

**TOWN OF BELFAST  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
3/18/2024**

Town officials present: Andrew Chamberlain, Rick Smith, Michael Hillman, Dixie Middaugh, Joshua Cole, Jeremy Marsh, Mike Unfus, James Ace, Jr., Patty Oliver

Community members present: John Paul Mix, Amanda Preston, Michelle Calanni, Bruce Lavey, Steve and Sheila Bedwell, Beth Hazelton, Mary Paulsen, Lizzy Austin, Ashley Yackeren, Tom Yackeren, Lee James, Jeff Harrington, Randa Harrington, Rodney Jopson, Joseph Damiano, Trish Ryan Jopson

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

The February 19, 2024 minutes were accepted as presented by a motion from Rick and a second from Dixie. All in favor Carried

Lee James from Marshall Insurance stated that all insurance premiums have gone up at least by 10%. A higher deductible would help to offset the increase. She was still waiting for a quote from Trident, but was sure that would be the least expensive.

John Paul Mix, Ron Mix's nephew, inquired about the lot that the trailer sits on between the hotel and the town hall. There is a potential buyer for the hotel and the hold up seems to be ownership of the lot/trailer. Attorney's are working on it. John Paul did state that Ron Mix had paid the taxes on said lot for the last 40 years. However, no deeds have been filed properly.

Rod Jobson, representing the American Legion, stated that the American Flag the Town helped purchase last year has a torn corner and they are requesting the Town partially pay for a new flag in the park. Rick moved and Mike seconded to pay \$300 toward a new flag in the park to come out of A7550.4 (celebrations) budget line. All in favor Carried

Mary Paulsen spoke on behalf of the Summer Rec Program to be run by the Belfast School. She was asking for more money this year. The 2024 Budget has a line item for \$10,000 and the County reimburses \$1500. Last year they received \$8500. She was also asked if the program could send the Town a report including how many kids attended the program, how many teachers/aides, buses, bus drivers, etc..

Mary Paulsen, Lizzy Austin and Lee James left the meeting at 7:35.

The payment of the February Bills was approved by a motion from Mike and a second from Josh.

General – 46-65	\$10,196.67
Water – 26-36	\$3589.87
Street Lighting – 02	\$811.55
Highway – 30-42	\$8281.92

Mike-aye, Josh-aye, Dixie-aye, Rick-aye, Andy-aye      All in favor      Carried

The Town Supervisor's Report, dated February 2024, was approved as presented by a motion from Mike and a second from Josh.      All in favor      Carried

The Town Clerk's Report, dated February 5 for the 12/2023 accounts, was accepted by a motion from Mike and a second from Josh.      All in favor      Carried

Jeremy Marsh's Water Report contained the following:

- Samples all good
- 10 Udig notices
- Lead service line paperwork sent to water customers
- Salted
- Heaters should be installed by the end of the month
- Set up appointment to get tanks inspected
- Still working on the other side of the plant
- Still waiting on the OK to get the generator for the water plant – sold old one for \$7000 – will take care of next month
- Turner's system is working better than the old one
- Sent annual report for the Health Department
- Chris from Badger is coming to get some things figured out for reading meters
- Fixed cement at the Town Hall
- Inspected many basements to see what size water pipe runs into their house

Jim Ace's Highway Report contained the following:

- Plowing and sanding roads
- Cleaned up trees that came down from the wind
- Got insurance for the fuel tanks
- Got the Salt Shed Grant - 75/25 percent
- Working on skid paver
- Tom Windus is doing Little John bridge
- Cutting brush

- All equipment is serviced and ready for summer
- Started clean up for Salt Shed
- Did some repairs on Trucks #2 and #8
- Looking into getting a box blade for tractor to use on dirt roads
- Still in need of a grader

The Salt Shed will cost over \$375,000, but will be reimbursed 75%. Will secure a bond by end of month. Expect completion the end of June.

Mike Unfus, Code Enforcement, reported the following:

- Busy with building permits
- Checking on bridge progress on E. Hughes Street – everything looks to be on schedule
- Inspections
- Zoom meetings
- Shed on South Street – was instructed to issue an appearance ticket
- Dollar General – almost in compliance
- 90 Sherman St. - county owned – have been trying to work with them
- Rich Rizzo has resigned
- MACE meeting Thursday night at 6:30 – Mike Hillman will attend

Jeremy and Jimmy left the meeting at this time

Beth Hazelton reported for the Belfast Public Library

- Asking for a light for the flag pole – was told the Town was looking into purchasing a new pole and using the old pole at the Little League Field
- Gearing up for Summer Reading Program
- Applied for a grant through the Allegany County Area Foundation to help with the program
- Continuing fund raising for the building program

Dog Control Report

- Caneadea Kennel did not pass inspection, but there are no repercussions
- Toying with idea of constructing Belfast's own kennel – looking at grant options
- Water plant would be best location, however there were some objections from the public as to that location
- Someone from Ag and Markets is coming to give more information

Beth Hazelton and John Paul Mix left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

There was no one here from the Historical Society.

Mike moved and Dixie seconded to offer resolution 2-24 to accept the Justice Report as presented.

**TOWN OF BELFAST  
RESOLUTION 2-24  
March 18, 2024**

**Audit of the Town Justice Books 2023**

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to accept and offer up **Resolution #2-24** entitled **Audit of the Town Justice Books 2023**, which was completed by Councilwoman Middaugh and Councilman Cole.

The Town Clerk will forward the audit to the NYS Office of Court Administration.

Councilman Hillman	aye
Councilman Cole	aye
Councilman Smith	aye
Councilwoman Middaugh	aye
Supervisor Chamberlain	aye

All in favor          Carried

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Patricia Oliver  
Town Clerk

SEAL

**TOWN OF BELFAST  
RESOLUTION 3-24  
March 18, 2024**

**ADDITION OF TWO ALTERNATE POSITIONS ON THE PLANNING BOARD**

Councilman Smith moved and Councilman Cole seconded to add two alternate positions to the Belfast Planning Board.

Councilman Cole	aye	
Councilman Hillman		aye
Councilman Smith	aye	
Councilwoman Middaugh		aye
Supervisor Chamberlain	aye	

All in favor	Carried
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Patricia Oliver  
Town Clerk

SEAL

The issue involving holding positions of town board member and fire commissioner has been remedied with the resignation of said member resigning as a fire commissioner.

Salt shed grant has been approved and the Supervisor will seek a BOND by the end of the month.

Jimmy Dowd will install water plant heaters.

The Annual Financial Report has been completed by Baldwin's and submitted.

Supervisor Chamberlain has signed a contract with Cintas for cleaning and bathroom supplies along with hall runners and rugs for the vestibule.

Supervisor Chamberlain has submitted a letter of support for the restoration of the Caneadea Historic Bridge, phase A.

Spencer Field needs some upgrading. Any options to help should be addressed to Supervisor Chamberlain or Nate Broughton.

The Community Watch Meeting went well. Things to remember:

- Cannot prosecute under age 18
- Members of the group can be prosecuted
- Not weapons
- Next meeting scheduled for April 5 at the American Legion

Bruce Lavey is interested in purchasing the 1.6 acre property on 305 between Mast and himself that is owned and unused by the Town. Will discuss further next month.

Supervisor Chamberlain is working on fixing the gazebo in the park and repairing the sidewalk around the monument, perhaps through grants.

Monday, March 25, there will be a Comprehensive Planning meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35

Respectfully,

Patricia Oliver  
Town Clerk