

**TOWN OF BELFAST
MINUTES
1-20-2020**

Present: Andrew Chamberlain, Josh Cole, Michael Hillman, David Jennings, David DeRock, Tim Atherton, Robert Kish, Kevin Margerum, Patty Oliver

Community present: Matt Kelley, Beth Stevick, Maggie Thompson, Rick Smith, Peggy Ann Watts, Kim Ralyea, Ethel Denning

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

Peggy Ann Watts asked for an update on the Cassidy property maintenance issue and was told it was submitted to Richard Buck with Richardson and Pullen's office. Supervisor Jennings said he would call tomorrow for an update from Mr. Buck and let Peggy Ann know.

Matt Kelley spoke about a group of town folks looking to start some type of celebration the weekend of July 11th and would like to reserve the Park as well as have the street blocked off. Highway Superintendent Kish said he had no problem with blocking the street if given a few days notice. Supervisor Jennings stated he had already spoken with the insurance company and the only thing he was told was that food vendors should have their own certificate of insurance. He asked Matt to get a list of what they were looking for such as a bounce house, etc. and Dave will contact the insurance company again to make sure all is covered. The purpose for this event is to raise money to beautify the Town. Their purpose is not to interfere or compete with the John L. Sullivan event on that same weekend. They may organize a car show and/or a 5K run.

Josh Cole mentioned the fact that he and others were interested in creating a "Neighborhood Watch" program. No details.

The December bills were approved with a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole.

Highway	1-13	\$14,586.90
Water	1-10	\$5343.27
General	1-29	\$24,319.90
Street Lighting	1	\$687.65

Hillman-aye, Cole-aye, Chamberlain-aye, DeRock-aye, Jennings-aye

All in favor Carried

The minutes of the 12-16-19 meeting were approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried

The minutes of the 1-2-2020 public meeting were approved by a motion from Councilman Cole and a second from Councilman Chamberlain. All in favor Carried

The minutes of the 1-2-2020 Reorganizational meeting were approved by a motion from Councilman Chamberlain and a second from Councilman DeRock. All in favor
Carried

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

The Town Clerk's Report, dated December 2019 for the November accounts, was approved by a motion from Councilman Cole and a second from Councilman Hillman.
All in favor Carried

Water Superintendent Atherton reported the following:

- Plant working well
- Not too much going on with all the holidays
- Comp and vacation time being used
- Park cleaned up after Christmas activities

Highway Superintendent Kish reported on the following:

- Presented the Resolution 1-20 to approve the mutual aid agreement as presented every year

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve signing the Mutual Aid Agreement. All in favor Carried

- Working on East River Road
- Repaired Murray Hill
- Servicing equipment
- Presented a quote for a new roller to replace the 1984 roller

\$125,000 will buy a new roller. Will look into grant money. Has \$330,000 in fund balance and \$20,000 worth of used equipment to sell. May get \$5000 from the old roller. Renting a roller will cost \$25,000 per month. Sharing with other municipalities doesn't work because all wanting to use at the same time.

- Sand and salt usage down
- Back River Road on the agenda for repair. Need to build it up with a crown
- Gleason Hill and Crawford Creek also on agenda for new drainage pipe

- Barragon Hill needs to wait until dries it up before can grade, gravel, roll and brine
- Chips funding is \$152,000

Kevin Margerum, Code Enforcement Officer, reported the following:

- Not much happening this time of year with building permits
- One new permit for saw mill on 305
- Shorts permit complete
- Cassidy issue handed over to Buck in Pullen's office
- Davenport's house has gone back to the County and they need to bring it into compliance

Councilman DeRock asked about the Rung/Fuller situation and was brought up to speed that it is a civil issue and the Town is not getting involved.

Beth Stevick reported on behalf of the Belfast Library. 357 patrons used the Library in December and 882 books were circulated. Needed a new door handle on annex bathroom after child locked himself in. RobinHood Construction has been contacted regarding the roof.

Councilman Chamberlain reported on the LED lights for the Town. A rough estimate for 86 street lights was \$7200 through RG&E. Will follow up to see if there is grant money or if it is already included in this cost. More money to be saved by using own maintenance people. Can do the Main Street as simple as changing bulbs to LED.

Board members were reminded that there is a special public meeting January 27, 2020 where discussion will take place on the solar project and the requested setback.

Supervisor Jennings reviewed with the Board discussions had with Houghton, Larson Engineering and the Health Department to see where savings could be made with Belfast water, otherwise rates will need to be raised. Within the next 5 years, over \$350,000 worth of repairs will need to be made with Belfast water plant. Water rates may have to be raised \$40 per year to raise money to repair the plant. Going with Houghton will save the water department a minimum of \$9 to \$10 thousand a year.

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman DeRock seconded to approve a three-year contract with Houghton water at a rate of \$1.80 per thousand and a guarantee that at the end of three years, rates cannot be raised more than 10%. All in favor Carried

The Belfast water department will run one day per month to make sure things are working properly for backup and will still have to do some testing.

Councilman DeRock moved and Councilman Chamberlain seconded to approve the purchase of a PlantIQ system for cell phones in the amount of \$5350 for the water

department. This would enable Superintendent Atherton to monitor the water department through his cell phone. In one year, the system would pay for itself from a savings on labor costs. All in favor Carried

Councilman Hillman moved and Councilman Cole seconded to approve signing a contract with Larson Design Group (did the water study) for engineering services as requested and agreed upon that are not otherwise covered under a separate agreement. The Town will only be charged if they are used. All in favor Carried

The Board reviewed a statement of Law S165-a which read that “voluntary assistance to public cemeterymunicipal corporations may provide goods and/or services to public cemetery corporation. Highway Superintendent Kish agreed that he would be willing to do some roadwork and do some tree pick up in the Riverside Cemetery. Also, he will check on the guardrail that was talked about last year.

Matt Kelley, Kim Ralyea and Ethel Denning left the meeting at 8:30.

A list of banking accounts through Community Bank was approved with the names of those authorized to sign checks from those accounts. Deputy Supervisor Hillman will stop in the bank soon to sign a signature card authorizing him to be a check signer. The list is attached. Councilman Chamberlain made this motion and Councilman DeRock seconded. All in favor Carried

Supervisor Jennings stated he will be in touch with Attorney Pullen’s office to inquire about the legalities of the Highway Department helping a citizen create a public parking lot behind some buildings.

Ethel Denning, Kim Ralyea and Bob Kish left the meeting at 8:45.

Councilman Chamberlain passed out a revised copy of “General Guidelines for Non-Union Employees of the Town of Belfast for review.

Councilman Chamberlain commented that the Belfastny.org website has not been updated and the town clerk will see that the information is sent to Southern Tier West.

Councilman DeRock stated that tree stumps and an old TV were dumped in the area by the river across from his house. Supervisor Jennings stated that the tree stumps have been removed, but he did not know about the TV. Councilman DeRock was concerned that this spot does not become a dumping grounds.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver
Town Clerk