

**TOWN OF BELFAST
MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2018**

PRESENT: Josh Cole, Diana Grastorf, Mike Hillman, Annette Kish, Kevin Margerum, Tim Atherton, Bob Kish, Patty Oliver

COMMUNITY PRESENT: Steven Peck (from Ryan Insurance), Lee James (from Hasper and Dye Insurance), Kevin Borden, Tom Yackeren, Rick Smith, David Cox, Brad Sick (from Larson Design Group)

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 and all in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kevin Borden requested a variance for a non-inhabitable 24X30 pole barn structure that would be closer than the required 10' from another structure. The consensus of the Board was that this was acceptable, but he should first speak with his neighbors to see if there were any objections. Kevin left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Steve Peck, Ryan Insurance Agency and our current insurance carrier, presented an insurance quote of \$23,356 for 2018. Lee James, Hasper and Dye Insurance Agency, presented an insurance quote of between \$27,000 and \$29,000. Both quotes will be taken under consideration. Both Lee and Steve left after their presentations.

Brad Sick from Larson Design Group gave a lengthy overview of the Preliminary Engineering Report, going over water quality and operational issues. On a positive note, Mr. Sick stated that the distribution system is in really good shape, that the average cost of water usage per household was \$43.00 per month and while the budget runs pretty close the fund balance is decreasing. An increase in growth and demand is not being seen and water storage is abundant. There is another 20 years of debt to pay on the water plant.

Water condition and treatment quality has to do with arsenic (geographical issue) and disinfection by-products. Changing the way of injecting chlorine may remove disinfection by-products at the tank, and installation of a tank aeration system may reduce DBP levels. In effect, Larson Design Group would like to see a capital improvement project, but Mr. Sick was in no way pushing for that.

Another alternative would be taking the Belfast Water system off line and just using Houghton water. However, it was pointed out that Houghton will not commit to a year-to-year rate and not a long term rate.

Mr. Sick encouraged the water department to become pro-active in keeping and maintaining parts on the shelf (such as valves, controls, etc.) so that they are readily available when needed. That way switching to Houghton water will not be necessary while waiting for replacement parts. Mr. Sick stated that wells need some attention and that a maintenance log should be kept. It was suggested that someone with a “fresh pair of eyes” might be useful in making helpful suggestions in the running of the water plant. He also stated that the wells should be flushed on a regular basis.

Mr. Sick left at 8:15 and will have a follow up meeting in the future with the Water Superintendent.

The January Bills were approved by a motion from Councilwoman Grastorf and a second from Councilman Hillman.

Street Lighting	#02	\$712.78
General	#23-51	\$7406.12
Water	#12-24	\$16,082.67
Highway	#17-31	\$24,958.83

Cole-aye, Grastorf-aye, Kish-aye, Hillman-aye All in favor. Carried

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2018 meeting. All in favor. Carried

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilwoman Grastorf seconded to approve the Supervisor’s Report for January, 2018. All in favor. Carried

The Town Clerk’s Report, dated January for the December, 2017 accounts, was approved by a motion from Councilwoman Grastorf and a second by Councilman Cole. All in favor. Carried

Water Superintendent Atherton reported that besides working at the plant, they have been painting offices, replaced a hot water tank in the Town Hall, replaced meters and fixed broken/frozen pipes, cleaned files, clearing snow, etc.

The invoice for the last quarter of water purchase from Houghton was double any previous invoice. It was explained that the Belfast water did not run in November and December and only three times in January. Mr. Atherton was instructed not to use Houghton water as a crutch and make sure our plant is running whenever possible.

Highway Superintendent Kish asked for a resolution to be passed whereas the Town of Belfast desired to secure a consulting engineering firm to prepare three “Bridge NY” applications on behalf of the Town. This will put Belfast on the list for money help with repair of bridges and culverts. Copy of Resolution is attached. Councilman Hillman moved to adopt **Resolution 3-18** and Councilwoman Grastorf seconded. All in favor. Carried

Mr. Kish also stated that he has received one bid from Valley Fab (\$43,850) for a new stainless box. Councilman Hillman moved to allow Mr. Kish to proceed with the purchase of the box as long as funds are there. Councilman Cole seconded. All in favor. Carried

Mr. Kish stated that two folks have applied for the part-time position for Highway help that was advertised in the paper. Also, work on the Gleason Hill slide is being done and he has ordered 4000 ton of sand.

Councilman Cole moved and Councilwoman Grastorf seconded to approve a request from Ken Atherton, South Street, to allow a variance in order to erect a carport canopy structure. This is a non-inhabitable structure. All in favor. Carried

Code Enforcement Margerum stated that the Howe trailers are scheduled to be burnt on March 18. The Thompson property on Rt. 19 is on the radar, but the fire department is looking to do a few training exercises there first. He also has been dealing with unauthorized construction of a sawmill and the neighbor is complaining of noise, etc. He will be seeing the Greeks on Rt. 305 regarding cleaning up their property.

Mr. Margerum was asked about other towns who are not satisfied or do not belong to a consortium and starting our own code enforcement group. He will check on other towns to see if they are interested in forming a group with us.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Allegany County Health Department that would allow the County to use the Town Hall in the event of a mass medical emergency. All in favor. Carried

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilwoman Kish moved to approve **Resolution 2-18** which states that Councilwoman Grastorf and Councilman Cole examined the Justice books and conducted an audit on February 12, 2018. A copy of the Resolution is attached. All in favor. Carried

Councilwoman Taber had asked that the subject of creating a "Scott Burt Day" in the Town of Belfast be considered for the date of July 17th. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second by Councilwoman Grastorf at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver
Town Clerk

