

Minutes of the Interlaken Village Board of Trustees meeting held on Thursday, 12 October 2023 at the Village Hall and via GoTo Meeting.

Members Present: Mayor Richardson, Trustee Del Plato, Trustee Garcia, Trustee Kempf, Trustee Pepper.

Others Present: DPW Supervisor Ahouse, Fire Chief Borden, Chief Dwello, Clerk/Treasurer Swartwood, Deputy Clerk Quan.

Public Present: Marty Schlabach.

Mayor Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Del Plato motioned, Richardson seconded, to accept the minutes from the 14 September 2023 Regular Board Meeting; carried unanimously.

### **Library:**

Schlabach spoke about the success of the summer reading program, adding Director Hastings and Jill Weatherby did an amazing job. They believe the 33% increase in circulation rate may have played a role in its success.

The annual Halloween event will take place on 31 October.

An issue related to the automatic door opener installed on the step free entrance is being looked into; a wheelchair staff member cannot open or close the library because they are unable to reach both the door lock and the door opener at the same time.

The library encourages organizations and municipalities to put events on the community calendar.

The library is concerned one of the trees in the front of the library is regularly dropping branches. Ahouse advised the tree was assessed three or four years ago; he will see if KJ's Property Care can assess it before a determination is made on how to proceed.

Del Plato asked if there were issues related to books in the library. Schlabach said the library has a policy in place for people that wish to challenge books on the shelf. Additionally, he said the library is open to having books that have opposing viewpoints. Schlabach said some cases regarding the books dealt with the appropriateness for an age group; the library strongly feels age appropriateness is the responsibility of the parent.

Richardson advised the Village reapplied for the NY Forward grant; using requests from last year, the grant specifies new roof, siding, and gutters for the library in addition to non-specific infrastructure funds.

When asked, Richardson advised there is no update on the County's pursuit of grant funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

**Fire:**

There were 11 calls in September; 9 were false alarms.

The current (11 October) bid on the generator at Auctions International is \$410; six days remain.

The department took in four new members on 03 October. Kempf motioned, Pepper seconded, to accept Lucus Albertsman (a paid firefighter for Ithaca Fire Department), Jakub Lister, Jr., Paul Stoltzfus, John Yoder as new members of the Interlaken Fire Department; carried unanimously.

Three people are waiting to join next month. This is a good thing, but monies will need to be spent to get them equipped with gloves, hoods, pagers, and other necessities.

The department will be set up to host the Halloween Party. Matt Barkee and Borden will cook the hot dogs.

Garcia motioned, Kempf seconded, to approve the purchase of pagers for the new members; carried unanimously.

The department is waiting for the new letters for the station.

**Water:**

Rebuilt the Ross Valve, including new solenoid valves, on pump 2.

Monthly sample taken on Knight Street.

Ahouse attended an American Water Works Association class.

Read meters. Turned on and shut off services.

Replaced a meter on a Main Street rental property.

Need to order more meters

Kempf motions, Pepper seconded, to approve the purchase of water meters; carried unanimously.

Rebuilt the injection pump, replacing and cleaning lines, at the water plant.

The results of the disinfection byproduct sample testing are very good.

**Sewer:**

The diaphragm tube and hard lines for the injection pump were replaced to address pumping problems. It is working intermittently; it may need to be replaced soon.

Cleaned trickling filter.

Replaced dehumidifier.

Pulled low lift pump and cleaned it.

HUNT EAS submitted a final design to DEC for approval; HUNT EAS responded to questions DEC had about the design. A videoconference discussion about the plant will be at 10 AM on 13 October.

Normal operation sampling from YAWS Environmental and pumping from Brewers Septic.

**Streets and Equipment:**

Received a cost quote for a modular handrail for the Village Hall.

Bob Ryan on Mechanic Street would like to have a secondary driveway. Discussion about avoiding damage to the newly poured sidewalk and the need to check with Seneca County Code Enforcement.

Nick Ike's yard around the creek bank is completed; stone was stacked over the drain. Discussion about the potential need for a guardrail or railing system.

**Police:**

There were 169 calls for service; 43 traffic citations were issued.

Monthly report submitted to NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Corrections are needed for how the department processes and stores evidence. Old evidence sheets have been updated.

\$1656 was awarded through the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant to help cover the cost of new bulletproof vest purchases.

Dwello thanked Richardson for his help with the office and vehicles.

With the assistance of Richardson and Swartwood, applying for a USDA Rural Development grant for two new police vehicles and equipment, costing \$175k.

Working on a grant application for NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services Law Enforcement Technology for body cameras, TASERs, a license plate reader, and new computers for the police cars.

NYS DOT was called twice in as many weeks to adjust the school zone lights. They said they will replace the timers when they reset the lights for the time change.

Exploring leasing options for police cars from Enterprise Fleet Management. The car can be purchased for \$1 after leasing it for five years.

Seneca County STOP-DWI awarded \$1000 to assist with DWI patrols.

Dwello attended the Finger Lakes Law Enforcement Academy graduation.

Dodge Charger steering system is blowing fuses; repair is estimated to be \$1000.

Additionally, the repair estimate for replacing the rear sway bar bushing is \$500.

**Treasurer:** balances of accounts read. Water Sewer bills mailed 10 October.

**Approval of Bills:** Del Plato motioned, Garcia seconded, to approve vouchers in: General Fund (#128-148: \$100,985.07), Water Fund (#38-45: \$10,086.74), Sewer Fund (#30-33: \$3,220.98) for payment; carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

- ◆ Code update workshop.
  - Trash service.
  - Village parking tickets and fines.

## **New Business:**

- ◆ Garcia motioned, Del Plato seconded, to adopt the resolution for the IT position; carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, the Village of Interlaken's IT Systems Contractor has retired; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to hire a Network Technician; and

WHEREAS, funding for the Network Technician will be from unspent appropriations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Village of Interlaken Board of Trustees does hereby adopt a Network Technician position.

- ◆ Update investment policy—bank change  
Kempf motioned, Pepper seconded, to change investment policy bank name from Generations Bank to NYCLASS; carried unanimously.
- ◆ HUNT EAS Sewer Project documents  
The final design, remarks from the state, and comments was received via email.
- ◆ Fisher Associates  
Services for mapping the culvert pipe running under State Route 96 between Bixby Home and Nicholas Reygers and Glass Magnolia is quoted to cost \$17,500. The map is necessary for the attorney to draft a permanent easement that would allow the Village to have the culvert replaced. Tabled until the November Board Meeting.
- ◆ Worker's Comp rates went down \$9k for 2024
- ◆ NY Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant  
Richardson motioned, Del Plato seconded, to place an ad seeking an engineering firm to help write the grant for funding increasing foot traffic areas; carried unanimously.
- ◆ Farmerville-Union Lodge (Masons) sponsored after school movie program.  
An annual license to show movies for free costs \$469; Town of Covert agreed to pay half the licensing fee. Del Plato motioned, Kempf seconded, to pay half the licensing fee; Richardson abstained; Garcia and Pepper approved. Farmerville-Union Lodge will cover costs related to the space, including electricity and food.
- ◆ Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization update.  
Del Plato reported that though Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) were observed in both Cayuga Lake and Seneca Lake, none could be observed around Interlaken.  
Hiring a new Watershed Manager is nearing completion.

**Adjournment:** Richardson motioned, Del Plato seconded, to adjourn at 7:25 PM; carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Quan, Deputy Village Clerk