

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING –NOVEMBER 14, 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, Police Chief Salada, Village Engineer Lannon and several interested residents. The Mayor asked that all cell phones be silenced.

Mayor Reynolds announced that before the public portion of the meeting, David Burke of Burke Homes would give an update as he had been given preferred developer status for the Cold Storage site. Mr. Burke displayed drawings and passed out a written update to the Board. He then stated his plans are for a two story, thirty unit complex of one and two bedroom apartments. He reported he has met with the Niagara County IDA for support and is also asking for Village support for tax relief. Trustee VanDeusen stated the Board learned of Mr. Burke's meeting with the IDA by reading it in the newspaper. Trustee Adamson had several questions regarding the project which Mr. Burke was able to answer. The complex will be built on a slab, have no basement, will be a wooden frame, vinyl and stone exterior, have a pitched roof, energy efficient, have a lobby, community rooms on both floors and storage for each unit. Parking will be in the rear of the approximate \$3.2M complex. Donna Huggins of Main Street asked who would get the project "shovel ready". Mr. Burke stated he would do the abatement on the property. Attorney Caserta asked that Mr. Burke provide him with a copy of Mr. Burke's application to the IDA. Mr. Caserta advised Mr. Burke that the Village Board will not meet again until December 12, 2013 in the event he needed something from the Board for the IDA. Mayor Reynolds thanked Mr. Burke for his update.

The Mayor then proceeded on to the public portion of the meeting and asked for comment. Donna Huggins of the Historical Society stated Dale Ellsworth, also from the Historical Society had written a letter stating the Society would be purchasing another twenty five folding chairs for the Cora Gushee Room and asked if the Board would consider purchasing twenty five chairs also at a cost of \$19.99 each. Mrs. Huggins then asked if the appraisal has been done for the vacant lot at 347 Main St. Attorney Caserta stated he spoke to the appraiser earlier in the day and should have the information next week.

Stu Comerford of Lockport St. and member of the Youngstown Lions Club asked the Board if they wanted the Lions to cook hot dogs at the Christmas in the Village event. Mayor Reynolds stated that if the Lions were able to do the hot dog stand, that would be great. Mr. Comerford asked who would pay for the supplies. The Mayor confirmed with the Clerk that the Village had not paid for supplies in the past. Mr. Comerford will check with the Lions Club as to their ability to undertake the event. Mrs. Huggins asked if her group of volunteers could decorate the room where the Victorian Tea would be held on the Friday prior to the Christmas in the Village celebration. Mayor Reynolds stated she could.

Mona Lockhart of Oak St. stated the DPW did a nice job on trimming trees in the Village.

Building Inspector Stevens submitted his monthly report for October. 7 permits were completed for work valued at \$115,800., 1 Certificate of Occupancy was issued and \$575. in fees was collected. Mr. Stevens stated he has been dealing with an on-going problem which involves homes in foreclosure and the banks not releasing information on who owns and or is responsible for the upkeep of such homes. He also discussed problems with reimbursement from the County when maintenance expenses incurred by the Village are not allowed to be placed on tax bills. Recently, a barn at one such property located at 475 Lockport St. was entered. Unable to ascertain who was responsible for the property, Inspector Stevens secured the property against further trespassers and for safety. A broken tree limb on the same property had to be removed for safety reasons in the event a child were to climb it and fall. He reported Attorney Caserta has sent out two letters requesting information with no response. Inspector Stevens asked if he can post the name and phone number of the attorneys handling such foreclosures or take the property by eminent domain. Attorney Caserta stated the Village

could not take the properties by eminent domain and reported that unpaid water is one of the only allowable tax liens by Niagara County after a problem in the past when a Town placed a lien on a property in their municipality. Mr. Caserta stated a letter to the foreclosure firms might change things. Inspector Stevens stated he has had better results when a property maintenance company is put in charge of unoccupied properties. Attorney Caserta will check on the foreclosure status and when the next conference is to make Mr. Stevens aware. He then explained the conference involves the property owner who is in foreclosure. Inspector Stevens reiterated his frustration when he receives a complaint from neighbors of unkempt and abandoned properties, he is unable to get needed information for resolve and time and money is wasted trying to track the responsible parties. Inspector Stevens stated it is not acceptable for the Village to have to bear costs in these situations. Trustee Adamson stated there are 12 abandoned homes in the Village. Attorney Caserta will check on these properties.

Police Chief Salada submitted his monthly report for October. 190 patrol hours were worked, 976 patrol miles logged, 10 Village calls, 12 Town of Porter calls, 16 calls outside the Village, 2 UTT's issued, 3 parking tickets issued and no arrests were made. Chief Salada also reported he received a letter of thanks and plaque for assisting with the Hospice Run, Walk and Half Marathon.

DPW Superintendent Muller submitted his October report. 2 hours of overtime was worked and 38.06 tons of garbage collected. He reported the tree trimming has been completed and the crew is now working on leaf pick-up. A new cap has been placed on the Village Hall chimney and the Village Hall clock has been repaired. Two new tires are needed for the backhoe at a cost of \$695. each. The salter has been attached to the truck in preparation for winter.

Engineer Lannon reported he will attend the November 19, 2013 Greenway meeting to get information on the status of the proposed Water St. project. A brief discussion took place regarding the LWRP grant. Mr. Lannon will speak to grant writer Bernie Rotella regarding the matter.

Attorney Caserta reported he has pictures of the Swain Rd. bridge which shows its deteriorating condition. He will draft a letter to the County on Friday or Monday regarding the matter.

The minutes of the October 24, 2013 meeting were approved by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee Suitor and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Utility taxes received-Vonage-\$6.14 and Birch Communications-\$9.08. So noted
2. Letter of thanks and plaque received from Paul Beatty Jr. for the Village's support of the successful Hospice Run, Walk and Half Marathon. So noted and reported earlier by Police Chief Salada.

AGENDA

1. The Abstract of Audited Vouchers for period ending November 14, 2013-General Fund-\$56,924.53, Water Fund-\$1,380.19 and Sewer Fund-\$808.83 was approved by motion of Trustee Suitor, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.
2. Authorization for the Mayor and Village Board to sign the list of overdue taxes as of November 1, 2013 in the amount of \$12,540.89 and for the Clerk to submit them to Niagara County Real Property Tax Service was made by motion of Deputy Mayor Lockhart, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.
3. Authorization for the Village Clerks to attend the Niagara County Municipal Clerks Association meeting and Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 6th was made by motion of Deputy Mayor Lockhart, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.

4. Approval of monthly balance sheets, revenues and appropriation reports for General Water, Sewer and Trust Agency for periods ending June, July, August, September and October 2013 was made by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lockhart and carried.
5. Authorization to transfer appropriations for 2013-2014 General Fund in the amount of \$1,703.00 and Water Fund in the amount of \$3,635.00 to off-set overspent line items was approved by motion of Trustee VanDeusen, seconded by Trustee Sutor and carried.
6. Notice of upcoming New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and FEMA seminar on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Lockport. Mayor Reynolds asked if anyone would be available to attend the meeting and asked that they check their schedules for availability. Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated it would be a good idea to attend as emergency management training is reviewed before receiving FEMA funding in the event of an emergency.
7. The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Only one meeting will be held in November and December due to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. An additional meeting was then set for Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. after the Board learned Mr. Burke will be meeting again with the IDA prior to the December 12th Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee VanDeusen reported the Youngstown Lions Club will be selling reflective address signs. These signs would assist first responders in locating addresses of homes in the darkness of night. Applications will be available at the Village Office and Trustee VanDeusen will pick up and deliver forms and checks to the Lions Club. The cost is \$16.00 per sign Trustee VanDeusen then motioned to approve the Village's participation with the Lions project, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried. Mayor Reynolds spoke from his experience of an ambulance volunteer for the Youngstown Fire Co. that the reflective signs would be very helpful when looking for an address during an emergency.

Mayor Reynolds then asked for the Board's thoughts on the Historical Society's request for the Village's purchase of folding chairs, with 25 being paid for by the Historical Society and 25 by the Village. Trustee Adamson motioned to approve the purchase of 25 folding chairs by the Village, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lockhart and carried.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart then motioned to approve the purchase and mounting of two tires for the backhoe as mentioned earlier in Superintendent Muller's report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sutor and carried.

Trustee Sutor reported on the need to renew the Village's contract for computer backup for the Village Office which will expire soon. Trustee Sutor then motioned to renew the contract at a cost of \$340., seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.

REPORTS

Trustee Adamson reported attending the Recreation Commission meeting and the upcoming Christmas in the Village celebration. The Commission will keep expenses for the event at \$600. or less with \$150. for music by Step in Time, funds for pictures to be taken of the children which will be the children's gifts to their parents, small gifts for Santa to give out and for cookies. He also reported floor hockey ends this week and basketball will start in the new year along with an open gym night and dances for the youth. An update was also given regarding the veteran's memorial. An additional 50

applications have been received and the committee has decided to accept applications until February 2014 with a possible dedication date of Memorial Day 2014.

Trustee VanDeusen reported she has no new information regarding RRG but is still attending the meetings.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart thanked the Department of Public Works for keeping up with the mowing. He also stated the brush pick up schedule needs to be reviewed before the notice to residents goes out. Deputy Mayor Lockhart reported attending a meeting of the Lewiston Water Pollution Control Center last night with other municipalities and learned that due to new regulations, sanitary sewers need to be inspected yearly. Mayor Reynolds who also attended the meeting stated this in another unfunded mandate for the Village. Deputy Mayor Lockhart discussed the inspections with the Control Center's supervisor, Jeff Ritter and learned that equipment has been purchased by LWPCC. Also, the high pressure sewer cleaner is getting old and will soon need to be replaced by all four municipalities connected with LWPCC and a schedule of cleanings and inspections will be worked out among the municipalities.

Trustee Adamson stated he wanted to go on record stating he thinks it is importance for the Village residents to have brush pick up each week as they pay taxes for such services in the Village. Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated the Board will have to review the matter and make a decision in this regard.

Deputy Mayor Lockhart went on to state the Village is compliant in storm water reporting and Building Inspector Stevens is now doing the report. The Deputy Mayor will be calling the DOT regarding any possible plans they may have to repave Lockport St. He also reported attending the Veteran's Day service honoring veterans and he also thanked the veterans during the Board meeting. The event was well attended. Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated concerns of pedestrian traffic on Water St. and will inquiry about "watch for pedestrians" signs for placement at the top and bottom of the street. Superintendent Muller offered to make inquiries with Niagara County as he has purchased signs from them in the past for the Village. The Deputy Mayor then passed on information regarding two chestnut trees on Main St. near the Presbyterian Church after speaking to arborist Jeff Tower. One is still serviceable while the second one is in bad shape and recommended getting prices to have it removed.

Mayor Reynolds asked if there was any other public comment. Jack Bush of Third St. asked if the sewers would be inspected using a camera at which time Deputy Mayor Lockhart stated they would. A brief discussion took place regarding the sewers which included sealing and I and I work.

With no further comments, Trustee Adamson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried. The meeting ended at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Castilon
Clerk Treasurer

