

5/16/23 Board of Trustees Public Hearing
6:15 PM Community House
Chickens

Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Jayna Cool, Trustees: Kathy Buckley, Steve Elwood, Jim Castrucci and Art Dockerty, Mayor White

Public: John Lewandowski, Louise Robusto, Gary Warn, Katrina Caringi, Michael & Alexandria O'Dockerty, Shelley Arduini, Dawn Lamphere, Julie Eisele, Margaret DiGiacomo

Meeting was called to order at 6:17 PM by Mayor White

Public Comment: Louise Robusto discussed that the Board acts as a Board of Health and at anytime during a meeting they can act as the Board of Health if any public safety or sanitation issues arise from chickens. Julie Eisele discussed living at a previous city with over 200,000 residents and they were allowed to have chickens. Dawn Lamphere wanted to know how swine was put into the draft of Local Law #4, Mayor Swartz said she took the language from Saratoga Springs so she left it in there. Margaret DiGiacomo informed the board and public that eggs are at Walmart for \$1.24.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM by Trustee Dockerty and seconded by Trustee Elwood. All ayes, motion carried.

5/16/23 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
6:30 PM Community House

Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Jayna Cool, Trustees: Kathy Buckley, Steve Elwood, Jim Castrucci and Art Dockerty, Mayor White

Public: John Lewandowski, Louise Robusto, Gary Warn, Katrina Caringi, Michael & Alexandria O’Dockerty, Shelley Arduini, Dawn Lamphere, Julie Eisele, Margaret DiGiacomo

Attorney: Norman Mastromoro

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM by Mayor White and the salute to the flag was given.

Trustee Buckley requested to go into Executive Session to discuss the Mayor’s roll in the Village. Mayor White stated anything that needed to be said could be done in public forum. Trustee Buckley brought up an illegal meeting that took place April 26th where there were enough members to have a quorum, taking steps to establish a Harbor Commission without approval from the board or bringing it to the full boards attention, that the Board is above the Mayor with all decisions, wanting the members of the Harbor Commission to consist of two Town residents, one of them being “competition” to our Marina, wanting the Harbor Commission to have access to the Marina bank account and checks, and other matters. Mayor White stated she was unaware of the meeting being illegal, that her and Trustee Dockerty were in and out of the room and that her intention was not to hide anything, just as a discussion on how to better the Marina. Mayor White also said she is now aware that a Harbor Commission would not be allowed any financial access, and that she no longer wants a Commission, instead would like an Ad Hoc Committee since she would not need board approval to create that. Shelley Arduini also spoke to the meeting, the committee, and her passion when it comes to the Marina/Campground.

Public Comment: Louise Robusto stated it was Police Appreciation Week and wanted to extend her appreciation to our Police Chief and Police Department for their hard work and dedication to the Village. Margaret DiGiacomo suggested more budget transparency with a comparison of where the Village stands at the close out of the 22-23 Fiscal year end, with the budget that will be taking effect June 1, 2023. Margaret also asked about the school turf field and if that is Village property. Village Clerk/Treasurer Jayna Cool informed Margaret that the field by the Housing Authority where the turf field is being installed is owned by the school, and that the field by the Cemetery behind the High School is the field the Village owns that is rented from the school for sporting events. Margaret wanted to verbalize her appreciation to Julie Erno for the countless hours and work that she put into the Veteran’s Flags being put up on the light poles.

Department Heads:

Fire Department: Fire Chief Countryman informed the board that Engine #1 is back in service, the Tower is at Roosevelt's with an antifreeze leak, the Oppenheim Pumper Tanker will be leaving our Fire Station to go back to Oppenheim which puts the Village back in the same situation of not having a Pumper Tanker. The Fire Department has still been searching for a Pumper Tanker with no luck for one to fit in the price range of what is in the Fire Equipment Truck Fund. Chief Countryman reported a couple complaints regarding lack of DPW assistance when it comes to maintaining a Village owned building. She stated the grass behind the building is up to her knees and there is an issue with the piping that was replaced by the Fire Department which now causes longer fill up time. She would like these issues to be resolved since it is a Village owned building and not the responsibility of the Fire Department to maintain. Report submitted.

DPW: No one present. Report submitted.

WWTP: No one present. Report submitted.

Police: Police Chief Donald VanDeusen discussed the old Tahoe having the stickers removed by students at the High School at no cost to the Village, Officer Bateholts removed the internal equipment, and the Tahoe is now ready to be sold. The COPS Grant was submitted and he is waiting to hear back from them. He wanted to give a shout out to Officer Bateholts who has taken a lot of his own personal time to do maintenance and repairs on the Village Police vehicles, saving the Village a lot of money. He informed the public of his resignation set for June 4th. John Lewandowski thanked Chief VanDeusen on the many great things him and his department have been able to accomplish. Report submitted.

Codes: Code Enforcement Officer Cliff Dorrough stated he has given out 2 building permits this month, he has been very busy with citations, he gave out 18 citations last year and already up to 14 so far for this year. He has a Codes class on June 16th. The tenants at 35 Monroe Street have been evicted and the owner has been cleaning the property up. Report submitted.

Marina: Village Clerk/Treasurer Jayna Cool read a safety report created by Harbor Master Tina Corso. Trustee Dockerty said he would talk to the DPW about removing the broken benches. Fire Chief Countryman discussed her safety concerns with the fire pits at the Marina. She referred to Local Law #3 of 2021 regarding fire pit regulations in the Village. A motion was made by Trustee Castrucci and seconded by Trustee Dockerty that Local Law #3 of 2021 was not passed with the intent of including the Marina/Campground to follow the same rules and regulations as residential locations and the Marina/Campground is not applicable to follow the same guidelines as Local Law #3 of 2021. All ayes, motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Elwood and seconded by Trustee Dockerty to approve Resolution #5 of 2023 as presented pertaining to the creation of an Ad Hoc Marina Park Committee. All ayes motion carried. Margaret DiGiacomo asked Mayor White if anyone could request to be on the Ad Hoc committee, to which Mayor White stated she already picked her people for it, and it needs to be an odd number so maybe in the future it will be turned into a 5 member Ad Hoc. Mayor White appointed Katrina Caringi, Shelley Arduini, and Peter Hoesel to the Ad Hoc

Committee, with Trustee Elwood appointed as liaison. A motion to approve the appointments presented was made by Trustee Elwood and seconded by Trustee Dockerty. Roll call: Trustee Dockerty-Yes, Trustee Elwood-Yes, Trustee Castrucci-Yes, Trustee Buckley-No, Mayor White-Yes. Majority vote was in favor and the motion was passed. There was a discussion regarding the DPW not wanting to do maintenance or lawncare at the Marina/Campground. John Lewandowski stated that the Board or Mayor needs to tell them they work for the Village, and they need to do what they're told. Trustee Elwood said this can be handled internally without it getting out of control and Trustee Dockerty said he would talk to the DPW. Village Clerk/Treasurer informed the Board that no one submitted a bid packet for the work to be done on the bathhouse or the Erie Canal signage.

Treasurer: Clerk/Treasurer Jayna Cool is working on closing out the 22-23 FY budget. A motion was made by Trustee Elwood and seconded by Trustee Dockerty to allow Jayna Cool to print checks for vouchers before board signatures to keep the expenses in this current budget year prior to June 1st. All ayes, motion carried. Report submitted.

Legal: Attorney Mastromoro received an answer regarding the FOIL request submitted to NYS. They do not have the records that the appraiser is looking for. He also stated the pipelines were put in back in 1893. Village Clerk/Treasurer said she would look in the basement for maps and anything else that could be beneficial if Norman could get the appraiser to send an email of what he is looking for.

Old Business:

-A motion was made by Trustee Elwood and seconded by Trustee Dockerty to not approve Local Law #4 of 2023 regarding chickens. There will be no rules, regulations, limit to number of chickens, or guidelines on the matter. If something arises which falls into the Board of Health category, then the Board will act as needed. All ayes, motion carried.

-A motion was made by Trustee Elwood and seconded by Trustee Dockerty to sell the 1989 Sutphen Aerial Fire Truck, which has been deemed of no present or future use to the Village and is a fair market offer of \$4,000.00. All ayes, motion carried.

-A motion was made by Trustee Elwood and seconded by Trustee Castrucci to give the American Legion permission to use the baseball field from September 13th to September 17th for Septemberfest predicated on the Legion completing the list of items presented to Carmen Licari by the Board. All ayes, motion carried.

-Fire Chief Countryman was not able to find a date that worked well with other Fire Districts. She will keep trying.

-Police Chief VanDeusen received a map from Ronnie Millington regarding the ATV "trail" suggestion. Since it travels across part of State Route 5, it would be rejected as the Village cannot make regulations or changes to the limits on a State Road.

Consent Agenda: A motion to **create** a **consent agenda** consisting of the minutes of the 4/18/23 Regular Meeting, DPW, WWTP, Police, Codes and Treasurer’s reports was made by Trustee Elwood and seconded by Trustee Dockerty. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion to **adopt** said **Agenda** was made by Trustee Elwood and seconded by Trustee Dockerty. All ayes, motion carried.

Audit of Claims: A motion to **accept** the claims as presented to the Board as approved to the Board by the Clerk, in the amount of **\$160,782.57** was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Castrucci. All ayes, motion carried. The claims are broken down as follows:

General Fund:	\$ 125,269.31
Cemetery Fund:	\$ 70.00
Marina Fund:	\$ 3,031.43
Water Fund:	\$ 2,085.23
Sewer Fund:	\$ 30,326.60

New Business:

-The Board agreed to set the date for the water shut offs for May 23rd.

Public Comment: Dawn Lamphere suggested that maybe no one submitted a bid for the bathhouse or the Erie Canal signage because of the short time frame the work needed to be completed by. Mayor White commented that the work needs to be done as soon as possible with the campground currently being open and with the canal being opened next week.

Other:

A motion to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation on tax parcel 8.52-3-6, and Police Department personnel at 8:18 PM was made by Trustee Dockerty and seconded by Trustee Elwood. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion to come out of executive session and into regular session was made at 8:36 PM by Trustee Dockerty and seconded by Trustee Elwood. All ayes, motion carried. No action taken in Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn 8:37 PM was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Elwood. All ayes, motion carried.

Next meeting-June 20th at 6:30 PM