

REGULAR MEETING

February 1, 2024

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on February 1, 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, and Trustee Eveleese Lake. Also Present: Gary Silver, Attorney for the Village. Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer and Amanieemma Awny, Clerk.

ABSENT: Trustee Joe Aracci

ALSO PRESENT: David Burke (Director of D.P.W.), Police Chief Steven D'Agata, Abraham Weberman, Samuel Olivares Reyes and Helen Siedlecki (Prestige Towing).

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO PRESTIGE TOWING AND RECOVERY

Police Chief D'Agata presented an award to Prestige Towing for the donation of an undercover surveillance vehicle. He said the vehicle has been used in several situations and yielded great results and numerous arrests.

Helen Siedlecki accepted the awarded on behalf of Prestige Towing.

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

WORK SESSION MEETING - JANUARY 18, 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.

There were no comments from the Public.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS: Attorney Silver did not have any comments.

TREAS. REPORT: Treasurer Zurawski presented the Village's list of delinquent taxes to the Board for review stating her staff has and continues to work extremely hard on the collection of these taxes. She mentioned there are several years that are completely collected and that in conversations with Legislator Alvarez she is concerned about the prospect of being made whole by the County, as he stated that the Village of Monticello is carrying delinquencies in the amount of four to five million dollars.

Attorney Silver said he will look into meeting with County Treasurer Nancy Buck as well as any foreclosure companies that might be able to assist the Village.

Mayor Stoddard said she is very pleased with the efforts of the staff and would like to see if there is a way the County would possibly work with the Village in a separate agreement.

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: DISCUSSION/CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM H. HAGER FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY 121.-3-7.2
BUSINESS:

A discussion of the proposal began by Mayor Stoddard mentioning that this was the same property that was discussed last year and the gentleman that had made the offer never followed through.

Trustee Mir said the property is assessed at \$119,000 and it needs to be bid out and sold for fair market value.

Attorney Silver suggested that the potential buyer could seek an appraisal on the property at his own expense.

The Board asked that a letter be written to Mr. Hager letting him know that the property could not be sold for \$35,000 and outlining his options for purchasing the property.

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

There were no comments from the Public.

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

Trustee Mir discussed the insurance claim that was submitted by Harris Funeral Home.

Treasurer Zurawski said she had reached out to Owen McKane, the Village's Insurance Agent (Reis Group) and he had not returned any of her calls. She also reached out to Sedgwick to discuss the claim who said it was denied because there was no Prior Written Notice on file suggesting there was a

Attorney Silver said Harris Funeral Home should go through their insurance and their insurance wills in turn, most likely reach out to the Village's insurance to discuss the claim. The Board was in agreement with this.

Trustee Lake – No Comment

Trustee Feasel – No Comment

Mayor Stoddard commented on the following:

- ❖ Said she has met with the School Superintendent regarding the sidewalks on Buckley Street. She said if there is anything that is out of code the Code Enforcement Officer will be brought in the loop to deal with the situation.
- ❖ Said when the weather improves she would like to see crosswalks repainted crossing West Street, Willey Avenue and Yaun Avenue for the students.

Chief D'Agata stated that although a crosswalk is needed across from Yaun there are no points that will allow them to put one there. This would have to be looked into to find the right placement or a possible sidewalk install.

- ❖ Said the Village Code is extremely outdated and she would like the Board to review it and see what section they might like to work on.
- ❖ Said she would like to see if she could start to work on Revonah Park and possibly begin by getting volunteers.

She suggested possibly putting it on the website or Facebook.

- ❖ Said the Town has requested that the Village arrange a Joint Meeting regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan. She suggested Wednesdays might be a good night as neither the Village or Town has meetings on those nights.
- ❖ Said Kassondra Johnstone has resigned from the Planning Board due to the fact that she has relocated outside of the Village. She asked if anyone knew of a potential candidate for the Board to let her know.
- ❖ Asked if Treasurer Zurawski was able to discuss the Town tax bills with Supervisor DeMayo.

Treasurer Zurawski said the bills had to be paid, as taxable status date is in March and we did not apply for tax exempt status until April.

**APPROVAL POST AUDIT VOUCHERS
OF BILLS**

FOR PYMT: Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving Voucher #727 to Voucher #734 in the amount of \$388,551.48.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried to go into Executive session at 7:50 p.m. to receive Attorney Advice.

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried to come out of Executive Session at 7:53 p.m.

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

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:53 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

AMANIE AWNY, CLERK