

TOWN OF BELFAST
MINUTES
April 17, 2023

Town Officials Present: Mike Hillman, Andy Chamberlain, Josh Cole, David DeRock, Jeremy Marsh, Jim Ace, Patty Oliver

Apologies: David Cox, Mike Unfus

Others present: Bronwyn Enders, Amanda Preston, Wende Kenyon, Paul Kenyon, Tim Atherton, Zach Guilford, Maggie Thompson, Rick Smith

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

Jim Ace, Highway Superintendent reported the following:

- Out of town roads swept
- Attending Highway School in June
- Grading roads and ditching
- Grinding Gleason Hill on May 2 and 3
- Will seal Brainard Hill
- All trucks inspected
- Pick-up truck in Cuba for repair
- Cleaning under guardrails
- County says concrete pipe at Rockville in bad shape
- Cannot get salt brine and will have to replace with calcium at 10 x's the cost
- State budget not passed, but will go ahead and use CHIPS money
- Within 5 years will have to replace bridge on Little John Road

Water Superintendent Jeremy Marsh reported the following:

- All samples good
- 8 Udig notices
- Flushed all hydrants
- New zero turn has been delivered
- Library break-in – bill given to State Police
- Nothing from PESH
- Plowed and salted sidewalks
- Finger Lakes still not finished with generator
- Health Department sent out new paperwork on lead and galvanized pipes
- Health Department annual report is done

- DEC annual report is done
- Had a few small water leaks
- Problems with septic tank at the Town Hall – had pumped
- Not having good luck finding 8 foot fencing for the ball fields
- Four hydrants on 19 need to be replaced due to salt
- Replaced 1 out of 6 windows at Library that were broke
- Tractor readied for mowing season
- All sticks and garbage picked up in the park
- Attended Udig class and Safety Class
- Getting quote from Tommy Dowd to install the valve at bottom of Murray Hill

Jeremy has not had time to install the spring toys in the Park and will install a camera in the Park as well.

Both Jimmy and Jeremy left the meeting at 7:14 after their reports.

Rick Smith commented that there is garbage being dumped on Gleason Hill. Apparently it has been going on for years. Councilman Hillman will talk to Jim Ace about putting up some “no dumping” signs.

Councilman Hillman said he drove by the pole barn and noticed that the roof does look pretty rough. He also reported that he got no response from M&T bank regarding any liens on water department equipment or property. Councilman Chamberlain made the motion once again that the water plant be cleaned out and utilized for storage.

Councilman Cole seconded. Councilman DeRock voted aye. Councilman Hillman abstained Motion was carried Water Superintendent Marsh will be authorized to order another dumpster when he is ready to do some cleanout.

A variance request from Shawn Dahill to build an open porch/deck on his house on Merton Avenue was approved by a motion from Councilman Chamberlain and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried

The minutes of the March 20, 2023 meeting were accepted by a motion from Councilman Cole and a second from Councilman Chamberlain. All in favor Carried

The March bills were approved for payment by roll call:

DeRock – aye, Cole – aye, Chamberlain – aye, Hillman – aye	Carried
Street Lighting 04	\$742.82
Highway 48-59	
General 68-92	\$50,484.51

Water 43-53 \$3094.96

The Supervisor's Report, dated March, 2023 was approved by a motion from Councilman DeRock and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor
Carried

The Town Clerk's Report, dated March, 2023 for the February accounts was approved by a motion from Councilman DeRock and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor
Carried

No Code Officer was at the meeting due to a conflict with a training in Syracuse. Councilman Hillman will check regarding the clean-up on 129 S. Main Street.

No one attended the meeting to represent the Belfast Library.

The dog report consisted of a statement where the officer was issuing tickets and stopping at a house with numerous unlicensed dogs.

The Comprehensive Plan was briefly discussed. Councilman DeRock moved and Councilman Cole seconded that those appointed to the planning committee be a resident and/or a taxpayer of the Town of Belfast. This is something that could be changed at a later date if desired. All in favor Carried

Councilman Hillman will be in touch with Michelle Denhoff, Assistant Director of Economic Development & Planning, and provide her with a list of names and phone numbers of those Belfast folks wishing to be on the committee.

The Kenyon's left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Rick Smith left the meeting at 8:15 p.m

Discussion on Summer Recreation centered around the late start date. The consensus was too much time has passed for proper advertising the director position and for that person to select student counselors, schedule and arrange for different events, coordinate with the school regarding lunches, hire bus drivers and approve a bus contract with the school. Consequently there will be no Summer Reading/Summer Rec Program this year.

There was no new information regarding the removal of trees on Main Street. Councilman Hillman will talk with Supervisor Cox to see if he has followed through with that situation.

Councilman Cole moved and Councilman Chamberlain seconded to appoint Amanda Preston as a Board of Assessment Review member following the untimely death of Lana Chamberlain Mackmer. All in favor Carried

Councilman Hillman briefly discussed the supposed 10% discount on RG&E bills through the solar project. Apparently there was not full disclosure regarding the discount, but it was agreed to give it a chance for a couple of months with some close scrutiny of incoming bills.

There was a handout of the cost of the Library break-in to the Town. This amount (\$764.28) was supplied to the State Police along with a bill from the Library itself for items broken or destroyed. The assumption is that the vandals will pay restitution in full.

The contract between Williamson Law Book Company and the Town of Belfast for use of the water software billing program was approved for signature by a motion from Councilman Chamberlain and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried

Local Law #2-23 titled Notice of Highway Defects, was reviewed and a public meeting was set for May 15, 2023 at 6:30 by a motion from Councilman DeRock and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried

Resolution 4-23, whereas Dustin Snyder be appointed to complete the remainder of Russell Hesslin's term expiring Sept. 23, 2025 as the Town of Belfast Assessor was moved by Councilman DeRock and seconded by Councilman Chamberlain. All in favor Carried

Councilman Chamberlain moved and Councilman Cole seconded to officially appoint Jeremy Marsh as Belfast Water Superintendent. All in favor Carried

Councilman Hillman shared that he heard unofficially that no one should expect to be driving over the River Bridge until June of 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Oliver

Town Clerk