

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at the Municipal Offices, Cemetery Road, and called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Janusz Karelus, Brad Allen, Michael McGrath and Darren Jantzi; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Attorney Keith Lyndaker; Tax Collector Deanna Doviak; Legislator Josh Leviker; CTHC Circuit Rider Beth Steria-Rush; Linda Domagala; Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Jantzi and Kathy Jantzi.

MINUTES

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

BILLS – Abstract 09-2023

General:	Voucher #194-212	\$ 5,629.68
Highway:	Voucher #145-163	\$196,581.35
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #53-57	\$ 6,152.16
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #49-51	\$ 4,537.10
Martinsburg Water \$1:	Voucher #53-58	\$ 1,142.66
Street Lighting:	Voucher #16-17	\$ 294.66
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #43-53	\$ 2,445.03

Discussion was held on the bills and CHIPS payments for highway fund. Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to approve the bills as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ms. Domagala, President of the Singing Water Senior Citizens, was present to request that the board consider budgeting for their group in the 2024 budget. Because of COVID restrictions, they haven't requested any money for two years. She said they have 29 active members and would like to request \$500.00 for group activities.

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen to open a Public Hearing at 7:20 PM to hear comments on a proposed speed limit on Whitaker Road. The Jantzi's were present to discuss their concerns regarding the blind spots on the road and the type of vehicular traffic that uses Whitaker Road including farm equipment and dump trucks traveling to Virklers' gravel pit. Discussion was held on the steps to be taken to request the speed limit.

Supervisor Thisse held the Public Hearing open and went on with other business.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

The Town Clerk report was presented to the board. Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi accepting the Town Clerk report for August. State and Local revenues collected totaled \$9,215.84. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COMMISSION

Ms. Steria-Rush reported on the following:

- Planning and Zoning Training at Jefferson County Training Center
- Forest Conservation Grants – buying land for recreation
- Archives Webinar
- Workshop on flood control
- Budget and accounting school
- NY Prosperous – USDA assistance
- DEC grants for invasive species

- Cornell Local Roads training on traffic control

Councilman Jantzi made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to close the public hearing and return to regular meeting at 7:30. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT

Mr. Leviker reported on the following:

- DMV, Highway garage, hospital and other county building projects
- Capital improvement – Glenfield complete streets project – improvements to Blue St. in Glenfield. Tim Hunt, County Highway Superintendent, will give an update to the board soon
- Assessed value of the whole county went up 15.8%
- County health care plan (self insured) – United Health Care

Supervisor Thisse asked if the town could piggyback off the County healthcare plan? He also asked if extra tax distribution to the towns would be made like last year. Mr. Leviker said there was talk of it.

Councilman Jantzi went to a Hazard Mitigation meeting with Lewis County Planning. Supervisor Thisse reported that the town has a plan. Relocating the Glenfield Sewer Plant, because it is in a floodplain, is in NYS DEC's plan.

HIGHWAY

Discussion was held on the purchase of the new mower tractor. Tractor is in but waiting for the mower attachment. The 2008 International snowplow is in for repairs to motor. We do have a spare plow. Highway Superintendent Jones reported he would like to have the cold storage building roof painted. He will get a couple quotes. A request for new chairs in the courtroom/board room was made. Supervisor Thisse said "not this year".

Mr. Jones reported that it is hard to keep up with grading gravel roads with all the ATV traffic.

8:00 PM Councilman Michael McGrath arrived.

FIELD DAY GROUNDS

Signage (for bikes and ATV's using it), trash removal and trash cans were discussed. The bathrooms will need to be winterized.

GLENFIELD WATER AND GLENFIELD SEWER PROJECT UPDATES

We are waiting for State approval of designs and waiting for funding. Will not start projects until next year now.

Discussed a possible leak at Glenfield Trailer Park. The owner says he can't find any leaks. Mr. Jones suggested it could come from individual trailers such as toilets leaking.

Discussed reverse osmosis treatment of water at Glenfield Water plant.

MARTINSBURG WATER #1

Highway Superintendent Jones reported that the water tank has been repaired. They will start refilling it in a few days. Aquastore will place a mixer in the silo which will prevent ice from forming and being an issue. The mixer also keeps chlorine residual even or consistent.

LED STREET LIGHTS

This project is not complete. And, now, the town is only requesting one new one – at Whitaker Park entrance.

Supervisor Thisse has an amended solar law to discuss with the board. The Tug Hill Commission has amended our previous law. He will get copies to the board.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

Discussion was held on the combination of the town clerk and tax collector elected positions. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Janusz Karelus to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MARTINSBURG TO ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF TAX COLLECTION

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Martinsburg, New York (the "Town") has determined that the office of Tax Collector is no longer required for the proper conduct of the affairs of said Town,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the office of Tax Collector of the Town, is abolished effective December 31, 2025, the date of expiration of the term for which the incumbent who will be elected at the bi-annual election on November 7, 2023.

The Town Board members voted upon roll call, resulting as follows:

Councilperson Karelus: aye
Councilperson McGrath: aye
Councilperson Allen: aye
Councilperson Jantzi: aye
Supervisor Thisse: aye

Resolution adopted.

Supervisor Thisse reported:

- Nothing new to report on a Cemetery Policy
- Lewis County is conducting an 8-year Review of Ag District #6
- Greenvolt Solutions will be in the building mid October to replace light ballasts
- Any new ideas to add to the suggestions for using ARPA money?
(Glenfield Sewer; Glenfield Field Day grounds; Martinsburg, Glenfield and General Martin Playgrounds, Whitaker Park, Sewer camera, old Town Hall)
- Gave board members a copy of the 2024 preliminary budget to review
- Corner Stone Group that bought the Glenfield Elementary School wants to discuss the school playground

REAL PROPERTY TAX QUESTIONNAIRE

The board agreed that there would be no changes to the 2024 Exemptions on Real Property Taxes.

Discussed letter written by Senator Walczyk and Assemblyman Blankenbush to Gov. Hochul regarding maximum value for renewable energy facilities.

WHITAKER ROAD

Further discussion was held on a speed limit for Whitaker Road. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jantzi to adopt the following resolution:

The Town Board of the Town of Martinsburg, along with the Lewis County Highway Superintendent, hereby requests the Department of Transportation, pursuant to Section 1622.1 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, to establish a lower maximum speed limit at which vehicles may proceed on Whitaker Road, from the current speed zone on West end of Whitaker Road to State Rt 12. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Town Clerk is to send a copy of the resolution to the NYS Department of Transportation.

Discussion was held on an unsigned letter delivered to the town offices regarding town fire services.

There being no further business, Councilman Allen made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath to adjourn at 9:30 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk

