

Regular Monthly Meeting February 26, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was duly held at 7:00 p.m. on the 26th day of February 2024.

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, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz, DPW Superintendent George McCormick, Police Chief Ed Carroll, Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato

Others in Attendance Summer Recreation Director Rebekah McGraw, Planning Board Members Mary Ellen Commisso, Robin Hansen, Maggie Kirby & Matthew Stevens; Paul Baxter – Circuit Rider, North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) and Salmon River Council of Governments (SRCG)

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

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House reported on the DEC violations regarding the beaver dam and Mr. White's lawsuit against the Village for alleged damages. DPW Superintendent McCormick will get Village Attorney Langley information about the current conditions at the dam, including pictures. The Court has a deadline date of 4/1/2024 for action on this matter.

Mayor House also reported on a meeting he had with Heather Snow, Oswego County Director of Mobility Management, about a new ACCESS service launching soon that will provide curb-to-curb transportation for all Oswego County residents, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – 5p.m. The fare is free and there are no age, income, or application requirements.

Deputy Mayor Murphy reported that funds from the Village Sidewalk, Cemetery and Playground accounts, along with the \$15,000 Hasto donation have been invested with NYCIASS Municipal Investment Program.

Murphy has talked with Kristy LaManche of KL Consulting Services about a retainage agreement for grant writing and project administration. LaManche recommended an agreement for a one-year period at a fee of \$5,000.00 billed quarterly, which sets aside 20 hours per month dedicated to the village. She is in talks with the Shineman Foundation for a matching grant for the playground project.

Murphy met with Dr. Peter Nwosu, President of SUNY Oswego, and learned of his passion for high-quality education and a vision for success outcomes for students at Oswego State and the surrounding areas. Murphy was pleased to learn that there are plans for the college to start a nursing program in collaboration with Oswego Hospital.

Murphy, Mayor House and Police Chief Carroll will attend an Oswego County Emergency Management meeting in Fulton on February 28th for information about the path of the total solar eclipse soon coming on April 8th. The rare phenomenon that occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth will appear over the Empire State for the first time in 99 years. Visitors from across the United States are expected to enjoy this unique experience and communities and business are planning eclipse-themed events.

Lastly, Murphy expressed the need for virtual seminars and would like a quote for equipment needed from Computer Outlet, who the Village uses for IT services and computer repair.

Trustee Sherman reported to DPW Superintendent McCormick a flopped over speed limit sign and an overhead wire cable hanging by the old Administration Office on Route 11. He also gave McCormick a heads up of the many potholes throughout the village. McCormick will pick up the sign and cut the wire.

Trustee Hart had no business to bring before the Board.

Trustee Turo had no business to bring before the Board.

DPW Supervisor McCormick reported the UV System started up today and will stay online until Wednesday. He received electrical panel quotes from Gartner Equipment for Green Acres Pump Station at \$14,350.00 and Mallory Pump Station at \$16,862.00. Installation is estimated at \$5,000.00 each panel for a total project cost of \$41,032.00, of which 75% is reimbursable through the NYSDEC grant. The Board agreed to move forward with installing new control panels at an amount not to exceed \$42,000.00 by motion from Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes.

McCormick reported the DPW has started up a Safety Program to better their documentation and will be a work in progress through the winter months. The backhoe restoration is complete, the airline to the Digester has been replaced by Henderson

Brothers Contracting, the yearly inspection at the WWTP was satisfactory, and the Cemetery is getting early maintenance due to the mild winter season.

Problems during the month reported Burdick Ford sent contaminated waste to the Village which has since been resolved and a sewer backup at 123 Webb Avenue which resulted in an invoice from Superior Drain for \$1,095.00: \$570.00 for Roto Snaking the home's floor drain and \$425.00 for hydrojetting the village line. When the manhole was uncovered on Webb Avenue little flow and a garden hose were found and McCormick asked Superior Drain, who was on site for the property owner, to jet the village line which was eventually unplugged. As a result, the Board approved the payment of \$425.00 to Superior Drain as the village's responsibility upon motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. In his report, McCormick recommended a memo be sent to all residents advising them to put in a plug if they have a floor drain so sewer doesn't back up into their homes. Along with that, Trustee Sherman suggested a grease trap maintenance schedule.

Police Chief Ed Carroll reported he talked with the NYS Police and all Officers will be working during the solar eclipse on April 8th. Carroll also reported there is a band competition at the High School next week and Village Court last Wednesday was the busiest he has experienced but it ran smoothly.

Codes Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato reported things are quiet in the building permit department and the demo work at the old Bowling Alley building is progressing.

Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyk had nothing to report.

Citizens' Concerns

Paul Baxter mentioned that the municipal fraud prevention and detection workshop scheduled to be held at the Boonville Municipal Building on February 29th will only be available via Zoom.

New Business

Summer Recreation Director Rebecca McGraw presented the requested \$12,550.00 budget and potential events for the July 8th – 26th upcoming 2024 program. She has made a Facebook page and new email summer.rec.cs.hastings@gmail.com. She reported the 2023 program was a success with 96 children signed up with 8 staff and 7 volunteers on site. The program was able to be a free breakfast and lunch site thanks to

the Oswego County Opportunities Food Service Program. There was discussion about the cost of CPR/First Aid training at \$116 per person and Mayor House offered to look into other options.

Special Permit Plan – discussion was brought up with regards to the proposed zone change on East Avenue that was eventually denied based on Oswego County's 239 recommendation on spot zoning. As a result, and in anticipation of a new zone change application, it was recommended that the Board explore alternatives. The following recommendations were looked at:

1. Creating additional residential one family district such as an R-1A that might allow an accessory dwelling structure but not to allow multi-family.
2. Using what is already in the local Zoning Law referred to as "Special Permit" action which would essentially require an overlay district and an applicant to submit somewhat of a Site Plan, etc.
- 3.

The Special Permit Plan was brought up by Village Attorney Joe Frateschi. Members of the Planning Board in attendance agreed that this may be the best solution. Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato and Attorney Frateschi will start to put the language to this proposal.

KL Consulting Services agreement to provide professional grant writing services was approved by the Board for a period of one year at a flat rate fee of \$5,000.00 billed quarterly by motion from Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Progressive Energy Consultants submitted a 50-month electric quote from Smartest Energy at \$0.0759 per kwh and a 36-month gas quote from SFE Energy at \$0.660, both starting September 2024 and was approved by the Board upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously. The Village is currently contracted with Smartest and SFE Energy and there is no increase to the electric rate and the gas rate is a savings to what the village is paying now @\$0.7990.

Regular Monthly Business

Previous Minutes – Minutes from the Board Meetings of January 8, & 22 and February 2 & 12, 2024 were approved with a correction to February 12th upon motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House- yes, Trustee Sherman- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Trustee Turo- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- absent. The motion was carried unanimously. The correction adds that Matthew Stevens as appointment to the Planning Board is “filling the unexpired term of Ken Sherman to June 2025”.

Monthly Vouchers & Invoices – New membership dues to the New York Panning Federation in the amount of \$295.00 was approved for payment upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Vouchers listed on Abstract #34 totaling \$122,858.25 were approved for payment as follows upon motion duly made by Trustee Sherman, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

- **General Fund** \$11,695.13
- **Sewer Fund** \$8,702.68
- **Capital Projects** \$102,460.44

Executive Session – At 9:05 a.m. the Board moved to Executive Session to discuss employment matters and the Retirement Contribution Clause in the Employee Handbook upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

At 9:29 p.m. the Board returned to the regular meeting upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously.

As recommended by Village Attorney Joe Frateschi, the Board agreed to remove the sentence from the Handbook “The Village contributes 100% of the employer/employee contribution rates”. upon motion duly made by Deputy Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Sherman and voted upon: Mayor House-yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy-yes, Trustee Hart-yes, Trustee Sherman-yes, Trustee Turo yes. The motion carried unanimously. Employers are not able to pay the member contributions pursuant to Section 613 of the Retirement Social Security Law.

Wastewater Treatment Plant - In light of Chief Plant Operator RJ Smith resigning as of March 29th, DPW Superintendent McCormick talked with Cunningham Environmental Support who are contractors for wastewater treatment plants throughout NYS. Cunningham would file reports and oversee wastewater employee Andrew Veley for \$54,000 annually or do all the testing and filing for \$118,000 annually. RJ Smith has also offered to consult for 10 hours a week at \$50 an hour. The Board would like to discuss the scope of work with Cunningham before making a decision.

Adjournment

At 9:47 p.m. Trustee Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Turo.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele A. Cusyck
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by the Village Board March 11, 2024