

August 16, 2017

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held Wednesday, August 16, 2017 and called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Douglas Dietrich, E. Frank Kogut, Janusz Karelus and Michael McGrath; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Attorney Mark Gebo; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Legislator Greg Kulzer; CTHC Circuit Rider Beth Steria; Deb Kogut and Deanna Doviak.

MINUTES

Councilman Dietrich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kogut, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS – Abstract 8-2017

General:	Voucher #194-211	\$14,326.10
Highway:	Voucher #150-169	\$12,476.80
Glenfield Water:	Voucher #41-51	\$ 1,871.15
Glenfield Sewer:	Voucher #25-28	\$ 671.54
Martinsburg Water #1:	Voucher #44-49	\$ 2,558.85
Street Lighting:	Voucher #15-16	\$ 741.21
Whitaker Park:	Voucher #42-54	\$ 2,309.79

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dietrich, to approve payment of the bills as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – no comments

Supervisor Thisse announced that Attorney Mark Gebo will be retiring next year as municipal attorney. He will be available to consult and will do so until the wind project is done. We are all extremely sorry to hear this and will miss him and his expertise. Mr. Gebo was appointed Town Attorney on September 21, 1991.

Supervisor Thisse also commented on how nice the Veteran’s Ceremony at West Martinsburg Cemetery was. Bette Lathan was instrumental in getting numerous guest speakers together to honor veterans known to be buried in the cemetery.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Councilman Dietrich made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath to accept the Town Clerk Monthly report for July as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7:10 PM Councilman Janusz Karelus arrived.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COMMISSION

Ms Steria gave a report on available training, grants and workshops. She also reported that the tax cap for 2018 is 1.84%.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR

Mr. Kulzer reported that it is budget time at the County. He also stated that there will be a tire recycling day coming up. He also enjoyed the Cemetery Ceremony at West Martinsburg.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Jones reported the following high bids at the internet auction site "Auction International":

2012 Pick-up - \$11,200

2007 Pick-up - \$ 2,800

And one sealed bid for the 2007 pick-up - \$1,500.

Discussion was held on the bids. There is a \$30 advertising fee for the online auction site. The board has the right to reject any and/or all bids. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kogut to accept the online auction bids - \$11,200 for the 2012 pick-up and \$2,800 for the 2007 pick-up. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the adjacent property of David Hosler and his proposal to purchase a strip of land from the town. Mr. Hosler is to install a fence and should give the board a proposal of the kind of fence he will install. A land use permit will be needed for the fence and the town will need Planning Board approval for the subdivision – selling a lot to Mr. Hosler. The town will commit to selling to Mr. Hosler if the board accepts the fence proposal.

Nemeth property (transfer of) was discussed. The attorney has no description yet. Councilman Dietrich made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath declaring the old bridge property on the Meiss Road as surplus property. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Superintendent Jones discussed the town's leave of absence policy regarding an employee that would like to take a month and a half off (not all at once) to further his education. He does not have enough vacation time accrued. Mr. Gebo suggested that the board should set parameters; put a limit on leave of absence; leave of absence starts when the training starts; the employee will lose sick time leave. Councilman Kogut is not in favor of a leave of absence if his schooling does not benefit the town. After much discussion, the board decided not to allow a leave of absence. When the employee is done with his vacation time, he will not be a town employee. If Superintendent Jones decides to hire the employee back, he will start all over accruing vacation/sick time benefits.

GLENFIELD WATER

Highway Superintendent Jones reported that major work needs to be done with Glenfield Water infrastructure. The Town will need an engineering firm to do a study to describe what the cost would be to replace the water main and laterals; and to see what grants might be available. Also, things in the pump house need to be replaced. Councilman Kogut made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus, to get a quote from Bernier & Carr, Engineers, for a water improvement project study in the Glenfield Water District. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MARTINSBURG WATER #1

Wellhead Protection Area was discussed. A reminder letter, along with a map, should be sent to all farmers in the area.

Councilmen Karelus and McGrath audited the June bank statements of the accountant.

MARTINSBURG WATER #2

The Village of Lowville is advising homeowners using village water, to conserve. Discussion was held on extending a line down State Route 26 to feed that district from Water District #1.

The board reviewed a letter from Lewis County Search and Rescue that they are not requiring an increase of funds from the town for 2018. The amount the town budgets for ambulance service will remain at \$5500.

NYMIR will be doing their annual safety inspection this month.

PILOT negotiations for the wind power project were discussed.

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kogut, to go into executive session at 8:10 PM for attorney/client discussions. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Dietrich made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath to leave executive session at 8:10 PM and to adjourn the regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk