

Regular Monthly Meeting August 14, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held on the 14th day of August 2023.

Board Members Present: Mayor Randy House, Deputy Mayor Millard Murphy, Trustees Ken Sherman, Mike Hart, Jim Turo

Village Staff Attendance: Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, DPW Superintendent George McCormick, Police Chief Ed Carroll,

Public Attendance: Judy Geis; Cathy Smolnik; Tom Rinefierd, Robert O'Neal; Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Commission

Meeting Called to Order: Mayor House called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed guests in attendance. Trustee Hart led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House reported the Oswego County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is moving forward with a successful kick-off at the Oswego County's Mayor Conference on July 19th. House also reported that the U.S. Department of Treasury recently released new rules that implements new uses for funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which doesn't affect the village at this time. The existing eligible uses are generally unchanged and the village can continue to use the State and Local Fiscal Recovery (SLFRF) funds in accordance with the 2022 final rule.

Trustee Murphy reported a 200-year-old large tree in the Hillside Cemetery was taken down thanks to Oswego County and the Town of Hastings offered to help take down three more. Murphy further reported that the next section of the cemetery to be plotted is estimated at \$20,600, which DPW Superintendent McCormick estimated would create 600 new graves. Murphy would also like the sanding and painting of the Gazebo at Goettel Park be put on a project work schedule.

Trustee Sherman thanked Girl Scout Troop 8071 for all they do for the Town of Hastings VanLiew Park. The Troop will host an event at the park August 27th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in dedication of the new pickle ball court. Participation is appreciated. Sherman also thanked the Department of Public Works for their response to the recent rain events.

Trustee Turo had no business to bring before the Board but was glad to see Police Chief Carroll in attendance at the meeting.

Trustee Hart reported that the DPW bought 2 used 30 horsepower blowers for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) from the Village of Cleveland, which would roughly cost \$30,000 to purchase new. Cleveland also donated a generator.

DPW Superintendent McCormick welcomed Police Chief Carroll to the meeting.

McCormick then reported that there has been no more issues with red squirrels in the Village Office building since July and does not believe there is a need for pest control at this time, which would cost \$300 for a setup fee and \$75 monthly. Revisiting the mapping of the cemetery, McCormick said the estimate of \$20,600 includes cornerstones and suggested the Board vote on the matter as it could take up to a year to complete.

Police Chief Carroll thanked everyone for their welcoming comments and then introduced Robert O'Neal to hire as a part-time Patrol Officer which was approved upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Murphy and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes. The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. O'Neal comes with experience as a part-time Police Officer for Interlaken, NY.

Citizens' Concerns

Judy Geis attended the meeting to voice her concern about a miscommunication between Village Cemetery personnel and the Funeral Home regarding the burial date of her husband, John. Cathy Smolnik attended the meeting in support of Mrs. Geis and voiced the same concern.

After some discussion by the Board with Judy Geis, Cathy Smolnik and DPW Superintendent McCormick, it was agreed going forward that letters should be sent to area funeral homes listing the chain of command telephone numbers.

Tom Rinefield brought up drainage again on Thelma Road and the Board along with DPW Superintendent McCormick assured him that the Village has done everything they could to resolve the problem.

Old Business

Beaver Dam water levels remain steady, and the situation is still being evaluated.

New Business

Paul Baxter reviewed the August 2023 report from the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Council of Governments.

Executive Session

Ken Sherman made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Trustee Hart-yes,

Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes. The motion was carried unanimously. The Board returned to the regular meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Regular Business

Previous Minutes -The Minutes of June 26, 2023, were approved after verbiage changes upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Vouchers - June Vouchers #628-631 and 633 listed on Abstract #24 in the amount of \$9,075.47 were approved for payment upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

July Vouchers #643, 645, and 647-673 listed on Abstract #25 in the amount of \$25,876.61 were approved for payment upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

August Vouchers #674-699 listed on Abstract #26 in the amount of \$61,674.97 were approved for payment upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Murphy-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

At 9:03 p.m. Trustee Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Turo.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Cusyck
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by the Village Board as written 10/10/2023