

Board of Trustees
VILLAGE OF MILLERTON
Regular Meeting
June 15, 2020

A regular business meeting of the Village of Millerton Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 15, 2020. It was called to order at 6:00 PM via Zoom meeting telecommunication (due to COVID-19 restrictions from State and County levels) with Mayor Debra Middlebrook presiding. Deputy Mayor Jennifer Najdek, Trustees Alicia Sartori, Matthew Hartzog and Joshua Schultz, Clerk Kelly Kilmer and Treasurer Stephany Eisermann were present. Also in attendance, to report to the Board, were Police Officer-in-Charge Michael Veeder and Highway Supervisor Cole Lawrence. Members of the public were able to view and ask questions through the Village of Millerton Facebook page, where this meeting was televised live.

Mayor Middlebrook announced that -- in both an earlier call with the County Executive's Office and Memorandum from the County Executive -- she was informed Dutchess County would spearhead a program across its municipalities to ensure that all law enforcement agencies review and modernize police tactics in accordance with the Governor's statewide order of Friday June 12, 2020 banning chokeholds. Trustee Hartzog noted the County's website sets forth an April 21, 2021 deadline to certify municipal compliance to the County Budget Director or municipal funding may consequently be withheld.

Police Report

Officer-in-Charge Veeder reported on May 2020 crime and policing response statistics. He confirmed that helmets (given to the Village by someone at the County level) and masks were being handed out on the Rail Trail. He then showed a sample of handmade masks anonymously donated for each officer and thanked the generous donor on behalf of the Department. A *motion* was then made by Trustee Hartzog to accept Officer Keven Kemp's resignation of June 30, 2020 and to reinstate him part time as of July 2, 2020, and it was seconded by Deputy Mayor Najdek; all five (5) members present approved and the motion passed. Discussion ensued regarding Vehicle 115, related interest rates and ban documents, and costs thereof.

Public Comment and Subsequent Discussion

A member of the public stated that the Millerton Police seem to emphasize community policing more than State and County agencies and asked about the feasibility of having "only Millerton Police operate for the majority of calls within the Village." They further inquired about the nature and repetition of police training regarding de-escalation of bias within the Millerton Police Department. Officer-in-Charge Veeder replied that de-escalation training and tactics are covered in a specific training course, one of which was recently conducted and it will likely be given again in about a month. He also said the Millerton Police are a part-time agency supplemented by the State and the Sherriff, and therefore are not able to satisfy a fuller time demand. Relative to this, Mayor Middlebrook noted that body and dashboard cameras are employed in Millerton, unlike in many other municipalities. Trustee Schultz suggested the Millerton Board formally communicate that and similar measures to the public. Police Hours were reviewed for public information and clarification, those being: Monday through Thursday 6PM-12AM, Sunday 4PM-12AM, and some Saturdays in the summer 10AM- 2PM to assist with Farmers' Markets. Mayor Middlebrook requested police staffing around noon or midday on summer Sundays, stating the crowd in town often becomes overbearing then, particularly in the context of social distancing.

Approved: 11162020

Highway Report

Highway Supervisor Cole Lawrence reported a projected 10-15 minutes extra time needed to plow around the proposed Charging Station and requiring one driver to park slightly differently moving forward to allow for such. He also declared a certain tree on Simmons Street as top priority for the Department in the new Fiscal Year. Trustee Hartzog reminded Supervisor Lawrence that certain documentation would need to be appropriately processed to ensure that the Village obtains tech force work “in-kind” pertaining to hydrant replacement under WIIA funding. Supervisor Lawrence mentioned he had discussed this with Dan Valentine of Tighe and Bond, the firm working on Village water improvements.

Vouchers

Mayor Middlebrook asked the board to consider a series of Vouchers, numbered and delineated as follows: 2019392 - General Fund \$62, Water Fund \$62 – Total Cost \$124; 2019430, 2019431, and 2019432 – General Fund \$3,145.18, Water Fund \$82.50 - Total Cost \$3,227.68; 2019433 - General Fund (and Total Cost) \$13.90; 2019434 through 2019464 - General Fund \$31,895.25, Water Fund \$18,811.28 – Total Cost \$50,706.53. A *motion* was made by Deputy Mayor Najdek to approve said vouchers and was seconded by Trustee Hartzog; all five (5) members present approved and the motion passed.

Committee Reports

Regarding Recreation, Deputy Mayor Najdek announced that, the prior Friday, 11 competitive BIDs arrived for Eddie Collins Memorial Park Phase I (Design) ranging from \$85K-\$237K. She said Project Administrator Jeanne Vanecko was compiling a comparison spreadsheet for the Board to review and the committee goal is to choose and award a winning BID at the workshop meeting in July. She then reported regarding Personnel that she and Trustee Sartori have been working on Village Policies and Procedures, specifically regarding annual reviews, which are already part of current policy, and exit interviews. Regarding the WIIA Grant awarded the Village for water improvement measures, Trustee Hartzog reminded the Board of the need to discuss tech force account documents for in kind portions of the grant with Village Counsel Ian Macdonald. Trustee Schultz commented on 5G implementation and researching thereof. Trustee Hartzog offered to share related slides with the Board. Trustee Schultz initiated discussion regarding potentially accruing noninvasive revenue. He posed the following questions for future discussion: what could noninvasive revenue specifically mean or what form might it take; and, how might the Village generate a stream of revenue in a nonpunitive manner? The Mayor suggested the Board investigate the various mechanisms via which other municipalities generate income, notwithstanding enhancing enforcement of already existing policies.

Clerk’s Report

Clerk Kilmer raised the need for a motion to renew contractual designations with Comp Alliance. A *motion* to sign the renewal was made by Trustee Sartori and seconded by Trustee Hartzog; the motion was approved by all five (5) present members and it passed. A *motion* to waive, one time only, a water penalty of \$43.75 for a resident on David Road was made by Trustee Schultz and seconded by Trustee Hartzog; it was approved by all five (5) present members and it passed. A *motion* to approve Board Minutes for May 4, 14, and 18, 2020 was made by Trustee Hartzog and seconded by Deputy Mayor Najdek; the motion was approved by all five (5) present members, thus, the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Eisermann stated she emailed the bank summary reports and revenue expense control reports for review and questions and that as of this meeting there were none. She said she hoped the Board would work to modify its budget at the upcoming workshop meeting.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Middlebrook reported that a resident of Barton Street had requested to donate a larger tree to plant in front of their location as opposed to a customarily smaller Maple. She said Supervisor Lawrence would coordinate this with the resident and affirmed that the members of the Board were in general approval of this. She also stated that she had forwarded two appraisals to members to review and is waiting for Counsel MacDonald to issue appropriate next steps regarding those. She then reported that the Village had ordered multimodal crosswalk signs for the trailhead. Finally, she discussed a request to allow a multi-merchant sidewalk sale during the weekend of June 26-28, 2020. A *motion* to allow a Friday, Saturday and Sunday June 26-28, 2020 merchant sidewalk sale in town, given that pertinent signs and sale items remain close to building lines so as not to impeded pedestrian passage, was made by Trustee Hartzog and seconded by Trustee Sartori; it was approved by four of five (4/5) present members, with Trustee Schultz abstaining, thus, the motion passed.

Overall Public Comments and Questions

A question from the public was read into the record, verbatim: "What is the current oversight process of the Board over Police – is there a committee – if so, who serves on it and how often does it meet?" Mayor Middlebrook explained that the case of a civilian complaint, a form outlining the complaint is filled out and the Officer-in-Charge reviews it and makes a recommendation and/or determination. He then reports to the Mayor and they proceed further as warranted. She said no one had filed such a complaint in a year or longer. She also said with new tactics and procedures -- in accordance with the recent Statewide Policing Directive discussed earlier in this meeting -- the process may change, but that for now that is the procedure. Trustee Schultz offered that some things that work at the County and State levels may not work locally and that the Village Board should consider how to do its due diligence regarding Police oversight.

There were no other reports from other Trustees or Officers, and no further questions or comments from viewing public.

Adjourn

A *motion* was made by Deputy Mayor Najdek to adjourn at 7:22 PM and was then seconded by Trustee Hartzog; all five (5) members in attendance approved and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Kilmer
Village Clerk