

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

Town officials present: David Cox, Michael Hillman, Andrew Chamberlain, Josh Cole, David DeRock, James Ace, Jr., Mike Unfus, Patricia Oliver

Others present: Beth Hazelton, Tim Atherton, Rick Smith, Maggie Thompson, Sheree Gielow, Joseph Damiano, Lee James, Amanda Preston, Kayloni Dziedzic, Michelle Calanni, Annie West, Patty Preston, Heath West, Bronwyn Enders, Sheila Weaver, Brian Hadreth (Southern Tier Library rep)

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

Lee James presented an insurance proposal from Hasper and Dye Agency, Inc. She also noted that a “Prior Written Notice Local Law” needed to be updated. When asked about student coverage when they are volunteering for the Town and she indicated that the school would be the primary and Town secondary. Ms. James’ presentation was over at 7:16.

Annie West represented the Belfast Public Library and recited some history of the library. Professional handouts were distributed with facts and testimonials. The main goal of the Library is the eventual completion of an addition onto the back of the historic building and razing the annex which is in need of costly repair. This project would be done in phases. NYS has already awarded \$125,000 for phase 1 which includes architectural planning and design, demo of the annex and preparation of the future building site. At this time, \$1.3 is the budget for project completion, but the completion date may be 6 or 7 years down the road. Because the Town owns the Library building, it needs to be the lead agency, however the Library Board will be doing all the paper work. The Board did express concern regarding financing the end of the project if State grants and funding didn’t come to fruition. After some debate it was decided to go ahead and Councilman Cox would write a letter of support as the lead agency.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Chamberlain seconded to approve Phase 1 on the condition that the annex would not be demolished until the next Phase has been funded. All in favor Carried

Mr. Hadreth from the Southern Tier Library left the meeting at 8:15.

At 8:15, Amanda Preston spoke regarding a property maintenance issue and was informed that the 5 month old issue was being rectified. The house is vacant and there is a dumpster there now.

The Comprehensive Plan was referred to briefly and apparently folks were not aware of the March 9th meeting even though it was in the legal section of the Olean Times Herald, posted in the Post Office and on the door of the Town Hall. It was suggested that the Belfast Community Page would be a helpful addition for notices as well as the Belfast web page.

Everyone left the meeting at 8:25 except for Sheila Weaver, Tim Atherton and Maggie Thompson.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve the February 20, 2023 minutes as presented. (Councilman DeRock abstained as he was absent that meeting) All in favor Carried

Council Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting as taken by Councilman Chamberlain. (Councilman DeRock and Supervisor Cox abstained as they were both absent for that meeting). All in favor Carried

The February bills were approved for payment by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman DeRock.

Roll call: Hillman-aye, DeRock-aye, Chamberlain-aye, Cole-aye, Cox-aye.

General	#52-67	\$9994.38
Highway	#36-46	\$9644.28
Street Lighting	#03	\$731.48
Water	#27-42	\$8930.31

The Supervisor's Report, dated 2/2023, was accepted by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman DeRock. All in favor Carried

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

Highway Superintendent Ace reported:

- Has heard nothing from PESH
- Hazard Mitigation Report is done
- Car fire on Coyle Hill left damage to road – filed insurance claim \$6,697.10

In the absence of Jeremy Marsh, Tim Atherton read the Water Report which included the following:

- Samples all good
- 6 Udig notices
- Installed new hydrant
- Zero Turn should be here March to April
- Located the septic at the library
- Nothing from PESH
- Plowed and salted sidewalks
- Flag pole light in park all rebuilt and ready to install
- Motor pulley on compressor at town barns changed
- Finger Lakes here to install generator
- Health Department sent out new paperwork on lead and galvanized pipes
- Health Department sent out new paperwork on annual report
- Had a leak
- Tractor went down and ordered parts and have it back up and going
- Septic tanks had to get pumped
- Tested hydrants for fire insurance
- Looked into fencing for the ball fields
- Don Cobb's curb stop is found and turned off
- Did some mudding at the library
- Dumpster delivered
- Changed bulb out in the park
- Collected garbage

Cost of propane for the water plant was discussed. Mike suggested that quotes be gotten for a heat pump type heater or wall mount heaters. Mike Unfus said that if pushed, National Fuel would dig a fuel line so a natural gas heater could be installed. No action taken.

Jeremy Marsh's overtime was discussed briefly. Nothing was decided on compensation for overtime.

Joey Damiano left the meeting at 8:50 and Lee James left at 9:05.

Code Enforcement Officer Mike Unfus reported the following:

- 129 S. Main is being cleaned up – dumpster there
- Placquired Tibbetts Hill property and they are supposed to be out within a week (heard they were selling property)
- Services disconnected at Bruce Harrington's rental trailer and tenants temporarily replaced

- 79 Sherman – property maintenance complaint
- 80 Sherman being foreclosed
- Normal permitting
- Dog kennel being built on Fritz Road – no permits yet
- Flood Plain permit payment received
- Cory and Mike have completed in-service training
- MACE meeting Tuesday night at 6:30

Reviewed the short dog control report. Question was asked about who is responsible for notifying folks that their dog(s) is not licensed? No resolution.

After the March 9 public meeting regarding forming a Comprehensive Planning Committee, the Board decided to pursue the idea of a Comprehensive Plan. The Town Clerk was directed to publish on the Belfast Community Page and post notices that the Board was looking for interested members. A list was of potential members was requested by the week of April 10.

The Justice Audit for 2022 justice books was completed by David DeRock and Josh Cole who attested that the records were examined and the fines collected were turned over to the proper officials. Councilman DeRock moved and Councilman Cole seconded to accept the report as presented. All in favor Carried

Tim Atherton and Sheila Weaver left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Supervisor Cox questioned whether or not the roof on the pole barn is in need of repair.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to go into executive session at 9:35 to discuss negotiations.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole moved to come out of executive session and go into regular meeting mode.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Chamberlain seconded to approve Hasper & Dye as the Town of Belfast insurance carrier at a quote of \$31,359 per year. All in favor Carried

Councilman Hillman was going to find out from M&T Bank if there was any kind of lien on contents of the water plant, or can all the old equipment including the generator be disposed of. Kim Barton may still be interested in the generator.

Councilman Chamberlain will pursue the Summer Rec question as to whether or not the school has a similar program and if it is feasible to combine the Town program with the school program.

There is no new information on the tree situation on Main Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver
Town Clerk