

December 20, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at the Municipal Offices on Cemetery Road and called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Janusz Karelus, Darren Jantzi, Brad Allen and Michael McGrath; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Attorney Genevieve Fidler; CTHC circuit rider Angie Kimball and Matthew Smith; Tax Collector/Deputy Town Clerk Deanna Doviak. Absent: County Legislator Josh Leviker.

MINUTES

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

BILLS – Abstract #12-2023

General:	Voucher #261-285	\$ 54,148.77
Highway:	Voucher #20-224	\$ 39,088.98
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #67-72	\$ 1,465.31
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher # 64-70	\$ 5,094.34
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #74-81	\$ 1,392.41
Street Lighting:	Voucher #22-23	\$ 218.12
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #61	\$ 1,952.47

Discussion was held on the bills and a few questions asked. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to approve payment of the bills as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

The Town Clerk presented her report for the month of November. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to accept the report. State and local revenues totaled \$6,895.73. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Kimball gave a report on Grants/Training:

- NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program
- NYS Archives Grant
- NYS Comptroller Training Schools
- Local Government Conference is at Turning Stone May 1 & 2
- Bridge NY
- Infrastructure funding

Mr. Smith was present to discuss a Town Specific Land Use Policy. The purpose of the program is to provide guidance for the physical development of the town for the future. It is based on and reflects the planning ideals laid out in the Planning Accord for Tug Hill and the Tug Hill Reserve Act. It would be a mini comprehensive plan. This matter was tabled until January meeting.

HIGHWAY

Discussed terminating uniform contract with Unifirst. The attorney was requested to draft a letter to terminate the town contract with Unifirst 90 days prior to end of contract.

Mr. Jones shared a letter sent by landowners on Centerville Road – Jack Spier, William Spier, Mike Spier and Scott Spier. They inquired as to what the town’s plan was for fixing and maintaining the Centerville Road from the radio tower to Waligory family camp. ATV’s, etc. keep pushing stone wider and wider onto their property. They also expressed their

annoyance at the amount of trash that they see and pick up on the road, especially after ATV events and Poker runs. It was also mentioned that they find a lot of sled studs.

Discussion was held on a local law for plowing seasonal and minimum maintenance roads. Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to hold a Public Hearing to hear comments on this matter on January 17, 2024 at 7:15 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on an agreement, "Expenditure of Highway Monies", with Lewis County. The entire board and highway superintendent signed the agreement for 2024.

Trimming trees on Solomon Road was discussed.

GLENFIELD WATER

Dollar General is building a store on St. Rt. 12/Solomon Road. They had expressed interest in connecting to Glenfield Water District waterline. The State highway department had some concerns about this. The waterline would have go under the State Road and the town would have to maintain the line. They withdrew their request to connect to municipal water and will drill a well.

The Department of Health has reviewed the plans for the Glenfield Water Project and has some questions for the engineers. The water project also requires bond counsel. Their will be a Zoom meeting with Bond, Schoeneck and King, PLLC tomorrow.

MARTINSBURG WATER #1

Discussion was held on a water connection permit submitted by Bette and Jim Lathan on Alger Road. Mr. Jones will get a quote on how much it would cost to extend the existing line to Richard Lovenduski on Alger/West Road.

Mr. Jones is meeting with Jack Santimore to discuss cutting of timber on water works property on Fykes Road.

Discussion was held on the request from Steven Houck to purchase .178 acres from the town. His property is adjacent to the municipal building. The cost would be \$1000 plus legal fees.

Climate control in the records room at the old Town Hall is not working.

SOLAR LAW REVISIONS

Discussion was held on revising the Solar Law in the Development Law. The town's proposed amendments have been sent to the Tug Hill Commission. Discussed a moratorium on solar development. It was also recommended to add Air BnB regulations to the law.

Supervisor Thisse discussed shared services with Lewis County that were discussed at a joint meeting. Some ideas were:

- Solid waste management – radiation scanner
- Green waste tub grinder
- Centralized truck technician
- Medicare health coverage
- Jet vacuuming service
- Loader mounted snowblower

Supervisor Thisse received a quote from Mega – an electrical provider – of .06868. He will see how it compares to what we pay now.

Discussion was held on a Senior Citizens Tax Exemption Law. The assessor needs to be present to explain it more to the board.

Discussion was held on a request from the County for support of a CPR Application – NYS DOT Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Grant Application. The board does not support at this time. Supervisor Thisse will talk with the County to get more information. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to table this for the time being. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There will be an end of the year meeting on December 27, 2023 at 4:30 PM and an organizational meeting on January 3, 2024.

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to sign an ambulance contract with Lewis County Search and Rescue. The amount due for 2024 will be \$6,072.89. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Town had a request for a speed limit on Whitaker Road. NYSDOT completed an investigation regarding the request for a reduced speed zone on a portion of Whitaker Road. They conducted field reviews and laser speed surveys as part of the investigation. They also reviewed the latest four-year crash history. They came to the conclusion that a reduction of the existing speed limit is not warranted at this time.

There being no further matters to discuss, Councilman Allen, seconded by Councilman McGrath to adjourn at 9:20 pm. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk