

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Mayor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Deputy Mayor Adamson, Trustees Hanson, Sutor and VanDeusen, Attorney Caserta, Building Inspector Choboy, Police Chief Salada, DPW Superintendent Muller and several interested residents.

Mayor Reynolds asked for public comment. Tracy Lloyd of the Peace Garden Committee stated she and Janice Bush were representing the seven member committee. Tracy referred to a request letter for “needs” such as a sprinkler system, maintenance including mulch and plant replacement and material and performance fees for programs as well as a “wish list” for another bench or sculpture and a performance / activity area. She asked if the Village might be able to provide funding or grants since the expense of a boulder which the Village had agreed to pay for was donated instead. Mayor Reynolds stated that no specific amount of money was set for the boulder purchase and had not been budgeted for. He continued by saying, the intention was for the group to be self supporting after the Village provided payment for tent and chair rentals at the dedication ceremony as well as for the first speaker fee. He stated that this year the Village must stay within the required 2% tax cap when preparing the upcoming budget. Mayor Reynolds stated he would be willing to meet with the group and suggested possible grant opportunities. A discussion took place regarding grants and the fees associated with a grant writer. Trustee Hanson suggested searching web sites for possible grant opportunities. Ms. Lloyd thanked the Board for their help.

Building Inspector Choboy submitted his monthly report for October. Three permits were completed for work valued at \$4,950. and \$95. in fees collected.

Police Chief Salada submitted his monthly report. 275 patrol hours were worked, 1,063 patrol miles logged, 28 Village calls, 12 Town of Porter calls, 13 calls outside the Village, 8 UTT’s were issued, 7 parking tickets issued and 2 arrests were made.

DPW Superintendent Muller submitted his October monthly report. No overtime was worked and 59.58 tons of garbage was collected. He stated the crew has been working on leaf pick-up and had a waterline break which has been repaired. The used truck purchased from the Town of Porter has arrived. Some repairs will be made to it and is already in use. Deputy Mayor Adamson stated the Village purchased the truck at a cost of \$8,000. Similar new trucks would cost \$150,000., a great savings to the Village. New tires will be purchased for the vehicle which has 52,000 miles on the odometer.

Attorney Caserta will address items as they come up during the meeting.

The minutes of the October 27, 2011 meeting were approved by motion of Deputy Mayor Adamson, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The 2012 Holiday Schedule for Modern garbage pick up and Village holidays to be submitted as an insert in an upcoming edition of the Sentinel. So noted. Deputy Mayor Adamson stated he has met with the Sentinel representative who will hold the publishing price to last year’s price and not charge for color printing when applicable.
2. The second annual celebration of Christmas in the Village will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2011. The event hours are 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Deputy Mayor

Adamson stated all events will be held at the Village Center and will include carriage rides through the Village.

3. Water consumption for the period of September 30, 2011 to October 31, 2011 down 17,241 gallons per day for the same time period last year. So noted.
4. A letter of thanks was received from Paul Beatty, Jr. for the Village's support of the successful Hospice Dash 5K Run / Walk and Half Marathon. So noted.

AGENDA

1. The Abstract of Audited Vouchers for period ending November 17, 2011-General Fund-\$66,282.07, Water Fund-\$1,184.70, Sewer Fund-\$1,289.84 and Trust Agency-\$135. was approved by motion of Trustee Hanson, seconded by Trustee Suitor and carried.
 2. Water shut off for non-payment of quarter end September 30, 2011 water / sewer bills was set for Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. by motion of Deputy Mayor Adamson, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.
 3. There will be only one Board meeting in November due to Thanksgiving. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2011 with only one meeting in December due to Christmas.
 4. Authorization for Mayor and Board to sign the list of overdue taxes as of November 1, 2011 in the amount of \$24,316.08 and for the Clerk to submit them to Niagara County Real Property Tax Service was given by motion of Trustee Suitor, seconded by Trustee Hanson and carried.
 5. Authorization for the Clerks to attend the Niagara County Municipal Clerks Assoc. meeting and Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 9, 2011 was given by motion of Trustee VanDeusen, seconded by Deputy Mayor Adamson and carried.
 6. A letter was received from Porter Historical Society requesting their school room and former scout room be painted the same color as the halls and more wiring along the west walls of the two rooms. Deputy Mayor Adamson stated he had already met with the Historical Society and the work will begin soon.
 7. A letter was received from Youngstown Garden Club requesting repair to the gazebo panels prior to their decorating of the site for the holidays. DPW Superintendent Muller reported the repairs have been made.
 8. A letter has been received from the NYS DEC of satisfactory completion in regard to the Youngstown Cold Storage site. Attorney Caserta gave some background on this matter stating the Village had received grant funding from the DEC for remedial work. The DEC has accepted our clean-up work. This certificate will be filed with the County and we now have protection regarding environmental issues as we have satisfied the DEC's requirements. Now, the Village signs the certificate accepting the decision that everything has been done correctly.
1. A letter of resignation was received from Recreation Commission member Gail McCalister. Trustee VanDeusen motioned to accept the new appointment candidate, Matt Leardini, seconded by Trustee Hanson and carried. The Mayor asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Gail for he dedicated volunteer service to the Recreation Commission.
 2. Authorization for the Clerk to transfer \$12,175. for payment of Village Office

windows from H201.a, Village Center Capital Reserve Fund to General checking was approved by motion of Trustee Sutor, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed

NEW BUSINESS

No new business discussed.

REPORTS

Trustee VanDeusen reported she had attended the LOOW RAB meeting last week and is the Board liaison for the group. The group is in the process of putting data on the website regarding the Niagara Falls Storage site waste disposal options. The site is located in Lewiston. Building Inspector Choboy stated information regarding the website will be published in the newspaper.

Deputy Mayor Adamson reported the Village Board had met with the Youngstown Business Association, Legislator Clyde Burmaster and grant writer Bernie Rotella regarding a cross border ferry into Canada on November 5th. Mr. Burmaster is working with Canadian officials to get the immigration personnel needed for the ferry crossing.

The Deputy Mayor stated work on outside doors and arches has stopped for the winter. Repair and restoration work will resume in the spring.

The Niagara Pioneer Soccer League has written a letter thanking the Village for use of Vets Park to play soccer and would like it to be their main playing field. Deputy Mayor Adamson reported the League would like to donate work on the field to remove bumps and install lights at their cost. Mayor Reynolds asked if the soccer would interfere with the baseball diamonds. Deputy Mayor Adamson stated he had met with the NPSL board and was told it would not interfere, both could be played at the same time. The Mayor stated he would like to see the park used more.

Deputy Mayor Adamson reported on the Greenway funds saying that seven entities have received Greenway money. Trustee VanDeusen stated that although the Commission approved the Village plan, we did not get the funds and must find a sponsor who did receive Greenway funds. Deputy Mayor Adamson stated that we could possibly approach Niagara County for sponsorship. A total of \$8,000,000. has been earmarked for Greenway projects.

Deputy Mayor Adamson then reported meeting with a Cooper Sign representative regarding the installation of a two-sided sign for outside the Village Center. Brick pillars could hold the sign. He then stated the Village has two grants that might be used for the sign purchase and no tax dollars would be used. Mayor Reynolds stated the grants must be repurposed before receiving the funds and wanted to be assured of the funds before starting the project.

Attorney Caserta responded to Deputy Mayor Adamson's inquiries on the former Finkbeiner property recently auctioned and sold to Mr. Sahota of Canada. Mr. Sahota was not aware of the safety hazard on his newly purchased property. Mr. Caserta contacted the new owner and asked that he meet with the Village Board in this regard. Mr. Sahota stated he had recently been in a roll-over accident and did not respond as to a meeting date. Attorney Caserta stated he will contact the owner alerting him that if no response is forthcoming to correct the safety issue within a stated time limit, the Village will proceed in resolving it.

At 7:45 p.m. and with no further business, Deputy Mayor Adamson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Hanson and carried.

Shawn Weber, owner of 409 Main St. arrived late to the meeting and asked to speak to the Board. Mayor Reynolds called the meeting back into session. Mr. Weber reported he always had a dry basement until the road was dug up in front of Rick Lohr's property on Main St. Water now comes into the Weber property every time there is a substantial rain. He has asked the County for drawings of the work done to no avail and is now asking for the Village Board's help in getting the prints. Mr. Weber stated a camera was run through the lines and feels the problem began at his property after the problem was solved at Mr. Lohr's property. DPW Superintendent Muller stated he will call the County for prints of the work. Mr. Muller also reported the gym at the Lohr property had flooded which led him to wonder if there is a possible crack in the foundation of the building. Deputy Mayor Adamson suggested a meeting be set up with the County to discuss the problem. Mayor Reynolds stated the Village with try to set up a meeting with the Village Board, Niagara County and Mr. Weber.

With no further discussion, Trustee Hanson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried. The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Castilon
Clerk Treasurer