

November 15, 2017

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held Wednesday, November 15, 2017 and called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Janusz Karelus, Douglas Dietrich, E. Frank Kogut and Michael McGrath; Highway Tyler Jones; Attorney Mark Gebo; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; CTHC Circuit rider Beth Steria; Michael Colwell; Gordon Yancey; and County Legislator Greg Kulzer.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting were emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. Councilman Dietrich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kogut to accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS Abstract #11-2017

General	Voucher # 264-284	\$18,281.50
Highway	Voucher #207-222	\$ 6,749.00
Glenfield Sewer	Voucher #36-39	\$13,352.85
Glenfield Water	Voucher #63-68	\$ 4,248.76
Martinsburg Water #1	Voucher #64-71	\$ 2,745.25
Martinsburg Water #2	Voucher #3	\$ 1,789.34
Street Lighting	Voucher #21-22	\$ 746.42
Whitaker Park	Voucher #74-81	\$ 689.59

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kogut to approve payment of the bills as amended (wire transfer for debt payment should be out of Glenfield Sewer). Roll Call vote:

Supervisor Thisse – aye
Councilman Kogut – aye
Councilman McGrath – abstain
Councilman Dietrich – aye
Councilman Karelus – aye Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Councilman McGrath made a motion seconded by Councilman Karelus to accept the Town Clerk Report for the month of October as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Steria reported on training; archival records workshop and Ag & Markets grant.

LEGISLATOR REPORT

Mr. Kulzer reported that the County solar project is nearing completion and that the preliminary budget for 2018 is done.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Colwell, Chairman of the Planning Board, was present to discuss permitting of wind projects. EWT Direct Wind is proposing to build a small commercial wind project. Permitting would be the same as if for a large wind project. Will need an environmental assessment, long form, completed. The Planning Board would need to send a letter to involved agencies if they want to be lead agency. One question for EWT developers would be how is this project adding to the environmental impact, on top of Maple Ridge wind project.

Supervisor Thisse reported on a joint land use planning meeting on wind that he attended along with Councilman Karelus. Wind farm impact on Fort Drum and weather stations was discussed.

HIGHWAY

Discussion was held on a new policy – Family Leave Act. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kogut to add the Family Leave Act to the employee handbook. All were in favor. Motion carried.

FIRE CONTRACTS

Discussion was held on the “hold harmless” clause that NYMIR recommended adding to fire contracts. After discussion, the board determined that the town will not put this clause in the fire contracts.

SEASONAL ROADS

Councilman Dietrich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Kogut, authorizing the highway superintendent to suspend maintenance of the following seasonal roads from December 1, 2017 to May 1, 2018:

- 1) Rector Road from plow turnaround to Doyle Road
- 2) Centerville Road from Flat Rock Inn to Waligory’s
- 3) Graves Road from French Road to Houseville Intersection

All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on repair to windows in the old town hall.

Deb Kogut arrived at 7:45 PM

The Supervisor reported on a letter received from NYS Department of Financial Services regarding vacant/abandoned properties. New legislation has been signed to confront lingering vacant and abandoned properties that continue to blight neighborhoods. Pursuant to the new legislation:

- Mortgage servicers are obligated to maintain vacant and abandoned properties and are subject to enforcement actions and daily fines if they fail to comply.
- A vacant and abandoned property registry has been created and mortgagees are required to report vacant properties into the DFS registry. Information from the registry will be shared with Public Officials.
- A new expedited foreclosure process was created to allow mortgagees to quickly foreclose on vacant properties.

GLENFIELD WATER

Discussion was held on doing an income survey required to apply for CDBG and EFC grants/loans to upgrade the Glenfield Water District. Councilman Kogut made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus authorizing B & C Engineers to find an agency to complete the survey. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Supervisor met with Mohawk Networks regarding locating a tower in the Town of Martinsburg for internet service. Our local representative is Ryan Thompson.

HISTORIAN REPORT

Historian Sue Adsit submitted her annual report to the town board.

WEST MARTINSBURG CEMETERY

Discussion was held on where to locate a sign for the West Martinsburg Cemetery. Bette Lathan is submitting a grant for the sign. The town will need written permission from any landowners before they erect the sign.

MAPLE RIDGE WIND

Mr. Gebo gave an update on the PILOT for the Maple Ridge Wind Farm. They are prepared to share the requested financial information with the entities involved. Appraisals will need to be done. Cost sharing with the taxing jurisdictions for appraiser and attorney fees was discussed.

Councilman Kogut made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath, to go into executive session at 8:00 PM to discuss litigation matters. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Kogut made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath, to leave executive session at 8:15 PM and to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kelley, Town Clerk

