

## REGULAR MEETING

**January 4, 2024**

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on January 4, 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 Joe Aracci, and Trustee Eveleese Lake. Also Present: Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer and Amanieemma Awny, Clerk.

**ABSENT:** Gary Silver, Attorney for the Village

**ALSO PRESENT:** Police Chief Steven D’Agata, Larry Kurtz, Abraham Weiderman, Motty Heimlich and Brianna Brisco.

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

**REGULAR MEETING - DECEMBER 7, 2023**

Motion by Trustee Lake seconded by Trustee Aracci and unanimously carried approving the following minutes:

**PUBLIC HEARING - DECEMBER 21, 2023 Re: Local Law # 6-2023/Code Enforcement**

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Aracci and unanimously carried approving the following minutes:

**SPECIAL MEETING - DECEMBER 21, 2023**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Mayor Stoddard said the Village did not receive/send any correspondence during this time frame.

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

Larry Kurtz commented on the following:

- A. Spoke about illegal Cannabis shops are being shut down in New York since only 38 shops were originally approved and more the 5,800 are currently operating. He questioned if in the village of Liberty, we were experiencing any problems with illegal operations.
- B. Commented on a new plumbing warehouse that is under on North Main Street construction.
- C. Wanted to know if there were any new businesses coming into the

Village.

Trustee Mir mentioned the Mexican Restaurant that is opening on 117 S. Main Street.

Larry mentioned the Bakers Daughter and the possibility of her opening a coffee shop on Main Street.

**ATTORNEY** Attorney Silver was not in attendance at the meeting.  
**COMMENTS:**

**TREAS. REPORT:** Treasure Zurawski did not have any comments.

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

Mayor Stoddard said there was nothing new to report, stating Attorney Silver has been in contact with the town inquiring about the agreement.

**NEW BUSINESS:** **CONSIDER RAFFLE CONSENT FOR LIBERTY BOOSTER CLUB**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the Raffle Consent Form for the Liberty Booster Club.

This will allow the club to sell raffles during the 2024 Calendar Year

**DISCUSSION OF LETTER FROM SULLIVAN COUNTY TREASURER RE: INTERMUNCIPAL AGREEMENT**

The Board discussed the letter received from Sullivan County Treasurer’s Office. The letter informs the Village that the County will not longer handle the Village foreclosures in junction with the County foreclosure process.

The Village Attorney has been in touch with NYCOM to see if they have a procedure that can be used.

Mayor Stoddard said it will involve taking a step backwards possibly going back to Tax Sale Certificates.

Treasurer Zurawski said that she did not agree with the wording in the letter, as the village sends out a minimum of four notices a year to delinquent tax payers.

Mayor Stoddard said hopefully the new Legislature will look to make the village whole.

Mayor Stoddard said NYCOM would do some research to see if there were any companies that assist with the foreclosure process.

**CONSIDER WORK AUTHORIZATION RE: SERVPRO/HARRIS FUNERAL HOME**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the required down payment of \$14,341.96 to Servpro to begin the work at Harris Funeral Home at 115 West Street. This is due to a sewer backup the main was plugged and backed up into Harris Funeral Home, that is why we are paying for it. issue on his property and in his building in which the Village of Liberty was at fault.

**CONSIDER E-MAIL FROM O & W RAIL TRAIL ALLIANCE – 2024 MEMBERSHIP**

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Aracci and unanimously carried approving the 2024 renewal of the Membership of the O & W Rail Trail Alliance in the amount of \$500.00.

**CONSIDER PURCHASE OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE – FUNDED BY COUNTY**

Motion by Trustee Aracci, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the purchase of computer software from Lexipol in the amount of \$3,999.00.

This software is for CordicoShield Law Enforcement Wellness App (12 Months). This web-based app provides mental health and wellness support to officers through 24/7 confidential support, suicide prevention, access to peer support services and access to qualified mental health clinicians.

The purchase is one-hundred percent funded by the County through the Opioid Settlement.

**CONSIDER FULL TIME POLICE DISPATCHER TO REPLACE RETIREE – BUDGET MODIFICATION**

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving the hire of Neftali Reyes (Employee #101) as a full-time Dispatcher in the Police Department.

Neftali replaces a recent dispatcher retiree.

Treasure Zurawski stated that she will reallocate \$24,000.00 of unused funds from the retirement code to dispatch salaries to help cover the salary for the new full-time dispatcher.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Stoddard opened the meeting to comments from the Public.

Motty Heimlich had questions regarding the length of a property in order to be able to build in a R2 Zone.

Mayor Stoddard suggested following up with the Code Enforcement Officer in the Building Department.

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

**REPORTS:**

Trustee Aracci – No Comment

Trustee Mir – asked a question to residents Abraham Weiderman and Motty Heimlich: Where the closest Shul in walking distance? Said he was asking for a potential homebuyer that is a personal friend (located in Brooklyn).

They told him there was one located on Chestnut Street (in the school) that was open on the weekends.

Trustee Lake – No Comment

Trustee Feasel – No Comment

Mayor Stoddard asked Treasurer Zurawski to provide a copy of last year’s budget to Amanie Awny for her reference to help with the upcoming budget.

**APPROVAL POST AUDIT VOUCHERS  
OF BILLS**

**FOR PYMT:** Motion by Trustee Feasel seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving Voucher #625 to Voucher #637 in the amount of \$618,195.89.

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

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:18 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**AMANIE AWNY, CLERK**



