

**TOWN OF BELFAST  
MINUTES REGULAR MEETING  
9-21-2020**

Present: Mike Hillman, Andrew Chamberlain, Josh Cole, David DeRock, David Jennings, Robert Kish, Kevin Margerum, Tim Atherton, Patty Oliver

Community Present: William Buckley, Marcia Brundage, Rick Smith, Maggie Thompson, Margo Jennings, Beth Hazelton, Dan Winans, David Cox

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Jennings and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Buckley made a case for the opening of Bingo saying he has permission from NYState, Empire State Development and the Allegany County Health Department. Social distancing, hand sanitizer stations, masks when walking around (can be removed when sitting at table) and 25% occupancy are the ground rules. He will present the Town with a seating arrangement for Bingo and the Town will give him a diagram of the seating set-up for Town Court. It will be the Bingo folk's responsibility to arrange and re-arrange tables for each event. October 7<sup>th</sup> was agreed upon as opening date for Bingo.

Bill and Marcia Brundage left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Beth Hazelton reported that the Belfast Public Library was open with reduced hours.

The bills were approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole with the minor corrections pointed out by Councilman Hillman. Hillman – aye, Cole – aye, Chamberlain – aye, DeRock – aye, Jennings – aye

Highway	116-127	\$7451.31
Water	68-78	\$5663.40
General	138-158	\$8946.49
Street Lighting	09	\$667.99

All in favor            Carried

Councilman DeRock moved and Councilman Hillman seconded to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 regular meeting.            All in favor            Carried

Councilman Cole moved and Councilman Hillman seconded to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2020 special meeting.            All in favor            Carried

The July, 2020 and the August Supervisor's Reports were approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor            Carried

Councilman DeRock made the motion to approve the Town Clerk's report dated August, 2020 for the July accounts and Councilman Cole seconded. All in favor Carried

Water Superintendent Tim Atherton reported the following:

- Continued disinfection of park playground
- Weeding and mowing as necessary
- Replaced eye on dusk to dawn light
- Turning on Houghton water as needed – Chlorine good as well as arsenic, TTHMs and HAA5
- Meter pulled and water turned off at Sisson rental house
- Filling big tank and draining little tank for cleaning and inspection
- Set up town hall for board meetings and for Tuesday night court
- Poured bench and sign concrete bases
- 20 lead and copper samples are out and around town. (Tim should ask for reduced testing next year)
- Addressed water leak at Jean's trailer park
- Attended water class in Hammondsport
- Received thank you letter from Allegany County Youth Services for participation in this year's program (Kids worked out very well.)

Highway Superintendent Kish reported the following:

- Notification of 20% reduction in CHIPS money – has heard that this is not 100% sure
- Replaced bridge deck on Crawford Creek
- Ditching
- Issue with excavator, but all under warranty
- Hauling sand and salt, getting ready for winter
- Asked about intentions with few acres of Town owned land on 305, Mr. Kish says he's never used it – perhaps look to sell in the future
- Touching up seasonal roads
- Asked about cemetery guard rails and stated hopefully by end of month they will be installed. Can't guarantee when stone will be put down.
- Murray Hill looking good

Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Margerum reported:

- The Ashford shed will be moved on Thursday, 9/24. Gwen will need to provide a letter asking for a variance (which will be granted), but Town will need a formal request
- Few projects started without permits, but all permitted now

- Mike Unfus working out very well
- New York State Code came out with new regulations on area lawn grass – should be cut in area where used. Kevin investigating whether or not Town can make a resolution rather than enacting a new local law regarding long grass
- Cassady issue – now seems to be a matter of determining the real owner of the property. Letter was sent to Mr. Cassady and he had 10 days to respond. He did not. Kevin is to proceed with whatever the next step is in order to rectify this ongoing situation.
- He has not been able to find anyone at the residence on Chestnut Street to address the falling down barn situation. He has sent owner three letters and has received no response.
- The Davenport property may be close to a resolution. All papers have been turned over to Ms. Davenport (established as legal owner) and Matt Kelley who is interested in the property.
- Has not been able to find anyone with a key to the building on Main Street with the roof issue
- Has found an item in Property Maintenance Law that prohibits moving of ground water so it creates pond or wet areas on neighboring property. This issues has been ongoing behind the Children’s Library. Kevin will follow up with homeowners.
- Sisson is working on his building and cleaning it out.

Nothing new on the solar project.

No information on a Re-entry Plan.

Councilman Hillman did have some information regarding accumulation of sick leave for companies having 5-99 employees.

Margo Jennings, Rick Smith, Maggie Thompson, and Beth Hazelton left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Supervisor Jennings reviewed the 2021 budget with the changes made at the last meeting. October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 was approved for the Public Budget Hearing.

A proposed Introductory Local Law No. 2 of 2020 entitled “A Local Law to Override the Real Property Tax Cap Levy Established by General Municipal Law Section 3-c” was moved for adoption by Councilman Hillman and seconded by Councilman Cole. A Public Hearing will be held on October 19, 2020 at 6:30. All in favor        Carried

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Chamberlain seconded approve Resolution 4-20 to establish October 19, 2020 as the filing date for delinquent water bills for the Town of Belfast. All in favor Carried

Councilman Cole moved and Councilman DeRock seconded to approve Resolution 5-2020 which authorizes the Town of Belfast Court to apply for a JCAP Grant in the 2020-21 grant cycle up to \$10,000 for the purpose of purging old files, purchasing fire proof file cabinets and other necessary equipment, etc. All in favor Carried

Councilman Chamberlain moved and Councilman Hillman seconded to table the General Guidelines for Employees of the Town of Belfast until the October board meeting. All in favor Carried

Councilman Chamberlain presented a contract from RG&E regarding changing 86 cobra head lights to LED lighting at a cost of \$7,720. Recovery costs for this project are estimated less than 5 years. This does not include Main Street lights. Councilman Cole made the motion and Councilman DeRock seconded to approve the signing of this contract. All in favor Carried

Councilman Chamberlain moved and Councilman Cole seconded to move into Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Atherton, Mr. Margerum, Mr. Kish and Mr. Cox left the meeting at this time. All in favor Carried

Councilman Chamberlain moved and Councilman Cole seconded to come out of Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. All in favor Carried

After discussion regarding the lack of need for two full-time positions in the Belfast Water Department and the fact that a savings of approximately \$30,000 was possible, Councilman Chamberlain moved and Councilman DeRock seconded to eliminate the second position of the Belfast Water Department effective 12/31/2020. All in favor Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second by Councilman Chamberlain. All in favor Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver  
Town Clerk

