

The regular meeting of the Village Board was held on January 6, 2025, at the Middleburgh Library.

Present: Mayor Timothy Knight; Trustees: Sheryl Adams, Robert Tinker, Kevin Young, Amanda Fernandez-absent; Also present: Clerk Laraway, Attorney Mauhs, Fire Chief Gregory, David Avitabile – Mountain Eagle, Pasty Nicosia – Times Journal; Zoom: N/A.

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

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams, to approve Board minutes for December 2, 2024, and December 30, 2024. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young, to open the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm on Water Debt Redemption Rates. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0. Clerk Laraway explained the increase is .33 cent due to increase in bond payment amount. No comments.

Fire Chief Gregory Monthly Report: 1221 still out for service; Ordering new hose over the next 2-3 years to replace expired hoses. Trustee Adams inquired if the Fire Department has received any comments on Railroad Ave. change to one-way. The Fire Chief said no comments.

Mayor Knight read list of 2025 Line Officers: Fire Chief Gregory, First Assistant Michael Devlin, Second Assistant Brian Devlin, Third Assistant Kevin Dailey, Captain Billy Smith IV, Lieutenant John Shaw Jr., Second Lieutenant Jason Marsh, Chief Engineer Neil Waldron, and Assistant Engineer Bill Smith III; 2025 House Officers: President Donald Guest, Vice-President Braedon Cronin, Secretary Nicole Smith, and Treasurer Stephen Hoerz.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to approve the list of officers as presented. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Code Officer Fink Monthly Report: Unable to attend meeting. Attorney Mauhs gave updated timeline on 111 Railroad Avenue vacant property. October 2024 board approved moving forward with acquiring property; October 2024 Code Officer Fink posted property with certificate of abandoned, Village also sent letter to property owner; December 2024 procured title search certificate report: listing all owners and interest; The next step will be for the Village to file intent to proceed to obtain property; January Attorney will file paperwork to proceed.

DPW Superintendent Keyser monthly report: Was unable to attend, submitted report.

**Streets:** Couple small snowstorms; Christmas tree are being picked up; Truck repaired at dealership; Signs installed for one-way Railroad Ave. Trustee Tinker and Trustee Adams requested after a snowstorm that Main Street be cleared off. Last storm it was not, and it made it hard to park and get to businesses.

**Water:** Fixed water service line leak on Middlefort Road,

**Sewer:** A-Team cleaned out Danforth Pump Station. A letter was read from Farrells at 137 Grove, requesting sewer line be extended to their property and they would incur costs to get sewer lines run to their home. It was to consensus of the Board to move forward with DPW Keyser and Delaware Engineering to inquire if an engineering report is needed, and what the process looks like to get this done.

Mayor Knight, Trustee Tinker and Trustee Young met with Jim Becker, SEEC to discuss what funding is available for municipalities and how we go about obtaining funds. It was suggested contacting Mohawk Valley Economic Development to see what they have available. Mayor Knight stated he would reach out to Richmondville and Sharon Springs to see what they used for their recent projects. Trustee Tinker stated there is lots of funding but comes with a 50/50 match, which we don't have the means to do. Doesn't look like County is moving forward with hiring a grant writer. Trustee Young stated a lot of the State grants are for housing and infrastructure. Federal grants look a little more promising. It was discussed trying to combine different projects, to make one large project. Trustee Adams agreed with looking to combined projects and possibly adding line item in budget for grants. Mayor Knight stated the Village needs a message, why they should invest in Middleburgh, what are our issues, our story, and why we should receive these funds. It was the consensus of the Board to send out a survey with February water & sewer bills asking these questions and also having anyone interested in becoming involved.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to hire Austin Snyder as DPW laborer for \$17.25 per hour, starting date retroactive to January 2, 2025. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

It was the consensus of the Board to put an ad in paper for seasonal laborer position to start in March.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to increase DPW laborer Jennifer Townes hourly rate to \$17.75 per hour, effective January 15, 2025. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to approve **Resolution #1 2025**: Appointing Joint Village and Town Zoning Board of Appeals. Chairman John Wingfield, Members: Rich Thayer, Kitchell Paser, Stephen Hoerz, Kip Pangman, and alternate Janet Mayer. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to approve **Resolution #2 2025**: Supporting the Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to close Public Hearing on Water Debt Redemption Rates at 7:32 pm with no comments. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to approve Water debt redemption rate increase by .33 cents. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Clerk Laraway presented the Board with a monthly balance sheet.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to pay the Bills: Bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$111,495.81 were audited and ordered paid. Bills from the Water Fund in the amount of \$54,236.51 were audited and ordered paid. Bills from the Sewer Fund in the amount of \$3,179.35 were audited and ordered paid. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez, to enter into executive session at 7:51 pm to discuss ongoing litigation with advice of Village Attorney and personnel. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to enter back into regular session at 8:33 pm. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to increase DPW Superintendent Keyser salary by \$2.00 per hour and Deputy DPW Czyszczon by \$.75 cents per hour effective immediately. This was approved as a result of DPW Superintendent Keyser no longer needing Village health insurance. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 4-0.

Correspondence: 12/2/24 letter Dam Safety re: updates; Letter CDPHP re: new rates; 12/3/24 Layne re: quote repair well; 12/4/24 email Pace re: credit; Foil Gary Hayes re: flood plain permits; Letter NBT Ins re: credit; 12/9/24 Foil Gary Hayes re: attorney Baker Ave. bridge; 12/15/24 email accident on Main street historic light; 12/18/24 letter Charter Comm re: channels; 12/23/24 Google North America, IDT Corp, PAETEC, no Gross Tax; Letter Robert Farrell re: extending sewer lines Grove St; 12/26/24 Letter Village re: Sheriffs Dept one-way RR Ave; Letter National Union re: policy renewal; 12/27/24 Certificate liability UPS; 12/30/24 letter Charter Comm re: channels; Petition to Village re: cross walk Baker Ave.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker, to adjourn at 8:34 PM. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Melanie Laraway - Clerk.