

October 20, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at the Municipal Offices on Cemetery Road and called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Brad Allen, Darren Jantzi, Janusz Karelus and Michael McGrath; Attorney Mark Gebo; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Lewis County Legislator Greg Kulzer; CTHC circuit rider Beth Steria; Tax Collector Deanna Doviak. Absent: Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones.

MINUTES

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

BILLS – Abstract 10-2021

General:	Voucher # 205-230	\$ 11,364.55
Highway:	Voucher #172-196	\$ 194,392.94
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #62-68	\$ 8,753.74
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #39-42	\$ 700.74
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #55-59	\$ 4,197.50
Street Lighting:	Voucher #18-19	\$ 802.20
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #67-76	\$ 2,719.69

Questions were asked regarding a few of the bills. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to pay the bills as presented – holding out Voucher #62 – R.J. Hulburt - from Glenfield Water until more documentation is received. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – no comments

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to accept the Town Clerk Report for September. Town and Local revenues totaled \$12,211.45. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COMMISSION

Ms. Steria reported on the following:

- The Tug Hill Commission is advertising for three vacancies – Associate Director of Community & Regional Projects; Projects Specialist; and Planner
- Training session on comprehensive planning October 28
- Façade & Streetscape Improvement Program
- USDA Forest Service Community Forest Program
- Advanced Accounting School by the Office of the State Comptroller
- Webinar on PILOT agreements
- Laird Petrie will provide budget and accounting technical assistance

LEWIS COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT

Mr. Kulzer reported that there will be no tax increase in the County budget. Wifi hotspots were discussed and where they could be located. A new position as Purchaser at the County level has been established.

HIGHWAY

Supervisor Thisse and the Clerk reported on a webinar they attended regarding the American Rescue Plan. Discussion was held on the County water study involving the Towns of Martinsburg, Denmark, Lowville, Watson and Village of Copenhagen.

GLENFIELD WATER

Discussion was held on an intermunicipal agreement the town has with the owner of the Glenfield Trailer Park. Discussion was held on water meter readings in Glenfield and how some readings are not recording with the new system.

Mr. Cooper gave an update on the Glenfield Water Distribution System Project. Design of treatment plant is scheduled to be ready by December, 2021. Department of Health approval is planned for February, 2022. Construction should start in April, 2022 with completion November, 2022. No decision has been made on a water softening method.

GLENFIELD SEWER PROJECT

Mr. Cooper have an update on the Glenfield Sewer Project – UV disinfection and expanding the wastewater treatment plant. Discussion was held on funding for the project. He recommended skipping WIIA funding this round. A funding application has been submitted for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). An application has been submitted for a Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) for the disinfection portion of the project and also for the wastewater improvements.

Mr. Cooper made a comment on the County wide water study. He said sometimes it is not feasible if houses are few and far between to connect water lines between towns. Discussion was held on sharing water plant operators with other towns.

LED STREET LIGHTING

Supervisor Thisse reported that Asset Closing with National Grid for LED street lighting will be November 1. All components are in.

Supervisor Thisse reported that the Tug Hill Commission is helping with a walking trail grant at Whitaker Park.

Discussion was held on combining multiple town junkyard laws into one with the County enforcing it. Need to confer with County Code Enforcement.

Mr. Thisse reported on the Façade and Streetscape grant he is working on. Possible items to request would be updating bleachers, new signs, benches, etc.

Councilman Jantzi made a motion for a resolution, seconded by Councilman McGrath:

Resolution: Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative Grants project; Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust as the applicant.

WHEREAS, Mark & Jennifer Karelus are the owners of Karelus Farms, consisting of approximately 140 acres in tax parcel 227.00-01-14.100 in the Town of Martinsburg, Lewis County (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust as a New York not-for-profit corporation to accept, purchase, and hold conservation easements under section 170(h) of the Code and Treasury Regulation Section 1,170A-14(c); and

WHEREAS, the Property is located within Lewis County's Agricultural District 6 created pursuant to Article 25-AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets. It is the purpose of the article to provide a locally-initiated mechanism for the protection and enhancement of New York State's agricultural land as a viable segment of the local and state economies of the local and state economies and as an economic and environmental resource of major importance; and

WHEREAS, the Property is located within Lewis County, which adopted an Agricultural Enhancement Plan in

April 2021, with an updated comprehensive plan addressing Agricultural and Forested land use in October 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Property is located with the Town of Martinsburg, which adopted a comprehensive plan on April 15, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Property consists primarily of productive agricultural land. The Property, which is 140 acres, contains 130 acres in active crop production, 88 acres of prime soils and 31 acres of soils of statewide importance as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service; and

WHEREAS, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust determined that accepting this easement on the Property will enhance the long-term agricultural values of the Property and forward its mission of protecting the wildlands, working forests and farms of the Tug Hill region and surrounding areas, and to promote appreciation of the region's natural and cultural heritage, for present and the future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Karelus Family and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust agree the purpose of the agricultural easement will be to perpetually conserve viable agricultural land by preventing the conversion for non-farm uses. In achieving such prevention, the Property shall be forever reserved for continued agricultural use; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Martinsburg Town Board passed a resolution on October 20, 2021 at a regular Town Board meeting to endorse the submission of an application for a Farmland Protection Initiative Grant for the Karelus Farm by Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. If funded, this grant will provide funding from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to purchase the development rights (Agricultural conservation easement) on the Mark and Jennifer Karelus farm.

By Order of the Town Board of the Town of Martinsburg by the following vote thereon:

Supervisor Thisse	aye	
Councilman McGrath	aye	
Councilman Allen	aye	
Councilman Jantzi	aye	
Councilman Karelus	abstained	Motion carried.

Supervisor Thisse reported that he has been approached by NY Community Solar and Joule Community Power regarding solar power and energy savings. Councilman Jantzi will attend a County wide meeting on the subject and report back.

Discussion was held on a contract with the Volunteer Transport System. The matter was tabled until the November meeting and the budget has been completed.

There will be a Public Hearing on the 2022 Preliminary Budget November 3, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen, to declare screened topsoil, from recent ditching jobs, as surplus. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk

