.00
Highway:	Voucher # 89-106	\$77,311.75
Glenfield Water:	Voucher # 54-60	\$19,873.95
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher # 22-26	\$ 449.79
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher # 30-34	\$ 522.59
Street Lighting:	Voucher # 9-10	\$ 699.58
Whitaker Park:	Voucher # 13-22	\$ 6,581.86

Discussion was held on the bills and questions asked. After this 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 COMMISSION

Ms. Steria gave a report on upcoming training and grants:

- Dept of Ag – tree planting grant
- Webinar on Justice Court Consolidation
- Cornell Roads Training
- Workshop on Planning Procedures

LEWIS COUNTY LEGISLATOR

Legislator reported that a Public Hearing will be held on the proposed County Event Law at their July meeting. No paving will be done this year and no new office buildings are being proposed. Two new bridges are being constructed.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to accept the Town Clerk Report for May. Total State and Town revenues totaled \$7,317.72. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Jones reported on grading, ditching and changing out culverts. They are working with the Town of Lowville on the East Road Extension, Martinsburg Water District #2 waterline project. Councilman McGrath mentioned beavers are clogging up culverts on Carey Road. He also asked if any ditching would be done on B Arthur Road.

Supervisor Thisse mentioned that he has written a letter to the Village of Lowville asking for forgiveness on an excessive water bill (due to an unknown water leak) in Martinsburg Water District #2. He hasn't heard anything back from them yet.

Bev Swiernik was present to request a new hookup to Martinsburg Water District #1 on the Glendale Road. Discussion was held on the size of the line. Mr. Jones reported there is no shortage of water or pressure. Discussion was held on water that is used at the Park and it was suggested that spring-loaded levers be used so water is not left running. Discussion was also held on a waterline easement that was previously requested from Councilman McGrath.

It was determined to allow Ms. Swiernik a new hook up to the waterline if it doesn't affect the Park.

GLENFIELD WATER

All new meters have been installed, to homes they were allowed in, as part of the water improvement project in Glenfield. Work is progressing on installing antennas.

Superintendent Jones, Supervisor Thisse, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Young met to discuss the investigation of a new well site. They are investigating the well on 3-G Fire Department field day grounds. The Department of Health would like to see a bigger well than what is being used now. Pearson and Timmerman gave an estimate of \$14,000 to do a complete well test. Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to proceed with Option A and the estimated price of \$14,000. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the acquisition of land from 3-G Fire Department and whether to buy or lease. Mr. Russell will need a description of the property to start the legal work.

CENTRAL LEWIS COUNTY WATER STUDY

A Public Hearing will be held on June 30, 2020 regarding the Lewis County Municipal Domestic Water Study which is being done to evaluate all aspects of the Public Water Systems in the Town of Lowville, Town of Watson, Town of Denmark and the Town of Martinsburg.

The Town received a quote of \$.20 a gallon from Double "B" Contracting to pump tanks at the Glenfield Sewer Plant. It will be taken to the treatment plant in Lowville.

Supervisor Thisse gave an update on the LED Street Lighting project.

Supervisor Thisse contacted our insurance agent regarding Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Department providing rescue and emergency medical services within the Fire Department Protection District. He was informed that there would be no increase in insurance premiums if this amendment is made to the fire contract.

WHITAKER PARK

The gate at the park needs to be modified since updating the stone entryway.

It has been asked when the Park will open. It has been closed during the Covid-19 pandemic. If the park were to reopen, bathhouses would need to be cleaned and disinfected every three hours and picnic tables sprayed and disinfected. The Town doesn't have enough staff to keep up with the regulations. The board determined that the Park stay closed until further notice since we can't comply with rules and regulations.

JUSTICE COURT

Discussion was held on Traffic Reduction Program implemented by the Lewis County District Attorney's office. This is in response to bail reform legislation by Gov. Cuomo. This will have a large impact on financial revenues for the Town. 80% of revenue from tickets would be lost as well as 90% of surcharge fees. A question was asked if the Town could say we aren't having Justice Court anymore? Attorney Russell will look into that.

There is no update on cyber security recommendations from NYMIR.

MAPLE RIDGE P.I.L.O.T.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi authorizing Supervisor Thisse sign the Maple Ridge Wind Farm PILOT Distributions Agreement Among Lewis County Taxing Jurisdictions. This new agreement is for the years 2018 through 2031. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CEMETERIES

Staring/Pansy Hill Cemetery was discussed. The historical society would like to clean up the cemetery and make it accessible to families. Discussion was held on making the road to the cemetery passable.

Borkowski Cemetery was discussed. A tree in the cemetery needs to be taken down before it falls on the headstones.

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to go into executive session at 8:20 PM to discuss negotiations. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to leave executive session at 8:30 PM and to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk