

November 17, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 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, Michael McGrath and Brad Allen; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Tax Collector Deanna Doviak; CTHC Circuit Rider Beth Steria; Anthony Young, Barton and Loguidice and Gordon Yancey. Absent: Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones and County Legislator Greg Kulzer.

MINUTES

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

BILLS – Abstract #11-2021

General:	Voucher # 231-247	\$47,029.92
Highway:	Voucher #197-217	\$16,981.04
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #69-74	\$ 2,016.82
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #43-48	\$12,449.49
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #60-65	\$ 2,081.93
Martinsburg Water #2:	Voucher #6	\$ 1,727.59
Street Lighting:	Voucher #20-21	\$ 826.68
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #77-78	\$ 89.48

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

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to accept the Town Clerk Report for October. Total State and Local Revenues totaled \$35,575.45. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COMMISSION

Ms. Steria gave an update on training workshops, grants, etc.:

- Three vacancies at the Commission
- Association of Towns Annual Training in February
- Comprehensive Training session by the Tug Hill Commission
- Façade and Streetscape Improvement Program
- USDA Forest Program
- Accounting school by the State Comptroller
- Webinar on PILOT agreements
- Laird Petrie will give will provide assistance for budget and accounting

HIGHWAY

Plowing seasonal roads was discussed. Valley Snow Travelers are concerned about this issue.

GLENFIELD WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Young gave an update on the Glenfield Water project. Well investigation is complete. We are waiting for documents from Attorney to complete property acquisition from 3-G Fire Department. A new water treatment plant will be located on the sewer plant property. A water softening method needs to be selected. There was discussion on Ion exchange versus reverse osmosis system. Ion exchange is more labor intensive and uses a lot of salt. Reverse osmosis is a little more expensive. After more discussion, Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to go with the reverse osmosis system. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on raw water piping location. Need to have archeological survey done.

Meter readings in Glenfield were discussed. According to the software system, data is not being received from all the meters. Discussion was held on moving antennas at each household outside. In the summer there seems to be interference from foliage. Mr. Young suggested changing the way we bill – we could bill usage once a year and O & M once a year. It was suggested that maybe use another cell tower? The badger meter representative should be contacted to come up and do a walk thru with Mr. Young and Highway Superintendent Jones.

VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION

Discussion was held on the contract with Volunteer Transportation. Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to sign an agreement with Volunteer Transportation, paying them the budgeted amount of \$750.00 for 2022. All were in favor. Motion carried.

JOULE COMMUNITY SOLAR

Councilman Jantzi reported on a meeting he had with representatives from Joule Community Power. This is a group bringing renewable energy to communities across New York State. Community Choice would be the energy supplier. Municipality has to sign on for locals to participate. Pooling local buying power, municipalities solicit competitive bids from solar providers and negotiate favorable terms. It was suggested to have Cassandra Buell, County Planning Director come and let us know more about this. Mr. Jantzi didn't seem to think there would be a huge savings.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Supervisor Thisse gave an update on the \$78,000 received from the Covid related American Rescue Plan Act. Reporting needs to be done in April. We are waiting for guidance from the Tug Hill Commission on what exactly this money can be used for.

Discussion was held on reserves in the budget and CD rates.

Supervisor Thisse asked the board to take a look at the new DEC management plan. The Town doesn't need any more restrictions.

Mr. Hirschey has suggested raising camping rates at Whitaker Park. The current rate is \$5 per tent and \$10 per RV. It was suggested to raise the rates to \$10 for a tent and \$15 for a RV.

Mr. Thisse reported that he submitted a proposal for the County Façade and Streetscape grant. He asked for benches for the playground and old town hall and a bike rack at the playground. Another application round is available.

Mr. Thisse wrote a letter to County Legislators with suggestions regarding the County Wide Water Study.

Ms. Doviak reported that she will not collect taxes in person due to the rise in COVID infections. They can mail them in or use the drop box in front of Municipal Building.

Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to adjourn at 8:20 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk

