

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING – JULY 14, 2011

Mayor Riordan began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Trustees Adamson, Sutor and VanDeusen, Chief Salada, Attorney Caserta, Building Inspector Choboy, Engineer Gallucci, and several interested residents. Deputy Mayor Reynolds was absent.

The Mayor asked for public comment. Joan Spira of the Friends of the Library asked the Mayor for an update on the vacant nursery school room for Library use. The Mayor replied that we have a structural engineer to check the weight factor of file cabinets and other equipment, thus addressing safety concerns. Mrs. Spira asked when the Friends would have an answer on the findings. Mayor Riordan stated she should know by the end of the month. Mrs. Spira asked if the Mayor would call her once he hears from the structural engineer. He said he would.

Mary Ann Rolland stated she had written a letter to the Board with her concerns regarding the Cold Storage site. She stated she had spoken to Engineer Gallucci earlier in the day about wanting only a portion of the building torn down, using the stones from the building. She also spoke to the Building Inspection on the possibility of developing loft apartments with similar square footage as a single family home. She was given a copy of the Cold Storage RFP. The Mayor asked the Clerk to contact Norma Schisler Weigel, sister to former employee Dan Schisler. She may have a video taken by Dan of the Cold Storage interior for reference.

Janice Bush of the Peace Garden Committee gave an update on the garden thanking the many volunteers and helpers who worked on project. She advised the Board that for a short time, dedication bricks may be purchased again.

Gretchen Duling of the Peace Garden Committee gave an update of the dedication ceremony. Many guests have confirmed they will be attending the dedication. A ceremonial planting will be done by local children. Raya Lee of the Council of the Arts will be part of the dedication. Mayor Riordan stated the Village will pay a stipend to her for participation. Mrs. Duling expressed concerns of parking for attendees and the need for port-a-potties on site. If used, the toilets will be placed near the park restrooms. At least 64 chairs are needed for the invited guests as well as the use of several folding tables.

Rod Fairbank of Water St. stated he was very grateful to have Melloni's Store in the Village and submitted a news article stating the importance of a grocery store in a community. Mr. Fairbank introduced his neighbor, George Hof and asked for an update on the Greenway funds for Water St. renovations. Mayor Riordan stated we have the procurement list and Greenway recipients are being approached by mail. Mr. Fairbank asked for a copy of the Mayor's letter to the recipients. Mr. Fairbank expressed concern for the roadway, retaining wall, etc. and asked if Greenway work will begin in 2011. Mayor Riordan stated it probably would not begin until 2012.

Mrs. Duling then asked if the vacant lot on Main St. at Water St. hill would be included in the Greenway work. Mayor Riordan stated it is private property and would not be.

Building Inspector Choboy submitted his monthly report for June. Thirteen permits were completed for work valued at \$66,900. and \$495. in fees was collected. Inspector Choboy reported receiving a permit to build a new home on Hinman St. Also grass cutting letters have been sent to property owners. Trustee VanDeusen discussed the matter of boat/trailer storage at homes which is not covered in the Village Code book. The Town of Porter is addressing this problem at their upcoming Town Council meeting.

The Mayor opened the floor to the public again as Geoff Adams arrived late. Mr. Adams stated erosion is a problem at the river edge near his property. Engineer Gallucci explained there is run-off water there. Mayor Riordan asked if Mr. Gallucci could investigate the problem at the 703 Main St. property. Engineer Gallucci stated he will check the property on Friday, July 15th.

Police Chief Salada submitted his June report. 257 patrol hours were worked, 1,209 patrol miles logged, 22 Village calls, 13 Town of Porter calls, 14 called outside the Village and 14 UTT's, 11 parking tickets issued and one arrest was made.

DPW Superintendent Muller was absent but submitted his report before leaving on vacation. Two overtime hours were worked and garbage tonnage for the month was 66.03.

Attorney Caserta reported preparing an agreement for the shooting of a music video in the Village Center over the weekend. A resolution to authorize building use was made by motion of Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried. Attorney Caserta stated proof of insurance has also been provided to the Village.

The minutes of the June 16, 2011 Board Meeting were approved by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee Sutor and carried.

Grant writer, Bernie Rotella updated the Board on grants available. One is to acquire land which is a 50% matching grant. Mr. Rotella advised the Board of a discretionary grant for a ferry boat. It involves an extraordinary large amount of work due to the coordinating with Customs and also the Canadian government. The DOT has contacted Mr. Rotella to ask if a ferry service were to start in Youngstown, would it be a shuttle for vehicles also. Mayor Riordan stated it would be for transporting people and possibly their bikes. Mr. Rotella stated the DOT is trying to relieve vehicle traffic on the bridges and the grant is 90% funded. Mr. Rotella stated he would need authorization from the Board to proceed. It is an excellent project but involves lots of detailed work. Mayor Riordan asked for a budget estimate for such a project.

Other grants mentioned by Mr. Rotella were an end use grant for remediation of the Cold Storage site and a recycling grant. Mayor Riordan stated the Village will not proceed with the recycling and trash bins at this time but is interested in obtaining recycling grant funds for the purchase of equipment to collect leaves, mulch and chip.

Mr. Rotella suggested Attorney Caserta approach the Niagara County Attorney regarding the Greenway project as well as talking to Clyde Burmaster as a good help source for Greenway endeavors.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Utility taxes received from Vonage - \$7.38, MCI - \$7.48, AT&T - \$5.48, TWC Digital Phone - \$80.29, My Tel - \$.47, Niagara Mohawk - \$2,595.76, National Fuel - \$2,292.08 and Niagara Co. Sale Tax distribution for May - \$27,077.62 up \$500.36 from the same period last year. So noted.
2. Water gallonage report for June 2011 consumption up 43,212 gallons per day from the same time period last year and for March 31 - June 30, 2011 consumption down 18,131 gallons for the same time period last year. So noted. Mayor Riordan stated this is the first increase in some time and should be watched.
3. Thank you received from St. John's Episcopal Church for the use of tables and chairs during their recent Strawberry Fest. So noted.

4. Notice of public meetings for the Niagara River Greenway Commission on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at Beaver Island State Park Clubhouse. So noted.

AGENDA

1. The Abstract of Audited Vouchers for period ending June 30, 2011-General Fund-\$29,149.12, Water Fund-\$5,015.38, Sewer Fund-\$3,543.88 and Trust Agency-\$500.00 and for the period ending July 14, 2011-General Fund-\$46,836.13, Water Fund- \$23,333.06, Sewer Fund-\$1,294.32 and Trust Fund-\$149.60 were approved by motion of Trustee Suitor, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.
 2. Request by Sue MacNaughton to close off Main St. from Lockport St. to Hinman St. on Thursday, July 21st from 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. for the annual Level Regatta Kick-Off Street Dance was approved by Board discussion when the request first arrived. Police Chief Salada is aware and preparations are being made for the event.
 3. Request from the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co. to use Vets Park, the Recreation Office, to close portions of Third St. from Church to Elliott St. and from Second to Third St., restrict parking on portions of the aforementioned streets and use power and potable water during the Labor Day Field Day celebration. Also authorization for the Mayor to sign the liquor permits for the event. This year the Fire Company celebrates its 100th year of service to the Village. The request was approved by the Board when the written request had arrived. Mayor Riordan stated he had drafted a fund raising request letter on the Fire Co.'s behalf as several thousands of dollars are needed for the event.
 4. Letter from Carrollwood Ct. resident, William Cummings regarding drainage concerns he and his neighbors have for the area behind their properties. Mayor Riordan reported he met on site with the DOT who will level the ditch. He also stated residents will be notified that no grass or brush clippings are to be dumped in the vacant land behind their homes. Attorney Caserta will contact Mr. Cummings of the Board's discussion as they are acquaintances.
 5. Request from Donald Burns of 879 River Rd. for water/sewer relief from his \$784.08 bill after a leak was discovered. The Board agreed to follow the same procedure as done with other similar requests. The resident will be billed what the Village is charged for water and sewer by the Town of Porter and Niagara Co. The Clerk will notify Mr. Burns of the Board's decision.
1. Letter from Geoffrey Adams of 703 Main St. requesting investigation of the river bank erosion at a storm drain pipe. Addressed earlier in the Public portion of the meeting.
 2. Authorization to fill a vacant van driver position for back-up purposes due to multiple overlapping vacations, snow bird absences and upcoming medical absences. No extra hours or wages would be expended as the van follows the similar daytime schedule of the Village Office and /or DPW employees. Trustee Adamson motioned to approve the hiring of one new van driver, seconded by Trustee Suitor and carried.
 3. Authorization for two of the Village Office staff to attend the Niagara Co. Clerks Association meeting on July 21, 2011 was approved by motion of Trustee VanDeusen, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.

9. Authorization to release funds of \$14,000. to the Youngstown Free Library per our yearly agreement was made by motion of Trustee VanDeusen, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.
10. Authorization to submit payment of \$750. for Town of Porter Historical Society horse and carriage rental in Labor Day parade was made by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.
11. Authorization for Mayor to sign agreement with Nero Minded Productions for filming video in Village Hall. Also need personnel schedule of building opening and closing. Addressed earlier in the meeting during Attorney Caserta's report.

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee VanDeusen will purchase numbers and letters for the Garden of the Week sign and offered to put it up each week at the awarded recipient's home since the program is two weeks behind schedule for sign placement. Mayor Riordan thanked Trustee VanDeusen for her work thus far but stated the sign movement for the week's winner can be done by the DPW.

Trustee Adamson asked that the streets be cleaned prior to Nancy Price 5K Run and that a Police escort go with the participants. Mayor Riordan affirmed the streets would be cleaned and Fire Police will be notified so intersections will be patrolled. Chief Salada will arrange for a Police Officer to escort the participants.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Adamson discussed the Recreation Dept. floor hockey program using plastic sticks instead of wooden sticks in an effort to prevent wear on the gym floor. Mayor Riordan stated the floor needs to be refinished. Trustee Adamson suggested the floor refinishing be done after the floor hockey program is finished for the season.

Trustee Adamson will sit down with Arborist Jeff Tower to review duties. Civil Service does not have a written job description for an arborist but did have job specs for tree work which will be reviewed.

Trustee Adamson advised all in attendance that the DPW will find the corners/intersections needing the most repair. They will then ground the corners out and Ken Young will do replacement work at \$1.00 per square foot. He also reported the park pavilion roof has been torn off and the new roof should be completed by Friday, July 15, 2011. Bob McVie has worked on the ball field. South Lake St. drainage will be checked by Engineer Gallucci and DPW Superintendent Muller.

Mayor Riordan reported a second grievance has been received from the Teamsters Union 264 for the grooming of ball diamonds at Vets Park. The Mayor stated this is a Recreation issue using shared services, a practice the Village has participated in for some time. He stated the Village takes care of quality of life by the services it provides. The Mayor also stated teams do not want to play in Youngstown if its fields aren't kept up. Mayor Riordan asked that the Board, Attorney Caserta and an arbitrator meet with Union leaders regarding the grievance and that wages and benefits will soon need to be addressed. Trustee Adamson stated we are close to losing our baseball program if the Union continues to push this issue. Grooming the ball diamonds is a recreational skill set that this gentleman has and he is only cutting the diamonds, not the park.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Black Pearl boat docking in Youngstown and the water height necessary for such a docking. Trustee Suitor suggested a launch boat could be used. Also, Trustee Suitor will check if power has been turned on at the dock area.

Reports

Mayor Riordan suggested that due to the difficulty in getting the entire Board together to do a Village tour, each Trustee take 20% sections of the Village close to their homes and report back on their section.

With no further business, Trustee Adamson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Sutor. The meeting ended at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Castilon
Clerk Treasurer