

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING –July 18, 2013

Deputy Mayor Lockhart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Trustees Adamson, Sutor and VanDeusen, Attorney Caserta, Building Inspector Stevens, Police Chief Salada, Village Engineer Lannon and several residents and business owners. Mayor Reynolds was absent. Deputy Mayor Lockhart asked that all cell phones be silenced.

The Deputy Mayor asked for public comment. Norman Swann of Brampton Rd. stated that last Monday, a tree on Main St. was cut down. The summer DPW workers were directing traffic in black shirts while three regular DPW workers stood on the sidewalk. Mr. Swann stated the summer help should have safety colored tee shirts while working.

Donna Huggins of Main St. discussed the 347 Main St. vacant lot property and the letter of intent to sell as well as grants. She stated with the help of Trustee Adamson, Attorney Damon DeCastro, Youngstown Business Association President and Secretary, Cheryl and Mark Butera and Engineer Lannon, the first step has been put in motion to attempt to obtain the property. Trustee Adamson advised those in attendance that the property owners Gary Smith and Pittsford, New York Attorney Palumbo are asking \$250,000.00 for the lot with a \$5,000.00 non-refundable retainer, good for specific number of months. He also discussed grants including non-matching and Greenway funds. Trustee Adamson then introduced Attorney DeCastro who joined the meeting late. Mr. DeCastro stated he sent a proposal to Mr. Palumbo but not all terms were accepted. The owners are interested in making money from the sale and not interested in donating any part of it. Mr. DeCastro stated he was interested in purchasing the property approximately two years ago offering \$200,000.00 which was declined.

Engineer Lannon gave information on HERF funds offered by the New York State Power Authority which can be used for land acquisition but with some specifications, namely if the land has been impacted by the Power Authority or involves endangered species. Mr. Lannon stated he would make inquiries regarding the HERF funds.

Mrs. Huggins stated the owners of the property have had it for approximately six years, maintained it minimally and paid taxes on it suggesting the owners would want to sell the lot. Attorney DeCastro stated the owners can hold on to their property until they can get their asking price. Mr. DeCastro stated that even if the Village qualified for HERF funding, it would take approximately 18 months to receive and longer than the retainer time limit.

Building Inspector Stevens stated that anytime you hunt for a property that doesn't have a "for sale" sign on it, the price automatically goes up. He then named all the parks already in the Village. Referring to the business owners, Mr. Stevens stated he understood the reasons why they wanted the property to become a park. Youngstown Business Association President Cheryl Butera stated having the property as a park was for the good of the Village and the YBA members agree.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart suggested available funding options be explored. Trustee VanDeusen questioned if the majority of residents are for such a project. Mr. DeCastro stated most people vote with their pockets. He added that waterfront property is prime property.

Mona Lockhart of Oak St. questioned grants and the effects over-valued properties had on such funding. Ed Wojcik, owner of the Ontario House (Jug) discussed other municipalities getting grant funds for projects and why the Village couldn't. Trustee Sutor reported the Village has received over \$3,000,000.00 in grants in the past seven

years. Donna Huggins asked about appraisal costs for the property and Mr. DeCastro thought the cost would be in the \$600.00 plus range.

Mr. Lannon offered to research three sources of funding before the next Board meeting.

Norman Swann discussed the fact that the property once housed a gas station and that the Village needs to be careful there isn't contamination on site. He also discussed a need for political push as the Power Authority has affected this area with changes in water levels during their in-take of water.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated we must wait to get a determination on possible grants, of which Engineer Lannon will research before going forward. Mr. DeCastro stated that if funding is available, he will notify the owners.

Dennis Ketch of River Rd. addressed the matter of the vacant home on Main St. near the business district stating it's beyond looking bad and the owner should be ashamed of him or herself for the condition it is in. Building Inspector Stevens stated he is ashamed of himself for trying to work on a handshake with the owner, Alan Hastings who had taken out a demolition permit but with no results thus far.

Bruce Spira of Third St. stated the dumpster at the apartment building at the corner of Lockport and Third Sts. is an eyesore and asked if barricade fencing could be placed around it. Building Inspector Stevens asked that he stop in at the Village Office and submit a complaint form.

Jack Bush of Third St. asked about the parking on Water St. Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated work is still in progress. Trustee Suitor reported lines still need to be placed. A brief discussion took place regarding times for parking.

Ed Wojcik asked if a "no parking" area could be placed on the east side of Lockport St at his business due to safety issues. Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated the matter would be reviewed and Mr. Wojcik would be notified thereafter.

Jack Bush asked if bolts at the dock could be covered at the area which was repaired. Building Inspector Stevens stated he would check on the bolts and take care of the problem.

Building Inspector Stevens submitted his monthly report for June 2013. Eleven permits were issued for work valued at \$23,189.00 and fees of \$370.00 were collected.

Police Chief Salada submitted his June report. 227 patrol hours were worked, 2,100 patrol miles were logged, 23 Village calls, 11 Town of Porter calls, 14 calls outside the Village, 8 UTT'S issued, 11 parked tickets issued and 4 arrests were made. Trustee Adamson alerted the Chief of gas cans being stolen from sheds on Glenvale Rd. The Chief will investigate.

DPW Superintendent Muller was absent but submitted his monthly report. No overtime hours were worked and 82.74 tons of garbage collected. The Deputy Mayor stated a price quote has been received in the amount of \$2,458.60 for 18 linear feet of guardrail and its installation, replacing the guardrail destroyed in a recent single car accident on Main and Church Sts. Trustee Adamson motioned to accept the quote and proceed with installation, seconded by Trustee Suitor and carried.

Engineer Lannon provided the Board with his report which included an estimated cost of \$200,000.00 - \$300,000.00 to re-roof the Cold Storage building to make it usable. A brief discussion took place to explore cost options of demolition verses repair. Demolition costs were determined to be less costly. Building Inspector Stevens stated there are people who salvage timbers of which there may be some still in the Cold Storage building.

Attorney Caserta had nothing to report and will address items as they come up during the meeting.

The minutes of the June 13, 2013 Board meeting were approved by motion of Trustee Suitor, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Utility taxes received from Vonage-\$6.22, Dominion-\$1.21, AT&T-\$4.26, Time Warner Cable-\$86.33, Granite Telecom-\$2.22, MCI-\$5.38, Niagara Mohawk-\$2,329.50, National Fuel-\$2,128.28, Niagara County Mortgage Tax for June-\$10,200.78 up \$3,090.24 from the same time period last year and Niagara County Sales Tax for May-\$30,066.11 up \$1,617.50 from the same time period last year. So noted.
2. Notification from Niagara County Refuse Disposal District that they are no longer accepting waste and recycling materials at the Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill located in Lockport as of July 3, 2013. So noted.
3. Thank you received from St. John's Episcopal Church for use of tables and chairs for their annual Strawberry Fest. So noted.

AGENDA

1. Trustee Adamson motioned to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers for period ending June 30, 2013-General Fund-\$34,437.63, Water Fund-\$7,049.06, Sewer Fund-\$967.32 and Trust Agency-\$1,850. and for period ending July 18, 2013-General Fund-\$180,954.17, Water Fund-\$20,695.15, Sewer Fund-\$6,988.32 and Trust Agency-\$1,015.00. Trustee VanDeusen seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.
2. Annual Level Regatta Kick-Off Street Party scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2013 for the 40th and final Youngstown Yacht Club Regatta. Chairperson Sue MacNaughton asked that the Village close off Main Street from Lockport St. to Hinman St. from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sue and committee also ask for addition trash barrels along the street as well as Port-a-Potties. Trustee Adamson motioned to approve the requests, seconded by Trustee Suitor and carried. Trustee Suitor will contact Modern Disposal regarding the Port-a-Potties.
3. Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co. invitation for the Youngstown Board of Trustees to participate in the annual Labor Day Parade on Monday, September 2nd which begins at noon. (Line-up time 11:00 a.m.) Trustee Adamson motioned to have the Board participate in the parade, seconded by Trustee Suitor and carried.
4. Request from Kiwanis to collect donations on August 10, 2013 at Main and Lockport Sts. Trustee Adamson stated the Board must respectfully decline the Kiwanis request due to prohibitive traffic law. Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated the Kiwanis will be advised of the Lion's Club collection denial.
5. Need for one additional van driver. Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated there has been one applicant but stated the person prefers not drive during inclement winter weather. Trustee VanDeusen suggested the applicant be considered for a temporary substitute position and that we advertise for other applicants.
6. Letter from Paul Mamon requesting relief on his Third St. property water/sewer bill after a leak was discovered. Trustee Suitor stated that the Board must respectfully decline the water billing relief request and Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated the Village is unable to offer relief due to contractual agreements.
7. The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. So noted.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

REPORTS

Trustee VanDeusen stated she is working on the annual Community Picnic and attending meetings of the International Joint Commission. Trustee Sutor stated the International Joint Commission has been changing the water levels in the lake. Trustee VanDeusen stated many are voicing disapproval of this activity.

Trustee Adamson reported the Recreation Commission has received a request from a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout project to replace the nameplates on trees at Falkner Park. Because of some obstacles and concerns for the health of the trees, the project will not go forward at this time. Trustee Adamson then reported on a complaint he received regarding the Buffalo Bio-Diesel pick-up of material at a nearby business at 3:00 a.m., disturbing Mr. Ashker at his home. Attorney Caserta stated this is a neighbor to neighbor request and suggested Mr. Ashker let his neighbor know and a time change for pick-up might be arranged. Trustee Adamson stated he will contact Buffalo Bio-Diesel after talking to Brennan's Restaurant.

Trustee Adamson reported the grass at apartments on Second and Hinman Sts. is not getting cut by the property owner. Neighbors of the property have been doing partial cuts.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart reported Arborist Jeff Tower is willing to offer a tree trimming class in Falkner Park for residents in August.

Trustee Adamson stated the two summer DPW workers were overlooked when the new budget was prepared. Trustee Adamson then motioned to give the two summer workers a three percent (3%) raise, seconded by Trustee Sutor and carried.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart reported a citizen's complaint regarding not knowing where the public bathrooms were located. A brief discussion took place regarding locations. The Deputy Mayor then stated he would like to see budgetary adjustments next fiscal year to have the wading pool open on weekends and evenings.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart has received a request to update the website to include information regarding Trustee / department liaisons. Trustee Sutor will make the update.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart asked for any further public comment. Mark Butera reported the webcam is working again. He also asked that the Village website link to the Youngstown Business Association's website which would allow access to local business information. Trustee Sutor will also make these updates.

Trustee Adamson then stated the raise for the two summer DPW workers is to be retroactive to their employment start date.

With no further business, Trustee Adamson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Sutor and carried. The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Castilon
Clerk Treasurer

