

**TOWN OF BELFAST
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
2-19-24**

Town Officials Present: Michael Hillman, Dixie Thornton, Rick Smith, Andrew Chamberlain, Patty Oliver, Mike Unfus, Jeremy Marsh, Josh Cole (arrived at 7:06)

Community Present: Allison Robinson, Maggie Thompson, Amanda Preston, Michelle Calanni, Tim Atherton, Trisha Ryan, Rodney Jopson

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

Rodney Jopson spoke on behalf of the American Legion and their concerns regarding the recent destruction of property and thefts in the Town. The Legion discussed establishing a Neighborhood Watch, but they haven't the resources or manpower and were looking for support from the Town. Supervisor Chamberlain stated that this issue was on the agenda to be discussed. The Town would support local groups in this endeavor, but because of insurance concerns, etc., the Town could not get involved. It was also pointed out that if this were to come to fruition, citizens should be unarmed and just carry a phone and a flashlight.

The American Legion also inquired about starting an accredited Farmer's Market in the Belfast Park. This would be an actual organization that carries their own insurance. More information and a better idea of dates will be brought to the next meeting.

Payment of January bills was approved by a motion from Councilman Cole and a second from Councilman Smith. Roll Call taken:

Smith-aye, Chamberlain-aye, Hillman-aye, Cole-aye, Middaugh-aye	Carried
General	
Highway	
Water	
Street Lighting	

Minutes of the January 15, 2024 Regular Meeting were accepted by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Smith. All in favor Carried

Minutes of the January 22 Special Meeting were accepted with the correction of Michael Unfus to Michael Hillman under "others present" by a motion from Councilman Smith and a second by Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried

The Supervisor's Report, dated January 2024, was approved by a motion from Councilman Cole and a second from Councilman Hillman. All in favor Carried

Supervisor Chamberlain stated that he will try to get each Board Member a copy of the Supervisor's Report before each board meeting for their perusal.

The Town Clerk's Report dated 2-5-24 was tabled until next meeting as it was not included in the Supervisor's Report.

The Water Report contained the following information:

- Samples all good
- 10 Udig notices
- Lead service line paperwork has been sent to homeowners
- Flushed a hydrant on a warm day
- Plowed and salted
- Removed Christmas lights off Main Street
- Removed tree stakes from the Park
- Working on the other side of the plant
- Heaters for the plant are in but not installed
- Received over \$7000 for the old generator that should go toward purchase of a new one
- Had 1 water leak this month
- Turner installed the new system and has been down working out the kinks
- Worked on annual report for Health Department
- Annual report for the DEC is done and sent
- Cameras are all working at the Historical Building
- Shut off one curb stop this month
- Tanks are due for inspection this year
- Meter reading for water bills went the same as in the past – absolutely horrible

Jeremy Marsh left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Highway Superintendent James Ace was not at the meeting, but his report contained the following:

- Plowing and sanding roads
- Cleaned up trees that fell from wind
- Filled out paperwork for insurance for fuel tanks that renews 3/1/24
- Keeping trucks washed and sprayed down with salt neutralizer
- Heard nothing on salt shed grant
- Boom cylinder is leaking on bucket truck – When it gets worse, will not be able to use it

- Cold patched all roads
- Working on skid paver
- Met with Tom Windus regarding Little John Bridge. Will work on a Bridge NY grant
- Cutting brush when nice out
- Starting to service equipment for the summer
- Need a resolution for MEO – Change to HMEO so that all employees can run every piece of equipment and all get paid the same rate. The County needs a copy
- Still in need of a grader

**TOWN OF BELFAST
RESOLUTION 1-24
February 19-2024**

BELFAST TOWN HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES

All are considered Heavy Motor Equipment Operators and all will run every piece of equipment at the same rate of pay.

Motion was made by Councilman Hillman and seconded by Councilman Smith.

Hillman	Aye
Smith	Aye
Cole	Aye
Middaugh	Aye
Chamberlain	Aye
All in favor	Carried

Patricia Oliver, Clerk

SEAL

Code Enforcement Officer Mike Unfus reported the following:

- Attended special meetings regarding Planning Board, Regular Board meetings and special meeting updating Dollar General and sheds
- Spoke to LaBella about floodplain permit for Bridge Construction
- Met with Dollar General to update progress. Supervisor Chamberlain stated that he spoke with Dollar General and they told him they were waiting on a document from Code office. Non-compliance has gone on long enough
- Layman's little "house" shed situation has not been rectified
- Visited Troyer on Rte. 305 for preliminary site inspection for pole structure

Mr. Unfus stated that the "Activities Report" the town receives is in no way a complete picture of what they do. Every call, e-mail, etc. is not listed on the report.

Trish Ryan arrived at 7:50 p.m.

There was no Library Report.

The Dog Control Report caused a stir. The same unlicensed dogs in town who have escaped and run loose numerous times have now been identified as chicken killers. Their owner has been ticketed, but refuses to come to court. He has now been issued a warrant. Because the dogs are so destructive, they may not be allowed in the Caneadea Kennel.

The Caneadea Kennel did not pass inspection. Apparently the kennel is located behind the Caneadea water department. Supervisor Chamberlain will contact Caneadea and see what's going on.

Supervisor Chamberlain stated that although the agreed upon number for members of the Planning Board was set on 5 members, he would like to appoint two alternates that would be involved, but not voting members. These alternates would be ready to step in in case one of the original 5 members should drop out. Kier Durlan will provide the necessary paperwork to make these changes.

Supervisor Chamberlain suggested that a checklist be provided to those using the Town Hall for events so that proper cleaning and table placement can be ready for the next event.

The recent break-ins were discussed earlier in the meeting. The Town does not feel they want to sponsor a nightwatch organization, but other groups may consider doing so.

There is still on-going investigation in regard to the hotel, parking lot and trailer situated on Merton Avenue.

March 15 has been designated as the kick-off date to the Belfast Bicentennial. At that time, there will be a gathering in the Belfast Town Hall where Supervisor Chamberlain will read a Proclamation and Craig Braack will give a history of the Town of Belfast. There will be refreshments, sales of bicentennial items and displays. There should be some banners displayed in the Town Park.

Supervisor Chamberlain shared that he had received a letter from Jeff Chamberlain, Fire Chief, stating the deplorable conditions of the back River Road. He asked if something could be done regarding the horrendous pot holes. The Town of Caneadea has come within ¼ mile of where the worst of the Belfast obligation begins. Superintendent Chamberlain wondered if the Highway Department could suggest to Caneadea that they could help Belfast out by continuing with the filling of pot holes a little further along the road. Because Highway Superintendent Ace is out of Town, Supervisor Chamberlain will suggest this to Deputy Superintendent Yackeren.

Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Cole seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver
Town Clerk