



INCORPORATED:  
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# Village of Youngstown

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## Village of Youngstown Board of Trustees Minutes – February 8, 2024

**PRESENT:** Mayor Reisman, Deputy Mayor Stortecky, Trustee Stella, Attorney Caserta, Chief Paul, Superintendent Quarantillo, Recreation Director Gruarin, Clerk-Treasurer Brown, Christine Rath, Volunteer Grant Writer. **ABSENT:** Trustee Quarantillo, Trustee Stevens, Engineer Lannon.

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

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

Henry Sloma of Carrollwood Drive addressed the Board regarding the recent uptick in activity with illegal border entry in our community. Mr. Sloma noted he expressed his concerns at the Clerk's Office and was glad that the Board took action with the community meeting held earlier in the evening at the Town of Porter. Mr. Sloma noted that this is the time to ensure things are addressed as a trickle leads to a flow. Mr. Sloma would like all to be aware and pay attention, noting illegal entry is improper and should be shut down. Mayor Reisman noted that he just came from the meeting at the Town of Porter and this was the first meeting and more will follow. Border Patrol noted the issues with crossing at the river has been happening since Border Patrol was formed in the area. There is an uptick at this time and the agency is aware and patrolling. Mayor Reisman noted there was a press conference earlier with Senator Ortt and there is much more to come. Mayor Reisman noted we have a beautiful Village, and are a border community and must remain vigilant. As Mayor and elected officials along with residents, if you see something say something to stay ahead of the issue. There were many people at the meeting at the Town of Porter and a larger venue will be secured for the next meeting. Mayor Reisman noted that the Village will respond as quickly and efficiently as possible and communicate information. Mayor Reisman noted that Border Patrol is limited in press release information as permission must be granted at a Federal level. Trustee Stella noted she is organizing a neighborhood watch program and hopes this will bring comfort to the neighborhood. Details will be forthcoming on the program.

With no further public comment, Mayor Reisman moved 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. Chief Paul added that he attended several meetings today on the border crossings and patrols are aware and engaged and are using the night vision equipment. The additional of another experienced officer will facilitate the efforts.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:** We installed new flooring the Clerks storage/ breakroom. We also moved all the fireproof cabinets in there as well. We are working with them to develop a better utilized space.” Lots of stuff little storage area”. We also have been working in the new records room putting all the new shelving together, moving the fire proof cabinets in there as well and working with Alisha to place all the files on the shelves. We were asked to hang a feminine item dispenser and a Narcan dispenser I the Library’s restrooms which we had done.

Vehicle maintenance is an ongoing thing for us. The door handle on my truck, had to be replaced and we are currently chasing a fuel/oil leak, along with the tire sensor light on. The small red dump truck had to have a new set of break lines installed. They were rotted right threw. Thankfully we caught it while in the Village at low speeds and not hauling outside the Village! We have had to change the cutting edges on both plows, and lower the rubber on the wing on truck #99 and we will have replaced the one on #16. We also are currently working on the salter for #16. Some pieces got damaged and need to be replaced. We replaced the plow lights on #16. With heavy snow the LED lights do not get hot enough to melt off the snow bringing down visibility, so we replaced them with heated head lights. The back hoe had to be sent out for repair. Two of the cylinders on the arm sprung leaks and had to be repaired. For the age of the backhoe, we are doing really good with minimal damage/repairs! “Knock on wood”.

On 1/11/24 we had a possible water main break on Main St. After hours of digging, we located the water main to find out that when they redid that line years ago, they never shut off an old house service just capped it. The cap finally rotted off this causing the line to leak. We are not sure how long it was leaking for but we got down to the main and shut it off. With this being said we are out at the site twice a week fixing the road cut. With the amount of rain we have had it keeps the area extremely wet making it difficult to manage. Once the area dries out we will black top it and be done! We had assistance from the Town of Porter with their backhoe that’s when ours broke. On 1/26/24 we had a rapid snow melt on top of heavy rain storm causing another system overload. Carrollwood and River Rd lift stations were at max capacity! We had a vacuum pump

failure in which it needed to be replaced and we now have a motor that needs to be removed and sent out for rebuilding. This isn't a common practice but will eventually happen from time to time! We had one complaint on Church St with a sewer backup coming from a basement bathroom. All other complaints that we had from the last storm we did not receive any this time around. I do know that back flow preventers were installed at some of the residents!

Lastly I had a meeting with Niagara Count Health Dept regard the upcoming Lead reporting. They will be sending out information packets and we will have to start filing into a spread sheet and sending to the state.

**ENGINEER:** Construction is quiet for now. Pay app No 2 is being reviewed/processed on our end

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** Building Permits have been slow to begin the year, but I expect to see some applications as the weather trends toward spring. Had a meeting with Mayor Reisman, Deputy Mayor Stortecky, and Supervisor Johnston to formalize the Intermunicipal Agreement's direction/scope between the Village & the Town. A final agreement will be drafted by the Attorneys. Completed my annual training requirements for Code Enforcement officials at the Niagara Frontier Building Officials Association's conference. A copy of the Certificate will be provided to the Clerk's office. Completed three Building permit inspections including a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the Griffon Brewery. The Griffon brewery is officially open for business and had an apparent successful opening weekend. Plan on coordinating Code Enforcement activities with the Village office as needed/required. We are hoping to upgrade computer software systems for Permits, Complaints, Zoning, and planning actions in the near future. The proposed computer software system will improve efficiency and communications between myself and the Village officials.

**ATTORNEY:** No additional report

**CLERKS OFFICE:** Things are nearing completion for the Archives grant. Our final paperwork has been submitted to NYS for release of the balance of funds due to us. The shelving is together and the boxes have been placed in the Mayor's room. The flooring in the area of the shelving has been completed and the new cabinets have been set up. The records from the Street files will be transitioned into the new fire proof cabinets. Alicia Jettner will be back towards the end of February to work on the balance of reporting and records we have to complete. Budget notifications have been sent to the Department heads as required by Village law. We will be working with the departments on the preliminary budget this month. Proposals are due back to the Clerk's Office by 3/1. Once those are in we will prepare the budget for review and any necessary adjustments by the Board. The Board will review, make any modifications by 3/31 and our public hearing will be April 11, 2024. As noted, there will be a Veteran's outreach on May 8<sup>th</sup> in the

Village Center, more details will follow. We continue with all the regular tasks of the office.

**RECREATION:** Hockey sign ups have been posted for Mid Feb Start. We will try for a girls program and boys program separate. If girls don't fill up we will merge into the boys session. Family Night and toddler time have been steady especially since the colder weather. Punchlist: gym mats pricing has been received (approx. \$10,500 to cover the rest of the walls), paint (dpw) Greg will get the final pricing but the colors are in and picked. Upcoming: Plan for the Nancy Price Race and finish summer planning at Falkner and Vets. I would like to have gym mats ordered via a grant or through Rec budget before September of this year.

## **AGENDA:**

### **ABSTRACT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS:**

Approval of the Abstract of Audited Vouchers for the period from January 12- February 8, 2024 in the amount of \$45,989.50.

General:	\$36,109.33
Water:	\$ 967.73
Sewer:	\$ 8,844.44
H Capital:	\$ 0.00
Trust:	<u>\$ 68.00</u>
Total	\$45,989.50

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

### **ITEMS:**

Correspondence:

Letter of thanks received from the Youngstown/Porter Christmas Basket Program thanking the Board, and Clerk's Office for their assistance with the program. This year 67 families including 144 children in our local community were helped.

So noted. Mayor Reisman noted it was a great thing to be a part of.

Letter of resignation received from Jennifer Dick for alternate Zoning Board position effective February 8, 2024.

So noted.

**BOARD CONSIDERATION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

Building use request for use of the gym by Niagara Pioneer Soccer League to hold registration on Saturday February 10, and Saturday March 16, 2024 from 10:00 a.m-12:00 p.m. Insurance is on file.

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

Request from Recreation Director to hold the Nancy Price 5k on May 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Authorization for Mayor Reisman to sign the renewal of the easement agreement for 723 and 727 Main Street with Jane Reese and Catrina Kopell at a rate of \$150.00 each March 1, 2024-February 28, 2025.

Motion for authorization to sign the agreement was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

Police Department hire of Brittany Price as Police Officer P/T at a rate of \$21.00/hr.

Motion for approval of Police hire was made by Trustee Stevens, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

Recreation Department request to move Kelsey Jeffs from seasonal Recreation Leader P/T to regular Recreation Leader P/T.

Motion to approve Kelsey Jeffs as regular Recreation Leader P/T was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

Appointment of Jennifer Dick as regular member of the Planning Board.

Motion to approve Jennifer Dick as regular member of the Planning Board was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

Authorization for Mayor Reisman to sign the agreement renewal/extension contract with Niagara County Office of the Aging for the Senior Van Transportation program for 1/1/24-12/31/25 in the amount of \$4,000.00 in funding to the Village for the program.

Motion to approve the authorization for Mayor Reisman to sign the contract with Niagara County was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

**RESOLUTION:**

Be it resolved that the Village of Youngstown (40419) hereby established the following standard workday for the title of Trustee and will report the officials to the NYS and Local Retirement based on their record of activities.

Kristel Stevens                Sept 7, 2023-Nov 30, 2023    6 hour standard workday   1.39 days/month

Motion to approve the standard workday was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

**RESOLUTION:**

Be it resolved that the Village of Youngstown (40419) hereby established the following standard workday for the title of Trustee and will report the officials to the NYS and Local Retirement based on their record of activities.

Frederick Stortecky III   Oct 2, 2023-Dece 27, 2023    6 hour standard workday   3.39 days/month

Item was tabled for the February work session as Deputy Mayor Stortecky has to recuse himself for this vote, and therefore, there was not a quorum present to vote on the item.

Discussion on 120 Lockport Street site review and need for referral to the Planning Board and Village Engineer.

Engineer Lannon has advised he is good with the site plan review. The Zoning Board approved the variance request for the Village on the property. The contract for sale of the property has been signed by Patricia Carter and Michael Kotarski. Attorney Caserta noted everything is in order and moving forward. The Planning Board meeting is Monday 2/12/24. Ownership of the tower will remain with the Village and the remainder of the property will be sold.

Motion to forward the site plan review to the Planning Board was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Trustee Stella noted the Chamber will hold a business blender on 2/15 at the Cask & Cow. The Chamber continues work with their new Board and committees. Mayor Reisman asked about a new YBPA President. Trustee Stella noted that the President's term does not expire for a year. Melissa Kudell is interim President as the YBPA looks for new Board members. Next event will be the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky acknowledged Christine Rath as Friends of Youngstown representative being in attendance tonight. Friends of Youngstown is a 501 C (3) nonprofit with the goal to benefit the Village. Ms. Rath is also currently the volunteer grant writer for the Village, working on obtaining several grants for the Village benefitting the Recreation Dept. for the Give and Take table, items for the gym, and splash pad. There is a grant for park improvements and initiatives to have other groups help and support these plans. Friends of Youngstown are looking for a fundraising event coordinator. Future ideas are fundraising for a new clock tower, Nancy Price run as well as hosting an intern from Lewiston Porter to learn how to run an event from start to finish including fundraising. There is a webpage for FOY at [FOY14174.com](http://FOY14174.com). Please visit and browse around.

Mayor Reisman added that Christine Rath founded FOY as a separate entity from the Village and is also serving a role as volunteer grant writer for the Village. Mayor Reisman asked Clerk-Treasurer Brown for any other updates. Clerk-Treasurer Brown added the NYS Archives paperwork for reimbursement from the grant has all been submitted and the project is winding down. The floor has been laid in the Clerk's Officer records area, thanks to the DPW, and the Mayor's room is set up with shelving. Mayor Reisman noted that the next step would be digitizing records.

Mayor Reisman noted that the border crossing issues are a hot topic right now and will be for awhile if things do not change. There is a bigger picture at work here and everyone should stay informed and involved.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next work session will be February 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The next Village Board meeting will be March 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

So noted.

There will be a Veteran's Outreach program at the Village Center on May 8, 2024.

So noted. Mayor Reisman asked if there were times yet, Clerk-Treasurer Brown noted that tentatively the hours will be 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. More details and a flyer will be coming.

With no further business, motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made at 7:33 p.m. by Trustee Stella, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

Submitted by:

Wendy Brown  
Clerk-Treasurer