

February 17, 2021

REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
CDBG COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 via Zoom due to Covid pandemic precautions. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. 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; Deanna Doviak, Tax Collector; Cooperative Tug Hill Council circuit rider Beth Steria; County Legislator Greg Kulzer; Anthony Young, Barton and Loguidice; Bette Lathan; Nelson Schwartzentruber and Jean Waterbury, from Tug Hill Commission, moderator of the Zoom meeting.

MINUTES

Minutes and agenda items were emailed to the board previous 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 02-2021

General:	Voucher #33-54	\$15,055.11
Highway:	Voucher #15-28	\$ 9,444.85
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #9-15	\$ 6,594.36
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #4-9	\$ 1,318.36
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #7-13	\$ 1,160.15
Martinsburg Water #2:	Voucher #2-3	\$ 3,212.14
Street Lighting:	Voucher #3-4	\$ 963.23
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #2	\$ 41.62

After some discussion and questions regarding the bills, Councilman Allen 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

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to approve the Town Clerk Report for January. State and Local revenues collected totaled \$11,236.28. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Steria gave a report on webinars and available training:

- Webinar series on “Letters from a Tug Hill Logger
- Charging stations for electric cars
- NYSDOT funding under the BRIDGE NY program
- 2020 NYS Community Block Grant Program accepting applications for public infrastructure , public facility, and community planning projects
- Cornell Local Roads program, Cornell Asset Management Program (CAMP)
- LED Street lighting
- 2021 Lewis County Agricultural Enhancement Plan
- NYS DEC Trees for Tribes’ Buffer in a Bag program

7:15 PM Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to open a Public Hearing regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Young from Barton and Loguidice gave a brief summary and description of the project that the town is looking for funding for – Improvement project for Glenfield Sewer – 1.25 million dollars for renovations and upgrades. The project would include several improvements including the addition of a 20,000 gallon septic tank and two sand bed liners. The Supervisor asked for any questions or comments. There being none, Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to close the Public Hearing at 7:25 PM and return to regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Karelus moved for adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Councilman McGrath:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF MARTINSBURG SUPERVISOR TO SIGN NYS EFC SRF FINANCING APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Martinsburg (Town) is proposing the Town of Martinsburg Hamlet of Glenfield Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer Collection System Project (Project), located in the Town of Martinsburg, Lewis County, New York; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Town of Martinsburg Town Board to submit a New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, New York State Revolving Funds Financing Application for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Town Supervisor may complete, sign and submit the New York State Revolving Funds Financing Application for the Project.

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

- Supervisor Thisse – aye
- Councilman Allen – aye
- Councilman Karelus – aye
- Councilman McGrath – aye
- Councilman Jantzi – aye

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Discussion was held on Civil Rights, Equal Employment Opportunity and Section 3 Policy.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi accepting the Civil Rights, Equal Employment Opportunity and Section 3 Policy. So, therefore, be it so resolved that the Town of Martinsburg accepts the Civil Rights, Equal Employment Opportunity and Section 3 Policy.

- Roll call vote:
- Supervisor Thisse aye
 - Councilman Allen – aye
 - Councilman Jantzi – aye
 - Councilman Karelus – aye
 - Councilman McGrath – aye

All in favor. Motion carried.

ADOPTS PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.83 SUSPENDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF RENEWAL APPLICATIONS AS A CONDITION TO GRANTING EXEMPTIONS UNDER SECTIONS 459-C AND 467 OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

Councilman Jantzi offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Karelus:

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New York by Executive Order No. 202 dated March 7, 2020, declared a state disaster emergency for the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, both travel-related and community contact transmission of COVID-19 have been documented in New York State and are expected to continue; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 29-a of Article 2-B of the Executive Law, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo did issue Executive Order 202.83 dated December 18, 2020, which authorized, by local option, the governing body, to adopt the provisions of that Executive Order 202.83, which temporarily suspends or modifies, subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law. The Covid-10 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020 (Chapter 381 of the Laws of 2020) was signed into law by Governor Cuomo on December 28 mandating the provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Executive Order 202.83 issued by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo and Chapter 381 of the Laws of 2020, the Town Board of the Town of Martinsburg hereby authorizes the Assessor to request an application where he or she has reason to believe that the applicant may have changed his or her primary residence, added an additional owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or died and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Assessor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all Town Hall Departments may review and obtain a copy of this resolution from the electronic storage device and if needed, a certified copy of same may be obtained from the Office of the Town Clerk.

Roll call vote: Supervisor Thisse – aye
Councilman Allen – aye
Councilman Karelus – aye
Councilman Jantzi – aye
Councilman McGrath – aye Motion carried.

The board received a request from the Martinsburg Historical Society asking if they would consider paying a portion of an estimate from Artisan Engraving to repair/replace stones in the Staring Cemetery. Total estimate is \$11,922.00. Supervisor Thisse reported to the board that there was money in the budget that could be used for this from unused funds in the Blue Way Trail Account and contingency. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to approve \$6,000 toward the repair of stones in Staring Cemetery. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Lathan thanked the board for all their support of improving the cemeteries in Town.

Supervisor Thisse gave Attorney Russell and the board a draft Local Law regulating and permitting special events on roads, trails or other town property to review and give input on. It was suggested that a line in the budget be started for “road repair due to events”. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to hold a Public Hearing at the next regular meeting, March 17, 2020 at 7:15 PM to hear comments on proposed Local Law #2-2021 – A Local Law Regulating and Permitting Special Events on Roads, Trails or Other Town Property. All were in favor. Motion carried.

LED STREET LIGHTING

Supervisor Thisse has received a commitment letter from the New York Power Authority, to be signed. The amount would be \$73,284.63 for LED street lighting. Supervisor Thisse still needs to talk to Mickey Dietrich about a few things regarding this and also to add three new street lights to the proposal.

Supervisor Thisse gave a report on a meeting he had with Kevin Brouillard, Community Development Specialist, Lewis County Planning, regarding an Energy Conservation Grant.

Councilman Allen asked the Supervisor if he had the maps ready for Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Department showing assessed values of property in the town, etc. He explained he is still working on it. A question was also asked if the town is considering extending a water line towards Lowville. Supervisor Thisse explained there are very few users between Martinsburg and Lowville. A feasibility study would need to be done.

Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to adjourn at 8:15 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk