

December 21, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at the Municipal Offices on Cemetery Road and called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Brad Allen, Janusz Karelus, Michael McGrath and Darren Jantzi; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Tax Collector Deanna Doviak; CTHC circuit rider Beth Steria-Rush; County Legislator Josh Leviker; Gordon Yancey; Megan Krokowski, Community Development Specialist; and Attorney Genevieve Fiddler, Young Law Office.

MINUTES

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

BILLS – Abstract #12-2022

General:	Voucher #282-296	\$ 8,468.54
Highway:	Voucher #216-231	\$ 11,385.27
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #70-73	\$ 8,473.35
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #60-63	\$ 1,783.40
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #62-69	\$ 2,135.14
Street Lighting:	Voucher #15-16	\$ 502.13
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #70	\$ 48.77

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Gordon Yancey questioned why the Maple Ridge Road had been plowed, a portion of which is a groomed snowmobile trail. Supervisor Thisse said this question would be discussed later on in the meeting.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)

Megan Krokowski was present to discuss CCA – a community choice program that allows municipalities to access cleaner and cheaper electricity. Joule is in the business of providing consulting and program administration services for CCA. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to hold a Public Hearing on January 18, 2023 at 7:15 PM to hear comments from the public regarding Local Law #1-2023 amending our code by adding a new chapter entitled “Community Choice Aggregation Program”. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

The Town Clerk report for November was presented for review. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to accept the November Town Clerk Report. Local and State revenues collected totaled \$18,804.98. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Steria-Rush reported on the following:

- NYS webinars on Planning/Zoning
- Tug Hill Commission history presentation on Snow Ridge
- DEC High Hazard Dam Rehabilitation Program
- Local Government Conference April 5-6
- Record Management Grant
- Agrivoltaric workshops
- Winter recreation opportunities by Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

Mr. Leviker reported on:

- There is \$3.78 M in Federal funds available to be applied toward bridges for the various municipalities and other eligible sponsors in Lewis County. There is \$10 M in state funds to be applied to culverts for the various municipalities and other eligible sponsors in the five counties that make up NYSDOT Region 7. Lewis County will apply for and administer culvert projects on behalf of the Towns.
- Central Lewis County water study
- Looking for option for reuse of Glenfield Elementary School
- Updates on progress of new Lewis County offices

HIGHWAY

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen authorizing the Supervisor sign a Shared Service Agreement with New York State DOT to exchange or lend materials or equipment which shall promote and assist the maintenance of State and Municipal roads and highways and provide a cost savings by maximizing the effective utilization of both parties' resources. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on a quote that was received and approved from Cazenovia Equipment for a roadside John Deere mower with 2 head attachments. The original quote was \$156,238.71. It has been discovered that there was a computer error with the quote and the amount should be \$169,538.71. Supervisor Thisse discussed consequences with the budget and said the difference could be taken from highway reserve. A quote had also been received from Tracey equipment for \$183,500. Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to amend the original resolution to purchase the John Deere mower from Cazenovia Equipment and change the price from \$156,238.71 to \$169,538.71. Roll call vote:

Supervisor Thisse – aye
Councilman Allen – abstain
Councilman Jantzi – aye
Councilmen Karelus – aye
Councilman McGrath – aye Motion carried.

Signage needs to be put up identifying Wifi availability around the Town.

The Clerk has requested to change Glenfield Water/Sewer billing from April 1 and October 1 to March 1 and September 1 for accounting purposes. The board approved the change.

Highway Superintendent Jones reported that there is an issue at the Glenfield Pump station – stand pipe is almost broken off.

MARTINSBURG WATER #1

Discussion was held on easements on Martinsburg Water #1 property/James Cataldo property on Fykes/Corrigan Hill Road. Supervisor Thisse said he could find no mention of easements in the paperwork that the town has on file.

Supervisor Thisse discussed the NYS Property Assessment Model Law regarding wind and solar property.

DOG CONTROL

The Clerk is to send invoices to the Town of Greig and Turin pertaining to dog control. Martinsburg has an agreement with the towns that they agree to pay \$20.00 a month for phone and \$.81 a mile for dog control services that our officer provides.

Discussion was held on possible uses of the Elementary School in Glenfield when the County is done using it for their interim office space. The Town Board would like to go on record that they are against it being used as a homeless shelter.

Discussion was held on NYCLASS for investments. The Town will need a resolution to utilize NYCLASS.

Discussion was held on LED lighting incentives from National Grid.

Supervisor Thisse received a proposal from Young Law Office to provide attorney services to the Town. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to accept the proposal for legal services, dated 12/21/2022. They will attend monthly board meetings at a rate of \$100.00 per meeting. The hourly rate would be \$175.00 for all other services and attendance at other associated town committee and/or board meetings. Travel fees will be time and mileage at the appropriate IRS rate. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PLANNING BOARD

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to appoint Gordon Yancey to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board. Mr. Yancey stated he did not want compensation for the position. All were in favor. Motion carried.

HOSLER/HOUCK PROPERTY

Discussion was held regarding the purchase offer between David Hosler and Town of Martinsburg originally dated May, 2018. Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath authorizing Supervisor Thisse to complete the sale to David Hosler (0.173 acres being part of tax parcel #242.00-0-18.11 and 0.178 acres being part of tax parcel #242.0001-21-14) pursuant to the terms of the contract. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on decommissioning proposal of Roaring Brook Wind Project. The town board wants a bond along with salvage value. The County and School have looked at the proposal and we are now waiting to receive comments from them.

AMBULANCE CONTRACT

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi authorizing the Supervisor sign a contract with Lowville Search and Rescue for ambulance service for 2023 for \$5,783.70. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The board would like to recognize Sam Kriwox, who has resigned, for his 36 years on the Town of Martinsburg Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Kriwox is one of the original board members and served from May, 1986 until October, 2022.

The board would like to recognize Carl Golas for his 19 years of service on the Town of Martinsburg Planning board – from January 2003 until July, 2022 when he sadly passed away.

Many thanks to both gentlemen for their dedication.

An end of year meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 at 5:30 pm to conduct any unfinished business. An organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 5:30 pm to do appointments, oaths of office and any other business that may come before the board.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath to go into executive session at 9:10 pm to discuss proposed litigation. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to leave executive session at 9:20 pm and return to regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen authorizing our attorney send letters to the Barnes Corners Sno Pals Snowmobile Club and one to Timothy Baker regarding plowing of Maple Ridge Road. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to adjourn at 9:30 pm. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk