

REGULAR MEETING

September 5, 2024

The Board of Trustees held the Work session Meeting on September 5, 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: Attorney for the Village Gary Silver, Judy Zurawski, Clerk/Treasurer and Denise Corbett, Secretary to the Board.

ALSO

PRESENT: Steve D'Agata, Police Chief, David Burke, Director of Public Works, Marisol Torrens, Code Enforcement Officer, Bruce Davidson, Jean Dermer, Etta Barbanti, Lawrence Kurtz, Dawn Hurley, Arely Vidals, Susan Currey and Abraham Weberman

Police Chief D'Agata asked that the Citizens Awards be presented at the next meeting.

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

- ❖ PUBLIC HEARING – AUGUST 15, 2024 RE: LOCAL LAW 4-2024
- ❖ REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 15, 2024

CORRESPONDENCE-

INCOMING

- ❖ E-Mail from Lawrence Kurtz Re: Commend Police Officers 8.26.24
- ❖ Memo from PD Re: NYSEG Lighting – July Report
- ❖ Note from Residents of Barclay Garden Re: Odor around the building

Mayor Stoddard stated that all of this correspondence will be in the clerk's office and can be requested during normal business hours if anyone wishes to see them.

OUTGOING

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jean Dermer from Liberty Blooms thanked Jayneen Mills for attending their opening ceremony. She has a concern about the strong odor coming from the ice cream trucks in the yard where they park.

Trustee Mir stated that this was not the first time there was an issue with

this. They were cited from the DOH before.

Etta Barbanti wanted to commend Marisol and Denise from the building Department in regards to the garbage problem at Liberty Pizza. Etta stated that she came to the building department to make a complaint about the garbage and found that a violation had already been issued and the garbage was cleaned up. Etta thanked Marisol and Denise for doing a great job.

Etta Barbanti also stated that the streets and sidewalks on Main Street are a mess. She asked if we could supply brooms.

Marisol Torrens stated that she would have to look at the code to see if the village has a law about sidewalks in front of stores.

Bruce Davidson stated that a lot of people are coming to him and complaining about dead trees on the sidewalk. He stated that he told the people not to remove the trees as they may have roots intertwined in the water or sewer lines.

Mayor Stoddard stated that there is a grant available from Sullivan 180 but we missed the deadline this year. We will apply for that grant in January.

Bruce Davidson stated that they shop owners are willing to remove the trees at no expense to the Village.

Mayor Stoddard stated that she would ask Lynn to touch base with Bruce.

Etta Barbanti stated that another problem is the garbage cans. They are in bad shape.

Mayor Stoddard stated that Judy was able to find a grant to possibly get new garbage cans. We still need a couple of letters of support.

Jean Dermer stated that she would write a support letter.

Larry Kurtz stated that he agrees with everything that has been discussed thus far. He would like to commend the building department, Lynn, Judy and the Police Chief. The police officers that were giving speeding tickets clearly explained the violation the driver was receiving and everyone in the neighborhood were very happy. He would like to see this type of enforcement continue. He stated that he heard the speed limit may be lowered from 30 MPH to 25 MPH and he is happy with that. Larry also stated that the use of loud speakers and mega phones is getting out of hand and it is a nuisance as they are too loud and they are being used all hours of the day and night.

Chief D'Agata stated they are making efforts regarding the speeding. He has looked into lowering the speed limit for the entire Village. We will need an engineer report. He stated that there is a program called Alive at 25 that we can work with. He will reach out to other Villages as well. He also stated that he looked into getting speed bumps and Cornell Cooperative Extension can get them for us.

Jean Dermer stated that you cannot see making a turn onto Main Street coming out of side streets and asked if we can put in stop signs?

Chief D'Agata stated that School Street is the worst spot. He asked if we wanted to make the corners a "no parking" area? We will lose parking spots and we already have a parking issue in the Village.

Susan Currey stated she lives on Pinehurst Drive and she has been asking about the water issue for a long time. She stated that it is a swamp there and there is a drainage issue and she just gets told that the Village has no man power and there is only so much they can do.

Mayor Stoddard stated that she has been on that road and it is in rough shape. She stated that paving is done for this year but that she has asked for that road to be priced out for next year including correcting the drainage issues.

Susan Currey stated that she witnessed an elderly woman fall because the road is so bad. She also stated that her and some neighbors have purchased stone to fill in the potholes but it just gets washed away.

Mayor Stoddard stated that the area there is very wet. We will look into it and if we can manage the cost, we will do it.

Dawn Hurley stated she is here with her daughter and she is concerned about the safety of our children walking to and from school on Buckley Street. She stated that the road had been paved but wanted to know about the sidewalks. She stated that you cannot push carriages on the sidewalk because they are in poor shape. Dawn stated that we need more cross walks. There are no crossing guards either. The Village has a lot of people walking and the school requires children to walk to and from school within a certain distance.

Mayor Stoddard stated that the sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the property owners, not the Village. Mayor Stoddard asked Marisol to look into the code and the condition of the sidewalks and to possibly site people. Mayor Stoddard also stated that we discussed other crosswalks but there were issues. We can put in more cross walks but there are issues with sight distance up the hill. Liberty CDC is working on safe streets.

Chief D'Agata stated that there is no sidewalk to get to Willey Ave.

Arelly Vidals stated that she is here with her parents in regards to the Peddlers permits. She stated that they cannot move every 15 minutes and wanted to know if something can be done about this?

Mayor Stoddard stated that we are working on this to get a resolution. The law needs to be amended. She stated that they discussed refunding the permit fee for now. We will discuss this later in the agenda items.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS

No comments.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Zurawski stated that the water and sewer are still struggling. She stated that she closed the books today and does not have the report done yet.

TABLED BUSINESS:

A. DISCUSS BUS STOP

Gary Silver stated that we can move the bus stop but we have to figure out who owns that piece of property suggested. Judy will find out. Gary also stated we will need more lighting.

Mayor Stoddard stated that the Village has an easement. She also stated that she thought about motion lights for that area. We also need to move the shelter.

Trustee Mir stated that the easement is usually 25 feet from the center of the road.

Chief D'Agata stated that there are no sidewalks there and that the closest one is Church Street.

B. DISCUSS/CONSIDER BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEES

Mayor Stoddard stated she will meet with Marisol and Trustee Lake next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CONSIDER FALL CLEAN-UP

RESOLUTION

45-2024 Motion to approve Resolution 45-2024 Fall clean up dates from September 23 – 27, 2024 from 6 am to 2 pm and September 28-29, 2024 from 8 am to 12 pm made by Trustee Mir. Seconded by Trustee Lake. Motion carried unanimously.

NOTICE**VILLAGE OF LIBERTY****2024 FALL CLEAN-UP****Monday, September 23th****Tuesday, September 24th****Wednesday, September 25th****Thursday, September 26h****Friday, September 27th****Saturday, September 28th****Sunday, September 29th**

All items for clean-up must be taken by Village Residents to the Village of Liberty Street Department garage at 46 Elm Street. No items will be accepted without a permit showing Village residency which can be obtained at the Village Clerk's Office 167 North Main Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

METAL WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO large stumps or rocks. NO household

garbage. NO batteries. NO tires. NO hazardous waste. NO yard debris. No Fuel Tanks, Oil Drums and Propane Tanks. NO Paint. NO Electronic Equipment

Village crews will not make pick-ups at individual residences and the Sanitation Department will not take items left out for clean-up.

Hours of Operation:

Monday, September 23rd - Friday, September 27th - 6:00 A.M - 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, September 28th - 8:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.

Sunday, September 29th - 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

After the Villages allotment is used up, the gates will be closed.

This program is made possible by the Sullivan County Legislature.

B. RE-AFFIRM LOAN TO WATER AND SEWER

Motion to re-affirm the loan to the water and sewer made by Trustee Feasel. Seconded by Trustee Mir. Motion carried unanimously. The water department was loaned \$25,000 and the sewer fund was loaned \$10,000.

C. DISCUSS E-MAIL FROM SC TREASURER RE: PARCEL #121-3-7.2

Gary Silver stated that we didn't approve the bid last year because it was too low. County taxes are owed. This is vacant land owned by Burger King. Gary stated that we can do a private sale. Gary will look into the surplus law.

D. DISCUSS CURRENT PEDDLER ORDINANCE

Mayor Stoddard stated that we need to address the local law. Gary sent a few ordinances today that we need to review.

Gary Silver asked that the board look at them and see what works best for us.

Chief D'Agata referred to the Transient Merchant Peddlers Permit and stated that the definition implies that they can occupy a space for indefinite amount of time but the law also states that they can occupy a space for no more than 30 minutes which contradicts itself.

Gary Silver stated that we need to amend the law.

Mayor Stoddard stated that when we amend local laws, a public hearing is required and public comments are heard.

Gary Silver stated that we will rely on the police department and let them use their discretion because the law is contradictory.

Marisol Torrens stated that we should be requiring written permission from the owner of the properties prior to a peddlers permit being issued. They should also sign a waiver so that the owner would not be liable for anything. There should be a form required by us that is specific to location, dates, times, liability etc.

Mayor Stoddard stated that the permit fee should be refunded and the peddlers cannot sell anymore.

Trustee Mir made a motion to refund the peddler permit fees and surrender the permit. Seconded by Trustee Lake. Motion Carried unanimously. Trustee Mir also stated that in the future, we should be requiring proof of insurance.

E. CONSIDER "HONK" TEST AREA

Mayor Stoddard stated that we need to address the local law.

Chief D'Agata stated that we need to draft a local law and we should also change the fine amounts when we do that. We currently have 2 hour parking in place in the Village. We have to change the law first.

Mayor Stoddard stated that we will get the information to Gary so we can work on that new law.

F. DISCUSS WATER RATES/SEWER RATES

Judy Zurawski stated that the monies to be paid to H2O were not budgeted for.

Dave Burke stated that we are working on getting RCAP the information they requested. It has to all be done by hand, unfortunately.

Denise Corbett stated that Angela had all the documents put together that they requested and that she and Angela scanned everything today. It will be emailed to RCAP.

PUBLIC None
COMMENT

TRUSTEE REPORTS/COMMENTS

Trustee Mir stated that there is a landscaping company that is paving the Rail Trail from Carrier Street to Ferndale. He believes it has to do with NYSEG grant.

Mayor Stoddard stated that she was contacted by a sanitation company that asked if we would be interested in privatizing sanitation. It is a local company. They will get us a quote and we will review. If we choose to privatize the sanitation, the company has agreed to hire our employees.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT**Post Audit Vouchers**

Voucher #259 TO Voucher #268 in the amount of \$670,182.73.

Motion to approve by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills for Payment

Will be on 9/19/24 agenda

CDBG Bill for payment - #642PR120-23 - None

LE Tech Grant

Catskill Hudson Bank - \$255.41

Motion to approve by Trustee Mir. Seconded by Trustee Lake. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Feasel. Motion carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. Dave Burke was invited into executive session to discuss pending litigation in the water department.

Motion made by Trustee Lake, seconded by Trustee Feasel to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

Motion made by Trustee Mir, seconded by Trustee Mills to enter into an agreement with H2O for two 2B licensed operators for a period of one year. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Feasel made a motion for the Village Board to have an emergency meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Mir. Motion carried unanimously.

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

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:07 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

DENISE CORBETT, SECRETARY TO THE BOARD