

**TOWN OF BELFAST
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2015**

Present: Mike Hillman, Sandy Taber, Annette Kish, David Cox,
Randy Ellison, David Jennings, Bill Nichols, Patty Oliver

Town Members Present: Bob Kish, Rick Smith, Chuck Babbitt, Brad Atherton, Bonnie
Atherton, Jim Ace, Jr., Don Comstock, Tim Atherton

Supervisor Kish called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and all present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chuck Babbitt voiced his concern regarding a plow/car incident on February 19th on Angel Street in Belfast in which his son's parked vehicle encountered over \$700 worth of damage. Vehicle Traffic Law 1103B states that the Town is not liable for damage while performing duties such as snow plowing. Mr. Babbitt had the insurance denial letter, but Supervisor Kish will place a call to Hasper and Dye Insurance to see if anything can be done. Mr. Nichols suggested in the future that area of Angel Street will no longer be plowed. Mr. Babbitt left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Roll call was taken for approval of payment of the bills:

General	#51-71	\$30809.43
Street Lighting	#03	\$2030.82
Water	#32-49	\$7145.32
Highway	#40-55	\$30,249.95

Taber-aye, Cox-aye, Ellison-aye, Hillman-aye, Kish-aye Carried

After review of the February 16, 2015 minutes, they were accepted as presented by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cox. Carried

The February, 2015 Supervisor's Report was approved by a motion from Councilwoman Taber and a second from Councilman Cox. Carried

The Town Clerk's Report, dated February, 2015 for the January accounts, was approved as presented by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilwoman Taber.

Highway Superintendent Nichols reported that so far this year his department has burned 5000 gallons of fuel, logged in 290 hours of overtime and gone through 5000 tons of sand and salt. He reiterated the need to purchase a plow truck to replace the 18 year old truck currently in use. He stated it would take approximately 6 months for a new truck to be delivered if ordered

now. Supervisor Kish will make some calls on Tuesday morning to see if there are any equipment grants in Allegany County as suggested by Councilwoman Taber. A new truck could potentially raise taxes by .75cents per thousand. The consensus was to check for a possible grant before making a final decision at the April, 2015 meeting.

Water Superintendent Jennings reported that there were 9 water freezes and all but one has been rectified. There hasn't been a problem like this in 20 years. It was pointed out that when a complaint comes in regarding frozen water pipes, the water department should try and take care of the problem on the day the call comes in.

Mr. Jennings reported that new countertop has been ordered for the town hall kitchen and paint, new ceiling tiles and staining of the cupboards will also be going on in the next few weeks. Total cost should be about \$3000 and it will be taken from the general fund but was actually money left over from last year's budget. A new fan over the stove will a project for another day.

The water plant is up and running and is in good shape. The question was asked about the classification being changed from a 2A plant to a 2B plant and Mr. Jennings stated it was due to the number of gallons pumped per minute.

Assessor Sharon Collins was not at the meeting, but Superintendent Kish informed the Board that she has had contact with Russ Hesslin who provided her with a list of potential companies/individuals who may be available to help with a reval for the Belfast area. Supervisor Kish will talk to Ms. Collins.

The possibility of the Town purchasing the old Masonic building on Main Street through the County for back taxes at a price of \$3200 was rejected by a 3 to 2 vote:

Ellison-no, Taber-no, Hillman-no, Cox-aye, Kish-aye Not carried

Councilwoman Taber made the motion and Councilman Cox seconded to approve the purchase of a new phone system through Comtel for the Town offices. Another phone line needs to be installed and when that is accomplished, the Comtel company will install 4 new phones in the various offices that will allow more than one person to use the phone at a time as well as to transfer calls in a professional manner.

Ellison-aye, Taber-aye, Cox-aye, Hillman-aye, Kish-aye Carried

Austin's will be here on the 24th of March to begin installing the security system through the Justice Grant that was approved in January.

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Supervisor Kish stated that she would like to review all personnel time-sheets every two weeks and respectfully requested that papers on her desk not be removed or disturbed without her consent.

At 8:27 p.m., Councilman Hillman made the motion and Councilman Ellison seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver
Town Clerk