

The regular meeting of the Village Board was held on March 4, 2024, at the Middleburgh Library.

Present: Mayor Timothy Knight; Trustees: Amanda Fernandez, Sheryl Adams, Robert Tinker attended on Zoom, Kevin Young. Also present: Clerk Laraway, DPW Keyser, Code Officer Fink, Attorney Mauhs, ZBA Wingfield, Mountain Eagle David Avitabile, Fred Risse, Fire Chief Gregory, Times Journal Patsy Nicosia.

Mayor Knight called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez, to approve Board minutes for February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 3-0. Trustee Adams abstained, Trustee Tinker not on zoom call yet.

Mayor Knight update on Cell Tower: the flag is down pending improvements made by T-Mobile. Depending on the state of the flag, it will be either put back up or replaced with a new one this spring. The tower will be covered again if parts are not in soon in order to keep birds from making a nest in the tower.

Fire Chief Gregory Monthly Report: New mini split heating and cooling units have been installed. Engine 1221 is back in service, still working on the turbo problem. It has been quite a month.

Code Officer Fink Monthly Report: Slow month, issued couple of zoning permits for fences. Representative from DEC will be out this month to go over floodplain issues around the Village.

DPW Superintendent Keyser monthly report:

**Streets:** Will start cleaning up the cemetery April 1<sup>st</sup>; Dodge truck needs to go in for repairs to transmission; Elementary School crossing light need to be addressed. It is a serious safety concern to the Village crossing guard and students. It was agreed the school would purchase the signs and the Village would install them. It was the consensus of the Board to attend the next school board meeting on March 13, 2024, to discuss why the crossing lights have not been purchased. Informed the Board that the pine tree in the park by the bridge will be cut down, as the tree is dead.

**Water:** Repaired 8" water main by the Elementary School. Water usage is now back down closer to normal. Trustee Fernandez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to approve Badger Hydrovac Service quote for \$14,851.42. Upon roll call vote this motion was unanimously approved 5-0. DPW Keyser contacted other companies and got no responses. Trustee Adams made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young, to approve Ti-Sales quote of \$40,680.00 for 144 radio water meter readers. With the funding: A101.3 ARPA \$39,976.26 and \$703.74 from F9340.2 Water Equipment. Upon roll call vote this motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

**Sewer:** DEC inspection went well this week, changing a couple of paperwork issues.

DPW Keyser read the RFP for replacement of sidewalks. Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to approve RFP for Wells Ave., Lower Grove, and Danforth Ave. sidewalk replacements. Upon roll call vote this motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

Trustee Young read the proposed Middleburgh Town and Village Planning Board By-Laws. Discussion ensued on qualification for membership #9: should it read The Town Board (May)(Shall)(Should) appoint one or more agricultural members. It was the consensus of the Board to table discussion until April 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting.

Trustee Fernandez continued discussion on possibilities for revamping skating rink on Wells Ave. Skating rink was originally a Rotary project donated to the Village. Trustee Fernandez stated there was no community response to making the rink a basketball court, so other projects were discussed. Partnering with Rotary discussed making the rink a pickleball court. There is a grant available to Rotary for this type of project. It was the consensus of the Board to give Rotary permission to apply for the grant.

Trustee Fernandez discussed Baker Ave. Bill Morton Park: a small section with exercise bars is not in good shape. The bars don't seem to be being used and the idea of putting mulch underneath has not been working. Trustee Fernandez made a motion to remove exercise bars, seconded by Trustee Young. Roll call vote: Mayor Knight – Nay; Trustee Adams – Yea; Trustee Young – Yea; Trustee Fernandez – Yea; Trustee Tinker – Yea. Motion carried 4-1.

Mayor Knight read Village of Middleburgh Flag Design Contest rules and concept. This is for Middleburgh youth K-12 to participate. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the contest.

Mayor Knight continued Public Hearing on PDD at 151 Main Street Valley View Estates: Mayor Knight addressed SEQR Part III with responses from moderate to large impact of SEQR Part II. He read responses 1-8 with no public comment. Trustee Adams made a motion to offer a negative declaration to SEQR Part III. Roll call vote: Mayor Knight – Yea; Trustee Fernandez – Yea, Trustee Tinker – Yea, Trustee Adams – Yea, Trustee Young – recused, Motion carried 4-0. Comments will go to the Schoharie County Planning Commission and Middleburgh Planning Board for comments. It was the consensus of the Board to keep Public Hearing open until April 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting.

Trustee Fernandez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to approve **Resolution #4 2024: Valley View Estate Stipulations** as presented. Roll call vote: Mayor Knight – Yea; Trustee Fernandez – Yea; Trustee Tinker – Yea; Trustee Adams – Yea; Trustee Young – recused, Motion carried 4-0.

NYCOM reached out to Village to pass resolution in support of increasing AIM funding. Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to approve **Resolution #5 2024: Calling for an Increase in AIM Funding**. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Mayor Knight read a brief synopsis of the process, ideas, costs, and funding for making the Village Hall handicap accessible. Mayor Knight tabled full discussion for the April 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting where he will have Delaware Engineering prepare a bid contract and accompanying documents for Board approval.

Mayor Knight opened the floor for public comment: Mayor Knight stated he was in contact with Schoharie County Soil and Water about the possibility of removing the knot weed along River Street. He was told there is no funding available, and it would fall on landowners.

Clerk Laraway presented the Board with a monthly balance sheet report and a profit vs. actual report.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez to pay the Bills: Bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$ 34,138.25 were audited and ordered paid. Bills from the Water Fund in the amount of \$ 6,880.69 were audited and ordered paid. Bills from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$ 8,592.20 were audited and ordered paid. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams, to enter executive session at 8:21 pm to discuss ongoing litigation with advice of Village Attorney. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to enter back into regular session at 8:57 pm. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Correspondence: 2/1/24 letter SEEC re: Curb appeal program; 2/12/24 letter Cert. Liability Foshee & Sons; 2/20/24 letter Schoharie Co. re: 4<sup>th</sup> Qter Sales Tax; 2/23/24 letter Gross Tax IDT Corp; 2/26/24 letter Village Middleburgh re: Village of Schoharie transfer old sewer jet for shared service; 2/27/24 letter Charter Comm. re: Channels.

Trustee Tinker made a motion to adjourn at 8:57pm, seconded by Trustee Fernandez. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by

Melanie Laraway - Clerk.