

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 26, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees Meeting was duly held on the 26th of August 2024.

Members Present: Mayor Randy House, Deputy Mayor Millard “Mudd” Murphy, Trustees Ken Sherman, Mike Hart and Jim Turo.

Village Staff Attendance: Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, DPW Superintendent George McCormick, Police Chief Ed Carroll, Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz.

Public Attendance: Tom Rinefierd, Louis & Deborah Bilello; Agatha, Gregg & Benjamin Tweedy, Matthew Stevens from the Village Planning Board.

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

Board and Staff Reports

Deputy Mayor Murphy: The new playground in Goettel Park is about 90% complete. Murphy sent pictures to the playground equipment company regarding the shortfall of mulch and additional landscaping that will need to be completed by the Village. Additional playground mulch has been ordered and Murphy is hopeful the installation company will reimburse the Village for the added expense.

Trustee Sherman: On top of the drainage issues in the Village, the potholes on Rt. 11 and Rt. 49 need repair, which are state roads, and Trustee Sherman asked Superintendent McCormick to contact the state regarding these repairs.

Sherman mentioned that upcoming paving on Rt. 11 as well as the continued work on the Brewerton Bridge will affect traffic patterns and the Village residents should expect delays. Additional traffic is also to be expected due to a school closing in Constantia and those students being bussed or driven to the CSI school.

Trustee Hart: Wanted to know how much the special mulch is and if the Village will be paid back. Deputy Mayor Murphy is looking into this.

Hart was informed by Police Chief Carroll that the air conditioning unit for the Police Station is not working and upon Hart’s inspection, he recommends that the entire heating and cooling unit be replaced. The Village is waiting for quotes.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato mentioned to Trustee Hart that the air conditioner in their office is still not replaced and would like it replaced soon.

Trustee Turo: nothing to report to the Board.

DPW Superintendent George McCormick: The sweeper transmission is repaired, and there is one last part needed to be replaced before it can be used on the roads.

WWTP: the diffuser in the plant was rebuilt, and maintenance is needed on the press.

Drainage issues: there was an onsite meeting with some of the northside residents that attended the last Village Board Meeting. There could be some larger catch basins installed that would help with drainage.

McCormick stated that he hopes the playground area in Goettel Park will be completed by Wednesday or Thursday. Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato asked about the playground handicap ramp mentioned earlier in the meeting. Superintendent McCormick stated that it was ADA compliant from the manufacturer.

McCormick is aware of a water main break at 115 Webb Ave. that should be fixed this week.

Chad is back to work and is helping Gordon in the cemetery.

Police Chief Carroll: SRO Redshaw is now NYS Certified/Qualified. All firing range qualifications should be completed this week.

The Village Police Department participated in the Tunnel to Towers motorcycle ride this past weekend and assisted with traffic control.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato: New permits and violations for August were distributed.

Cusato stated he received a request for a Certificate of Compliance for the 2nd floor apartment located at 3208 East Avenue from Mr. Gregg Tweedy. Code Officer Cusato also received a request for a Certificate of Compliance for an accessory structure located at 3206 East Avenue, but this was denied due to construction materials from multiple projects still on the property. Code Officer Cusato sent a letter dated 8/19/24 to Mr. Tweedy stating that all work conducted as shown on the building permit was completed but the final certificate is only issued after all unused/discarded materials from the project are removed. Code Officer Cusato went on to say that Mr. Tweedy has the right to file an Article 78 action / Zoning Board of Appeals and that an application can be available to be filled out, fee paid and a hearing date can be set.

As of the August report of permits and violations, the property located at 3206 East Avenue has cleaned up the long grass and weeds. Officer Cusato was unable to verify that the gravel runoff from 3206 East Avenue onto resident Skinner's property has been removed.

Codes Officer Cusato is working with Grant writer Kristy Lamanche to obtain information on the properties of Hillside Cemetery and Goettel Park.

Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck: had nothing for the Board.

Citizens' Concerns: Debbie Bilello from 115 Webb Ave. stated that she is aware of the water main break on her property and has contacted a contractor, and that National Grid couldn't locate the gas lines on her property and as of 8/13/24 was still unable to do so. This prevented her contractor from starting the project. Bilello stated that she felt threatened by the DPW Superintendent at her front door who she says told her that the Village would have to shut her water off if the water main line on her property wasn't fixed this week. After further discussion, Bilello told the Board she would be contacting her contractor and that the water main line break on her property will be corrected as soon as her contractor can get out here to fix it.

Tom Rinefierd asked if the Board was going to review the drainage concerns on Thelma or on Collins Terrace. Superintendent McCormick said that it is on the DPW schedule to install larger catch basins in the area. It was mentioned that the Village and surrounding areas have had a lot of heat and a lot of water which makes everything grow even faster but the overgrowth needs to be tended to by all residents. DPW Superintendent McCormick stated that the DEC would not allow the natural drainage areas to be disturbed. McCormick said that after the last rain that all the ditches were full and that within two hours the roads were clear.

Mr. Gregg Tweedy would like to know why the Accessory Dwelling Unit proposal that the Planning Board put together hasn't been approved. Mayor House stated that many of the Accessory Dwelling Unit programs are owner occupied and the Board will need to investigate landlord versus owner occupied ADU programs further. Mr. Tweedy said that he will send over the Oswego County revised decision on his appeal for a variance.

Tweedy wanted to know why he hasn't received his Certificate of Compliance and instead continues to receive violations from our Code Enforcement Officer. Tweedy stated that he was trying to clean up the area and with all the rain, the grass grew quickly, and he then received a violation for his grass being too long. Code Enforcement

Officer Ed Cusato stated that when a complaint is filed that he must follow up and investigate.

Tweedy stated that there was not garbage in the backyard but building materials that he would use for another project or rather the other carriage house on the adjacent property. He also stated that people couldn't see it from the road. Trustee Hart asked Mr. Tweedy to clean it up.

Mr. Tweedy has recently purchased a fence permit but does not want to spend the money on the privacy fence if neighbors will look over the fence and continue to complain when the same neighbor has 36" spikes driven into his front lawn.

Mayor House stated that the Village Board is trying to make Mr. Tweedy happy but the Board will need to see some follow-through with his promises to clean up the property.

Old Business: Deputy Mayor Murphy would like to have DPW Superintendent George McCormick and Village Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck review the revisions the lawyer made to the employee handbook and make any additional changes/observations before having the final revisions made.

New Business: Deputy Mayor Murphy received a quote for a new sound system to replace the current one. The Lioness Club had given the Village \$2,000 for a new system. The current quote is not for a wireless system and the cords would be a trip hazard. Murphy will request a revised quote for wireless options available.

The Greater Oneida Lake Chamber of Commerce would like the Village to waive the fee for their Trick or Treat Drive-thru at Goettel Park on October 27, 2024.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made Motion to waive the fee for the Greater Oneida Lake Chamber of Commerce Trick or Treat Drive-thru, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Sherman- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Trustee Turo- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

ARPA Fund Budget Modification 2023/2024 will require approval as follows: Add Revenue Account # A4089 (Federal Aid, ARPA Funds) for \$47,110 to cover the expense accounts including: Expense Account # A8510.400 (Community Beautification) for \$4,475, Expense Account # A1490.100 (DPW Personal Services) for \$4,500, Expense Account # A1325.100 (Clerk/Treas. Personal Services) for \$1,500, Expense Account # A1620.401 (Building Maintenance) for \$29,975, Expense Account # A6410.402 (Web Development) for \$6,660. ARPA Funds Budget Modification 2024/2025 Increase Revenue account #A4089 (Federal Aid, ARPA Funds) in the amount of \$18,592 and the Expense

Account # A7110.402 (Playground Equipment) for \$18,592 to spend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made Motion to approve the ARPA Fund Budget Modification, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Sherman- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Trustee Turo- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Monthly Business: Minutes from the Board Meeting on August 12th, 2024 were reviewed. Motion to approve previous minutes by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Sherman- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Trustee Turo- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Vouchers listed on Abstract #6 totaling \$121,318.86 were approved for payments as follows: General Fund: \$49,846.74, Sewer Fund: \$67,498.70 and Capital Projects: \$3,973.42 upon motion made by Trustee Hart and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Sherman- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Trustee Turo- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m. Trustee Hart moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Sherman.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Village Board Approved September 9. 2024