

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 4, 2023

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on May 4, 2023 at the Village Municipal Building, 167 North Main Street, Liberty New York. Mayor Joan Stoddard opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Joan Stoddard, Deputy Mayor/Trustee Robert Mir, Trustee Ernest Feasel, Trustee Eveleese Lake and Trustee Joe Aracci. Also Present: Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer.

ABSENT: Gary Silver, Attorney for the Village

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Steven D'Agata, Town of Liberty Supervisor Frank DeMayo, Town Councilman Dean Ferrand, Police Sergeant Robert Morse, Cody Ricco, Russell Reeves, Bruce Davidson, Dina Jester, Melissa Davidson Corigliano, Etta Barbanti, Monty Heimlich and Abraham Weiderman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the following minutes:

PUBLIC HEARING - APRIL 20, 2023 Re: Local Law 2-2023

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the following minutes:

WORKSESSION MEETING – April 20, 2023

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Stoddard said the Village did not receive any correspondence during this time period.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Stoddard opened the meeting to comments from the Public.

TOWN OF LIBERTY SUPERVISOR FRANK DEMAYO

Supervisor DeMayo discussed the following:

- ❖ Presented the Board with a handout on Main Street Housing
- ❖ Discussed the Intermunicipal Agreements that are being reviewed by both Boards
- ❖ Informed the Board that at the next Town Board meeting he will be discussing the taxes paid by the Village.

ETTA BARBANTI – BARBANTI REALTY

Etta said she would like to see the Board consider more local vendors. She discussed the flower baskets for Main Street and hopes that Hillside Greenhouses will be considered for them in the future.

Etta discussed the Knights Inn and the issues it is causing the Village, as the County uses it for transitional housing for displaced people.

She mentioned it is located right alongside of a nice restaurant, causes a burden on our police department as well as costing village taxpayers.

Bruce Davidson (owner of Liberty Theatre) continued the discussion by asking if the Village Board had a liaison to the County.

Mayor Stoddard and Supervisor DeMayo said they would be in touch with Legislator Alvarez and begin dialog on this serious matter.

Etta brought up the issue of the un-homed people that are loitering in the park, stating she has empathy for them but suggested the benches be taken away and placed in the back of the buildings for them.

Melissa Corigliano (Owner of the Catskill Mountain Spa) added to the discussion by saying she had to install a **RING** doorbell at her business as her clients felt uncomfortable due to the loitering situation around her establishment.

Mayor Stoddard said unfortunately there is no loitering laws in New York State and that the Park is in the process of being deeded to the Town and everyone is working on solutions to rectify the situation.

BRUCE DAVIDSON – LIBERTY THEATRE

Bruce gave everyone an update on his theatre progress, saying the top floor is 99% done, the store fronts are almost finished and the auditorium will hopefully be completed by October.

He invited the Board to take a tour of the theatre to see what has been accomplished to date.

MELISSA DAVIDSON CORIGLIANO – CATSKILL MOUNTAIN SPA

Melissa thanked everyone who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at her spa.

POLICE CHIEF STEVEN D'AGATA

Police Chief D'Agata introduced Cody Ricco to the Board and attendees. Cody is a Police Intern currently attending Liberty High School.

Chief D'Agata said Cody is very interested in employment with the department after graduation.

ATTORNEY Attorney Silver was not in attendance.

COMMENTS:

TREAS. REPORT: Treasurer Zurawski's written report is summarized below:

- ❖ List of Current Taxes and collections thru 04/30/23 of which there is \$209,789.84 outstanding. The current taxes are 95.34% collected.
- ❖ List of Delinquent Taxes, which as of 04/30/23 there is \$225,826.26 uncollected.
- ❖ Starting and Ending Central Check Numbers for April 2023
- ❖ Starting April Central Check #18335
- ❖ Financial comparison of General, Water, Sewer and Sanitation

TABLED BUSINESS: CONSIDER TEXTMYGOV FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the Partnership Proposal with TextMyGov at a cost of \$2,800 per year for a two year contract.

TextMyGov uses smart texting technology to communicate with citizens. The Village will be able to answer questions, send links to the website and provide details on garbage/recycling pickups, events, road closures, cleanups as well as many other items of interest.

UPDATE ON PRIVATE SALE OF 121.-3-7.2

Mayor Stoddard said there was nothing new to report on this agenda item and she would have the Village Attorney follow-up.

UPDATE ON INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT RE: SEWER DISTRICT 26-1-59

Mayor Stoddard said this item is currently being handled by the Village Attorney.

UPDATE ON INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT RE: LAPOLT PARK

Mayor Stoddard said this item is currently being handled by the Village Attorney.

CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON MAIN STREET APARTMENTS

Mayor Stoddard said D.P.W. Supervisor Lynn Barry is currently working on a trash pickup plan.

Town Supervisor DeMayo suggested it be put through the Planning Board so that as a Special Use certain conditions can be placed on them.

The Mayor suggested that a Special Meeting be set up with the owner, Abraham Mizrahi, to discuss his plan/vision for garbage, parking, snow removal and related issues involved with Main Street Apartments.

CONSIDER PEST CONTROL FOR DPW GARAGE

Mayor Stoddard said she would follow up on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS: CONSIDER RESOLUTION – 2023.24 WATER RENTS

RESOL.# 31-2023: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Aracci and unanimously carried approving Resolution #31-2023.

WHEREAS, the Village Board has authority pursuant to Section 84-6 of the Village Code to set, modify and change by Resolution water rents, service changes and penalties for non-timely payment,

WHEREAS, the Village Board has previously set water rates effective June 1, 2022 by Resolution, and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid confusion since the Village, has, at times in the past, adopted and/or amended water, services charges and penalties for non-timely payments by Local Law, and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2002 the Village of Liberty has repealed such Local Law and has amended Section 84-6 of the Village Code to clarify its intent in order to avoid any further confusion, it is

RESOLVED, that effective as June 1, 2023, inside water rates in the Village of Liberty shall be \$7.45 per thousand gallons inside rate and \$13.10 per thousand gallons outside rate, and it is further

RESOLVED, that effective as of the date of adoption of this Resolution by the Village Board, all of the water rents, including service charges not paid within thirty (30) days shall be charged a 10% penalty fee.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO VOTE, WHICH RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

MAYOR STODDARD	-	YES
TRUSTEE MIR	-	YES
TRUSTEE FEASEL	-	YES
TRUSTEE LAKE	-	YES
TRUSTEE ARACCI	-	YES

CONSIDER RESOLUTION – 2023.24 SEWER RENTS

RESOL.# 32-2023: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving Resolution #32-2023.

WHEREAS, the Village Board has authority pursuant to Section 67-7 of the Village Code to set, modify and change by Resolution sewer rates, service changes and penalties for non-timely payment,

WHEREAS, the Village Board has previously set sewer rates effective June 1, 2022 by Resolution, and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid confusion since the Village, has, at times in the past, adopted and/or amended sewer, services charges and penalties for non-timely payments by Local Law, and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2014 the Village of Liberty has repealed such Local Law and has amended Section 67-7 of the Village Code to clarify its intent in order to avoid any further confusion, it is

RESOLVED, that effective as June 1, 2023, inside sewer rates in the Village of Liberty shall be \$8.58 per thousand gallons inside rate and \$13.38 per thousand gallons outside rate, and it is further

RESOLVED, that effective as of the date of adoption of this Resolution by Village Board, there shall be a \$1.50 per month service charge for sewer line maintenance (i.e. \$4.50 per quarter), and it is further

RESOLVED, that effective as of the date of adoption of this Resolution by the Village Board, all of the sewer rents, including service charges not paid within thirty (30) days shall be charged a 10% penalty fee.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO VOTE, WHICH RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

MAYOR STODDARD	-	YES
TRUSTEE MIR	-	YES
TRUSTEE FEASEL	-	YES
TRUSTEE LAKE	-	YES
TRUSTEE ARACCI	-	YES

CONSIDER RESOLUTION – 2023.24 SANITATION RATES

RESOL.# 33-2023: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Aracci and unanimously carried approving Resolution #33-2023.

WHEREAS, the Village Board has authority pursuant to Section 35-17 of the Village Code to set, modify and change by Resolution sanitation user fees;

WHEREAS, the Village Board has previously set sanitation user fees effective June 1, 2022 by Resolution, and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid confusion since the Village, has, at times in the past, adopted and/or amended sanitation user fees by Local Law, and

RESOLVED, that effective as June 1, 2023, the sanitation user fees will be as follows:

COMMERCIAL

1 Dumpster/1 Pickup per week	-	\$ 1651
1 Dumpster/2 Pickups per week	-	\$ 2887
No Dumpster/1 Pickup per week	-	\$ 695
No Dumpster/2 Pickups per week	-	\$ 1215

RESIDENTIAL

Single	-	\$ 330
Two Family	-	\$ 661
Three Family	-	\$ 991
Apartment/Dumpster	-	\$1651

OPT OUT FEES

Single	-	\$165
Two Family	-	\$330
Three Family	-	\$496
Commercial users/Apartment Units	-	\$826

RESOLVED, that all the above sanitation user fees will be effective as of June 1, 2023.

THE MOTION WAS PUT TO VOTE, WHICH RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

MAYOR STODDARD	-	YES
TRUSTEE MIR	-	YES
TRUSTEE FEASEL	-	YES
TRUSTEE LAKE	-	YES
TRUSTEE ARACCI	-	YES

RESOLUTION TO RELEVY UNPAID WATER/SEWER BILLS AND ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE BILLINGS TO 2023.2024 VILLAGE TAXES

RESOL.# 34-2023: Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving Resolution #34-2023.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Chapter 67.5 and Chapter 83 of the Code of the Village of Liberty pertaining to unpaid water and sewer rents, the following listing of unpaid rents billed from April 1, 2022 and unpaid by May 1, 2023 shall be added to the real property tax of the owner of the property whose property benefited by the use of the water/sewer systems, and the Village services to wit:

The total amounts are:	Water	-	\$31,867.31
	Sewer	-	\$35,454.17
	Accts. Rec.	-	\$ 500.00 - Water
			\$ 7,491.55 - San

TOTAL TO RELEVY: \$75,313.03

CONSIDER PARADE PERMIT – MEMORIAL DAY 5.29.2023

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the **Parade Permit** for a **Memorial Day Parade** on **Monday, May 29, 2023** sponsored by the Town of Liberty.

The parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the route will be North Main Street down to Church Street and up to the Memorial Veterans Cemetery.

CONSIDER EVENT PERMIT – SOAP BOX DERBY 6.3.23

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Aracci and unanimously carried approving the **Event Permit** for the **Sullivan County Soap Box Derby** to be held on **Saturday, June 3, 2023** sponsored by Sullivan County Soap Box Derby.

The event is held on North Main Street and takes place all day long.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Stoddard opened the meeting to comments from the Public.

There were no comments from the Public.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: Mayor Stoddard opened the meeting to comments from the Board.

Mayor Stoddard asked if the Police Department had picked a **Litter Pluck Day**.

Police Chief D'Agata said it is set for May 20th.

Trustee Mir asked Supervisor DeMayo about **Rail Trail Day**.

Supervisor DeMayo said **Rail Trail Day** is set for **June 3rd**. The meeting place will be the Bridge and Tunnel Brewery on Lake Street and they will walk the trail. He said they also have plans to walk the Parksville Trail.

Trustee Aracci – No Comment

Trustee Lake – No Comment

Trustee Feasel said he is still working with the contractor on the EV site and the Contractor will have to review the site.

Trustee Feasel said he will call on the Sullivan 180 grant.

APPROVAL POST AUDIT VOUCHERS OF BILLS

FOR PYMT: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving Post Audit Voucher #3024 to Voucher #3036 in the amount of \$628,869.02

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to into Executive Session to discuss a contract and personnel matter in the Water/D.P.W. at 7:34 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session at 7:51p.m.

CONSIDER D.P.W. SUPERINTENDENT – DAVID BURKE

Motion by Trustee Aracci, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the hiring of David Burke with a start date of 5/11 or 5/25 and authorizing Mayor Stoddard to execute the Employment Agreement.

The employment agreement will be forwarded to the Clerk’s office upon execution.

DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM GARBAGE ON ST PAUL’S PLACE

The Board discussed a meeting that Mayor Stoddard and Trustee Feasel had with Thomas Willi from 52 St Paul’s Place. Mr. Willi had been asking for assistance in cleaning up the neighbor’s property (thru the Code Enforcement Office) but with no results. The property actually contains refrigerators and construction debris (and actual trash) in the back yard. Trustee Mir said he will speak to the Chief to have the Code Enforcement Officer get on it and if there is no results Trustee Mir will meet will meet with Dan Pollen (Code Enforcement Officer) to discuss the situation.

ADJOURN: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:06 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JUDY H. ZURAWSKI, CLERK/TREASURER

