

November 13, 2023 the Regular monthly town board meeting and the Public Hearing for the adoption of the 2024 Budget was held in the Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Ferguson, Councilman Brown, Councilwoman Diekel, Highway Superintendent Hobus, and Town Clerk Marcinda Wilbur

Absent: Councilman Barber and Councilman Wilbur

Sup. Ferguson led the pledge to the flag. He proceeded to call the Public Hearing to order at 7:09 p.m.

There will be a 1.98% increase for the 2024 budget year. Sup. Ferguson read the following salaries:

Town Supervisor-\$15,000

Town Clerk-\$18,500

Town Council (4)- \$3,300

Town Justice (2)-\$6,500

Highway Superintendent-\$59,500

He called for any comments or discussions three times and hearing none, he closed the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m. A motion to adopt the 2024 Budget as proposed was made by Coun. Brown and was seconded by Coun. Diekel and Sup. Ferguson. The motion passed as did the 2024 Budget.

A motion to accept the previous month's minutes was made by Coun. Brown with one correction being made and was seconded by Coun. Diekel and all were in favor.

A motion to pay the audited bills was made by Coun. Diekel and was seconded by Coun. Brown and all were in favor.

**Old Business:** The town is continuing to look for anyone interested in serving on the BOAR. Linda Card was in attendance during the meeting and she would be interested in finding out how to serve.

**New Business:** The monthly financials were given to the board and are on file with the Town Clerk.

**Resolution #21-2023** titled **Budget Adjustments** with a zero impact for moving monies in the highway line items was put forth by a motion made by Coun. Brown and was seconded by Coun. Diekel and all were in favor.

The Town Law to adopt the Fireman/EMT Tax exemption passed during the last meeting will need to be rescinded. The correct way to adopt a town law was not followed and the town attorney told the board that since it wasn't done right, it will need to be redone. The board will follow through at an upcoming meeting to correctly pass the town law. The Public Hearing will be posted in the Whitehall Times as well as on the town website at the time it will be presented.

Linda Card, the mother of Sara Card, was in attendance for the meeting to accept a certificate of appreciation from the town board for her efforts to the community recently.

The town hall upgrade project is progressing. A contractor is proposing a simple quote for the new entrance wire. He did not have an official written quote at the time of the meeting, but assured the board prior to calling the meeting to order for a complete total for an underground installation to not exceed \$7,000. The board discussed as to whether or not to put the project out to bid. There were no quotes given in May when the town put an ad in the newspaper for a contractor. A motion to go ahead with the proposed bid of \$7,000 was made by Coun. Brown and was seconded by Coun. Diekel to move forward. The panel box will remain where it is out in the stairway. According to Sup. Ferguson, he heard from County Code Enforcement that the stairway is in good condition as it is and that the only thing it needs is a new window. James Brown will be installing the new window at a future time.

The current dog control officer, Melissa Brown, will be resigning at the end of the year and her letter of resignation was read during the meeting by Coun. Diekel. Anyone interested in becoming the dog control officer may contact Sup. Ferguson or the town clerk.

**Highway Superintendent's Report:** NYMER has recommended that the town install locking devices on all the equipment stored outside due to excessive theft of vehicles. Mr. Hobus will call NYMER for clarity as well as list some missing equipment from the insurance policy. The crew is preparing for the winter season. Rick will be having hip replacement on November 29 and will be laid up for a while. He will not be available for the December meeting.

The monthly bills paid for the month of October are as follows:

GEN-\$8173.25; HWY-\$13575.12; SD#1-\$12642.50; SD#2-\$822.50

**Public Comment:** It has been again requested for Sup. Ferguson to place the agenda on the town website before each monthly meeting for the public to view. Thomas Mowatt addressed the board about the water contamination in the event of a dam breach to any one of the dams that are located in the Lake George watershed. He also commented about the high levels of e-coli contamination in the bay areas in Huletts Landing. Due to the high number of residents that live in the area, it would be unlikely that it is coming from the wildlife in those areas, but that human influence is the culprit. He also noted that during a trip down to the bay areas that there is only one way in and out of the landing. Due to the close proximity of the residents that live there a calamity could be catastrophic event and he wanted this observation to be noted in the minutes.

At this time, Sup. Ferguson called for an executive session and the meeting will be adjourned afterwards. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. and the board entered executive session. The board came out at 8:05 p.m.

There were no further discussions. Respectfully submitted, Marcinda Wilbur, Town Clerk

**Attendance:** Charles Tall, Paul Diekel, Warren Gordon, Thomas Mowatt, Stephanie Aiken Copeland, Marilyn Borden, Kim Brown, Scott Brown, Mary Labrie, EJ Conzola-Whitehall Times, Linda Card