

TOWN OF BELFAST
MINUTES
April 19, 2021

Community Present: Isaac Hull, Michelle Denhoff, Daniel Winans, Ashley Yackerren, Patricia Ryan, Rick Smith, Scott Burt, Mike Preston

Town Representatives Present: Josh Cole, Andrew Chamberlain, Michael Hillman, David DeRock, David Jennings, Mike Unfus, Tim Atherton, Patty Oliver

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

Michelle Denhoff, Planning and Development Specialist from Office of Planning of Allegany County, spoke regarding the Alfred State's Appalachian Teaching Project where architectural students will design a comprehensive plan to improve and beautify the Town of Belfast. Community input is needed and ideas included forming a sub committee to put together a survey and/or questionnaire outlining a strategic plan for students to follow. The Town Historian, Aran Heaney, as well as Scott Burt were mentioned as community leaders to be included on this committee. Students will begin their project at the end of August and complete the project in October. This is a no cost venture to benefit the students as well as the Town.

Ms. Denhoff also touched on area communities who have passed a local law regulating the use of Limited Use Vehicles and All Terrain Vehicles on Town Highways. Board members were given a sample copy of Angelica's local law for their perusal and the issue will be revisited in the future.

Ms. Denhoff left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Patricia Ryan attended the meeting asking for a variance on a property on the corner of Route 19 and Furness Street where they would like to add an addition onto an existing barn. Mike Unfus, Code Enforcement Officer, had no objection. Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve the variance pending approval from the Highway Supervisor who was not in attendance at this meeting. All in favor.
Carried

Ms. Ryan left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Scott Burt spoke regarding the Bare Knuckle Boxing Hall of Fame Induction Celebration being held on 5/28, 5/29 and 5/30 here in Belfast. He outlined the schedule

of events and reiterated how Belfast was known as “Knuckle Town, USA” around the country and even the world. He requested that the Hall of Fame banners be displayed as soon as possible and Mr. Atherton will see that they are ready to be put up. Mr. Burt also requested that some streets be closed for certain events. The Highway Superintendent, Bob Kish, was not at the meeting so Supervisor Jennings will pass along that information.

Mike Preston spoke on behalf of the Belfast Lions Club. The Lions would like to purchase a bench for the park in memory of Walt Lindsley, long time Lions member and Legionaire. Mr. Preston, Andy Chamberlain and Tim Atherton will meet to discuss further details.

Mr. Preston stated that the Lions Club was also interested in funding the purchase of shade trees for the Town. More research on the kinds of trees, the cost, how many, etc. is needed as well as input from Mr. Kish, Highway Superintendent.

Mr. Preston and Mr. Burt left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

The schedule of bills for April was approved by roll call:

Highway	47-57	\$11,684.39
General	61-78	\$36,667.34
Water	35-43	\$2805.10
Street Lighting	04	\$712.83

Hillman-aye, Chamberlain-aye, Cole-aye, DeRock-aye, Jennings-aye All in favor.
Carried

Minutes of the Public Meeting of 3-15-21 were approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Chamberlain. All in favor. Carried

Minutes of the Regular meeting, dated 3-15-21, were approved by a motion from Councilman Cole and a second from Councilman Hillman. All in favor. Carried

The Supervisor’s Report, dated March 2021, was tabled by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman DeRock due to the fact that Highway Superintendent Kish was absent from the meeting and could not approve his portion.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman DeRock seconded to approve the Town Clerk’s Report, dated March for the February accounts. All in favor. Carried

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve the Town Clerk's Report, dated April for the March accounts. All in favor. Carried

Water Superintendent, Tim Atherton, provided the Board with a report that included:

- Flushed dead ends and did chlorine samples at each one. Good results.
- Removed all hydrant markers.
- Repaired curb box in front of 9 E. Hughes
- Hung up banners on Main Street
- Dig Safely tickets up to date (32)
- Started cleaning yards and ready to roll them
- Cleaned out BBQ pit
- Started servicing mowers to get ready for mowing
- Sisson has a sinkhole in the parking lot that he thinks is from old service line to a trailer, but leak was not found
- Waiting to hear back from Dave Spring at the County Health Department regarding water report
- Pumped out basement at 93 Sherman after water leak so plumber can fix

No Highway report due to the absence of Superintendent Kish.

Mike Unfus reported for Code Enforcement. He mentioned several items that have been addressed. Regarding campers on Rt. 19, the homeowner is waiting for the May 1st eviction date. He's not sure what's going on with the house behind the children's library. Leisure's are waiting for mud to dry up before they get rid of old cars on the 305 property.

Supervisor Jennings stated that from now on if someone were requesting a variance for a building permit, they should have all their paperwork into the office 10 days prior to the board meeting so there is ample time to investigate properly if the variance should be awarded.

Supervisor Jennings stated that Bingo will start up again on June 2nd and Court will begin on June 1st.

Before the Town owned piece of property on 305 can be put up for bid, there needs to be a resolution that it is property that is no longer necessary to the Town for public use. Mr. Jennings will seek out a survey.

It was proposed that the Town go ahead with the water meter update by purchasing 50 new meter heads, the programming, training and a new computer for a cost of \$25,000. Money saved from the salary of an eliminated water department worker will cover this

cost. It was also disclosed that Belfast may be entitled to \$170,000 over a two-year period from the “American Rescue Program”, a Federal program. This has not been verified. Councilman Hillman will check into it further.

The Summer Reading/Recreation Program was discussed at length. Lisa Denning is willing to continue as Director. However, it is not certain that the County will contribute funds this summer. If not, the Town would have to come up with some money. Several scenarios were explored, one being that the program be held only ½ days with one big trip on Friday’s and no side trips (swimming, bowling, skating) on the other days. Bus driver pay was a big issue.

Supervisor Jennings presented an old survey of Larry Young’s and showed where Larry was interested in expanding his property line and willing to purchase a section of land from the Town in order to straighten out his property line. The consensus was that Mr. Young should have the property surveyed and the Town would revisit the issue after that.

At 9:05, Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Chamberlain seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, contracts and property sale.

At 9:37, Councilman Chamberlain moved and Councilman Cole seconded to come out of Executive Session.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman DeRock seconded to appoint Leslie Clagett as Dog Control Officer for the Town of Belfast for the remainder of 2021 with Crystal Austin as her Deputy. All in favor Carried

For the next board meeting, a resolution needs to be prepared and a change in the Employee Policy Handbook needs to be made regarding reimbursing those not electing or mandated to take Town health insurance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. by a motion from Councilman Cole and a second from Councilman Hillman. All in favor Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver
Town Clerk