

June 21, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

The Town Board of Martinsburg held their regular town board meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the municipal offices on Cemetery Road. Present were: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Janusz Karelus, Brad Allen and Darren Jantzi; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Attorney Genevieve Fidler; Deanna Doviak; CTHC circuit rider Beth Steria-Rush; County Legislator Josh Leviker; Jackie Mahoney, Lewis County recreation director; Gordon Yancey and Bev Swiernik. Absent: Councilman Michael McGrath.

MINUTES

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

BILLS – Abstract 06-2023

General:	Voucher #124-148	\$ 8,448.52
Highway:	Voucher #83-106	\$34,666.05
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #37-42	\$10,908.62
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #34-39	\$ 9,604.94
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #34-43	\$29,306.72
Street Lighting:	Voucher #11-12	\$ 346.64
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #12-26	\$ 4,892.05

After some discussion and a few questions about the bills, Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to pay the bills as amended. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – no comments.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

The Town Clerk report for the month of May was presented. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to approve the report as submitted. Total State and Town revenues totaled \$11,973.24. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Steria-Rush reported on:

- Planning and Zoning School
- Forestry grant
- The CTHC has a unit that counts traffic, flow, etc. and is free to borrow
- Conservation grants
- Home energy workshop
- New technical papers are available for introduction to municipal websites; use and regulation of drones; GIS resources for local governments; planning considerations for solar facilities
- Looking for nominations for Tug Hill Sage

7:20 PM Ms. Mahoney arrived.

Ms. Mahoney reported that a Public Meeting will be held on June 27 at 3-G Volunteer Fire Department to discuss community connectors for ATV trails. They are looking for landowners that will provide off road trails.

7:30 PM Highway Superintendent Jones arrived.

Discussion was held on a previously approved motion to allow the County to use a designated portion of the recently purchased field day grounds as a parking lot for unloading ATV's.

The County will be working on Main St. in Glenfield repairing the road. Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus allowing Lewis County Highway Department to stockpile material in a designated area at the field day grounds. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT

- Ribbon cutting ceremony for the recently renovated DSS building will be tomorrow
- Carla Hellinger is the new Director of Aging
- Discussed plans for reconstruction of Main Street in Glenfield
- Suit-kote is micro paving all County roads in Lewis County
- Legislation on weight limits for side by side recreational vehicles is progressing
- The County is taking over certain town bridges
- The County approved funding for ambulances and will be distributed across the County

HIGHWAY

Discussion was held on the sale of an unused seven foot wide tractor bucket. Councilman Allen said to find out the value of it.

Mr. Jones reported that ATV signage is available at the County level. They get stolen from the trails/town roads. The ATV's are also riding ditches, when signage says it is not allowed. Mr. Jones says he has a \$5000 claim into Lewis County for ATV damage.

Councilman Karelus, Councilman Jantzi and Clerk Kelley attended a webinar, hosted by Joule Assets, regarding Community Solar Projects. Some points made:

- Low income prioritized
- Developed land produces lease payments for the town
- No out of pocket cost
- Joule will give guidance on all things solar and will help with maximizing available funding

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen for the following resolution:

Resolution by the Town of Martinsburg approving Preparation of a Report on Municipal Solar and Storage Opportunities by Joule Assets Inc. ("Joule")

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Town of Martinsburg to adopt policies and undertake projects that reduce consumption of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions, develop renewable energy, and that support New York State's Clean Energy Goals and Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act including without limitation opportunities to develop solar energy, energy storage and to support the Town of Martinsburg's low to moderate income population ("Municipal Solar and Storage Opportunities");

WHEREAS, New York State can support Municipal Solar and Storage Opportunities, including through grants from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority ("NYSERDA"), tax credits and other incentives to the Municipality and its constituents;

WHEREAS, the United States government can support Municipal Solar and Storage Opportunities through incentives to develop renewable energy projects and to support its LMI populations including through direct pay incentives made available through the Inflation Reduction Act;

WHEREAS, the Town of Martinsburg and Joule each desire that Joule investigate and provide a high level report on the Solar and Storage Opportunities available to the Municipality, such as grant opportunities, direct pay incentives, potential partnerships with regional projects, municipally or locally owned local renewable facilities etc., without charge or other obligation to the Municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Martinsburg hereby authorizes Joule investigate and prepare a report on the Municipal Solar and Storage Opportunities for presentation to the Town Board of the Town of Martinsburg without charge or obligation to the Municipality.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

GLENFIELD WATER PROJECT UPDATE

The engineers are still working on the design. Funding is in place. Discussion was held on waterline crossing Blue St.

GLENFIELD SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

There will be a need to increase the size of the sewer plant once the new owners of the Glenfield School finish their upgrades.

GLENFIELD FIELD DAY GROUNDS

- Firemen's auxiliary will clean up "haunted house" site
- Could use restrooms for ball equipment storage
- Need to get water to the restrooms
- Needs cleaning up around the area
- Discussed renting out the pavilion – need a policy

MARTINSBURG WATER #1

Discussion was held on the repair of the Aquastore water tank in Martinsburg Water District #1. Work can't start until October. Discussed a variable speed pump so water would always be in motion. The freezing of water is what caused damage to the tank.

Mr. Jones reported that the shingles on the chlorination plant need replacing. He will get a quote for Preferred Roofing.

Renting of cropland in the district was discussed. The highway department has been working on widening Fykes Road. There was a complaint from the renter that there are tree limbs, etc. that rolled over into the field that could damage his equipment and doesn't feel comfortable mowing the field(s). He has money invested in planting. He asked that the rent not be charged this year. Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to offer a \$200 discount on the rent. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR

Deanna Doviak, tax collector, submitted a retirement letter. In order for her to draw retirement, she has to not work for one day and can then be reappointed. Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to accept the retirement letter from Tax Collector Deanna Doviak, effective July 1, 2023. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SOLAR LAW

Discussion was held on revision to the Development Law regarding solar arrays. Supervisor Thisse gave the board more material to review. He called a Special Meeting for Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 5:30 PM to discuss this.

JUSTICE AUDIT

The Supervisor audited the Justice records for 2022 and reviewed the findings with the board. Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus, accepting the Supervisor's findings of the Justice Audit and that all the fines that were collected by the Court for 2022 have been turned over to the proper officials. All were in favor. Motion carried.

LED STREET LIGHTING

Still waiting for three new lights to be installed.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

- Community Bank wants the Town to come back to them for investing reserve account monies. Currently with NYCLASS
- Young Law firm is piecing together information regarding Bond Counsel for Glenfield water and sewer accounts

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to go into executive session at 8:50 PM to discuss pending litigation. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to leave executive session at 9:00 PM and to adjourn the regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk