

## REGULAR MEETING

**NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on November 7, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in 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 Jayneen Mills. Also Present: Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer.

**ABSENT:** Gary Silver, Attorney for the Village and Denise Corbett, Secretary to the Board

**ALSO PRESENT:** Steven D'Agata, Police Chief; David Burke, Director of Public Works; Bruce Davidson, Lawrence Kurtz, Edward Riente, Eliezer Santiago, Motty Heimlich and Abraham Weberman.

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

❖ **WORKSESSION MEETING – October 17, 2024**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Mayor Stoddard said the Village received the following incoming correspondence during this time frame.

❖ Report from Liberty PD Re: NYSEG Street Lights 9.24

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** **Ed Riente/Skyview Drive/Sewer Billing**

Mr. Riente discussed his sewer bill, which is a flat rate bill, due to the location (outside the Village). He said at this point in his life he is alone in his home, does not spend the entire year here and was wondering if an adjustment could be made to the gallons that he is billed for.

Mayor Stoddard said the issue will be reviewed and he will be advised of the outcome.

**ATTORNEY COMMENTS:** Attorney Silver was not in attendance due to illness.

**TREAS. REPORT:** Treasurer Zurawski said she is just finishing closing out October and will have a report at the next meeting.

Treasurer Zurawski said letters have been sent to all delinquent taxpayers letting them know that their property is past due enough to be foreclosed on in

the near future. She said they have gotten quite a few responses, some payments and some requesting to enter into a payment plan.

The office has also begun the process of mailing letters to all Village consumers regarding the lead, copper lines. There will be approximately 1,700 letters going out within the next week.

There will also be letters to all the consumers going out in the same time frame letting them know the village is flushing the lines.

The flushing is also on the website, has been set out via text and on the Facebook pages (Police and Building Department).

**TABLED DISCUSS BUS STOP BUSINESS:**

Trustee Mir said he did not have any new information to report, explaining that the state does not have an issue with the relocation but they will not help with any of the cuts or other issues we may have to deal with.

**UPDATE ON SUB-COMMITTEES**

Peddler's Permits

The local law has been completed and a Public Hearing will be set later in the meeting.

Speed Reduction

The sub-committee of Mayor Stoddard, Trustee Lake and Police Chief D'Agata have been researching the issue and found that nothing can move forward without an Engineering Report. They have been given a name of a firm that completes such a study and will be in contact with them to find out the cost.

Parking

The sub-committee of Mayor Stoddard, Trustee Lake and Police Chief D'Agata are reviewing the Code to make recommended changes.

Noise Ordinance

The sub-committee of Trustee Mills, Trustee Feasel and Police Chief D'Agata will begin this review now that they have completed the Peddlers Permit Ordinance.

HONK

Mayor Stoddard and Trustee Lake are reviewing this matter and will report back to the Board.

**DISCUSSION OF WATER RATES**

Mayor Stoddard asked if David Bunce would be able to stop into the office to review his formula with the Budget Officer.

Mayor Stoddard also asked the Board to review the suggestions presented before the next Board meeting to see if they would like any of them implemented.

**DISCUSSION OF TAXES DUE ON PARCEL 120-1-3**

This item was tabled.

**NEW BUSINESS: CONSIDER EVENT PERMIT – DECEMBER 14, 2024**

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the **Event Permit** for St. Peter Church on **December 14, 2024** from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Event will be for the procession of Virgin of Guadalupe and will be from the traffic light up to Route 55.

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION FROM COUNTY OF SULLIVAN RE: 121.-3-7.2**

This item was tabled.

**CONSIDER PUBLIC HEARING RE: LOCAL LAW #5-2024 RE: PEDDLERS PERMITS**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried to set a **Public Hearing** for **Thursday, November 21, 2024** at **6:55 p.m.** to take and hear comments on proposed Local Law #5-2024 to replace Chapter 41 of the Village Code with a new Chapter 41. Chapter 41 is entitled Hawking and Peddling.

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED AND INCREASED STATE AID FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

**RESOL. # 51-2024** Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving Resolution #51-2024.

**Resolution in Support of Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments**

**WHEREAS**, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

**WHEREAS**, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

**WHEREAS**, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and

**WHEREAS**, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

**WHEREAS**, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village of Liberty calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village of Liberty urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Oberacker, Assemblymember Gunther and the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM).

**CONSIDER DECEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE**

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried to cancel the Worksession meeting scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> and reschedule the Regular Meeting for December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. due to the Holidays.

There will be no Department Head Meeting in December.

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

Bruce Davidson asked about the other speed sign that he had purchased and if there was an installation date.

Police Chief D’Agata said he would check with Lynn to see when they might have time to work on it.

Eliezer Santiago (Jordan Avenue) asked about his mother’s water/sewer bill and if there were any programs to help with it since she is on a fixed income.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:** Mayor Stoddard opened up the meeting to comments from the Board.

Trustee Feasel requested an Executive Session to discuss a contract issue with David Burke and the Water Department.

Trustee Lake – No Comment

Trustee Mir – No Comment

Mayor Stoddard mentioned that the Liberty Fire Department is willing to assist when the Village needs help with water breaks.

Trustee Mills – No Comment

**BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** Post Audit Vouchers

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the payment of Post Audit Voucher #441 to Voucher #451 in the amount of \$646,123.22.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue in the Code Enforcement Office as well as the Water Department.

Chief D’Agata, David Burke and Judy Zurawski were invited into the Executive Session.

Motion made by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills to come out of the Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:16 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**JUDY H. ZURAWSKI, CLERK-TREASURER**