



INCORPORATED:  
APRIL 18, 1854

# Village of Youngstown

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## Village of Youngstown Board of Trustees Minutes – March 14, 2024

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

**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.

Patricia Carter addressed the Board introducing herself and her new business Happy Tails that is located at 120 Lockport Street, in the Village. Ms. Carter noted that she has worked in the healthcare field and is taking on this new endeavor. Ms. Carter noted that her experience working with Mayor Reisman, Deputy Mayor Stortecky and the Clerk's Office was enjoyable, professional and she would like to acknowledge the hard work everyone does for our community and extended her thanks.

With no further public comment, Mayor Reisman moved on to Departmental reports asking for any updates.

### DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

**POLICE:** As of this March this writer has been in contact with our partners in the US Border Patrol and was informed that no undocumented persons had crossed the river into our community. Officers continue to make checks the around the waterfront for any suspicious activity or persons. Officer Brittany Price has now started and has been out patrolling and meeting members of the community. Officers have been and continue to check the high traffic areas for vehicle and traffic violations. With the warmer weather Officers have also been instructed to make frequent checks of the parks.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:** Hello all. Here is my activity report for February. Well to say the least it was an interesting month. It started off pretty quiet, with the mild weather we were able to start some road maintenance with filling some pot holes. As the weather continues to get better, we will be back out again to continue on road improvement. Gary and I were in Batavia for water school. We need to take continuing education classes for our Grade D water licenses. With that being said we took a 2 week turn for the worse! As you all know we had a total of 5 water main breaks! I believe but undetermined that it may have been caused from a pressure regulator malfunction in the River Rd water vault. The County has since fixed it and knock on wood we have been good. With this being said I have identified weak areas in the water system! It's time to start looking at some water line replacement. The lines have come to their life

expectancy. We can only put so many band aids on the lines, and those two roads have been the worst since I've been here. Lastly, we had to dig up a section of storm sewer line on Ulrich Lane. It was completely clogged by tree roots. When the weather breaks, we will have to dig out another section over there for the same reason.

If you all get a moment stop in the GYM and take a look. The guys have been working hard! We ran 2 designated outlets one the left of the gym doors and one to the right. We will no longer have to run extensions cords down from the balcony to supply power for anyone function being held in the gym. We have also been painting and giving the gym a much-needed face lift!

I have meet with 3 contractors for tree removal. As of this moment I have 6 trees that need to come down. We will handle two of them but the others are tangled around power lines and need to be professionally removed! Just waiting the final estimate to come in. We did a round of brush pickup, everyone has a case of spring fever! We will start our spring cleanup program in mid-April if the weather continues to improve, I will ask the Clerks to put it on face book and the sign a couple weeks before we begin!

Maintenance will always be a thing here! This past month we fixed our road tamper, had to change a seal in the plow cylinder of truck #99 and we also had to fix a fuel leak in #99 as well!

The Water St job has recommenced. We meet last week to get the itinerary for the final stretch. Starting today they will be hogging out the road stating at the South end, working their way North. All parties are on board with the scope of work that needs to be completed, and will be in constant communication with everybody for the remainder of the project. There will be certain times in which the road will be entirely closed down this should only be for the duration of that day!

**ENGINEER:** A progress and coordination meeting was held on Thursday March 7. Construction activities are resuming today (3/11/24) and are expected to continue thru completion.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** No report

**ATTORNEY:** No report

**CLERKS OFFICE:** Many things coming up over the next few months. We are working on the budget preparation which will be worked on at the March 28<sup>th</sup> work session. The property tax cap and constitutional tax limit preparations have been started as well. There have been several FOIL requests received to handle along with our normal requests for information and documentation. We are working on transferring and labeling the files from the Archives project into their new fire proof cabinets. We are also working on the various deadlines and requirements for the upcoming election on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The February financials have been distributed to the department heads and Board. Water re-levy notices have been sent to necessary residents and landlords/owners.

**RECREATION:** Hockey has started and there are 22 kids signed up. Still working out the details for a potential adult hockey (pick up). We Met with Lewiston Rec Director and DPW Joe Kilmer because they are very interested in re doing the fields at Vets Park. Monday at 10:30 we are meeting with lakeside sod to see what they suggest. We reiterated that this would strictly be funded by Lewiston. We will finish out the season indoors until the weather breaks. Punchlist:

gym mats pricing has been received (approx. \$10,500 to cover the rest of the walls) still waiting for grant work. DPW started painting the gym and looks fantastic. Upcoming: Plan for the Nancy Price Race and finish summer planning at Falkner and Vets

**VOLUNTEER GRANT WRITER: DOT TAP** (applied January 2024) – remains under review. No timing provided. NY Department of State Community Development & Infrastructure

**NY Forward Program Grant** - to invigorate and enliven downtowns in New York’s smaller and rural communities—the type of downtowns found in villages. NYS Rep indicated that Youngstown is perfect fit for this grant. \$4.5M with little to no match (0-5% typically In-Kind work). Develop a catalogue of transformative projects – immediate and ongoing. Vision for the downtown. Community input.

NYF
Smaller projects focused more on building renovation and redevelopment and activation of upper-story (ex: housing, additional commercial) rather than new construction
Adaptive reuse
Projects that deal with vacancy rather than creation of new space
Projects that elevate specific cultural, historical qualities that enhance feeling of small-town charm
Application must demonstrate \$3-5M in multiple synergistic projects. Final project award funding cannot be used for one sole project.
Tight commercial activity area with opportunity to enhance cultural heritage through signage of historic markers

Potential Youngstown Project Ideas:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Main St/Lockport St lighting &amp; charm</li><li>• Connect Main St to Rite Aid Plaza to Red Brick</li><li>• Renovate the waterfront landscaping, build small fishery that students can tour include fish cleaning station with restrooms. Building new stairs.</li><li>• Move DPW to Vet’s Park – new building</li><li>• Reallocate current DPW facility/lot for?</li><li>• Several empty business opportunities/lots</li><li>• Red Brick Updates</li><li>• Veteran’s Park Renovation</li><li>• Sidewalks</li><li>• Historical elements including Underground Railroad</li><li>• Leverage Greenway connection</li></ul>

- Pre-application process with REDC. If selected, Village will be given planning and technical assistance to develop plan for formal application.



Board Decision: does the Village of Youngstown Board of Trustees support further development towards pre-application?

The Board discussed the information provided by Christine for the NY Forward and Smart Growth grants. There are no upfront costs and no matching costs on these. The Board was in support of moving forward for further development towards the pre-application.

Motion was made for approval for further development towards pre-application by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

- **Smart Growth Grant:** community planning and development. Opportunity for Village to apply for a grant to update Master Plan and zoning. Similar to NY Forward type projects. No matching!!



Board Decision: does the Village of Youngstown Board of Trustees support further development towards application to update Master Plan and zoning?

The Board also discussed this grant noting it is a zero-dollar match grant as well.

Motion was made to approve further development towards application via the smart growth grant by Trustee Stell, seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor, motion was carried.

- **NYS Parks & Recreation Historical Preservation** : Met with NYS Parks representation. Park projects we are focused on fall into this grant opportunity. Match is 50/50%. My suggestion is to **hold** on submission of this grant opportunity.

#### **Grants – Friends of Youngstown, Inc.**

- Ralph C Wilson Jr – Youth Sports (applied Dec 2023): under review with RCW Trust.
- .Niagara County Community Partnership Fund (approved \$4,500)
- Goodsports (approved March 2024). Garman Family Foundation (applied February 2024)
- **Greenway:** Created an FOY sub-committee led by Sarah Hrywnak to generate community interest & develop overall proposal with Greenway Group. This is a collaborative project with Town of Porter. Significant investment in Joe Davis State Park this summer could provide for some immediate projects. Greenway has the money and Governor Hochul wants to complete the trail from Manhattan to Fort Niagara, the only gap is from Joe Davis to Youngstown! Sarah is developing a proposal of quick projects, such as the Nancy Price corridor to connect to Youngstown Estates and out of Joe Davis north until they run into resistance. Planning a fun community event with children riding bikes and Greenway. They will provide some general funds for marketing materials, plans, & events. I will be working up a grant leveraging the Veteran's Park Plans plus working with Town of Porter for immediate type projects. Projects that directly relate to the Village will be brought forward to the Board. No project monies are being requested of the Village at this time. Note: Greenway is investing ~\$3M in Joe Davis State Park this year which is also part of the incentive/leverage to complete the trail to Youngstown.
- **Tower Foundation:** Recreation Department is interested in developing a "Sensory Night" program. Meeting with Foundation for funding interest on Friday March 8.
- **Sabres Foundation:** Completing an application for funding request for gym updates and potential signed items to be used for Celebrity bar tending event.

Grant Writer Rath discussed the grants and matches. The Tower Foundation is very interested in the program Recreation Director Gruarin is looking to put together as there are no programs in Niagara County like this at this time. The Greenway grant; Governor Hochul is in support of the path being connected. There is three million dollars in renovations at Joseph Davis State Park this year and this would fit in. Building use for the office at Veterans Park, Recreation Director Gruarin confirmed he is supportive of the use by Friends of Youngstown. Mayor Reisman asked how many grants were currently in process. Grant Writer Rath noted there were 6. Trustee Stevens asked if any funds were due, application fees, or matches as she recalled the Village perhaps owing \$180,000 match on the DOT grant and asked what would the Village be locked into. Grant Writer Rath noted that some of the other grants in process could support funding of some of the match due if we are awarded the DOT grant. If the Village is awarded a grant and a contract signed, the Village would be locked into any match that was required of the grant. Mayor Reisman asked if repairs needed to be done to the office at Veterans Park.

Superintendent Quarantillo noted he does need to do some repairs and will coordinate the efforts with Recreation Director Gruarin and Grant Writer Rath. It was also noted that we have received the Goodsports grant and Recreation Director Gruarin will be able to order recreation supplies such as basketballs for as many people as are registered to participate in a program.

**AGENDA:**

**ABSTRACT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS:**

Approval of the Abstract of Audited Vouchers for the period from February 8-March 14, 2024 in the amount of \$338,927.44.

General:	\$ 54,704.51
Water:	\$ 1,686.78
Sewer:	\$ 1,259.54
H Capital:	\$ 281,276.61
Trust:	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total	\$ 338,927.44

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

**ITEMS:**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

***Election Resolution:*** WHEREAS, Section 15-118(3) of the Election Law of the State of New York requires the Village of Youngstown to announce there will not be a Village Registration Day for the 2024 Election.

Motion to approve the Election Resolution was made by Trustee Stevens, seconded by Trustee Stella, all in favor, motion was carried.

***Election Resolution:*** WHEREAS, Section 15-118(3)(b)(2) of the Election Law of the State of New York requires the Village of Youngstown to hold its general election on the third Tuesday in May, and WHEREAS, the office of two Trustee position is to be filled for a four year term for each position: NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that: First: The annual election of and for the Village of Youngstown , New York will be held in said Village at the Village Center Gymnasium, 240 Lockport Street, Youngstown, New York on the 21<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024. Second: The polls shall be open between the hours of 12:00 (noon) to 9:00 p.m. (nine o'clock in the evening). Third: At such election the following offices will be filled for the terms as set forth: Trustee-4-year term- 2 positions. Fourth: At least ten (10) days prior to the Election Day set in this resolution a copy of such resolution shall be published in the official newspaper and copy be posted in a least six (6) conspicuous places in said Village. Fifth: This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion to approve the Election Resolution was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Request for approval to appoint the following Election Inspectors for the May 21, 2024 Village election at a pay rate of \$15.00/hr.

Lisa Lucas      Democrat  
Peter Pfohl      Democrat

Richard Allen   Republican  
Joan Pieroni      Republican

Motion to approve the Election Inspectors as noted was made by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request for approval to appoint the following Election Custodian at a rate of \$50.00 plus mileage.  
Jack Bush      Custodian

Motion to approve the Election Custodian was made by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Stortecky. All in favor, motion was carried.

**BOARD CONSIDERATION ON THE FOLLOWING:** Building use request for use of the gym by Youngstown GOP Committee for the Village Caucus March 26, 2024 from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the building use for the GOP Committee was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

Building use request for use of the south end of the parking lot and grassy area Saturday June 8, 2024 from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for the Youngstown Garden Club Plant-O-Rama. Insurance is on file. Addendum to the application detailing plans and requested needs for the event for DPW and opening and closing on Saturday provided.

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

Building use Request from Friends of Youngstown to use the Recreation Building office (Vet's Park) on a permanent basis from 3/2024-3/2029. Recreation Director Guarin is aware of the request. Insurance has been received and is on file.

Motion to approve the use of the Recreation Office for Friends of Youngstown was made by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stella. Trustee Stevens noted she felt the term should be one year as this is a new endeavor. The Board was in agreement. Recreation Director Guarin confirmed he is ok with the use of the office. Motion was set for a term of 3/15/2024-3/14/2025. All in favor, motion was carried.

Building Use request for the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library to use the gym Saturday 4/27/24-5/4/24 and 11/2/24-11/9/24 for the Spring and Fall book sale from 8:00 am-6:00 pm each day. Insurance is on file and will also be renewed during this time.

Motion to approve the use of the gym by Friends of the Youngstown Library was made by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.

Authorization for a budget journal adjustment for REDI payment #9 in the amount of \$281,276.61. Debit H3089. Credit H1440.4.

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

Don Finkle requested a letter of support from the Village for the Niagara County Façade Grant program. Mr. Finkle would like to apply for the showroom at 223 Lockport Street for a new sign.

Motion to Authorize Mayor Reisman to sign the letter of support for Mr. Finkle and RCR Yachts was made by Trustee Steves, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.

Troy and Banks, utility auditors would like to update the audits for the Village. This is a free service if no refunds due are found. If there are refunds due, Troy and Banks received 40% of the amount recovered. This service was previously performed in 2019.

Motion to approve the audit by Troy and Banks and for Mayor Reisman to sign the agreement was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

#### **NOTATIONS:**

The Board approved the Solar Eclipse event to be held at the Village Center for April 8, 2024 as submitted by the Youngstown Free Library via email approval on 3/1/2024.

So Noted. Trustee Stevens noted that Shawn D’Luhy of the Youngstown Library did advise Jonathan Schultz, Niagara County Fire Coordinator, of their event.

The Short-Term Rental moratorium was extended by the Village Board via email vote on 2/29/2024. The moratorium is in effect until August 10, 2024. Discussion on details to move forward with handling of Short-Term Rentals.

So noted. Mayor Reiman noted that the Town of Porter has a very detail plan in place and will be sharing their information with the Village as a starting place to move forward with managing short-term rentals in the Village.

#### **BOARD REPORTS:**

Trustee Stella reported that the O’Riordan St. Patrick’s Day Parade is this Saturday 3/16/24 at noon. There will be a YBPA membership meeting on 4/16/24 for members and invited guests at the Griffon. The annual Street Dance will be held 6/20/24. On March 30. The Youngstown Lion’s will be holding their annual Easter Egg hunt at Fort Niagara. Lewiston will be holding a clean up day. The Chamber is working on Jazz Fest and ways to manage things for it. The Chamber is also looking into A.I. technology to help move forward. Artpark is celebrating 50 years and beginning renovations. There is a Legislative luncheon at Niagara Crossing hotel and there are five new members to the Chamber.

Trustee Stevens reported that the Clean Energy reports are completed and information will be provided to the Clerk’s Office to put on our website within the next few weeks. The Library eclipse event is in

conjunction with the Library's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The plan for the eclipse event is to have the parking lot for handicapped parking, the back part of the parking lot for families with small children. The Library will be providing viewing glasses (holding 300). There will be educational activities for all. Trustee Stevens reported that she has been contacted by several residents about the summer concerts that are upcoming. The Stone Jug ran concerts at the same time the Village was running the summer concerts at Falkner Park on Friday evenings making it hard to enjoy the concert due to overlapping music. Trustee Stevens noted that the Griffon is planning concerts as well and this could be an issue if all three places are running outdoor concerts at the same time. Trustee Stevens would like to start talks about meeting with everyone to work things out so all can be enjoyed. Mayor Reisman noted that it will be worked on.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky reported that most of the Friends of Youngstown information was shared by Christine Rath earlier. Christine added there are two new members that bring great qualities to the group. Shayna DiCamillo is offering insights on grants and Sarah Hrywnak is leading the Greenway Committee. Deputy Mayor Stortecky noted the group has received its exempt certificate for sales tax.

Trustee Quarantillo reported that the Youngstown Fire Co will have an ambulance staffed and on standby for the eclipse event on 4/8/24. The Youngstown Police Dept will be on staff as well. There are busses going into Fort Niagara that day and there could be traffic congestion. Trustee Quarantillo noted that Superintendent Quarantillo has attended meetings on behalf of the Village with the County on the event. Any event should be reported to Jonathan Schultz, Niagara County Fire Coordinator. Trustee Quarantillo reported that the Nancy Price Run is May 10 and fire, police and fire police are all arranged. Trustee Quarantillo addressed the students in attendance encouraging them to apply for the Nancy Price Scholarship which awards \$2,000.00 for four years and to look for the application or see their guidance counselor. The last day to submit the application is 4/26/24.

Clerk-Treasurer Brown noted to the Board that the upcoming work session on 3/28 would be working through the draft budget. The Board will receive a draft of the budget prior to the meeting for review.

Mayor Reisman reported that he worked on the EV Chargers with PPR, Mike Prizzy, an electrical contractor. PPR will install, manage and handle repairs. They receive the revenue from the chargers, but there is no cost to the Village to have them. There would be 4 chargers that are Tesla chargers with adaptors. They are durable, but not fast chargers. Trustee Stevens asked if it is for the same things as the Frey Electric proposal. Mayor Reisman noted it was for EV chargers. PPR will be out next week and are looking at the Falkner Park parking lot side on Second Street for the bank of chargers.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next work session will be March 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The next Village Board meeting will be April 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

So noted.

With no further business, motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made at 7:50 p.m. by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.