

November 16, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at the Municipal Offices on Cemetery Road, Martinsburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Supervisor Thisse; Councilmen Darren Jantzi, Michael McGrath and Janusz Karelus; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; CTHC Circuit Rider Beth Steria-Rush; County Legislator Josh Leviker; Tax Collector Deanna Doviak; Bev Swiernik; and Gordon Yancey. Absent: Councilman Brad Allen.

MINUTES

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

BILLS – Abstract #11-2022

General:	Voucher #248-274	\$ 56,657.05
Highway:	Voucher #197-215	\$ 21,808.33
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #61-69	\$ 11,348.68
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #54-59	\$ 39,785.61
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #56-61	\$ 3,516.14
Martinsburg Water #2:	Voucher # 2	\$ 1,913.72
Street Lighting:	Voucher #13-14	\$ 531.26
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #66-69	\$ 366.02

After some discussion 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

Ms. Doviak asked if Conex boxes were allowed in town and does the owner need to get a land use permit. Supervisor Thisse said the town is in the process of reviewing the junkyard law and will get her an answer to this in 30 days.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

The town clerk report for October was presented to the board. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to accept the Town Clerk Report for October. Total State and Local revenues totaled \$33,833.03.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Steria-Rush reported on the following:

- Planning training
- Training on battery storage for solar projects
- Municipal accounting training by Laird Petrie
- Constable Hall webinars

LEGISLATORS REPORT

Mr. Leviker reported on the following:

- The county is finalizing the truck radio update
- Restore N.Y. (old town hall renovations would qualify)
- Main St. in Glenfield didn't get repaired this year. It will be a three year project to fix drainage and repave
- Renovation of the Social Services building is coming along
- Additional funding in the budget for the Lewis County Historical Society was approved
- The County is marketing the old Glenfield School and is looking for expression of interest

Supervisor Thisse told Mr. Leviker that their sales tax sharing was greatly appreciated.

An "Expenditure of highway monies" agreement was signed by the Supervisor, Superintendent of Highways and Councilmen and will be sent to Lewis County.

UTILITY BILLING UPDATE

The Clerk is working with Edmunds GovTech on a new utility billing software called MCSJ. All the information from the BAS system will have to be transferred to the new system.

ELECTRICITY PROVIDER

Community Choice Aggregate (Joule) is sanctioned by the County. The town should get a better rate by joining with Joule. The town needs to pass a Local Law so Joule can take control of finding an electricity provider.

ATTORNEY

The town attorney has not been available, because of health issues, for some time. Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus authorizing the Supervisor draft a letter to Mr. Russell terminating his services. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the adjacent property owned by Steven Houck.

INACTIVE CEMETERY POLICY

Discussion was held on finalizing an inactive cemetery policy – in case someone inquires about being buried in an inactive cemetery – one that has been turned over to the Town. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to adopt the following policy:

- Need permission of the current Town Board
- Type of marker allowed is up to the discretion of the Town Board
- A map should be referred to (if available)
- Price of plot will be at the discretion of the Town Board
- All burial expenses to be borne by the family

All were in favor. Motion carried.

JUNKYARD LAW

Discussion was held on Lewis County enforcing our junkyard law. Supervisor Thisse will break out (from the current law) what the County would enforce and what the Town would enforce. The town will need an Intermunicipal Agreement with Lewis County.

NY CLASS

Discussion was held on NY CLASS which is a local government investment pool that allows municipalities to pool funds together collectively while earning interest on their investments.

Discussion was held on Martinsburg Water #1 waterline easements on Fykes/Corrigan Hill Road. Clerk is to get file out for Supervisor to review.

LED STREET LIGHTING

Discussion was held on a maintenance agreement with DANC for LED street lighting. The board does not feel we need one at this point and should wait until the project is complete. The clerk is to send an email to the Development Authority with our concerns.

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman to go into executive session at 8:20 PM to discuss personnel issues. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath to return to regular meeting at 8:35 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding hiring a new attorney.

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath to adjourn at 8:45 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk