

**TOWN OF BELFAST
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
March 20, 2017**

Present: David Cox, Sandy Taber, Mike Hillman, Randy Ellison, Annette Kish, Patty Oliver, Bill Nichols, Kevin Margerum, Tim Atherton, Robert Kish, Rick Smith, Lee James, Steve Peck

Supervisor Kish called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve Peck from the Ryan Agency Insurance Company out of Hornell, gave a comparison presentation on what their agency could offer the Town in way of insurance and the cost of such insurance. When Steve finished, Lee James, representing NYMIR our current insurer, reviewed the policy we have at the present time. Difference in cost between the two agencies amounted to a little over \$4000, with Ryan Agency being the lesser cost.

The February bills were approved as presented by a motion from Councilwoman Taber and a second from Councilman Cox:

General	#52-74	\$7,974.76
Water	#24-34	\$9,844.63
Street Light	#03	\$685.04
Highway	#40-53	\$22,452.76

Cox-aye, Ellison-aye, Taber-aye, Hillman-aye, Kish-aye All in favor. Carried

The minutes from the February 20, 2017 special meeting and from the February 20, 2017 regular meeting were approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cox. All in favor. Carried

The February, 2017 Supervisor's Report was approved as presented by a motion from Councilwoman Taber and a second from Councilman Hillman. All in favor. Carried

The Town Clerk's Report, dated February 7 for the January, 2017 accounts, was approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Ellison. All in favor. Carried

In David Jennings' absence, Supervisor Kish gave a brief water report. She did ask the question of Tim Atherton, Deputy Water Superintendent, why the water usage from Houghton was so much more this quarter than last. No definitive answer was given.

Bill Nichols, Highway Superintendent, reported that they have plowed more snow in March than in February. They are busy working on equipment and brush cutting. Between 10 and 12 thousand dollars worth of repair has gone into the grader. He reported that one of the employees backed into a plow with the 2013 pickup.

Mr. Nichols made a case for passing a resolution to proceed with the possibility of purchasing a new gradeall. The current machine was purchased used in 2003 for \$65,000. In the last seven years, over \$31,000 has been spent on repairs to the machine. The swing brake is currently a safety issue. A new, wheeled excavator could be purchased on State contract for \$204,000. A USDA grant could be obtained for \$25,000 to \$30,000. If this machine was approved for purchase, the town's total indebtedness for highway machinery will be \$400,000. Councilman Ellison suggested that before purchasing a new machine, Larry Lamphier from the county be asked to evaluate the old machine and that prices on used equipment be obtained by the next board meeting.

In the meantime, the following resolution was offered by Councilman Hillman and seconded by Councilman Cox:

RESOLUTION to submit an application to explore the possibility of obtaining a grant through the USDA for a new excavator/grade all.

Hillman	aye
Taber	aye
Cox	aye
Ellison	aye
Kish	aye

Carried

Code Enforcement Officer Margerum reported that in the Cassady case, they have been issued a 30 day condemned notice, but they could appeal this notice. However, the process has begun. Mr. Helms has verbally agreed to move his camper back off Rt. 305 and not attach the addition. Mr. Temple has been issued a final remedy order, but it is rumored that he has sold the property.

Executive session was called at 8:20 p.m. by Councilwoman Taber with a second from Councilman Cox for the purpose of discussion of insurance coverage.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cox seconded to come out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. with a motion by Councilman Cox and a second from Councilwoman Taber.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver
Town Clerk