

The regular meeting of the Village Board was held on August 5, 2024, at the Middleburgh Library.

Present: Mayor Timothy Knight; Trustees: Amanda Fernandez, Sheryl Adams, Robert Tinker, Kevin Young. Also present: Clerk Laraway, DPW Keyser, Attorney Mauhs, Fire Chief Gregory, ZBA President Wingfield, David & Jean Cain, Times Journal Patsy Nicosia, Randy Wood.

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

Mayor Knight announcements: Heritage Day Celebration Friday August 23rd from 7pm to 8:30pm at M&S Depot 144 Wells Ave. Additionally the Village will be unearthing a time capsule at Memorial Park at noon.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young, to approve Board minutes for July 1, 2024. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Gregory Monthly Report: Hose testing is done; some new hoses will need to be purchased. Fourteen fire calls this month. Trustee Tinker asked what the height of trucks are so trees can be trimmed to accommodate.

Code Officer Fink Monthly Report: Unable to attend. Mayor Knight stated some permits were issued and property violations.

DPW Cole Keyser Monthly Report:

General: Working on drainage projects and potholes; Paving done on Gorge Rd, Griebel Ln., and Pleasant Ave.; Catch basin on Railroad Ave. was replaced and Danforth Ave. will be next. Trustee Tinker inquired about a low spot in the road on Grove. DPW Keyser is aware and working on repairs. MABA inquired about Village crew helping to install timers on Edison light on Main Street. DPW Keyser said they would help with lights. M&S Depot was discussed. Parking lot, lights and light poles still need to be installed. Valley View Contractors gave estimate \$4,750.00 to do parking lot, install light poles, finish entrance for handicap sidewalk, seed and mulch lawn. Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to approve estimate as presented. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0. CHIPS funding still has money left for spending. RFP was presented for sidewalks on Scribner Ave.: 375' of 4'x6" sidewalks with one blind tile. Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to approve RFP as presented and place legal ads in Times Journal and The Mountain Eagle. Opening of bids will be August 23, 2024, at 2pm at Village Hall. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Water: Water leak on Danforth Ave. repaired; Well House, well #3 check valve failed, parts have been ordered for repair.

Sewer: Plant is working great, no issues.

John Crescimanno, Schoharie County Economic Development Coordinator was present to discuss the CDBG grant that has been awarded to the Village for Midtel was awarded a grant at a cost of \$65,000 for supplying free wi-fi for the business district in Village. The balance left in the grant is around \$35,000. Mr. Crescimanno discussed possible ideas for using the balance, such as digital benches with charging stations in Badgley Park. Whatever is decided it would need to accompany the theme of digital growth. He asked the Village to do some research and come up with ideas. Timeframe is next month as the money needs to be spent by December 2024. County is also working on a \$30 million broadband grant. If awarded grant will provide internet to rural areas in the County.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to authorize Mayor Knight to submit NYSERDA grant request for \$14,976 to convert River Street Historic lighting to LED's. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to appoint Trustee Fernandez, residents Daria Matia and Paul Koopman to the Pool Revitalization Committee with Mayor Knight as an alternate. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Adams made a motion, seconded Trustee Tinker to close saving account Cemetery Restoration with balance of \$281.41 and move to Perpetual Care Saving account. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to approve water rents in the amount of \$53,487.43 and sewer rents in the amount of \$56,698.32. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Vacant property at 111 Railroad Ave. was discussed. The property is condemned and has been vacant for many years. All Village bills sent to property owner have been returned to Village (no address found, undeliverable). Mayor Knight attended NYCOM conference and was able to obtain information on blight buildings. There is a NYS Law Article 19A Convey title. This law provides Municipality the ability to acquire property without going through the process of eminent domain and fair compensation. A property would need to meet certain requirements such as: Code officer certified property is abandoned, vacant and improperly sealed, property taxes are unpaid, and a title search through the courts for prior owner information. The process would take four to six months to complete. Board discussed options on what would the Village do if Village were to acquired property. Mayor Knight said some options would be to apply for NYS Grant funding to repair houses, Village would need to follow all grant stipulations. Possibly bond the money to have property taken down and make a parking lot. Mayor Knight polled Trustee's:
Trustee Young: Blight property, dangerous needs to be taken down and made into parking lot.

Trustee Tinker: Concerned about liability to Village if we acquire property, needs to be taken down immediately if acquired.

Trustee Adams: Concerned on cost to Village to taking down house; good idea needs to be taken down.

Trustee Fernandez: Would like estimate of cost to acquire property and cost to demolition property.

It was the consensus of the Board to get estimates for demolition of the house and reconvene at the next Regular Board Meeting.

Installing new parking meters on Railroad Ave. were discussed: Business owner Randy Wood inquired why meters were never reinstalled on Railroad Ave. after new sidewalks were installed. The Board discussed Railroad Ave: it would require 8 single meters or 4 double meters. It was the consensus of the Board to get quotes for single and double meters.

Mayor Knight introduced proposed Local Law #2 2024: Amending Local Law #2 of 1993, Chapter 17 Vehicle & Traffic Section to Designate Railroad Ave. a One-Way Street & Realign Parking. Discussion ensued: Railroad Ave. is a narrow street; two cars cannot pass at the same time causing a hazard; It is Fire Lane going out towards Main Street. If someone is coming in from Main Street at the same time, they can't pass through, which is hazard during fire calls. The Board was polled:

Trustee Tinker: Have public hearing, get options.

Trustee Adams: Very narrow Street for two-way traffic, hold public hearing.

Trustee Fernandez: Not sure need more information from public.

Trustee Young: Very narrow street needs to be addressed, hold public hearing.

Mayor Knight: Hold public hearing to get more options.

Business owner Randy Wood requested getting quotes for a signal light on Main Street to get traffic stopped during fire calls. He objected to the street being turned into one way. Stated it would have a negative impact on his business.

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to hold a Public Hearing on August 26, 2024, at 7pm at the Middleburgh Fire House, 127 Railroad Ave. Middleburgh, NY 12122. On proposed Local Law #2 2024: Amending Local Law #2 of 1993, Chapter 17 Vehicle & Traffic Section to Designate Railroad Ave. a One-Way Street & Realign Parking. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to hold a Public Hearing on Local Law #3: Overriding Tax Cap on September 9, 2024, at 7:05pm at Middleburgh Library, 323 Main Street, Middleburgh, NY 12122. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to amend 2024 budget to add line item A5112.4 Permanent Improvements (CHIPS). Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Adams made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to amend budget Revenue A3501(CHIPS) from \$49,942 to actual CHIPS funding \$ 105,646 and move A5110.41 Street Repairs \$49,942 to A5112.4 Permanent Improvement and increase A5112.4 by \$55,704 to correct expenditure and revenue to match. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Public Comment: No comments.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to enter executive session at 7:58 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 8:40. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez to pay the Bills: Bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$110,387.79 were audited and ordered paid. Bills from the Water Fund in the amount of \$7,086.04 were audited and ordered paid. Bills from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$22,707.28 were audited and ordered paid. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Clerk Laraway presented the Board with Balance Sheet and Budget vs. Actual for General, Water and Sewer.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to give \$2,500 stipend to Attorney Mauhs. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0. Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to move \$2,500 from A1990.0 Contingent to A1420.4 Attorney Expenses. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Correspondence: 7/3/24; letter Historical Society re: reject bathroom bid; 7/6/24 Mt Eagle affidavit Bond refi for WWTP; 7/15/24 letter NYS Dept. Public Service re: climate change study;

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to adjourn at 8:40 PM. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Laraway - Clerk.