

Village of Central Square

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Trustees

Monday, October 28, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees Meeting was duly held on the 28th of October 2024.

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

Village Staff Attendance: DPW Superintendent George McCormick, Police Chief Ed Carroll, Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyck, Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz. Not in attendance: Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato.

Public Attendance: Heidi Tompkins from NorCOG, Matthew Stevens, Tom Rinefierd and Judge Michael Wildrick.

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

Board and Staff Reports

Mayor House: National Grid has been fixing or replacing streetlights. At the same time, other lights continue to break. Jim Turo added that several residents have brought the need to fix the streetlights to his attention as well. Deputy Clerk Krista Ruzekowicz received an email from National Grid stating that their office has received our streetlights out report, but it had no estimated time for the streetlights to be replaced or fixed. Krista stressed to Grid the importance of working streetlights with Halloween coming up and children’s safety.

Deputy Mayor Murphy: The Oswego County Mayor’s Conference was held in Cleveland this past week and was well attended. The next meeting will be on January 16th in Mexico at the Eis House. Mudd believes that a representative of the NYS DEC may be speaking, but he will know more after the NorCOG meeting this Wednesday. Heidi Tompkins from NorCOG said that there will be a DEC speaker at the upcoming NorCOG meeting, but that person will be virtual.

Murphy has noticed that there have been a lot more Halloween celebrations lately. The decorations and costumes from the Trunk or Treats and VanBoo walk were fantastic.

Deputy Mayor Murphy asked George McCormick about the status of the cemetery wall repair. George said that the work hasn’t started but hopes the construction will begin this week. It should take 4-5 days to complete.

Trustee Sherman: attended a NYS schools conference and was intrigued at the artificial intelligence that is already available.

Sherman said to DPW Superintendent McCormick that he has his work cut out for him with the leaves right now...it seems they all fell at the same time!

Trustee Hart: Nothing new to report to the Board.

Trustee Turo: Reiterated the importance of the streetlights being fixed.

DPW Superintendent George McCormick: Cleaning at the Green Acres pump station is ongoing.

Continuous safety training. Chad got debris in his eye today while using the leaf vac. His eyes were flushed out and he now has safety goggles to wear.

WWTP: George had to replace a transducer in reactor 1 (this controls the water level in the reactor). The annual inspection at the plant is this week.

Leaf and brush season is underway.

Wetland tape is surrounding the ditches by the National Grid building/Northridge Drive area. George can't do any of the ditching until either National Grid or DEC gives consent to be on the property. There is no easement in that area.

Oswego County dug some additional drainage for the Collins Terrace area as well as removed a majority of the "island" of sand behind the school. McCormick will contact the County to continue the digging necessary for drainage in and into County property.

The cemetery has started the final clean up of the season. There are 3 headstone footers that George would like to complete.

Police Chief Carroll: Police attended the band competition last week as well as a special Halloween trick or treat on Northland Drive for a young lady.

Chief announced to the Board that Pat Sidlik (Court Clerk) has decided to retire in June of 2025. Chief Carroll suggests that a replacement is found as soon as possible as there is a lot to learn.

November 1st is the Walmart grand re-opening. Mayor House stated that he and some of the Central Square Fire Department took a tour of the addition that will be designated for customer pickup orders.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Cusato: is absent but Mayor House spoke with him earlier in the day. Cusato's permit and violation reports were submitted.

Clerk/Treasurer Michele Cusyk: had nothing to report to the Board.

Citizens' Concerns: Tom Rinefierd asked about the work trucks behind Taco Bell on Rt. 49. Mayor House stated that National Grid is installing gas lines under Rt. 81 so the lines can run on to the other side of Rt. 49.

Tom also asked if the high school parking lot drained onto Collins Terrace, but George McCormick and Mayor House stated that the parking lot drains towards Rt. 11.

Judge Mike Wildrick expressed his concern with the replacement of Pat Sidlik once she retires. He would like to have someone come in to help Pat get the records in order, filed, and help her on court nights. This person would ideally assist her for a maximum of 10 hours per week.

Wildrick went on to say that in the past, court clerks didn't have to take courses/classes. There is now a "Supporting the Bench" course for new court clerks. The right person would have to be organized with excellent computer skills. They don't necessarily have to have court experience, but it would be helpful.

Heidi Tompkins from NorCOG was approached by SMTC (Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council) which is conducting a Rt. 49 corridor study. SMTC is looking for a committee member to represent Central Square on this committee. When asked about dates and times they meet, Heidi was unsure. Trustee Sherman may be interested if it's not on a weekly basis. Mayor House took down the information needed to contact the representative from SMTC.

Heidi reminded everyone that the next NorCOG meeting will be on October 30th in the Town of West Monroe. The meeting will be held in the West Monroe Fire Station to accommodate the expected audience.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: An Executive Session was called at 7:50PM to discuss personnel matters. Motion by Deputy Mayor Murphy and seconded by Trustee Turo.

Meeting called back to order by Mayor House at 8:20PM. Nothing was decided or voted on in the Executive Session.

Old Business: Deputy Mayor Murphy and DPW Superintendent George McCormick will need to follow up with Chris Baldwin at the Oswego County DOT concerning the speed limit signs on Rt. 12 by the back of the high school.

New Business: Return of Tax Warrant for unpaid Village Taxes was distributed and signed by the Mayor and Trustees. This will be sent to Oswego County.

ARPA Funds 2024/25 Budget Modification to increase the Revenue Account #A4089 by \$2,977.50 and increase the Expense Account #A1440.400 for Engineering Services in the amount of \$2,977.50. This modification is to spend ARPA Funds for NYSDEC Permit Modification Services related to the Beaver Deceiver project.

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.

Due to a Federal Holiday on November 11th, the next Village Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13th at 7PM. And being that the following Village Board Meeting will fall on Thanksgiving week, it is the Board's decision to eliminate the meeting on November 25th but approve the payment of vouchers which will be reviewed during the December 9th meeting.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made Motion to approve the date change of the next Village Board meeting to November 13th, 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.

Deputy Mayor Murphy made Motion to eliminate the Village Board Meeting scheduled for November 25th and allowed payment of vouchers, 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 October 15th, 2024, were reviewed.

Motion to approve previous minutes by Trustee Sherman, 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 #10 totaling \$54,853.64 were approved for payment as follows: General Fund: \$10,816.94, Water Fund: \$33,000.00 and Sewer Fund: \$11,036.70 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 8:25PM, Trustee Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Turo.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista Ruzekowicz
Deputy Clerk