

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 11, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees Meeting was duly held on the 11th day of March 2024.

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

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

Public Attendance: Heidi Tompkins, Tom Rinefierd

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

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House: Dan Cunningham sent a proposal to assist in the wastewater treatment plant transition. Mayor House mentioned that there is no water in the wetlands now and the Village may have to install a damn/water control device – not to exceed a given depth (determined by the DEC) in the hopes of preventing future flooding as some roads remain high. The original beaver damn remains, but the beavers have moved out of the area. There seems to be a particular grass that is growing in and around the beavers' habitats preventing their food source to grow. Heidi from NorCOG may have a webinar from last year on this.

Deputy Mayor Murphy: The cemetery will be opening soon, and budgets will be reviewed. The Village Clerk and I met with Heather McCoy who will be working on our new Village website. This will probably be completed in May or June.

Trustee Sherman: Question to the DPW superintendent – when will the leaf and brush begin pick up? George stated that leaves will begin pickup between April 1st and the 15th. Brush has begun to be picked up (if it's out to the road).

Trustee Hart: Recently the corner of Ruth & Dry Bridge has had 2 cars in the driveway without license plates. Please notify one of the Code Enforcement agents (Ed or William) to stop in and address the ongoing code violation.

Trustee Turo: nothing.

DPW Superintendent McCormick: UV system in the wastewater treatment plant was started and ran for a few days during testing. The new panels for the pump stations have been ordered and will take about 4-6 weeks to arrive. WWTP operator may be contracted through Cunningham in preparation for the current pump operator leaving. Cemetery cleanup has started. The surplus SRO/police car is ready for sale (2015 Police SUV). *(See previous minutes from special board meeting on 2/2/24).*

Police Chief Carroll: He was speaking with the loss prevention manager at Walmart who mentioned the expansion in the front of Walmart and expressed interest in incorporating the history of Central Square in the expansion (as other locations have). He would also like to meet with Kristy Lamanche regarding writing grant(s) for the police. On 4/8 the school is scheduled to close for a half day for the Eclipse. The Governor may insist that the schools close for the entire day. "Daytrip" people will be coming through the Village to see it. C.S. Police were security for Honor Guard and Drumline events at the school. An SRO officer may be out for 3 weeks.

Village Clerk/Treasurer Cusyck: The Village Clerk's office will be sending out new sewer bills in April along with the quarterly newsletter - does anyone have anything to add in the newsletter? A question was raised if a separate letter can be mailed to everyone living in the village (not just owners) stating that "flushable" wipes cannot be used in the sewer system along with all the other inappropriate items being flushed down the toilets. The response was "yes", the letter can be addressed to "occupant". If additional information (including cellar drain plugs not being installed) comes to mind, then it can be added to the letter. The sewer pumps are being torn apart because of this debris going down the lines. The DPW was able to fix the pump recently in question. The Village Clerk stated that she spoke with Deputy Mayor Murphy regarding allowing non-profit organizations to request usage of our sign for their events. The clerks' office will put an application together for those interested.

Citizens' Concerns

The question was raised whether the Village had gotten any grant money for the WWTP upgrades. Yes, the Village has received money to offset the necessary upgrades that the DEC mandated. Also, will the Village be getting any money back from the Town of Hastings for plowing because of the mild winter. No, the Village pays a set yearly rate whether it's a mild winter or not. Fuel costs went up, and the price of the contract didn't change. The DPW Supervisor was asked if the sweeper truck could hold water. Unfortunately, adding water to the sweeper truck would make mud (which the sweeper couldn't pick up). There is an auto repair shop on Rt. 11 across from Central Avenue that doesn't seem to be registered with the DMV and is also selling cars out front. Is this legal? The citizen was notified by NYS that there has not been a registered car shop at that location for some time. Are they utilizing another registration from another dealer? There is also a huge pile of tires in the back of the building.

Heidi from NorCOG mentioned several upcoming meetings, forums and webinars available on different subjects. The Route 49 corridor study was completed.

New Business: A quote from Computer Outlet was reviewed to install a large screen, computer and TV that would be dedicated for webinars/Zoom meetings and as a training tool. These can be pre-recorded and be viewed by the Board of Trustees, Planning Board, Zoning Board, DPW and WWTP personnel. Village informative videos can also be viewed or recorded. ARPA money can be used for this upgrade. The quote was reviewed by the board which included installation in the amount of \$3,920.

Everything needed is in stock. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Trustee Sherman- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Turo- yes, Mayor House- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Set Public Hearing for Local Law No. 1 of 2024 (Override Tax Cap). A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Murphy to have a public hearing at 6:45 p.m. at the next scheduled meeting on 3/25/24 to discuss the tax cap and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Trustee Sherman- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Turo- yes, Mayor Murphy- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Monthly Business: A motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy was made to approve prior minutes and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Trustee Sherman- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Turo- yes, Mayor House- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Vouchers listed on Abstract #35 totaling \$53,044.10 were approved for payment as follows upon motion duly made by Trustee Hart and seconded by Trustee Turo and voted upon: Trustee Sherman- yes, Trustee Hart- yes, Deputy Mayor Murphy- yes, Trustee Turo- yes, Mayor House- yes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Trustee Sherman asked the Clerk/Treasurer if she had a tentative budget schedule. The Clerk/Treasurer responded that she is working on the budget and will need to meet with the DPW Superintendent and Chief Carroll for their individual budget proposals for 2024/2025.

Adjournment

At 8:17 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Hart, seconded by Trustee Turo.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk

Approved by the Village Board March 25, 2024