

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 3, 2024

The Board of Trustees held the Regular Meeting on October 3, 2024 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.

PRESENT: Mayor Joan Stoddard, Deputy Mayor/Trustee Robert Mir, Trustee Ernest Feasel, Trustee Eveleese Lake and Trustee Jayneen Mills. Also Present: Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer.

ABSENT: Attorney for the Village Gary Silver and Denise Corbett, Secretary to the Board

ALSO PRESENT: Steven D'Agata, Police Chief; David Burke, Director of Public Works; Marisol Torrens, Code Enforcement Officer; Bruce Davidson, Lawrence Kurtz, Irina Kurtz, and Eliezer Santiago

INTRODUCTION AND SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE OFFICER O'KEEFE

Police Chief D'Agata welcomed Officer Matthew O'Keefe, the newest Police Officer to join the Village Force. Chief D'Agata said Officer O'Keefe comes to the Village Police Department with eight years' experience from the New York Police Department (NYPD). Mayor Stoddard swore in Officer O'Keefe. Officer O'Keefe was ceremoniously presented with his badge.

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

❖ **WORKSESSION MEETING – September 19, 2024**

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Stoddard said the Village did not have any incoming or outgoing correspondence during this time frame.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lawrence Kurtz (Delaware Avenue) asked about the recycling, as it had not been picked up yet this week.

Mayor Stoddard said there has been some unforeseen issues arise, mainly a large sewer main break, that called the DPW away from their regular duties and they hope to be back on track tomorrow.

Lawrence Kurtz applauded the Police Department and all their diligent work in the Dwyer Avenue area with speeders. He also commented on the newest Police Officer, Officer O'Keefe, and how it was so great to see someone come with such experience of having worked the streets of New York.

ATTORNEY Attorney Silver was not present at this meeting

COMMENTS:

TREAS. REPORT: Treasurer Zurawski said she is just finishing closing out September and will have a report at the next meeting.

Treasurer Zurawski did update the Board on the delinquent taxpayers and said the annual Financial Report has been filed and reported on the fund balances for the fiscal year end May 31, 2024, which are as follows:

GENERAL FUND	-	\$408,128.00
SANITATION FUND	-	\$431,357.00
WATER FUND	-	\$ 619,470.00
SEWER FUND	-	\$ (6,967.00)

Treasurer Zurawski also brought to the Boards attention that the Police Retirement Bill due in December appears to be approximately \$100,000 higher than the retirement estimated at the time of budget prep.

Mayor Stoddard said she will have a conversation with County Treasurer Nancy Buck to see if there is any way they will reconsider working with the Village on tax foreclosures again in the future.

DISCUSS BUS STOP

Trustee Mir said he has been in discussions with the New York State Engineers to come to an agreement for a suitable new location for the bus stop. He said the Village has scouted the location at the bottom of Lake Street and he plans on meeting with the engineers next week.

He said the engineers may require some additional information on the use of the current location which has been sold.

Bruce Davidson (current owner) said it will serve as a parking lot.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEES

Mayor Stoddard said the sub-committee will meet one more time with Code Enforcement Officer Marisol Torrens to discuss the fees and come to an agreement with the Board.

NEW BUSINESS: RE-AFFIRM VOTE TO LOAN WATER AND SEWER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR OCTOBER 1ST BOND PAYMENT

Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried re-affirming approving two loans from General to the Water Fund and Sewer Fund as follows:

Water Fund	-	\$20,423.23
Sewer Fund	-	\$98,559.38

The loans were for Bond payments that were due to USDA and Depository Trust.

Every effort will be made to pay the loans back before the end of the fiscal year.

CONSIDER LOAN TO SEWER FUND FOR 10.15.24 BOND PAYMENT

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried approving a loan from General to the Sewer Fund on October 15, 2024 for the bond payment that is due to M & T Bank in the amount of \$124,403.00. This bond payment is for the Columbia Street Sewer Bond.

Every effort will be made to pay the loans back before the end of the fiscal year.

CONSIDER TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE RESOLUTION

RESOL# Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried
47-2024: approving Resolution #47-2024.

RESOLUTION DATED OCTOBER 3, 2024.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$500,000 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE VILLAGE OF LIBERTY, SULLIVAN COUNTY, NEW YORK, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COLLECTION OF TAXES LEVIED OR TO BE LEVIED FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR OF SAID VILLAGE.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total voting strength of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Liberty, Sullivan County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law including, in particular, Section 24.00 (a)(1)(a), the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell tax anticipation notes of the Village of Liberty, Sullivan County, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, including renewals thereof, in anticipation of the collection of real property taxes levied for the 2024-2025 fiscal year of said Village, is hereby delegated to the Village Treasurer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Village Treasurer, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. All further powers necessary to authorize the issuance of and to sell such tax anticipation notes as authorized in Section 1 hereof, including renewals thereof, in anticipation of the collection of any such taxes or assessments as described in Section 1 hereof, is hereby delegated to the Village Treasurer of said Village, the chief fiscal officer.

Section 3. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents as may be determined by said Village Treasurer, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

MAYOR JOAN STODDARD	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ROBERT MIR	-	YES	
TRUSTEE ERNEST FEASEL	-	YES	ADOPTED
TRUSTEE EVELEESE LAKE	-	YES	
TRUSTEE JAYNEEN MILLS	-	YES	

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DISCUSS WATER RATES

Treasurer Zurawski said she would put together some information for the Board to consider, which would help generate revenue for the Water Fund.

DISCUSS E-MAIL FROM COUNTY – RE: 120.-1-3

Treasurer Zurawski said she contacted Nancy Buck and she informed her that The taxes were due on this property before the Village took title in May 2019. She said she does not have any legal way to ask the Legislators to pass a resolution to waive the taxes. She suggested that Attorney Silver and the County Attorney have a discussion to see if anything can be done, since the Village took title for the expansion of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

At this point the tax issue will be tabled until the Village Attorney can report on any possible solution.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE INDEMINIFICATION AGREEMENT WITH BRUCE DAVIDSON

RESOL# Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimously carried **48-2024:** approving Resolution #48-2024.

WHEREAS, An Indemnification Agreement between the Village of Liberty and Davidson-Sullivan Realty LLC has been presented for the purpose of entering into a Grant Disbursement Agreement with the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development for the purpose of obtaining a \$1,000,000 Grant for the Liberty Theater Restoration Project, Project Number 131,786 at 31 South Main Street, Liberty, New York 12754 and;

WHEREAS, Davidson is the Beneficiary of the Grant and;

WHEREAS, the Village is the conduit of the Grant and is responsible to make sure all the work has been property performed and;

WHEREAS, with this agreement Davidson-Sullivan Realty LLC indemnifies the Village for all the obligations under the Grant Disbursement Agreement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board authorizes Mayor Joan Stoddard to execute this Agreement.

DISCUSSION WITH POLICE CHIEF D’AGATA

Police Chief D’Agata said he would like to have discussions with the Board on the following topics:

Peddler’s Permits

A sub-committee of **Trustee Mills** and **Trustee Feasel** has been set up to have further discussions on the current peddler’s law.

Speed Reduction

A sub-committee of **Mayor Stoddard** and **Trustee Lake** has been set up to discuss a possible speed reduction to 25-miles per hour in the Village.

Chief D’Agata stated the largest hurdle in this undertaking may be acquiring an engineer to perform a study specializing in traffic operations.

Parking

A sub-committee of **Mayor Stoddard** and **Trustee Lake** has been set up to discuss Parking on Chestnut Street, noting the availability of parking in front of the Post Office once the Lobby opens at 6:30 a.m.

Noise Ordinance

A sub-committee of **Trustee Mills** and **Trustee Feasel** has been set up to have discussions on a revised noise ordinance violation that involves decibel level readings.

Update on HONK

A sub-committee of **Mayor Stoddard** and **Trustee Lake** has been set up to discuss signage and what will need to be changed in the near future to the Village Code to integrate into the HONK system.

CONSIDER PARADE PERMIT – HALLOWEEN PARADE

Motion by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously carried approving the Halloween Parade scheduled for October 26, 2024 at 10 a.m.

The parade is sponsored by the Town of Liberty Parks and Recreation and will line up at Church Street and end at the stage at Parks and Rec (119 North Main Street).

PUBLIC There were no comments from the Public.

COMMENTS:

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

REPORTS:

Trustee Feasel – No Comment

Trustee Lake – No Comment

Trustee Mir said he had an item for Executive Session.

Mayor Stoddard – No Comment

Trustee Mills – No Comment

BILLS Post Audit Vouchers
FOR

PAYMENT: Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mir and unanimously carried approving the payment of Post Audit Voucher #346 to Voucher #354 in the amount of \$374,394.90

Le Tech Grant

Motion by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills and unanimous carried approving the following payment from the Le Tech Grant Funding:

Axon Enterprises - \$38,353.44

EXECUTIVE Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel and unanimously
SESSION: carried to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss an office department issue as well as a litigation matter.

Chief D'Agata and Code Enforcement Officer Marisol Torrens were invited into the Executive Session.

Once the matter with the above personnel was completed, David Burke; Director of Public Works was invited into Executive Session.

Motion made by Trustee Feasel, seconded by Trustee Mills to come out of the Executive Session at 8:39 p.m.

CONSIDER PAYMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RESOL. # 49-2024 Motion by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Lake and unanimously carried approving Resolution #49-2024.

WHEREAS, the Village of Liberty has been served with an Administrative Tribunal in relationship to the Village’s water system and;

WHEREAS, in settlement of the notice the Village Board approves the payment of \$5,000.00 to resolve the matter and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, payment will be made immediately and the Village Board authorizes Mayor Stoddard to execute the Administrative Tribunal.

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

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:45 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JUDY H. ZURAWSKI, CLERK-TREASURER