

May 11, 2015 regular Town Board Meeting met at 7:00 p.m. with all the board members in attendance. Sup. Gang led the pledge to the flag. A motion to accept the previous month's minutes was made by Coun. Greenough and seconded by Coun. Wilbur and all were in favor. A motion to pay the audited bills was made by Coun. Wilbur and seconded by Coun. Raymond and all were in favor. Coun. Wilbur addressed the Highway Superintendent about why he chooses to go to a retailer for parts that costs a considerable amount more than others when they are available to get parts from. Mr. Hobus replied that whenever it is possible he will try to use the more economical dealer for parts and that he considers the town budget and expenses for purchases. There were some bills for Sewer District 1 upgrades and the bills were in the audited bills as well as some for Fredrick's Point but those bills have not been submitted yet. The town's drug policy needs to be tighter but nothing has been done so far, and the time card policy that was implemented by the board and Mr. Hobus has been working out fine and there hasn't been any problems. Sunset Bay Road located off County Route 6b was acquired in 2012 and has come to the attention of Sup. Gang. We are not sure what the legal implications are about us owning it so it has been recommended by Real Property Tax Services to discuss it further with our town attorney and include the county attorney.

New Business: The State of New York has given \$500 million dollars to municipalities to update internet connections. Some of the costs to doing this is installing equipment to include hook ups along Route 22 at about \$100,000 and that's just to get online and no equipment. The sales tax distribution is received quarterly and the amount received is dependent on 50% of the population and 50% of the monies paid by town taxes. We voted last month that 7% will be distributed from sales taxes received county wide this year. Perhaps next year we will see a number that is 10%. Stiling Knight was in attendance at this month's meeting and he will be on the ballot for the Whitehall School Board and wanted to remind everyone about the election being held on May 19th from 12 p.m. until 9 p.m. The sign in front of the town hall is in desperate need of replacing and Coun. Greenough will look into estimates to have that done and will report what he finds out. Sup. Gang was asked if the town would consider taking over the Ripley House property to perhaps tear it down and use the space to build a new town hall/town court room. The amount of money it would take to do that would be very costly but still wanted to put it out to the members to consider. Coun. Raymond wanted to know that as a town are we required to maintain roads that do not have any homes on it. It was discussed that Barber and Babcock Roads be turned over to become private in order to save money on maintenance. There are buildings located on those roads and it's the town's responsibility to keep them maintained in case of an emergency. The board was asked to think about having nice road displays at each end of town so that it looks welcoming. There will be an upcoming sewer district meeting in the next few weeks. The committee would like to see a policy written about pump replacement being at the sole discretion of the homeowner. The board will make all respect to how they feel but it is entirely up to the discretion of the town as to whether to make that a possibility or to continue as it has with the pump replacements coming out of the Operation and Maintenance fees. More discussions have been deliberated about each town taking over the county roads located within the town, but these are only the beginning points and nothing has happened yet or could not happen for quite a while.

Highway Superintendent's Report: Since the last meeting the crew has been cutting brush on this year's paving projects on Leclaire Road and Pike Brook Road as well as cleaning up downed trees from the past winter. We had to replace a culvert on Bluff Head Road as well as replacing 6 of them on Pike Brook Road. The roadside brooming was completed and we have hauled #4 and shoulder stone from both Galusha's and Peckham for culverts and the paving projects. Mr. Hobus met with Corinna Aldridge from Washington County Soil and Water for our permits for this year's box culvert replacement on T-11 project. As for repairs this past month, they include: Hydraulic pump was rebuilt on the Ford Tractor; replacing the chain sprocket and bearing on the sweeper broom as well as the brushes and Jim installed a cut out switch on the hyster-roller. Finally, we have two culverts on Leclaire Road and we will be ready for paving after they settle for a while. There will be a weed program this year but we don't know any details as of this meeting and we still need to get a truck for them to use to haul away the weeds. There were no further discussions and the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Marcinda Wilbur, Town Clerk.

Attendance: George Ferguson Stiling Knight