



## TOWN OF WILLSBORO

5 FARRELL ROAD WILLSBORO, NY 12996

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### TOWN OF WILLSBORO TOWN BOARD MEETING WILLSBORO TOWN HALL March 8th 2023

**ATTENDEES-** Victor Putnam, Kyli Miller, Travis Crowningshield

**BOARD MEMBERS-** Present- Lorilee Sheehan, Scott Christian, Shaun Gilliland  
Excused-Steve Benway. Absent- Lane Sayward.

**CALL TO ORDER at 6:30pm.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-**

**Sheehan made the motion to accept the minutes. Christian Seconded the motion. All in Favor.**

**SUPERVISOR REPORT-**

**Correspondence-**

-A letter of appreciation from the Paine Memorial Library for the \$20,000.00 the Town allocated to them.

-The Bouquet Foundation donated \$5000 to be used for outdoor amenities at the Golf Course.

-BRASS mail will be coming to 5 Farrell Road from now on and they will pick up their mail from the town instead of it going to someone's home address. A box will be put in the clerk's office.

**Town-**

-The RFP that was put out for Hathaway Park has had two interested in the project. One from Vermont and one from Colorado. Both have contacted Gilliland to do site visits when the snow clears.

-Occupancy Tax Fund guidance was passed by the county. This payment will be twice a year in June and January.

-Golf Course Superintendent that the board interviewed has not responded to multiple attempts via phone, emails, etc.

-Summer Food Program Gilliland has been in contact with Willsboro Central School to talk about the summer food program to see if the cafeteria staff would be willing to take on the summer food program. Other schools in the county take the food from the school and deliver it to the site for the children. Gilliland will be meeting with Justin Gardner to pursue this.

-Zoning Law Review committee. All new books have been issued to all the committees. The Chairman will be reaching out to get these books to the committee to allow them to study it.

### **County-**

-NYSAC conference Gilliland attended this conference last week. The budget does not deliver good news for the North Country. However, Gilliland did learn a very interesting fact- The change of demographics in New York. The fastest growing group in the age demographics in the State of New York is 65 and older. The last 14 years, that population has increased by 50%. The fastest shrinking demographic in the State of New York is 0-25. It shows that people are leaving the state and the older people are staying. In Essex County 25% of the population is 65 and older. Mobility and health are key to this population.

-Paving crews are down by one crew. The towns will have to help more. Willsboro has never had a problem with helping and keeping the crews there until it is done. The county is putting out a contract on bids of paving per mile and for towns the county cannot get to, because of being short staffed. They will have to go with the contracted paving crews.

-ARPA financed projects moving ahead 7 million dollars. These funds will be used for the youth and Ag building at the fairgrounds, public safety building improvements, removal of the old jail, improvements of the fish hatchery, and help to finance the land bank initiative.

-Association of Towns- Sheehan thanked the town board for the opportunity to attend the conference. This was her first time going and stated she believed she walked away with more knowledge in 2 days of conferences than she has learned in the last 9 years, stating it is just a wealth of information. Most of the presenters are from the comptroller's office and you get their contact info. She attended a seminar on abandoned cemeteries and they advised the towns to work with the cemeteries that are still financially on their own. And suggested to offer to help them with an amount of money or offer to pay for part of the mowing, to encourage them to stay on their own and that may keep it from becoming the town's problem. She did also get the contact information from the presenter about funding that we could apply for because we have taken over abandoned cemeteries. There is funding for items such as lawn mowers, etc. Also, there is confusion with many towns between the Youth Commission, Parks Commission, and double-checking by-laws to see if we might have an overlap or are they both really the way we want them. She also said she learned the financial obligation of the Town Board and the Auditing process. She stated she was under the impression there was an auditing committee that audited the justice and that was it. They were told that each board member should be doing some sort of audit on any of the departments, such as Youth Commission, transfer station, etc. in addition to the monthly report that the clerk gives to them. This can be done however the board decides. Also, that there are a lot of grant writers out there and she got contact information from them also. She highly recommends anyone to go.

**Sheehan made a motion to accept the warrant and Supervisor's Report. Christian seconded the motion.**

**Roll call- Christian, Sheehan, Gilliland**

**Ayes-3 Nyes-0**

### **Town Clerks Report-**

The clerk's office in the month of February took in \$5,606.00, paying \$6.00 to NYS Ag and Markets. Decals took in \$50.00, of which \$47.24 went to the state and the town's commission was \$2.76. In February Property taxes brought in \$580,813.00. The Town was paid the remainder owed of \$556,071.54 and the County was paid \$800,000.00. The sewer bills also

brought in \$20,582.98. We have had a formal complaint regarding people at Noblewood not following the leash law for their dogs. We have ordered signs to be put at Noblewood to remind people of the leash law. Things have been busy but going very well and looking very forward to tax season to be over.

**Christian made the motion to accept the Clerk's Report. Sheehan seconded the motion. All in Favor.**

**DPW-**

Pat McCauliffe gave a written report to the board.

Crowningshield stated they were waiting for the actual date of the delivery of the trailer for the pilot study. Instead of hauling in gravel and item four, the county has bridge mats that will be used to level the area easier. They had a request from a student from Bouquet Valley to job shadow. He is in 10th grade and will be attending BOCES next year and is undecided if he wants to go to Heavy Equipment operator or diesel mechanic classes. Bouquet Valley asked Westport, Etown and Lewis and they declined. Crowningshield and Gilliland agreed that anyone interested in these fields should be encouraged. He will be coming into job shadow at the end of the month for two days. Crowningshield went to Albany today for the CHIPS program and came back with a good feeling about the money this year. They stated that the towns will get the money that is in the budget and they are pushing for a raise of over \$200,000,000 in the CHIPS program. They still have Chips, Extreme Winter Recovery, POP and PaveNY. Also, the bridge one. The plow trucks have been out all month long. Sunday the old truck that is being replaced, a sprocket and chain broke. Fortunately, they had a chain and were able to get a sprocket from the county. These parts can fit the new truck that is ordered.

**AMBULANCE DISTRICT REPORT- No Report**

**YOUTH COMMISSION REPORT- No Report**

**PARKS COMMISSION REPORT-** They have a meeting next Wednesday March 15th and Eric Manning from Willsboro Central School joined the last meeting and is very interested to get his environmental class interested in some of the trail work. Mike Blanchard has volunteered Pro-Bono to help with the power for the pavilion. Travis Crowningshield will be attending the next meeting. Sheehan stated that it seems to be the consensus of the Parks Commission to get the fields leveled and a pavilion up with bathrooms and grass planted with Roost Funds to give people a feeling of progress. It was also brought up that possibly planning for a building, instead of doing a ballfield. Sheehan stated this was not her suggestion. This building would not be elaborate, but with the aging population as stated earlier, it could have an indoor rec space with turf to allow indoor volleyball, soccer, etc. This would be a warehouse building. Krissy Leerkes has joined the Parks commission as a representative of the Youth Commission and this was her idea and it was well received with lots of thought going into it. Sheehan said that there are other people willing to do Pro bono work also. Crowningshield stated the county has a hydro seeder and will check to see if it is available. The wood chips that are dumped down there was also a concern with people traveling in and out. Crowningshield will come up with another location as he stated, it is a huge asset to the people being able to get rid of them and the people that need them.

**Old Business- None**

**New Business-**

With the comptroller's suggestion to diversify the town's investments and the Empire Fund rates higher than what the town is getting now. This money can be moved in and out as it is in New York Class. The minimum deposit to open this is \$50,000. This account would allow the Roost money to be deposited and traceable.

**Christian made the motion to open a Town Investment Account with New York Muni-Trust Empire Fund. Sheehan seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call- Sheehan, Christian, Gilliland**

**Ayes-3 Nyes-0**

**Sheehan made the motion to establish an unassigned reserve fund for the use with CEF monies/projects. Christian seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call- Sheehan, Christian, Gilliland**

**Ayes-3 Nyes-0**

**Public Comments-** Victor Putnam thanked the town for receiving the BRASS mail. He said that if the town needs planting to let him know and BRASS would volunteer labor and could clean up down at the black ash also. Lake Champlain Watershed Management implementation plan, a draft plan that is out for review. Comments are due March 17th. This has not been done since 2002. April 24th Brass will have the annual meeting at the Whallonsburg Grange Hall at 6:00pm.

Kyli Miller stated Brandon Jaquish wanted the Board to be aware that the Youth Commission is having a golf tournament on July 24th to raise money.

**Adjourn at 7:14pm.**