

Board of Trustees Meeting December 9, 2024

The first of the bi-monthly meetings of the Village Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 9, 2024.

Members Present: Mayor Randy House, Deputy Mayor Millard "Mudd" Murphy, Trustees Mike Hart and Jim Turo. Trustee Ken Sherman arrives later.

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

Public Attendance: Paul M. Baxter from NorCOG, Robin Hansen and Matthew Stevens from the Village Planning Board, Joann Burghart and Cindy Partrick from the Central Square Library and Fred Waldau.

Meeting Called to Order: Mayor House called the meeting to order at 7:01PM and led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House: Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) held a meeting last week. This organization conducts studies including mobility, sidewalks, traffic flow, etc. for all communities. It was noted in the meeting that Central Square is currently in a growth spurt and some members of the council may be following up with an "in person" visit to the Village. For many years, the SMTC held studies (approximately every 3 years) on the speed of traffic through the Village and noted that after Covid there seems to be excessive speeding in areas.

The SMTC noted changes that the Village may want to expand on including sidewalks from senior housing to Walmart.

The roundabout at 49 & 11 is still under discussion.

Deputy Mayor Murphy: On expanding the mayor's comments, SMTC is a resource for the Village and their research is at their expense and not ours. When the SMTC visits in person, they will probably want to meet with the Village Board as well as the Planning Board.

Hillside Cemetery is closed (unless there is a burial).

The tree lighting on Sunday was well attended and the tree looked great!

Oswego County Mayor's meeting will be on January 16th at the Eis House.

Trustee Sherman: was not in attendance at this time.

Trustee Hart: Nothing new to report to the Board.

Trustee Turo: Attended the Polar Plunge that benefited the Special Olympics. He wanted everyone to know what a great event it was and to attend next time if anyone is available to do so. The event raised over \$150,000 for the Special Olympics!

DPW Superintendent George McCormick: Snow tires will be needed for 2 of the newer police vehicles. These vehicles have different rim sizes than the previous ones so new rims and tires will need to be priced.

George, Chad and Gordon will be attending the safety meeting on Wednesday at the Central Square Fire Department.

George has continued with training Chad and Gordon. Next, he will be getting into additional training on the generators and pump stations.

Police Chief Carroll: Traffic was good for the tree lighting and there were no issues.

Stop DWI initiative has been successful in the Village. Chief Carroll was made aware that this initiative will continue through August of 2025. On a side note, he mentioned that he will have patrols out on New Years' Eve for DWI checks.

When asked about the 2 new recruits, Chief Carroll stated that one recruit needs to be qualified on the range and the other a refresher course on the computer system.

The police station garage door has been fixed. It will need some replacement parts.

The Village Police have been busy at Walmart.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato: The old Agway building on Fulton Avenue will need a new site plan once they start renovating the 2nd floor of the building.

3206 East Avenue – the 2nd floor apartment is ready.

At the previous Planning Board meeting, the Board questioned CEO Cusato about the driveway from the physical therapy building onto Webb Avenue and Mr. Cusato reiterated that this driveway is for emergency vehicles only.

No new violations to report.

Trucks R Us has been advised to submit a lot line adjustment to comply with Village codes since there are parked vehicles on the adjoining lot.

Mr. Tweedy appeared at the recent Planning Board meeting with a zone change for 3206 & 3208 East Avenue stating that other neighbors would be submitting zone change applications for their properties as well. Mr. Cusato states that it's been over 2 weeks without additional applications submitted so Mr. Cusato will be forwarding Mr. Tweedy's zone change application to Oswego County.

Codes Enforcement Officer Cusato would like to add to next year's budget an additional desk, laptop, some storage (if possible), and updated ICC/NYS code books. Mr. Cusato will send Michele the pricing on these items.

Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck: Asked the Village Board if there will be a meeting on Monday, December 23, 2024. This was discussed amongst the board. Deputy Mayor Murphy made Motion to cancel the meeting on December 23rd, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy – yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Trustee Turo- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Citizens' Concerns: Cindy Partrick with the Central Square Library thanked the Village Board for the funds allocated to the library.

Ms. Partrick invited everyone to attend the Library Open House on Saturday, December 21st from 10AM – 4PM.

Cindy went on to mention a NYS Grant that the library may be receiving. This will be used for many different things including a larger parking lot, a community room and much more!

Fred Waldau asked the Board if there was any update on the retirement that was stated in the Village employee handbook he signed. Mayor House stated that the handbook is an advisement and can't go against NYS Law. Mr. Waldau asked when that portion of the employee handbook became unlawful, and Mayor House didn't know the exact date but would give Mr. Waldau the Village's attorney's number if he'd like to discuss this with them.

Paul Baxter submitted Heidi's monthly newsletter/report. Paul said that going forward, everyone on the mailing list would have this sent to them via email in the first week of every month.

Paul will be retiring at the end of March, but Heidi has asked him to stay on as an associate member during the continued transition, which he has agreed to.

NorCOG's next meeting will be held tentatively on January 23rd. Paul will follow up with the exact date and time.

Old Business: There was no old business brought to the Board.

New Business: A resolution to increase the salary of George McCormick was read and a Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Trustee Turo- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor House reviewed the ARPA fund budget modifications. Clerk/Treasurer Cusyk noted that the Village will need a signed contract with Beaver Deceivers. DPW Superintendent McCormick stated that they will send one.

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

NYS Archives recommendations were reviewed. There were two options to proceed with the grant application and the Board discussed.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made Motion to proceed with option #2 which would include the purchase of an electronic content management system, and all records scanned, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Trustee Turo- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Clerk/Treasurer Cusyk stated that this would not include the Village Court records since a lot of the Court records need to remain as paper documents.

The Village Employee health and dental insurance costs were discussed. The Board would like to discuss it with the broker further before a decision is made.

Trustee Sherman enters the board meeting at 8:01pm.

Monthly Business: Minutes from the Board Meeting on November 13th, 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 #12 totaling \$95,486.96 were approved for payment as follows: General Fund: \$80,909.55, and Sewer Fund: \$14,577.41 and Vouchers listed on Abstract #13 totaling \$68,337.15 were approved for payment as follows: General Fund: \$40,554.98, Sewer Fund: \$27,730.37 and Trust & Agency Fund: \$51.80 upon motion made by Trustee Hart, 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 8:05PM, Trustee Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Turo.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Village Board Approved January 13. 2025