

December 20, 2017

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Martinsburg Town Board was held Wednesday, December 20, 2017 and called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were: Supervisor Terrence Thisse; Councilmen Douglas Dietrich, Janusz Karelus and Michael McGrath; Highway Superintendent Tyler Jones; Town Clerk Mary Kelley; Attorney Mark Gebo; CTHC circuit rider Beth Steria; Deanna Doviak; and County Legislator Greg Kulzer. Absent: Councilman E. Frank Kogut.

MINUTES

The minutes were emailed to board members previous to the meeting. Councilman Dietrich made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath approving the minutes of the November meeting as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS – Abstract 12-2017

General	Voucher #288-313	\$ 9,063.93
Highway	Voucher #223-238	\$14,173.20
Glenfield Water	Voucher #69-75	\$ 5,596.15
Glenfield Sewer	Voucher #40-42	\$ 404.66
Martinsburg Water #1	Voucher #72-78	\$ 1,067.28
Street Lighting	Voucher #23-24	\$ 841.94
Whitaker Park	Voucher #82-83	\$ 850.43

After some discussion on the bills Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to approve payment of the bills as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mike Bush was present to ask if municipal water would be available to him if he purchased land on the B Arthur Road, adjacent to the Town of Lowville line. Two residents in that area, in the Town of Martinsburg, are hooked up to the water line supplied by the Village/Town of Lowville. Mr. Bush was told by Town of Lowville that water pressure would not be a problem. Discussion was held on forming a water district for the residents in that area although Martinsburg would be under no obligation to form one. Mr. Bush was told Lowville has a moratorium in place which would not allow any new hookups until June.

Supervisor Thisse advised Mr. Bush to speak to the Town of Lowville regarding this request. As an outside user, he would need a contract with the Town.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dietrich, accepting the Town Clerk report for November as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE TUG HILL COUNCIL

Ms. Steria reported on grants and webinars available for local governments. The annual government conference at JCC will be held March 29. The town will be requested to fill out a survey in April supporting the Tug Hill Council.

Councilman Dietrich made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath, authorizing the Supervisor sign an amended Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Cooperative Tug Hill Council:

WHEREAS, the Town of Martinsburg reaffirms that continued membership in the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) is important to both the Town and the region;

WHEREAS, the CTHC has approved a revised draft inter-municipal agreement at a full CTHC meeting on September 28, 2017 for consideration by its member municipalities;

WHEREAS, the CTHC recommends that the revised changes to the inter-municipal agreement be approved as soon as is practicable by its member municipalities, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Martinsburg approves the revised inter-municipal agreement, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the CTHC for its records.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### LEGISLATOR REPORT

Mr. Kulzer gave an update on the solar project. They are currently working with National Grid regarding transformers.

Mr. Kulzer reported that Bette Lathan, representing the Martinsburg Historical Society, had submitted a request for \$5000 from the County to help pay for \$20,000 damage to the historical society's "Red Brick Building".

Discussion was held on snowmobile damaged roads in the Town. Mr. Kulzer said that all sled registration money goes to snowmobile clubs and we would have to contact the individual clubs to seek reimbursement, if any available.

Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dietrich authorizing the Supervisor and Superintendent of Highways sign an Expenditure of Highway Monies agreement with Lewis County. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Thisse reviewed the NYMIR safety list with Superintendent Jones.

Discussion was held on a service agreement with Hyde-Stone. Councilman Dietrich made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus authorizing Highway Superintendent Jones sign a planned service agreement with Hyde-Stone, Watertown, N.Y. for heating and cooling service/repair. The agreement price is \$2190.00 per year. The agreement is payable \$1095.00 per inspection to be performed June – December. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### GLENFIELD WATER

Highway Superintendent Jones reported fixing many leaks in the Glenfield Water District. Work has started on a grant/loan application to replace mains and laterals in the district. An income survey of the district will be taking place soon and it is important that everyone that receives a survey fill it out and return.

Mr. Jones reported that the last lead and copper samples came back with high readings – these readings were from individual homes and not from the district lines. He is awaiting further direction from the Department of Health.

The Town Property Maintenance (Clutter, Litter and Debris) law was reviewed. A complaint was made regarding numerous unregistered automobiles on a property.

Supervisor Thisse reported on a DEC Flood Plain Management Program. The town should make sure we have up to date flood plain maps.

Maple Ridge Wind Project cost sharing was discussed. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus authorizing the Supervisor sign an inter municipal expense sharing agreement with Maple Ridge Wind Farm.

Each taxing jurisdiction agrees to reimburse the County of Lewis Industrial Development Agency for its share of expense incurred for Special Legal Services :

Town of Harrisburg	10.9%
Town of Lowville	2.0%
Town of Martinsburg	12.8%
Copenhagen School	2.6%
Lowville Academy	44.10%
Lewis County	26.9%
South Lewis Central	.30%
Town of Watson	.40%

All were in favor. Motion carried.

An End of the Year board meeting will be held Wednesday, December 27 at 5:00 PM to pay any last bills, discuss reserve accounts and any other matter that may come before the board.

An Organizational Meeting will be held January 3, 2018 at 5:00 PM to take oaths of office, appointments, etc.

Discussion was held on a letter received from Lewis County Department of Social Services regarding employment programs to promote the development and maintenance of job skills of clients receiving Temporary Assistance. There is no expectation for agencies to pay wages. It was suggested that there might be a position available at Whitaker Park. Supervisor Thisse wondered about compensation liability and asked the Clerk to check that out.

Governor Cuomo signed an Executive Order allowing local governments to collect 2018 property tax bills before the end of 2017. By paying in 2017, people will be able to deduct their 2018 local property taxes from their 2017 federal income taxes. Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman McGrath authorizing the Martinsburg Tax Collector to collect property taxes prior to January, 2018. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on Mohawk Networks locating towers in the Town for internet connection. We need to know the exact location proposed and the viewshed.

Discussion was held on the Real Property Tax Law - solar and wind energy tax exemption. Councilman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Councilman Karelus to hold a Public Hearing on January 17, 2018 at 7:10 PM to consider a local law to opt-out of the exemption provision of Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law regarding exemption from taxation for certain solar/wind energy and alternate energy systems. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Councilman Karelus made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dietrich to adjourn at 8:20 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kelley, Town Clerk