

**TOWN OF BELFAST**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 20, 2023**

Town Officials Present: Michael Hillman, Andrew Chamberlain, Joshua Cole, David Cox, Patty Oliver, Jim Ace Jr., Mike Unfus, Jeremy Marsh

Absent: David DeRock

Public Present: Maggie Thompson, Rick Smith, Steve Peck, Morgan Yackeren, Ashley Yackeren, Rodney Jopson, Thomas Yackeren, Joe Curcio

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Supervisor Cox and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve Peck from Ryan Insurance Agency made a proposal for the Town of Belfast insurance business. There were a few tweaks that still need to be confirmed. Mr. Peck left the meeting at 7:25.

Rodney Jopson spoke on behalf of the American Legion requesting the Town's financial help with the purchase of a new American flag for the Town Park. Flags run from \$300 to \$700, depending on size, quality and where they are manufactured. The Town would prefer to donate toward an American made flag and Councilman Hillman moved, Councilman Chamberlain seconded to allow the Town to pay for half the cost of a new flag. All in favor Carried

Mr. Jopson also informed the Board that the Legion was looking into a volunteer program in conjunction with the Belfast School where students will help with projects around the Town such as cleaning up the Town Park, mowing and trimming, cleaning cemeteries of debris, and in some cases helping individuals in the Town. Supervision will be available and Jeremy Marsh, water superintendent, was agreeable to accepting this help.

Ashley Yackeren informed the Board that the Little League Field on GLF Road was in need of higher fencing, and possibly even new fencing. Jeremy will check it out.

Supervisor Cox stated that the contract with Saputo regarding the new batting cage has been signed and submitted.

Joe Curcio talked about the fact that he is creating parking out behind the buildings he owns and wondered about stripping. Highway Superintendent Ace stated he would find

out who does stripping and get back to him. Joe also stated that he heard the County was hiring a grant writer and the Town could benefit from looking into grants. Joe informed the Board that he was trying to assemble a steering/planning committee that would help to make Belfast a thriving community. Joe was informed that the Board was looking into a Comprehensive Plan and having Kier Durham, County Planner, come to a special public meeting to start this process.

Supervisor Cox shared that the trees on Main Street will be removed. Large flower planters may be used to line the street and they would be removed in the winter for easier snowplowing of the sidewalks.

Tom Yackeren arrived at 8:00.

Supervisor Cox moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve an 8 X 10 storage shed be built by the snack shack on the Little League Field at the Little League's expense. All in favor Carried

The minutes of the January 16, 2023 meeting were accepted by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried

The January bills were approved by roll call:

Hillman – aye Chamberlain – aye Cole – aye Cox – aye

General	24-50	\$7811.43
Water	13-26	\$11803.19
Highway	19-35	\$30972.28
Street Lighting	02	\$752.44

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

Highway Superintendent Ace reported the following:

- All items on the PESH citation that they could fix has been done
- Finishing up the Hazard Mitigation Report (yearly thing)
- Plowing and cutting brush

Councilman Chamberlain asked about blacktop or paving space on parking area on Chapel Street on the other side of the park ropes. Jim said it's not that easy – needs cutting, digging, binder and Town doesn't do their own blacktopping. Guessing it may cost \$25,000.

Jim Ace left the meeting at 8:20.

Water Superintendent Jeremy Marsh's report included the following:

- Samples all good
- 20 Udig notices with 3 being emergency
- Still waiting on new fire hydrant
- 3 water leaks
- 2 services turned off
- Fixed storm door on Historical Building
- Plowing and sanding sidewalks
- Waiting to hear from PESH
- Boiler went down in the Library annex
- Plugged toilet in ladies room in Town Hall
- Fixed lights in the Town Park
- Did some mudding at the Library
- Read water meters and helped with billing
- Soft starter bad at town barn and had Kim Barton fix
- Requested quotes for overhead door

According to Code Enforcement Officer Mike Unfus, PESH cannot "make" the Highway or Water Departments "do" anything.

The Board members were presented with a list of why removing the west wall of the water plant and installing an overhead door is a good idea. All board members present agreed that the present building would no longer be used to process water. The Pioneer propane monthly bill would be considerable lower also. However, Supervisor Cox was not comfortable with making a decision on the overhead door and removing contents of from the water plant to make room for storing equipment when he had not had time to review the proposal. There was even concern that the Town might not be allowed to discard some of the tanks, etc. that were paid for with grant money. Councilman Chamberlain volunteered to comb through old paperwork to see what he could find.

Only one quote came in for an overhead door so Jeremy was asked to get another and given a number to call.

Ashley and Morgan Yackeren left the meeting at 8:35.

The Town Clerk was instructed to contact the accounting firm instructing them to pay Jeremy Marsh time and half for his comp time. Also, Jeremy was asked to submit time sheets to the Town Supervisor.

Joe Curcio and Jeremy Marsh left the meeting at 9:05.

Code Enforcement Officer Mike Unfus reported:

- Part of River Valley building is being torn down
- 129 S. Main is ongoing. Kevin Margerum will talk with the Judge
- Order of Remedy issued on Tibbetts Hill – not sure if 10 or 30 days
- Davenport property – County owned and they are considering knocking down
- Flood Plain permit needed for bridge work
- Looking for a County Code Judge
- All State Reports have been filed

The Board reviewed the Library Report submitted by Beth Hazelton. The Board needs more clarification as to what they are trying to do regarding demolition of the annex and costs involved. Supervisor Cox will ask for more information.

The one sentence Dog Report from Crystal Hull was reviewed.

Josh Cole and Rick Smith left the meeting at 9:20.

Supervisor Cox informed the Board that the solar project has finally sent the Town a check for \$22000. The question was whether to put that money into contingency fund or to distribute percentage wise among general, water and highway as it is taxpayer money. No decision was made.

The old River Bridge has been removed. Late November 2024 may be the completion date for the new bridge.

Councilman Cole and Councilman DeRock were appointed to do the Justice Audit as they have done it in the past and are most familiar with it.

Tom Yackeren and Maggie Smith left the meeting at 9:30

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve Resolution 3-23 for Road Name Changes in the Town of Belfast. (copy attached)

Councilman Hillman will contact Kier Durham to set up a time for a Public Meeting to discuss a Comprehensive Plan and also discuss the water plant and other pertinent business.

Supervisor Cox moved and Councilman Hillman seconded to go into Executive Session at 10:10 to discuss negotiations. All in favor Carried

All left the meeting except for Councilman Hillman, Councilman Chamberlain and Supervisor Cox.

Supervisor Cox moved and Councilman Hillman seconded to come out of Executive Session at 10:25.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 by a motion from Councilman Chamberlain and a second from Councilman Hillman.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver  
Town Clerk