

October 18, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at the Municipal Offices on Cemetery Road and called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Darren Jantzi, Brad Allen, Michael McGrath and Janusz Karelus; Attorney Genevieve Fidler; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Tax Collector Deanna Doviak; Christine Healt, CTHC circuit rider ; Robert Dening Jr.; Kyle Smithling, Steven Houck and John Swartzentruber from the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Department. Absent: Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were emailed to the board members prior to this 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 10-2023

General:	Voucher #213-238	\$ 8,838.43
Highway:	Voucher #164-180	\$200,006.65
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #58-63	\$ 1,461.91
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #52-54	\$ 304.85
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #59-66	\$ 39,377.14
Street Lighting:	Voucher #18-19	\$ 179.72
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #54-59	\$ 2,068.47

There was some discussion on the bills. In General, the invoice from Volunteer Transport should be adjusted to the budgeted amount of \$750.00. Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to pay the bills as amended. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Members of the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Department were present to discuss their budget requests for 2024. A concern they have is how taxpayer money is divided between the two fire districts – Martinsburg and Glenfield. Supervisor Thisse explained that the assessed value between the two fire protection districts is pretty much the same. Martinsburg Fire District explained that they provide more coverage than Glenfield. Supervisor Thisse will go to Real Property Tax Office and get more details. It also was mentioned that the wind towers are in Martinsburg Fire District.

Steven Houck owns property adjacent to the town Municipal buildings and was wondering if he could purchase more land from the town. Supervisor Thisse will look at the most recent survey and get back to Mr. Houck.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

The Town Clerk report for September was presented to the board. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to accept the September town clerk report. Total State and Local revenues totaled \$28,435.75. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Healt reported on the following:

- Various training workshops
- DEC invasive species program
- Glenfield & Western Railroad historical video
- Reported that the Tug Hill Commission is looking for more staff
- Cornell Solar installation webinars
- Lewis County Façade and Streetscape Grant

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

Mr. Leviker sent an email reporting on the following:

- Lewis County proposed 2024 budget has a tax rate of \$6.36/\$1,000 assessed value – a 15.6 % decrease
- The new highway garage is operational
- DSS is operational with a few minor items to be modified
- The interior improvements for the jail and parking lots are 90% completed
- The new DMV building is operational and work continues on the renovation to the old DMV wing for the Board of Elections
- United Radio techs are visiting town barns to determine supplies needed. ID's, etc are being created. With the new radios, there will be improved communications between the County and Townships.
- Update on new county health coverage. The Town could sign up with the new health coverage as their own applicant. But, the application would need to be completed in September of 2024 to be enrolled by January 1, 2025.
- The reconstruction of Highmarket Road is complete along with the Micro paving of Pine Grove Road.
- The old County Volvo-Grader is at the town of West Turin and will be utilized between West Turin and Martinsburg. (A question was asked as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the equipment.)

HIGHWAY

Tony Beyer has been contacted by Highway Superintendent Jones to give the town an estimate to paint the roof of the highway cold storage building. The roof on the Martinsburg Water Chlorination building has been replaced. Mr. Jones is waiting for an estimate from Groff's to repair the International 4 wheel drive Plow Truck.

Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus authorizing Supervisor Thisse to sign the health care contract with Brown and Brown Associates. They are the towns' agent for Excellus Blue Cross and Blue Shield. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Jantzi reported on a meeting he had with Lewis County regarding shared services:

- "Brainstorming" on ways to help towns instead of sharing tax sale monies
- County hiring a full time assessor and data collector
- Web server
- Grant writer
- Supplying a green dump and/or buying a chipper
- Discussed County taking over all bridges
- Town taking over county roads

GLENFIELD FIELD DAY GROUNDS

Discussion was held on:

- Trailhead parking area – who plows it and is it for both ATV's and Snowmobiles. The County will be stockpiling snow in the parking area
- Signage for ATV's and dirtbikes
- Ordering trash can covers
- Winterization of restrooms

Supervisor Thisse reported that we don't have Department of Health approval of plans for upgrading Glenfield Water and Glenfield Sewer projects.

Attorney Fidler reported that bonding paperwork has been located. Attorney Russell had started bond counsel paperwork before he passed. This paperwork is needed for funding of water and sewer projects.

LED STREET LIGHTING UPDATE

Waiting for bill from National Grid for one pole.

Supervisor Thisse gave the board members information regarding amendments to the town Solar Law. Discussed a temporary moratorium on solar array development.

Discussion was held on an email from NYMIR – the town’s insurance company. There is information they need to continue Cyber Security coverage. Mr. Dening said he could help the town figure out what is needed.

More discussion was held on where to use ARPA monies.

Councilman McGrath and Karelus audited May and June accountant bank statements.

Discussion was held on a request from the Rochester Cornerstone Group for support letters regarding their purchase of Glenfield Elementary School –

- Support letter
- Zoning confirmation letter
- Water/sewer capacity will-serve letter

Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus authorizing sending letters of support for the proposed project by Rochester Cornerstone Group, General Martin Apartments. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Thisse gave an update on 575b legislation - newly-adopted **New York Real Property Tax Law** (“RPTL”) § 575-b requires that solar and wind projects greater than one megawatt be assessed by the Discounted Cash Flow (“DCF”) methodology using a model formula (the “Model”) and discount rates established by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance (“DOTF”). He is in discussion about this with a group and an attorney.

Discussion was held on a cemetery policy for town inactive cemeteries. The Clerk is to ask the state how to account for income derived from the sale of inactive cemetery plots.

There will be a Special Meeting to work on the 2024 preliminary budget, fire contracts and any other matter that may come before the board on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 5:20 PM.

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to adjourn at 9:05 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk