

Village of Youngstown

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Village of Youngstown Board of Trustees Minutes– January 11, 2024

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Stortecky, Trustee Quarantillo, Trustee Stella, Trustee Stevens, Attorney Caserta, Chief Paul, Engineer Lannon, Superintendent Quarantillo, Clerk-Treasurer Brown. **ABSENT:** Mayor Reisman, Recreation Director Guarin.

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

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

With no public comment, Deputy Mayor Stortecky moved on to Departmental reports.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

POLICE: In light of recent events and media coverage of undocumented persons crossing the river into our Country the officers have been more vigilant for any such encounters. In addition, the department has secured night vision equipment for night patrols. Officers have been and continue to be watchful during duty shifts with attention to speeding vehicles and security in and around the parks. The Officers have been out on patrol during the day, afternoon and nights. Lastly the department is in the process of hiring another Patrol Officer to help serve the community. Our agency has been officially recertified after a very lengthy process.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: December has been a mild one where we have been able to continue leaf pickup for the first couple of weeks. Once we had completed the last of the leaf piles, we did a final run of brush pick up. With the weather still cooperating I was able to have Falkner Park and Vets Park blown out and cleaned up in preparation of the spring “a head start”. The guys have been working on all the maintenance of the equipment I.E. lawn mowers, trucks, backhoe, ect. The leaf machine had a bunch of work done to it, from new seats, lights that were bad and a new clutch installed! This month we did our quarterly water reads for the clerk’s office, and bunch of final water reads, a couple I@I’s “home inspections”. The clerk’s office had their first

delivery of fire proof cabinets delivered which were unloaded and placed in the new records room! We will be getting to that this month.

I have been working side by side with the crew down on Water St making sure everything is moving along nicely and everyone is playing well together in the sand box! It has been a great experience thus far and will be beautiful once completed! I also have been working with some sub-contractors for the cold storage getting the appropriate information to them for future possible work to be done!! Regarding the Village Center. I have had a few contractors there looking over the building and giving prices to fix the chimney and the clock tower. As those numbers come in, I will compile a numbers list and send them out to the board for review with my recommendations. Superintendent Quarantillo added that there was a water main break on Main Street that required 10 hours of repair. The area has stone over it currently and will be addressed after it settles.

ENGINEER: The REDI Project is under construction and is expected to continue this week. We are awaiting a price from the Contractor for the storm sewer outfall repair at this time.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Good evening, honorable Trustees of the Village of Youngstown, I am still getting accustomed to the newly acquired role of Code Enforcement Officer for Village municipal activities, please allow me some time to learn the Local Laws and the Village protocols as we move toward shared services between the Town of Porter and the Village of Youngstown. I have informally met with Wendy, Amy, and Alex at the Village office on a few occasions to begin learning my role and develop a understanding of their needs. I am planning to formally meet with Mayor Reisman, Deputy mayor Stortecky, Wendy, Amy, and Alex in the near future to formalize some procedural as well as proposed Code Enforcement plans. I have, with support from all involved, been out for three Building Permit related Inspections for open Building permits in the Village, to date. The Griffon Brewery is nearing their formal opening date proposed for February 5, 2024. I will be working with the owners to ensure that the Building Code elements are in place and ready for the opening date. This Business appears to be a great new opportunity for the both the Village, as a whole, and the Griffon, in my opinion.

ATTORNEY: Attorney Caserta noted that he has received a purchase contract for 701 Nancy Price Drive and 120 Lockport Street. Both documents are being reviewed and will be moving forward once necessary paperwork is completed.

CLERKS OFFICE: We have received delivery of our shelves for the Mayor's room for our archives project. Our cabinets are here as well. The DPW will assemble the shelves and we will begin the process of storing records. The DPW will be installing flooring in the records part of the office so when the new cabinets are placed they will not have to be moved again as they weigh over 400 pounds without files. Alicia Jettner will be in this week to work on the labeling aspect of the project as well. Your January financials will be ready this week for your review. We are

working on year end payroll and reporting and issuing W2's and 1099's. We will be starting preparations for the May 2024 election and the 2024 budget. Water billing has been issued and mailed for January. Photo ID's have been completed and distributed to the employees. The Tap-Cmaq grant application for Veteran's Park has been completed and submitted. The management of REDI project continues. Working with the Building Inspector in the Town of Porter to handling permits received. Clerk-Treasurer Brown added that the office is working with Niagara County Veterans group for an outreach event at the Village offices in May. They will offer Veterans all the services they provide at the County. Details will be posted.

RECREATION: Christmas Party was a success. We will try to get a "real" mailbox for next year for kids to mail their letters to Santa. We mailed out responses and parents messaged me that their kid was happy to receive that! Indoor will open up in approximately a week or so. We will have open gym and crafts and then sign-ups will be released for co-ed hockey Punchlist: gym mats, paint (dpw), Batting cage for vets? Upcoming: Plan for the Nancy Price Race. I will start planning summer programs in the next month or so as well.

AGENDA:

ABSTRACT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS:

Approval of the Abstract of Audited Vouchers for the period from December 15, 2023-January 11, 2024 in the amount of \$214,465.22.

General:	\$	44,413.15
Water:	\$	27,938.38
Sewer:	\$	27,804.11
H Capital:	\$	114,309.58
Trust:	\$	0.00
Total		\$214,465.22

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

ITEMS:

Correspondence: Letter of resignation received from Building Inspector Stevens effective January 1, 2024.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky noted the letter of resignation was received and accepted for the end of day 1/1/24. So noted.

BOARD CONSIDERATION ON THE FOLLOWING:

Approval of a budget journal adjustment to record REDI payment #8 for \$114,309.58.

Motion to approve the budget journal was made by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request for approval of the increase to \$15.00/hr. for minimum wage effective 1/1/24. This would affect part-time Recreation staff, and Sr. Van Driver employee.

Motion to approve was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request for approval for Building use for Alex Certo (Village employee) to use the gym on Saturday January 27, 2024 from 2:00 pm-6:00 p.m. for a birthday party.

Motion to approve the building use was made by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request from Mighty Niagara Half Marathon to hold the annual Hospice 5K Dash on Saturday October 5, 2024. This will follow the same route with the starting line at Artpark and post-race party at Porter on the Lake, passing through the Village.

Motion to approve the race was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request for authorization for Mayor Reisman to sign the annual easement agreement for 645/703 Main Street with Claudia Andres and 703 Main, LLC in the amount of \$150.00 each for the period of February 1, 2024-January 31, 2025.

Motion to approve the authorization was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request for authorization for the sale of real property known as 120 Lockport Street, Youngstown and authorization for Mayor Reisman to sign the contract as approved by Attorney Caserta with Happy Tails of Niagara LLC in the amount of \$172,000.00.

Motion to approve the authorization was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request from Town of Porter Recreation to hold Yoga classes from January 8, 2024-December 31, 2024, one class at 9:30 a.m. and one class at 6:30 p.m. in the Cora Gushee room on Tuesdays. Insurance is on file.

Motion to approve the use was made by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request for approval of the incoming Officers for the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Company for 2024:

YVFC Line Officers

Chief: Eric Wieland
1st Assistant: Greg Quarantillo
2nd Assistant: Tim Fogarty
3rd Assistant: James Panton
EMS Captain: Suzanne Burrows
EMS Lieutenant: Andrew Hanna
Line Secretary: Colin Campbell

YVFC Executive Officers

President: Virginia O'Neill
Vice President: Gary Bowman
Treasurer: Tim Wilkesmore
Recording Secretary: Kristen Acome
Trustee: Jim Pollow
Financial Secretary: Nicole Quarantillo
Steward: Tim Wilkesmore

Deputy Mayor Stortecky read the names in to record. Trustee Quarantillo abstained from the motion. Trustee Stella made a motion to approve the officers for the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Company for 2024, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

BOARD REPORTS:

Trustee Stella reported that the YBPA had a successful meeting this month. There are Board positions open and nominations were submitted. Members will review and vote on the positions. Mark and Cheryl Butera will be stepping down, but still be a part of the association. Trustee Stella thanked them for their 17 years of service with the YBPA. Trustee Stella reported that the Chamber is moving forward under their new reorganization. They had a successful breakfast in December for the members. The next event will be the awards dinner. It was noted that Lewiston has cancelled the eclipse event.

Trustee Stevens reminded all that there is a deadline for a deed violation at 570 Lockport St approaching. No one has an update on it at this time. Trustee Stevens noted after consideration, she will be the Labor Day Parade Chairperson. Trustee Stevens thanked Sheila Tubinis, Deb Comerford, Walt Mammon, Cathy Pasquantino for their service and efforts over the years. Trustee Stevens also thanked Wendy, Amy and Alex for their efforts on the parade over the years as well noting it is a large task with a great deal of coordination. Trustee Stevens will keep everyone apprised of the new committee. Trustee Stevens passed out information on the EV stations for the Board to review for input at the next meeting. There are two estimates for two locations that have different requirements. Please review this information and come ready to

discuss at the next meeting. Trustee Stevens spoke regarding the resignation of Building Inspector Stevens noting that the Village has lost several employees over the last year and a half including Chief Sutor, Trustee Comerford, Deputy Mayor Heath, and Superintendent Muller. Trustee Stevens noted that Building Inspector Stevens has been with the Village for ten years and lived in the Village his whole life. She continued that he passed up yearly raises to benefit the Village and was always on call. Trustee Stevens noted Building Inspector Stevens would be missed.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky reported that Community Solar Simplified has been designated as the admin for the area. If you have a National Grid account, you are eligible to apply for their savings program of 10% off your bill for the life of the contract (25-30 years). The municipality will receive \$50.00 per participant. There is also a NYSERTA program that offers payments to the municipality based on the number of people that sign up for the program. There will be a letter forthcoming with a registration form that is a few weeks out. Trustee Stevens asked if this was a private company and were others considered. Deputy Mayor Stortecky noted this company was the first and most prepared to offer a program in a timely manner.

Trustee Quarantillo reported that as the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Company liaison she is working on details regarding logistics for the solar eclipse and will work with the DPW and Clerks Office. Trustee Quarantillo noted that in a disaster event, the chain of command shifts as various agencies are called. When the Village calls 911 the Chief becomes in charge, if the County is called in, they then are in charge. Trustee Quarantillo noted she will not be in attendance at the 1/25/24 works session meeting and the 2/8/24 Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next work session will be January 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The next Village Board meeting will be February 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

So noted.

With no further business, motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Trustee Stevens at 7:28 p.m., seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor, motion was carried.

Submitted by:

Wendy Brown
Clerk-Treasurer