

**TOWN OF BELFAST
MINUTES
9-19-2022**

Town representatives present: David Cox, David DeRock, Josh Cole, Mike Hillman, Andy Chamberlain, Jeremy Marsh, Jim Ace Jr., Mike Unfus, Patty Oliver

Townspeople present: Fred Cook, Laura Weller, Amy Lehman, Alyssa Weller, Kathy Garrison, Amanda Preston, Bronwyn Enders, Gail DeRock, Kayloni Dziedrzic, Michelle Calanni, Danielle Prosser, Brian Preston, Joe Foley, Ellen Woolley, David Jennings, Rick Smith, Margo Jennings, Maggie Thompson, Paul Kenyon, Wende Kenyon, Jason Hamer, Liz Hamer, Kim Barton, Bob Tomlinson, Brenda Austin, Dean Scholes, Stephen Gauthier, Patty Preston (there may have been others who did not sign in)

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

Amanda Preston presented the Board with a petition containing 97 names (unverified) to protest the possible sale of multiple properties to an individual who is allegedly running a transport service through Allegany County to deliver individuals to methadone clinics located in various city locations. Supervisor Cox pointed out that: #1 there was the discrimination issue the Town may have to address, and #2 the Town does not have any zoning to prevent this event from happening. To establish zoning would take a minimum of 2 years to complete. Code Enforcement Officer Mike Unfus stated that he can be in touch with the Town Attorney to see if a moratorium could be put in place to prevent this potential sale from happening for this particular service. (Most of these concerned citizens left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.)

Amy Lehman and Fred Cook addressed the Rockville Lake issues. Amy, who has a cottage on the Lake, expounded on the dam leak and erosion problems. She was also displeased with the Greenway project. The Town of Belfast turned over ownership of Rockville Lake to the Rockville Lake Homeowners Association in the 1970's and has no vested interest in repair, etc. Amy stated that the Lake was a "hidden gem" in Allegany County and the Greenway should not be ignoring the potential there. Amy was directed to contact the Army Corp of Engineers for help with the dam and also to call the County and get on the docket to attend a meeting of the whole body of legislators. Supervisor Cox stated he would be in touch with Phil Stockin in the meantime and enlighten him on Amy's concerns. Mr. Cook's problem was with the Greenway boundaries and some access being cut off from the public and his property.

At 7:55, Stephen Gauthier, Structural Engineer, gave a power point presentation on the failure of the River Bridge, why it happened and the proposed way it is to be fixed. The

question was asked if a possible new location for a bridge was possible, but there was no answer. Because there are so many government agencies involved and all have to follow strict guidelines, it will be a lengthy process and is estimated to go into the fall of 2024. Mr. Gauthier wrapped up his presentation at 8:45.

Kathy Garrison reported on the Bicentennial event in 2024. She stated that Trisha Jopson has offered to assemble a volunteer committee to work on these events and asked that a request for volunteers be put on the Town website and on the Belfast Community Page (Facebook). She provided a potential list of possible events that could be arranged for a celebratory weekend. Kathy ended her presentation at 9:00 p.m.

Kim Barton was interested in purchasing the water department generator that needs repair. He stated that he would even be willing to replace the broken generator with a new, smaller version. No decision was made. Kim left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Wende and Paul Kenyon shared that the Historical Society building was in need of roof repair and repair to the back wall. Councilman Chamberlain and Councilman Hillman were given the go ahead to purchase some metal for roofing and whatever is needed for the wall to prevent the water from seeping into the building. Wende also stated they were in need of a hot water tank as well as internet service. No action was taken on these items. It was suggested that the Amish could repair the roof in a very short period of time and ARPA money could be used for this repair. The consensus was to contact the Amish.

The Kenyon's and Kathy Garrison left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Councilman Hillman moved to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2022 meeting and Councilman Cole seconded. All in favor Carried

Payment of August Bills was approved by a motion from Councilman DeRock and a second from Councilman Cole:

General	184-201	\$10,056.74	
Street Lighting	09	\$720.21	
Highway	130-141	\$12,157.49	
Water	79-95	\$3,836.26	
Derock-aye, Cole-aye, Chamberlain-aye, Hillman-aye, Cox-aye			All in favor
Carried			

The August, 2022 Supervisor's Report was not approved as presented and tabled until the October meeting. The Board needs an explanation of "unexpended balance" items on the modification page.

The Town Clerk's Report, dated August, 2022 for the July accounts, was approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor
Carried

The Water District Report, presented by Jeremy Marsh, contained the following information:

- Keeping up with lawns and weed eating
- Samples all good
- 16 Udig notices
- quotes on security cameras and ordered 2 reolinks
- Met with Kim Barton regarding the generator
- All meter heads and end points are up and working
- Rebuilt pump #1 at tanks and put new motor on it
- Spring toy will probably not arrive until December
- Turned off water at 12 Chestnut
- Replaced all lines on the chlorinator pump
- Got quote on mini-excavator and trailer
- Attended budget meeting in Nunda
- Dug pit at Mike Harrington's and moved meter head
- Ran new Ethernet cord in Dawn's office
- Cut extra poles for the park so we have spares now
- Worked on the a/c for the Kubota tractor

Councilman Chamberlain moved and Councilman Cole seconded to purchase a used mini excavator and trailer for the water department at a cost of \$55,000.

Chamberlain-aye, Cole-aye, DeRock-aye, Cox-aye, Hillman-abstain Carried

James Ace, Jr., reported for the Highway Department:

- Everything Auctions will be sending a check for over \$32,000 for excess machinery, part of which needs to go to Caneadea for their portion of ownership
- Grading – using New Hudson grader
- Need to refinance trucks #3 and #8
- Bucket for excavator cost \$13,000
- Van Allen Road sliding again
- Beavers plugging dam by McDonald's Pond
- Attending Highway School rest of the week
- Peterbilt check engine light keeps coming on
- Still need to purchase 16 tires

Cheryl Oetinger has a concern regarding the curve on Chapel Street. The possibility of some sort of sign on the curve was discussed

Two trees in the park need attention. Jeremy Marsh will contact a tree cutting service. There is also a tree in Riverside Cemetery that needs attention

Jim Ace was asked about Tom Yackeren's pursuit in obtaining a license to use hazardous spray on the sides of roads and the walks in town. He is still working on it.

Mike Unfus, Code Enforcement Officer, reported the following:

- Issuing lots of permits
- Kevin completed his training
- Taking care of property maintenance issues in town
- Tibbetts Hill – trying different things – troopers will not back up
- Involved with Rockville Lake issues
- Will have to be involved with the River Bridge issue
- Will check with Rick Buck regarding the moratorium with the sale of the house on South Main St.
- Will try and get updated with Davenport property and old Tanning Loft building
- Has talked to Dollar General Corporate office regarding the deplorable condition of the entrance way

Bronwyn Enders spoke with David Cox regarding the looks of the store front on Main Street. They will remove the butcher paper and decide other measures to make the building presentable.

Patty Preston represented the Town Library and asked if their budget had been increased to which the response was “no”.

Crystal Hull e-mailed a short dog control officer report.

Supervisor Cox shared with the Board that he received an e-mail from Cecy Curcio stating that she and Eva Heaney would like to start a Belfast Beautification Organization.

The tree issue on Main Street was once again addressed. The new Resolution made at last month's meeting needs to be sent to Jonathan Engels, NYSDOT, to get the ball rolling once again.

Councilman Chamberlain purchased the stainless nuts and bolts and some posts to get ready to install the fire sign numbers. He's trying to find some volunteer help.

Supervisor Cox stated he'd received a list of demands from the Teamsters representing the Highway workers and has met with their union representative.

A budget workshop meeting was set for Thursday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Finger Lakes Power Systems has not been able to obtain the new generator for the Town Hall that was ordered a year ago. Supervisor Cox suggested that the generator at the water plant be used for the Town Hall and perhaps Finger Lakes would use the deposit made to them already as payment for installing the generator in the Hall. He will follow up.

Ardent Solutions would like to use the Belfast Park on October 22 for a suicide prevention event. No one had a problem with this.

The signing of the yearly contract for Baldwin Business Services was tabled until next month.

The solar energy 10% discount for power usage costs for community members was discussed. No one is quite sure who to contact. January 27, 2020 minutes stated that this was one benefit of the solar agreement. Also, on 8/2021 the Town received the annual payment of \$25,000 provided for in the agreement, but has received nothing since. Because more than a year has elapsed, the Town should be entitled to a late fee. The Town Supervisor should contact the solar company.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m. by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Chamberlain. All in favor Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver
Town Clerk