

# Village of Youngstown

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## Village of Youngstown Board of Trustees Minutes – November 9, 2023

**PRESENT:** Mayor Reisman, Deputy Mayor Stortecky, Trustee Stella, Trustee Stevens, Attorney Caserta, Building Inspector Stevens, Engineer Lannon, Clerk-Treasurer Brown.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Quarantillo, Recreation Director Guarin, Chief Paul.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Reisman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Reisman then opened the meeting to public comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT--all comments shall be kept to 3 minutes and directed to the Village Board of Trustees.**

Lois Kaminsky, President of the Youngstown Lions Club addressed the Board with a statement regarding background checks for Christmas in the Village. Mrs. Kaminsky then directed her questions to Code Enforcement Officer Stevens, who advised he could not answer her and Mrs. Kaminsky directed her question to Attorney Caserta. Attorney Caserta noted that there are four things the Village is checking, Any current order of protection, registry for abuse or neglect, sexual abuse registry and any current warrants. These are vital things the Village must try to ensure are covered for events they sponsor. Mrs. Kaminsky had a lengthy dialogue expressing her discontent with the background's checks noting they were invading her privacy and noted how long she had been involved in community activities. Attorney Caserta noted that the Village is responsible for parties that we sponsor, but cannot control people that walk through the door. A person attending an event by the Village would not be subject to a background check as we do not have control over them. A vendor that is participating at a Village event would be under our control and would require a background check. The check is not into any personal finances, just the four things Attorney Caserta noted.

Terry Cummings from the Lions Club asked about what is done with the information the Police obtain. Attorney Caserta noted it is only with the Youngstown Police Department. Mr. Cummings asked how people would be assured that was the case. Attorney Caserta noted that the Board could certify the statement.

Mrs. Kaminsky addressed the Board again asking if something was found, what would be done. Attorney Caserta noted that would depend on several factors. Stu and Debby Comerford also addressed the Board noting they were not in agreement with the practice of the background checks.

Pete Kaminsky, Lions Club and Youngstown Volunteer Fire Company member, stated he felt everyone should get the background check, asked if street vendors would be checked and noted to the Board, he felt this was “bs”. Mr. Kaminsky argued with Attorney Caserta and Mayor Reisman called the public comment to order.

Mr. Cummings asked if the Village was doing this for liability reasons dealing with insurance policies. Attorney Caserta noted anything to protect the Village is a good path. Mrs. Kaminsky noted their Board would decide if they will participate in the event and that she also felt the vendor fee notation was misleading on the flyers.

Edward Lynch addressed the Board noting he and his friends felt the Board was doing great for the community.

Mayor Reisman moved on to Board reports, asking for any updates.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**POLICE:** Absent

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:** Just to keep you all up to speed we have continued working around the village trying to complete the summer projects! All the dirt work for sidewalks have been completed. I have given all the paperwork that’s needed to the Clerk’s office to submit for reimbursement. Lions Park had about a dozen trees planted this month where my guys assisted by digging the hole for the Lions club to complete their project. Also, Cambria Asphalt donated 150 ton of stone for the pathway that is going to be installed. I want to thank Porter Highway for helping haul the stone in. As you can see all the hanging baskets have been removed, and the irrigation lines have been blown out for the winter season. The Home Town Hero banners, American flags and Village Flags will be taken down after Veterans Day. We have shut down the restrooms at Vets, Falkner, and Water St. All of our trucks have been inspected and are being prepped to be oiled. This will prevent any rust from forming on the undercarriage of the trucks. Both the small red and yellow dump trucks had to have new exhaust pipes installed done by our department. We also had a transmission issue with the small red dump truck where it had to be hauled out on a flatbed low boy. Thank you, Town of Cambria! We have serviced the Sr Van had new tires installed and is now ready for the winter months! The closets in the Cora Gushee room have been cleaned out, the divider wall and shelving have been removed for the use by the Historical Society. As you can see, we have been very busy picking up leaves which will continue well into December! Everyone has completed the sexual harassment and work place violence training for this year! AT&T has been working diligently to wrap up their project and should be completed very soon! The Dr Office on 120 LKPT St property had to have a new

thermostat installed. The heat in that building is set to 50 degrees! Finally, we have started fall clean up! We will be picking up leaves through November and December.

**ENGINEER:** At this point, we are still waiting for the conformed contracts to come back from Milherst. Following receipt, we can have the Mayor sign the contracts (after Tom reviews same) and issue a notice to proceed. I'll check with Milherst for any updates prior to the meeting.

Attorney Caserta added that he wanted the contractor to acknowledge the payment process will revolve around the payment schedule from DASNY. Engineer Lannon noted it had already been noted in the minutes of the pre-construction meeting and the contractor was aware and accepted the payment schedule based on DASNY requirements and payment processing.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** No update.

**ATTORNEY:** Updating issues during the meeting.

**CLERKS OFFICE:** The office continues to wrap things up with the auditors. We have begun registration for Christmas in the Village. The horse and carriage are booked and we are taking registration for vendors. Workplace Violence and Harassment training have been assigned and we will be following up with those that have not completed the required courses. We are in the process of completing the Gold Certification requirement with NYS retirement for reporting. The REDI project contract has been awarded and we continue to work on the requirements needed as they arise.

**RECREATION:** Indoor Programs are starting to pick up due to the weather changing. Basketball sign-ups will be released this week. Halloween Party We had 123 kids registered for the parade and the trunk or treat seemed to be a success. Next year the goal would be to get 15-20 cars and add a few more categories for costume winners. Christmas walk Next rec meeting we will plan out the remainder of the Party that will run 1-3 with Santa.

**AGENDA:**

**ABSTRACT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS:**

Approval of the Abstract of Audited Vouchers for the period from October 13-November 9, 2023 in the amount of \$169,895.99.

General: \$115,850.13  
Water: \$ 27,627.58  
Sewer: \$ 11,459.36  
H Capital: \$ 14,958.02

Trust:	\$	0.00
Total		\$169,895.99

Motion to approve the abstract of audited vouchers was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

**BOARD CONSIDERATION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

Request for authorization for the Mayor and Board to sign the returned Village taxes in the amount of \$21,675.57 on 18 properties for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and for the Clerk-Treasurer to return them to Niagara County Real Property Tax Services for reimbursement.

Motion to approve the authorization for returned taxes was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request for the Clerk-Treasurer to make a budget adjustment for REDI payment number seven in the amount of \$14,958.02. Credit to H3089 and debit H1440.4.

Motion to approve the budget adjustment was made by Trustee Stevens, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Trustee Stella reported that the Chamber will hold its Christmas breakfast 12/13 and is looking for a more interactive path and partnership with municipalities. The YBPA will hold its meeting in January and Mark and Cheryl Butera will be stepping down as President and Secretary.

Trustee Stevens reported that the work order was submitted to National Grid and a meeting and date are being scheduled to review the placement of the EV charger. There will be a Veteran ceremony on 11/11 at Fort Niagara. Trustee Stevens also noted that she was elected to represent the best interest of the residents and would like to on record that she is in favor of transparency and not in favor of the Village being dissolved or departments split bit by bit off to the Town of Porter to handle.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky noted that he would like to second what Trustee Stevens stated about the Village and the Town. Deputy Mayor Stortecky noted that he would like to inform everyone of the new 501C3 organization, Friends of Youngstown which was formed to benefit the Village of Youngstown. The organization has a website, FOY14174.com and Facebook page and can take donations by credit card, Venmo and several other forms. The first project they are working on is making the Splash pad interactive, which could be in the area of \$5,000.00. The next meeting is 11/28. Deputy Mayor Stortecky noted he would like to recognize Christine Rath for bringing this group together. Deputy Mayor Stortecky noted he would be working with this group.

Mayor Reisman noted that he asked Deputy Mayor Stortecky to be the liaison to Friends of Youngstown. Mayor Reisman reported that he attended the Town of Lewiston Waste Water Treatment meeting with Jeff Ritter. They are doing a great job and tours can be scheduled of the facility. 50% of the water being treated is rain water which is costly and they are working on plans to correct this. They will be looking at manholes and rehab that will help in this area. There will be a .05 cent/gallon rate increase in January. Mayor Reisman also reported that the Achieves grant is moving forward and the Mayors room is empty. The Historical Society has relocated their records to the Cora Gushee room. The steps for the future will be to digitize Village records retaining hard copies of what we are required to keep.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next Village Board meeting will be December 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

So noted.

Christmas in the Village will be held December 9, 2023 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Come enjoy horse & carriage rides, Santa, Vendor Fair, Business activities on Main St and the dedication of the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Company's new ambulance.

So noted.

Attorney Caserta requested an Executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

With no further business, Trustee Stella made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into Executive session at 7:44 p.m., seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

Motion to adjourn Executive session and enter into regular session was made at 7:59 p.m. by Trustee Stella, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made at 8:00 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Stortecky, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.

Submitted by:

Wendy Brown  
Clerk-Treasurer