

2/21/23 Board of Trustees Public Hearing
6:15 PM Community House
Water/Sewer bill minimum increase

Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Jayna Cool, Trustees: Kathy Buckley, Art Dockerty, and Jim Castrucci, Connie Grant

Public: Dawn White-Swartz, Angela Jones, John Lewandowski, Louise Robusto, Nino Polidori, Steve Elwood, Dawn Lamphere, Jeff Swartz

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Deputy Mayor Dockerty

Public Comment: There was a discussion regarding residents who owe outstanding water/ sewer bills, the increases of expenses to water and sewer department, and other comments pertaining to the possibility of increasing the minimum rate.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM

1/17/23 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
6:30 PM Community House

Present: Village Clerk/Treasurer Jayna Cool, Trustees: Kathy Buckley, Art Dockerty, and Jim Castrucci, Connie Grant

Public: Dawn White-Swartz, Angela Jones, John Lewandowski, Louise Robusto, Nino Polidori, Steve Elwood, Dawn Lamphere, Jeff Swartz

Attorney: Norman Mastromoro

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Deputy Mayor Dockerty and the salute to the flag was given.

Public Comment: None

Department Heads:

Fire Department: Fire Chief Countryman stated the Fire Department completed their OSHA training. The elections and physicals are coming up. Chief Countryman gave report of contract money spent and annual call report for 2022 to the Board. She discussed the structure fires on Hough Street and wanted to thank Officer Bateholts who was off duty and stopped to see if any assistance was needed, 3 structures were involved, only the one garage sustained large damage, acquired mutual aid assistance. She stated the testament to progress made in 2 years with apparatus and equipment really was a key to success for fighting the fires, value comes with saving residents vs cost. Report submitted.

DPW: No one present. Report submitted.

WWTP: WWTP Supervisor Frank Erno informed the Board that John is going to Morrisville on the 6th for 2 weeks for training and tests. He will need the dumpster disposed of by the County. Report submitted.

Police: Police Chief Donald VanDeusen discussed the camera projects are up and running with some connectivity problems. The Police Department received body camera grant for \$6,000.00 and should be able to purchase 2 body cameras out of that. The new Police Vehicle will be picked up on Monday. Chief VanDeusen would like to sell the Tahoe once he gets an appraised value, then the Village could sell it. A motion was made by Trustee Grant and seconded by Trustee Castrucci that the Tahoe is no longer usable for public use and give authorization for Chief VanDeusen to sell it. A motion for a 3rd body camera to be purchased with ARPA funds was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Castrucci. All ayes, motion carried. Report submitted.

Codes: No one present. Report submitted.

Marina: No one present, no report.

Treasurer: A motion to accept the RFQ presented by Delaware Engineering for the \$50,000 I/I Study was made by Trustee Castrucci and seconded by Trustee Grant. All ayes, motion carried. Report submitted.

Legal: Attorney Mastromoro does not have anything new to share on the Ephratah Tax Proceeding.

A motion was made by Trustee Grant and seconded by Trustee Castrucci at 7:00 PM to go into executive session to discuss a current investigation concerning a sexual discrimination allegation against village personnel and regarding a current investigation concerning an assault allegation against the police department. All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Dockerty to come out Of executive session and into the regular meeting at 7:16 PM. All ayes, motion carried. No action was taken in executive session.

Old Business:

- The Grandstand has new benches for the dugouts, which will be installed when the weather gets nicer.
- A motion to hold a public hearing on March 20th at 6:00 PM to possibly raise the water/sewer bill minimum from \$300.00 semi-annually to \$400 minimum semi-annually was made by Trustee Grant and seconded by Trustee Castrucci. All ayes, motion carried.
- Trustee Castrucci discussed the City of Rensselaer’s Chicken Law. A motion was made by Trustee Castrucci and seconded by Trustee Grant to hold a public hearing on March 20, 2023 at 6:15 PM for presentation to adopt the provisions of the City of Rensselaer’s Chicken Law. All ayes, motion carried.
- A motion was made by Trustee Grant and seconded by Trustee Castrucci to update the Purchasing Policy to include MWBE outreach required for the \$35,000.00 CDBG Grant. All ayes, motion carried.
- Julie Rider-Erno gave a Veteran Flag presentation to the Board and public.
- Sidewalk program is tabled.

Consent Agenda: A motion to **create** a **consent agenda** consisting of the minutes of the 1/17/23 Regular Meeting, DPW, WWTP, Police, Codes and Treasurer’s reports was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Dockerty. All ayes, motion carried.
A motion to **adopt** said **Agenda** was made by Trustee Grant and seconded by Trustee Castrucci. 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 **\$61,233.04** was made by Deputy Mayor Dockerty and seconded by Trustee Buckley. All ayes, motion carried. The claims are broken down as follows:

General Fund:	\$	37,363.20
Cemetery Fund:	\$	37.27
Marina Fund:	\$	513.22
Water Fund:	\$	5,107.18
Sewer Fund:	\$	18,121.17

New Business:

Village Clerk/Treasurer discussed a phone call received from Network Building & Consulting regarding an interest from Verizon to put a 150' cell phone tower in the back corner of the Cemetery. The Board would like more information.

Chief Countryman thinks a discussion with places like ECC, Mohawk, Berkshire, and Northville would be beneficial to gather input on places that have established Fire Districts and what the pros and cons are.

A motion to change the March Board Meeting date due to the General Election from March 21, 2023, to March 20, 2023, was made by Trustee Grant and seconded by Deputy Mayor Dockerty. All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Dawn Lamphere had questions about the shut off issues and when it is the owners expense vs the Village.

Angela Jones discussed the chicken issues, gave facts, her desire to go forward with something more flexible, and questioned why all the sudden is the Board trying to push the City of Rensselaer's Chicken Law when it has been tabled for over 8 months.

Dawn White-Swartz commented about the City of Rensselaer's Chicken Law stating if you have chickens out of the coop then you must have someone over 18 years old watching the chickens, which seemed ridiculous to her.

Discussion ensued between Angela Jones and Trustee Castrucci on pros vs cons of having chickens.

Other:

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM was made by Trustee Grant and seconded by Trustee Castrucci. All ayes, motion carried.

Next meeting-March 20th at 6:30 PM