

## REGULAR MEETING

**March 7, 2024**

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on March 7, 2024 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: Gary Silver, Attorney for the Village and Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer

**ALSO PRESENT:** David Burke (Director of D.P.W.), Police Chief Steven D'Agata, Samuel Reyes, Jayneen Milles, Motty Heimlich, Herson Rivera, Ingrid Lopez and John Liddle (S.C. Commissioner of Health and Human Services).

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

### **WORK SESSION MEETING - FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

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

### **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING - FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

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

- ❖ Street Light Report from PD Re: February 2024 Report
- ❖ Letter from Sullivan County Re: Economic Development Summit 2.15.24
- ❖ Letter from State of New York Re: Constitutional Tax Limit 2.22.24
- ❖ E-Mail from Bruce Davidson Re: 2024 Flower Fund 3.3.24

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

### **JOHN LIDDLE – SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

John Liddle, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, updated the Board on the work his office has been handling.

First and foremost, he expressed his gratitude toward Chief D'Agata and the Liberty Police Department on their hard work on the drug war. He said due to their efforts the drug crisis is trending downward.

Director Liddle went on to discuss how the Department of Social Services works with the hotels in the area to provide housing for people in need. He said their long term goal is to get out of the hotel business and have more permanent housing, by converting some hotel spaces to apartments. He stated the focus for this conversion would be Liberty, Monticello and Fallsburg so the residents have access to the **Move Sullivan** buses. He said they will work very closely with the Towns and Villages on these projects, which will also include the winter warming center in the Village.

Director Liddle touched on the Patterns for Progress Two Million Dollar Housing Trust Fund, which will also provide a better quality of housing for County Residents.

Director Liddle also discussed that in the future (several years) Garnet Hospital will be developing/building a new hospital in the Ferndale/Parksville area that will also house all the services needed after release, which will save taxpayers money.

Mayor Stoddard asked if the apartment project would be permanent housing or more temporary housing.

Director Liddle said it would be their goal to move to permanent housing.

**ATTORNEY** Attorney Silver did not have any comments.  
**COMMENTS:**

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

- ❖ List of Current Taxes and collections thru 02/29/24 of which there is 265,925.73 outstanding. The current taxes are 94% collected.
- ❖ List of Delinquent Taxes, which as of 02/29/24 - \$211,769.47 is outstanding.
- ❖ Starting and Ending Central Check Numbers for February 2024
- ❖ Starting February Central Check #19122
- ❖ Financial comparison of General, Water, Sewer and Sanitation

**TABLED BUSINESS:** **UPDATE ON INTERMUNCIPAL AGREEMENT RE: SEWER DISTRICT 26-1-59**

Attorney Silver said he has received an e-mail from Supervisor DeMayo that this will be presented at his next Board meeting, dealing with sewer only.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **CONSIDER RAFFLE – MUSIC FOR HUMANITY**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the Raffle Consent Form (GC-RCF) for Music for Humanity.

This consent form allows the organization to sell raffle tickets, beginning March 8, 2024 and conduct a raffle drawing.

**DISCUSS OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE BILL – LIBERTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Clerk-Treasurer Zurawski said she was bringing this to the Boards attention since it is within a couple months of relevy time. It was billed in 2023 in the amount of \$15,289.34 due to the use of our fire hydrant.

Mayor Stoddard said she would be in touch with the Fire Commissioners and discuss it at the next Board meeting.

**CONSIDER VOTE ON LOCAL LAW- HOME OCCUPATIONS/R-1 RESIDENTIAL LOW DENSITY ZONING DISTRICTS**

**Consider Negative Declaration – Proposed Local Law #1-2024**

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried declaring a Negative Declaration (Part 2) for Local Law #1-2024 to allow home occupations in the R-1 Residential Low Density Zoning District.

**Vote on Local Law #1-2024**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Aracci and unanimously carried approving Local Law #1-2024 to allow home occupations in the R-1 Residential Low Density Zoning District.

This local law was put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

MAYOR STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE MIR	-	YES	
TRUSTEE FEASEL	-	YES	<b><u>ADOPTED</u></b>
TRUSTEE LAKE	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ARACCI	-	YES	

**CONSIDER AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN THE WWTP PHASE 1 ENGINEERING AMENDMENT NO. 3 – FINAL SUBCONTRACT**

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried authorizing Mayor Stoddard to sign Delaware D.P.C’s Professional Service Contract Amendment No. 3 – Final Subcontract Costs for the Phase 1 WWTP Upgrade March 6, 2024, a decrease in contract amount of \$8,606.00 thereby adjusting the overall contract price to \$1,352,394.

**CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MAYOR TO SIGN THE WWTP PHASE 2 – ENHANCED SLUDGE HANDLING LETTER OF INTEREST FOR THE 2024 CLEAN WATER ENHANCED WIIA GRANT**

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried authorizing Mayor Stoddard to sign the WWTP Phase 2 – Enhanced Sludge Handling Letter of Interest for the 2024 Clean Water Enhanced WIIA Grant for

Clerk/Treasurer Zurawski or Delaware Engineering to submit to [nyswatergrants@efc.ny.gov](mailto:nyswatergrants@efc.ny.gov) by the March 22, 2024 deadline.

**CONSIDER LETTER OF SUPPORT/ELM STREET WELL**

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Aracci and unanimously carried authorizing Mayor Stoddard (and Board members, if they so desire) to sign a Letter of Support to increase the withdrawal rate from the Elm Street Well to be included with the Village's response to NYSDOH's comments.

**CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE EPG GRANT FORM**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried authorizing the Village Mayor to confirm acceptance and intent to proceed with this project by completing and signing the Acknowledgement and Acceptance of EPG Grant Award Form and e-mailing it to [epg@efc.ny.gov](mailto:epg@efc.ny.gov) no later than March 8, 2024.

**CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATOIONS FOR WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE SEWER SYSTEM EVALUATION AND ENGINEERING REPORT**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried authorizing the Village Clerk to publish the legal notice for the **Request for Qualifications** for professional services for work associated with preparation of the Engineering Report for the Sewer System I/I evaluation.

**CONSIDER BOILER REPLACEMENT IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the lowest responsible proposal/bidder for the replacement of the boiler in the Municipal Building due to the breakdown of the current one.

To date, the following proposal has been submitted:

**Thalpin Mechanical Corp dba Erts Mechanical - \$57,500.**

The Board said although, this is an **Emergency Purchase**, they would like to also get a quote from Silverman Plumbing and Heating out of Mongaup Valley, New York

**CONSIDER DATES FOR BUDGET WORKSESSION**

The Board set the first Budget Worksession Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

David Burke (Director of Public Works) complemented the Board on coming in

under budget on the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade.

Chief D'Agata said he and Sergeant Moore attended the quarterly meeting of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Accreditation Council on March 6th, at the meeting the nineteen member council voted to grant New York State Accreditation to the Village of Liberty Police Department.

This program is administered by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services designed to improve an agency's effectiveness, efficiency and professionalism; promote training and foster public confidence in law enforcement. Of the 500 police agencies in New York State only 165 are currently accredited. The Village of Liberty Police Department is now the first police department in Sullivan County's history of achieving this professional milestone.

Chief D'Agata went on to say that in December (2023) the Police Department underwent a three day, on site assessment, which resulted in this accreditation. He said he is extremely proud of his department and the hard work they put forth to achieve this honor.

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

Trustee Mir – No Comment

Trustee Lake – No Comment

Trustee Feasel – No Comment

Mayor Stoddard commented on the Safe Street Program.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS** POST AUDIT VOUCHERS

**FOR PYMT:** Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried approving Voucher #817 to Voucher #825 in the amount of \$658,468.68.

**CDBG Bills for Payment**

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the following bills for payment from the CDBG Fund:

- ❖ Delaware Engineering - \$ 8,000  
-Invoice #1
- ❖ Delaware Engineering - \$23,000  
-Invoice #2

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to go into Executive session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations and a personnel matter the Department of Public Works.

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session at 8:24 p.m.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CSEA CONTRACT**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the **Agreement between the Village of Liberty and the C.S.E.A. union** – Local 853 for the period of June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2024.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Trustee Lake seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:30 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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