

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING –SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

Mayor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Deputy Mayor Lockhart, Trustees Adamson Sutor and VanDeusen, Attorney Caserta, DPW Superintendent Muller, Building Inspector Stevens, several Lew-Port students and several interested residents. The Mayor then asked everyone to silence their electronic devices.

Mayor Reynolds asked for public comment. Tim Wilkesmore of Lockport St. and Village employee discussed his concerns for safety and the need for Village code updates regarding hunting in the Village. He stated that two years ago he found hunters behind his property. Mr. Wilkesmore stated that if the code remains as it is, he will get a certificate and get out his bow. He then spoke as a concerned employee in complying with the mandated New York State Storm Water Coalition for grass, leaves and debris to be kept out of storm sewers, catch basins and drains. He stated that every week some residents and lawn care companies sweep or blow grass out into the street, with some being pushed out past the street's white line. Mr. Wilkesmore stated the Village continues to comply with the Coalition regulations by cleaning streets with the co-owned street sweeper. He mentioned one Lockport St. home in particular that continues to blow grass into the street. Mayor Reynolds stated the Board would look into the matter. With no further public comment, the meeting continued.

Building Inspector Stevens stated things were going well in the Village. Trustee VanDeusen stated the landscaping done at the Lockport St. apartment building looked very nice. This was done after Building Inspector Stevens addressed complaints with the property owner of the unsightly dumpster on the property.

Police Chief Salada was absent.

DPW Superintendent Muller reported the crew has been trimming overhanging branches of Village trees as some have been brushing against school buses.

Engineer Lannon was absent.

Attorney Caserta had nothing to report and stated he would address items as they came up during the meeting.

The minutes of the September 12, 2013 Board meeting were approved by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Utility taxes received-Time Warner-\$86.12, AT&T-\$2.63, Granite Telecom-\$2.05, MCI-\$3.76, Niagara County Sales Tax for August-\$33,250.07 up \$2,155.02 from the same period last year and AIM (Aid & Incentives for Municipalities)-\$17,608.00 up \$1,542.00 from last September's distribution. So noted.
2. Tickets still available at the Village Office and area businesses for the Saturday, September 28th premier showing of "Hometown Pride" to be held in the Village Hall gym at 5:30 p.m. So noted. Trustee Adamson added there will also be a spaghetti dinner in the gym to benefit Fort Niagara and donated by Bandana's Restaurant. The cost is \$5.00.

AGENDA

1. The Abstract of Audited Vouchers for period ending September 26, 2013-General Fund-\$27,935.39, Water Fund-\$12,493.83 and Sewer Fund-\$1,068.99 was approved by motion of Trustee Suitor, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.
2. A request from Town of Porter Recreation to use the Cora Gushee Room on Wednesdays during the period of October 16-December 27, 2013 from 5-6 p.m. for family yoga and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. for adult yoga was approved by motion of Deputy Mayor Lockhart, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.
3. Recommendation by Mayor Reynolds, not to exceed \$2,000.00 for appraisal expense of property at 347 Main St. was approved by majority vote by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee Suitor. Deputy Mayor Lockhart voted nay and stated he stands by his earlier decision that he does not support using tax payer dollars for the appraisal.
4. Authorization for Clerk to make a budget adjustment to A1001, Tax Receivables in the amount of \$.33 to adjust for discrepancy in budget tax roll start-up figure due to rounding was approved by motion of Trustee Suitor, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.
5. A public hearing will be held at the next Board meeting on October 10, 2013 in regard to the Village drainage code. Attorney Caserta stated he may not be available that evening but Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated he would be comfort handling the public hearing as he is familiar with drainage information.
6. Authorization for Mayor to sign the annual lease agreement with RCR Yachts for the storage of boats at the North Village Dock property was approved by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.
7. A request to use the gym for annual Community Christmas Basket preparation and distribution, December 9-14, 2013 was approved by motion of Deputy Mayor Lockhart, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.
8. The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. The Board discussed having only one meeting in November and December, setting meeting dates for November 14 and December 12.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

REPORTS

Trustee VanDeusen reported attending the three hour Incident Command System Seminar which is to give elected officials basic knowledge and management skills in the event of an emergency. Trustee VanDeusen stated this program is nationwide since the September 11th national emergency and gives uniform procedures to follow.

Trustee Adamson reported he has been working with Dottie Riordan and the Historical Museum to update information at the Veteran's Memorial. Press releases will be sent out to the area newspapers and later paid advertising to encourage veterans to participate in the update. Applications will be due by Veteran's Day, November 11, 2013. The last update of information was done in 2004.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart reported the Library is looking for storage space in the old office of the Youngstown Police Department since the Library had used space in the room they are now using. He stated he will investigate what is needed. The Deputy Mayor also reported on concerns of a tree at 313 Main St. near the Main St. Gas and Grill as there is a question as to whose tree it is due to the closeness to the lot line. He will give

recommendations after review. Deputy Mayor Lockhart is working on a sanitary sewer cleaning schedule with DPW Superintendent Muller. He then discussed drainage on the north side of the Village of which he has talked to Town of Porter Highway Superintendent Scott Hillman and Councilman Joe Fleckenstein who is in favor of a joint effort to remedy any problem. A brief discussion took place regarding cattails in the area. Superintendent Muller reported he had called the State in the past and was told by the DOT that the area is a wetland and no cutting is allowed. Trustee Adamson stated the water from Bonwyn Acres drains in that area.

Mayor Reynolds asked for public comment again. Donna Huggins apologized for being late to the meeting and discussed the 347 Main St. property asking about the certificate given when clean-up of the property was done several years ago. Mayor Reynolds stated Engineer Lannon has met with individuals regarding the HERF funds which they determined not to be appropriate funding for the acquisition of the Main St. property. A discussion also took place regarding revitalization of the area which comes under the LWRP, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Attorney Caserta will speak to Mr. Girasole to see when an appraisal of the property could be done.

Superintendent Muller alerted the Board of the wasted energy used in the Board Room lights as they are old and require 300 watt bulbs. He also stated concerns of the wiring which is dried out and deteriorating. Building Inspector Stevens stated the fixtures could be re-wired with energy efficient fixtures, keeping the old lamps and stated he has been researching lights that resemble the old style but are energy efficient. Dottie Riordan of Second St. stated the existing lights are from the 1950's and good prices have been found for replacements.

Town of Porter Assessor Susan Driscoll reported there is confusion regarding the STAR exemptions. The registration applies only to the Basic STAR exemption and has no effect on the Enhanced Star exemptions for senior citizens. She left flyers which will be displayed in the Village Hall and noted that she has a computer for use by residents without computers to complete the required registration. Assessor Driscoll offered her assistance to those with questions in registering.

Mayor Reynolds asked grant writer Bernie Rotella for an update as he had just joined the meeting in progress. He touched on grant funds for the demolition of the Cold Storage building and information for water line replacement on Route 93. Mr. Rotella stated new paperwork is required to change the scope of work for a previously award grant from Senator Maziarz. Mayor Reynolds asked about the final \$10,000. distribution for the South Waterfront grant. Mr. Rotella stated Noelle Kardos of the State is working on it and Mr. Rotella will check on its status. He informed the Board of other upcoming grants but has found nothing for the Main St. property acquisition. He advised that any Greenway project takes approximately 18 months for the review process of the AdHoc committee, advising that Niagara County could be our sponsor. Mayor Reynolds asked if there were grant funds for the purchase of a new senior citizens van of which Mr. Rotella replied there is nothing available. Mr. Rotella reported on the cross-border ferry project which the Western New York Regional Council is excited about but is being held up on the Canadian side of the border due to the financial aspect. He stated that those working toward the ferry project suggested the U.S. pay for the customs booth on the Canadian side and expenses associated with it to get the project moving due to its profitability to all concerned.

With no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Adamson to adjourn, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Castilon
Clerk Treasurer

