

December 16, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at the Municipal Offices on Cemetery Road, Martinsburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were: Supervisor Thisse; Councilmen Darren Jantzi, Michael McGrath and Janusz Karelus; Deputy Highway Superintendent Jack Kelley; Attorney Joseph Russell; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; CTHC circuit rider Beth Steria; Greg Kulzer, Lewis County Legislator; Gordon Yancey; Marvin Swartzentruber, Frank Petrus, Joe Hill and Karl Sweredoski. Absent: Councilman Brad Allen.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting(s) were emailed prior to the meeting. Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS Abstract 12-2020

General:	Voucher #249-271	\$ 9,391.43
Highway:	Voucher #201-218	\$24,236.18
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #101-111	\$84,359.98
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #62-65	\$ 9,475.60
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #65-69	\$ 647.88
Martinsburg Water #2:	Voucher #13-14	\$ 341.50
Street Lighting:	Voucher #21-22	\$ 862.38

After discussion and questions about the bills, 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

Mr. Yancey was present to ask about Roaring Brook Wind developers plowing portions of hill roads through January. Supervisor Thisse reported that they were given permission by the Town Board to plow portions of certain roads and the developers were to discuss this with the snowmobile clubs. They have a crane they want to be able to bring out in January. Mr. Yancey said no one had talked to him. Mr. Kelley reported that there are three more wind towers to be installed. Mr. Yancey questioned the possibility of them asking for a longer time to plow if the weather gets bad.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to accept the Town Clerk Report for November. Total local and state revenues collected amounted to \$7559.00. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COMMISSION

Ms. Steria gave a report on various workshops and webinars including a webinar on Emergency Planning; invasive species; climate change and zoning.

LEGISLATORS REPORT

Mr. Kulzer reported that Towns are covered under the County's Emergency Plan. Also, string cheese will no longer be made at Kraft. That should alleviate, somewhat, the water pressure problem in Martinsburg Water District #2 – St Rt 26. Because of COVID, the County is looking to hire people for Contact Tracing.

7:20 PM Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to open a Public Hearing to hear comments on a proposal to raise water rates in Martinsburg Water District #2. Supervisor Thisse had prepared a report showing what it cost to install a new water line and the cost to borrow money. Mr. Sweredoski and Mr. Petrus asked why the town was charging for water lost in main, they should only pay for cost going through meter. And why did the Town wait

so long to repair the water line and put in meter pit. Supervisor Thisse explained the leak was tolerable two years ago. Many sources were used to find the leak and no one could find it. The Village of Lowville required the town put in a meter pit. Mr. Russell explained that any repair cost is borne by the district not the whole town.

There is no water pressure in the water district on St Rt 26. Cisterns are being put in four homes to help alleviate this problem.

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to close the Public Hearing at 7:50 PM and return to regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### GLENFIELD WATER PROJECT UPDATE

Barton and Loguidice gave a board update:

- Final payment ready to be made to Contractor
- Well investigations – plans and specs are under internal review and then will be submitted to DOH and DEC for approval

#### GLENFIELD SEWER PROJECT

Preliminary engineering report

- Awaiting funding applications
- EFC State Revolving Fund – need an executed engineering agreement
- Need to issue a Request for Qualifications for Grant Application and Engineering Services to be CDBG eligible

Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus authorizing Barton and Loguidice to move forward on the Glenfield Sewer Project. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Russell will have revisions to the town water ordinance ready for next meeting.

#### LED STREET LIGHTING RESOLUTION

Councilman Karelus, seconded by Councilman offered up the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Martinsburg has received a proposed “Agreement to Purchase and Sale of Street Lights” and a proposed “License Agreement for Customer-Owned Street and Area Lighting Attachments to Utility Poles and Structures”, relating to the Town’s purchase and operation of street lighting fixtures within the Town from Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, doing business as National Grid (collectively referred to herein as “the Agreements”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNCILMEN OF THE TOWN OF MARTINSBURG, that the Town entering into the Agreements and carrying out the actions contemplated therein constitutes a Type II action for the purposes of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Said action is to acquire ownership of existing street lighting fixtures and then convert said fixtures to new energy saving LED units, which will remain, pursuant to the license agreement, on existing poles that will continue to be owned by National Grid. As such, the actions is considered and declared to be a Type II action pursuant to paragraphs (2), (25) and (26) of section 617.5, subsection (c), of the SEQRA regulations, and it is hereby further

RESOLVED, that the Agreements are hereby approved and the Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Town Board, to execute said Agreements, along with such other documents as may be necessary and/or advisable to carry out the intentions of the Agreements and this resolution.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Supervisor Terrence Thisse – aye  
Councilman Janusz Karelus – aye  
Councilman Darren Jantzi – aye  
Councilman Michael McGrath – aye  
Councilman Brad Allen – absent

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

#### SNIRT RUN

Supervisor Thisse reported that a SNIRT Run is proposed for April 10. The Town has not gotten any notification of this. More discussion was held on adopting an “event law”. Mr. Thisse is working on one.

Lewis County Real Property has a request from Roaring Brook Wind Farm developers to use the 911 name for an access road to a turbine as “Echo Camp Road”. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath approving the name “Echo Camp Road” for use. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussions were held on amendments to the employee handbook. Highway Superintendent Jones should review these amendments.

Supervisor Thisse gave a report on CD rates.

Discussion was held on a grant for a “reuse” study on the Glenfield Elementary School.

There will be an End of Year Meeting on December 30, 2020 at 5:30 PM and an Organization Meeting on January 5, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Discussion was held on non-payment of water/sewer at Glenfield Trailer Park. The Clerk will research the Intermunicipal Agreement with Turin.

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to adjourn at 8:30 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk