

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 6, 2025**

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on March 6, 2025 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.

**Mayor Stoddard asked for a moment of silence to remember David Harman long time Village employee in the Water Department.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Joan Stoddard, Trustee Ernest Feasel, Trustee Eveleese Lake, Trustee Robert Mir and Trustee Jayneen Mills. Also Present: Gary Silver, Attorney for the Village and Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer, Denise Corbett, Secretary to the Board.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Steven D’Agata, Police Chief; Lee Cogswell, Allison Cogswell, David Burke, Director of Public Works; Larry Kurtz, John Lennon, Bruce Davidson, Frank DeMayo, and Abraham Weberman.

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

❖ **WORKSESSION MEETING – FEBRAURY 20, 2025**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

INCOMING

OUTGOING

- Letter to Division of Planning & Environmental Management 2.21.25

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Stoddard opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Angele Ewane – **Laketricity** - Floating Solar Panels. We are a company that is based in France, NY and CA. We have 8 offices worldwide and are doing business in 10 countries. We currently have 3 projects in the northeast. We have submitted a proposal for Revonah Lake and Lily Pond. The modules would float on a plastic base like this one we have here. They are UV resistant and certified for use with drinking water. The panels have 1000-megawatt peak. The Village would receive a 10% discount on their energy bills. We would lease the water body from the municipality and there will be a yearly revenue to the Village. Residents of the Village would sign up in the program would also receive 10% off their energy bills. We would pay the Village \$4,174,300 for a 3 year lease.

Lily Hassett – There have been no claims of contamination. There is a whole process that includes permitting. The DEP will be involved and permits would

be taken. The DEP is in support of the projects we have built. There are sustainability reasons to participate. The timeline from start to finish is 2-3 years until you start to see feasibility. We would take care of all permits, surveys, expenses etc. It will take 6 months to a year to build.

Gary Silver asked how the energy will be transferred? Are there cables?

Mattis Dupin answered yes. There are inverters and transformers to get to the grid.

Gary Silver asked if the cables are anchored to the ground?

Mattis Dupin answered yes. They are anchored at the bottom of the pond and on the ground at the edge of the pond.

Gary Silver asked if there were any studies on the cables and being in the water for a prolonged period of time?

Mattis Dupin answered yes. They are safe for long life and for the environment.

Gary Silver asked if they will have to run the cables through the forest and cut down trees?

Mattis Dupin stated that they try as much as possible not to cut any trees.

Gary Silver stated that these properties are in the Town of Liberty and they would have to get approvals from the town.

Mattis Dupin stated that they are aware of that.

Trustee Mir stated that we get 18 inches of ice on the ponds in the winter here. Are you sure you will be able to get that amount of energy?

Mattis Dupin stated that they will still collect energy

Larry Kurtz asked how many homes this project would service?

Angele Kwame stated that each project would service 500 homes for a total of 1000 homes

Larry Kurtz asked what the savings are percent wise?

Lily Hassett stated that the savings would be 10%

Larry Kurtz asked how they found the Village of Liberty for this project?

Mattis Dupin stated that they look at the grids.

Dave Burke stated that he has been involved with solar installations for 20 years with his past employment with the hospital and the school. For those

projects, NYSEERDA gave them money to install the project. Neither of the projects came close to producing the amount of energy the projected. Is there new technology that you are using to come up with the numbers you are stating here tonight?

Mattis Dupin stated that if they don't produce that amount of energy, it would not change the amount of money the Village receives based on the lease.

Dave Burke stated that he is asking what type of technology they are using now? Is it different now? Because production numbers were horrible.

Dave Burke, so it doesn't produce enough energy then?

Mattis Dupin stated that they produce a lot of energy

Gary Silver, they stated that they agree to pay a flat fee so whether it produces that amount or not, they pay the same amount to us

Dave Burke, these are solar reservoirs so are you going to cover them?

Angele Kwame stated that one is covered at 25% and the other is covered at 12%

Dave Burke stated that the chemistry changes based on how much of the lake is frozen

Mattis Dupin stated that the difference in the water temperature will not affect the amount of electricity produced

Dave Burke, I am not worried about that, I am worried about it affecting the amount of chemicals needed to treat the water as this is the primary source of water for the village.

Gary Silver stated that we are concerned about having water issues as we have had contamination to our well in the past.

Lily Hassett stated that the company has a solar array in London that is the primary source of water for the whole city and they have had no issues.

Gary Silver asked what % of the water is covered in London?

Dave Burke stated that it doesn't matter because our climate zone is much different here.

Mayor Stoddard thanked everyone for the information.

**ATTORNEY** Attorney Silver only had agenda items to discuss.  
**COMMENTS:**

**TREAS.** None  
**REPORT:**

**TABLED**  
**BUSINESS:**

**UPDATE ON SUB-COMMITTEES**

Speed Reduction

The sub-committee of Mayor Stoddard, Trustee Lake and Police Chief D’Agata are continuing to work on this issue. Mayor Stoddard stated that we need to have an attorney do this for us so we will hold off until next year.

Parking

Police Chief D’Agata is reviewing the recommended changes.

Noise Ordinance

Chief D’Agata stated that he is still working on this.

HONK

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

**UPDATE OF CODE/SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL**

Mayor Stoddard asked if everyone read the changes and if there were any questions? No questions.

Mayor Stoddard asked for clarification regarding what sidewalks this would pertain to?

Gary Silver stated that this law would be in regards to any sidewalk in the Village. He also stated that this will need a 239-M review from the county.

Trustee Mir made a motion to declare Lead Agency. Trustee Feasel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Lake made a motion to schedule a public hearing on April 3, 2025 at 6:55 p.m. Trustee Mills seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDER REVIEW OF LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 87 (ZONING)**

Mayor Stoddard stated that there are a lot of questions regarding these changes and what other laws they may affect. She stated that she can see how pieces of laws can easily disappear when making these type of changes.

Gary Silver stated that it is easy to see how changing one law can change another law.

Mayor Stoddard stated that she would like to meet with Marisol Torrens, Dave Burke and one other board member to discuss.

Trustee Lake stated that she would also attend the meeting and is available anytime in March.

Dave Burke stated that he was also available anytime in March.

Mayor Stoddard stated that she would be in touch with everyone with a date.

**DISCUSS OUTSTANDING A/R BILL – LIBERTY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
(\$15,289.34)**

Mayor Stoddard stated she and Trustee Mir will be meeting with the commissioners on Monday 7 p.m. and hope to finalize this.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER BUDGET WORKSESSION MEETING**

Judy Zurawski stated that she only received information from Chief D'Agata. She is not far along.

Dave Burke stated that he will fine tune his budget.

Motion by Trustee Lake for a budget worksession to be held on March 20, 2025 at 6 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Mills. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDER TAXICAB PERMIT APPLICATION – CATSKILL MEDICAL  
TRANSPORT LLC**

**RESOL.#** Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously  
**20-2025:** carried approving Resolution #20-2025:

**WHEREAS**, the applications for taxicab licenses (also known as Taxicab permits, such terms being intended to describe the license or permit described as a taxicab permit in the definitions provision in Article 1, Section 75-1 of Chapter 75 of the Village Code), having been submitted by the attached taxi company's

pursuant to the Village Code, such as Sections 75-1 75-1.1, and 75-2 of the Village of Liberty Village Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Code provides that the existing taxicab permits expire annually on May 31; and

**WHEREAS**, all permits for taxicab licenses renew on June 1, 2025;

**WHEREAS**, One Medical Licenses has been reviewed by the Village of Liberty Police and is now pending before the Village Board; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Liberty hereby issues four regular licenses for the annexed applicant (said taxicab license not to be confused with the taxicab driver’s license issued under Article II of Chapter 75 of the Village Code); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, those for reference purposes, the license/permit is for:

**Catskill Medical Transport – Medical**

Chief D’Agata stated that everything was received and looked good.

**RESOL. 21-2025 CONSIDER RESOLUTION FOR ACTIVE-FRIENDLY ROUTES TO EVERYDAY DESTINATIONS**

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving Resolution # 21-2025

The following resolution was offered by Trustee Lake, who moved its adoption, seconded by Trustee

Mills to-wit:

**VILLAGE OF LIBERTY**

**RESOLUTION FOR ACTIVE-FRIENDLY ROUTES TO EVERYDAY DESTINATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans 2nd edition states that health benefits start immediately after exercising, and that physical activity fosters normal growth and development while making people feel better, function better, and reduce the risk of a larger number of chronic diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, physical activity is healthy for individuals of all ages and abilities and can prevent early death; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals who are physically active generally live longer and at less risk for health issues related to heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and some cancers

while physical activity can help manage conditions and complications for individuals with chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, building safe active and walkable communities can increase economic development, employment, reduce health care cost and support neighborhood revitalization; and

WHEREAS, safe walkable communities can improve traffic safety for people who walk, ride bicycles, and drive; and

WHEREAS, policies, systems and environmental changes are required in order to support and protect individual efforts to make healthier choices; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Liberty recognizes its ability to expand achievable, measurable, and sustainable efforts to increase safe physical activity access that support Active-Friendly Routes to everyday destinations; and

WHEREAS, Activity-Friendly Routes to everyday destinations is a strategy that assist in making safe, walkable, bikeable, wheelchair and/or rolling for people of all ages and abilities by improving the Village of Liberty design to connect routes that include trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and all other methods of public transit with destinations to groceries, stores, schools, libraries, parks, health care facilities and/or other everyday destinations; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Liberty acknowledges that physical activity for children, adults and families in the Village of Liberty is one of the best daily forms to improve health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village of Liberty will consider available grant funding and partners with local, state, and federal Government, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County and other agencies in order to continue efforts for Active Friendly Routes for Everyday Destinations

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

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

Frank DeMayo stated that he was recently at a meeting where Undersheriff Chaboty spoke about Noise Ordinances and he stated that an ordinance was as good as a law. They use decibel readers.

Gary Silver stated that the biggest problem with enforcing noise complaints is that by the time someone gets there, the noise is gone.

Chief D'Agata stated that the Village will mirror the town's law.

Frank DeMAyo also wanted to comment on the snow/ice removal law. He stated that he was walking the other day by where the ice cream trucks are parked and it was very icy and slippery. He almost fell. As the law states, you have 4 hours to remove and if something happens, we can be sued.

Gary Silver stated that there is no liability to the municipality. The reason for the change in the current law is because it states certain street names now and we are removing those street names and it will include any sidewalk in the Village.

Frank DeMayo stated that Marisol should be walking the streets and enforcing the law.

**TRUSTEE  
REPORTS:**

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

Trustee Feasel – None

Trustee Mills – None

Trustee Lake – None

Trustee Mir – None

Mayor Stoddard - None

**BILLS  
FOR**

**Post Audit Vouchers**

**PAYMENT: Voucher #767 to Voucher #772 in the amount of \$334,094.31**

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried approving the payment of Post Audit Voucher #767 to Voucher #772 in the amount of \$334,094.31

**Bills for Payment.**

Next Agenda

**CDBG Bill for Payment - #642PR120-23**

Delaware Engineering - \$7,036.75 & \$15,710.78

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried Approving the following CDBG Bills for payment:

642PR120-23 - Delaware Engineering - \$7,036.75 & \$15,710.78



**CDBG Bill for Payment - #642PW114-24**

Delaware Engineering - \$21,094.50

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried Approving the following CDBG Bills for payment:

Delaware Engineering - \$21,094.50

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

Motion by Trustee Mir seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to go into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter in the water department. Judy Zurawski was invited.

Motion made by Trustee Mills, seconded by Trustee Lake to come out of the Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

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

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:55 P.M.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**DENISE CORBETT, SECRETARY TO THE BOARD**