

**TOWN OF BELFAST  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 19, 2019**

Present: Mike Hillman, David Jennings, Josh Cole, Sandra Taber, Annette Kish, Tim Atherton, Robert Kish, Patty Oliver

Community Present: Maggie Thompson, Beth Hazelton, Sheila Weaver, Andrew Chamberlain, Rick Smith, Vincent Tabone, Jason Smith

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

Sheila Weaver and Beth Hazelton were in attendance to represent the Library and presented the Board with a copy of their budget along with a letter outlining the fact that they exist on a very limited budget and are confused as to what they can actually expect from the Town to help with expenses. They also presented the Board a bill for a new air conditioning unit in the amount of \$905. Supervisor Kish asked on whose authority they went ahead with this purchase and stated that someone from the Town should have been made aware of the problem with air conditioning before they took it upon themselves to purchase a new unit. They stated the heat was oppressive and their air conditioner wasn't working. Councilwoman Taber stated that they should have closed the library.

Councilman Hillman moved to approve payment of the bill for air conditioning for the library and Councilman Cole seconded. All in favor. Carried. Councilman Hillman also stated that the Town set a policy with a limit of an expenditure before it first had to come before the board for approval.

Also discussed by the Library was the grant for the roof repair. The grant was in the amount of \$6000, with the Library coming up with \$1500 which they have in their budget. They stated that they have not had any closure with Kevin Margerum, Code Enforcement Officer, even though he has told them several times he would be in contact with them soon. The Library has been in touch with a preservation architect through a free library service. Supervisor Kish asked that the Library personnel meet with her before Labor Day to go over things that need to be done.

Jason Smith attended the meeting to represent his desire for the Town to establish a Local Law regulating use of limited use vehicles and all-terrain vehicles on town highways. Bob Kish, Highway Superintendent, will review the document presented to see if it was something the Town should consider and present his findings at the next meeting. Jason left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Vincent Tabone attended the meeting representing the American Legion. He proposed that the Legion would like to install permanent speakers in the Town Park which could be used for any public event. The Legion would install 4 moveable speakers with underwire cable leading up to the gazebo. Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve the Legion do this speaker project. All in favor. Carried

The bills were approved by a motion from Councilman Cole and a second from Councilwoman Jennings with the inclusion of the air conditioning bill from the Town Library.

Street Lighting	#08	\$661.68
Water	#77-85	\$5138.14
Highway	#102-119	\$126,105.84
General	#151-170	\$4599.71

Hillman – aye, Cole – aye, Jennings – aye, Taber – aye, Kish – aye. All in favor Carried

The minutes of the July 15, 2019 meeting were approved by a motion from Councilman Jennings and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried

The July, 2019 Supervisor’s Report was approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried

Councilman Jennings made the motion and Councilwoman Taber seconded to approve the Town Clerk’s Report dated June, 2019. All in favor Carried

Water Superintendent Atherton stated that he has received a quote of \$3075 for rod replacement in the big water tank. Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve the order for these rods. All in favor Carried

The written water report contained the following items:

- Brush cut backs
- Plant shut down due to faulty flap valve
- Spoke with Calanni’s regarding moving meter pit closer to house
- Replaced new service lines
- Repaired water leaks
- Met with Dave Spring from DOH to go over lead and copper choices. Received approval of selections
- In house arsenic samples – all looks good
- Mowing, weeding, etc.

Issues regarding smelly water complaints resulted in Supervisor Kish observing David Cox flush a hydrant on Wednesday, August 7, where the water was brackish and smelled like sewage. Ran for some length of time with not much improvement and contacted Houghton to see if perhaps the problem was on their end. Two employees from Houghton showed up, parked in

the street and immediately began to belittle the Town Supervisor using profanity and derogatory comments. Also witnessing this altercation were Highway Superintendent Kish and David Cox. Mr. Atherton arrived when the incident was over with. Supervisor Kish called Phil Stockin, Deputy Supervisor of Caneadea to inform him of the disrespect to which he replied that if they gave her a verbal apology, that was all that was needed. Supervisor Kish asked Mr. Stockin to make sure that the chlorine lines in Caneadea were being used and found that they were not even hooked up.

At the Board meeting, this water situation escalated into Supervisor Kish stating that she did not feel Water Superintendent Atherton was doing his job and that he failed to take the steps recommended to him as outlined in the water study provided by Brad Sick last year. Mr. Atherton stated that in his opinion, much of the smelly water situation was due to the fact we have had so much hot weather and water has sat in the lines and gone stagnant. Supervisor Kish stated that there was not enough flushing of the lines. Councilman Jennings asked to have a copy of the engineering study as well as the water reports for the last year. While Supervisor Kish had no problem providing him with the reports and information, she also stated that he was not the Water Supervisor, but a Board Member, and he should not try to remedy this situation himself.

Councilman Hillman asked that Mrs. Kish document the events of the water flushing incident and he would like to be in communication with Caneadea. He stated that this situation could be construed as a hostile workplace environment situation.

Highway Superintendent Kish reported the following:

- Heavy rains have flooded out Gleason Hill
- 4 way stops have been installed at Sherman and King
- He would like to have Shuttleworth paint crosswalks on Sherman, Chestnut, King and South Sts.
- Working with Ron Martin to replace an 8' pipe. Applying for grant with DEC
- Put Salt building on hold. \$225,000 installed with blacktop floor. Have a grant every year
- RG&E has done nothing further on Murray Hill and Town will have to work on it soon
- New employee, Jeff Guilford, is awesome
- Filling pot holes

Tim Atherton left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Code Enforcement Officer Kevin Margerum was not at the meeting and did not submit any report. Nothing has happened since the last meeting and it was the consensus of the Board that the Town is paying for a service and getting nothing in return. Councilman Hillman stated that he would like to attend the MACE meeting being held on Tuesday in Caneadea and asked that he be given a list of the violations in question, some having been hanging for three years.

A resolution to allow the County to assign fire numbers to the hamlet of Belfast was tabled for further investigation. Councilman Jennings, although he has no problem with the County assigning numbers outside of the Town itself, is concerned about the County assigning numbers in town.

Councilman Hillman reported on attending an LED street lighting meeting. If the Town owns the street lights and contacts with another company for maintenance, there could be substantial savings. The Town needs to contact RG&E on Town letterhead and ask for the number of streetlights in the Town of Belfast, and the usage. The information is just for discussion and there is no financial obligation to the Town.

The mandatory Sexual Harassment presentation for all Town employees was set for Wednesday, September 4 at 11:00 a.m. in the Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 by a motion from Councilman Cole and a second from Councilwoman Taber. All in favor                      Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver  
Town Clerk