

## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING –NOVEMBER 8, 2012

Mayor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Deputy Mayor Suitor, Trustees Adamson, Lockhart and VanDeusen, DPW Superintendent Muller, Building Inspector Stevens three residents and two students.

The Mayor asked for public comment. With none, he continued on with the meeting.

Building Inspector Stevens submitted his monthly report for October. 5 permits were completed for work valued at \$113,100.00, 1 driveway permit was issued and total fees collected for October were \$445.00. Inspector Stevens reported the Cold Storage building has been closed up even tighter than before. He then advised the Board that Mark Fox of Fox Fence had provided used fencing to keep trespassers out of the Cold Storage site. Mr. Fox also did not remove fencing contracted with and surrounding the Sahota property as a courtesy to the Village due to the safety issues it posed for Village residents. Mayor Reynolds suggested a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Fox for his considerate gesture. Inspector Stevens also discussed the resolved drainage issue at the home on Lake St. The neighboring house which is currently for sale will have sump pump and downspout tie-in issues that will have to be dealt with when the house is sold.

Police Chief Salada was absent but submitted his October activity report. 230 patrol hours worked, 1,059 patrol miles logged, 26 Village calls, 12 Town of Porter calls, 14 calls outside the Village, 7 parking tickets issued and 5 arrests were made.

DPW Superintendent Muller submitted his monthly report. 6 hours of overtime was worked and 49.83 tons of garbage collected in October. He reported that leaf pickup continues but a question arose regarding brush pickup which had ended on October 1<sup>st</sup> with some residents continuing to put brush to the curb. Trustee Lockhart suggested a notice be placed in the Sentinel stating brush pickup has ended for the season. Most municipalities set time limits for pickup. He also suggested having brush pickup on the first and third Mondays of the month, not every Monday as has been the practice. In the event of a storm, brush pickup would continue until the Village is cleaned up. Mayor Reynolds stated the matter will be discussed between all involved for a solution for future use.

Attorney Caserta will address items as needed throughout the meeting.

The minutes of the October 25, 2012 meeting were approved by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Suitor and carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Anonymous letter from a resident who attended October 25, 2012 Public Hearing regarding behavior displayed by a resident that evening and meetings in the past. Mayor Reynolds stated that although the public has the right to remain anonymous, such letters will not be addressed by the Board as it could lead to problems. The Mayor agreed there have been public distractions but he does not want to place a time limit to those wanting to speak. Because the Village is small, the Mayor did not want a rigid structure but stated there will be a change to eliminate such meeting disruptions. Mayor Reynolds stated the public portion will continue at the beginning of each meeting and then the public will have a second chance to speak at the end of the meeting once the Board has finished conducting the business at hand.
2. Upcoming family event, Christmas in the Village to be held on Saturday, December 8, 2012. So noted.
3. Niagara County Water District gallonage report for September 28-October 31, 2012-consumption down 5,151 gallons per day for the same period last year. So noted.

## **AGENDA**

1. The Abstract of Audited Vouchers for period ending November 8, 2012 – General Fund- \$65,003.66, Water Fund - \$1,184.79, Sewer Fund - \$542.36 and Trust Agency - \$232.85 was approved by motion of Deputy Mayor Sutor, seconded by Trustee Lockhart and carried.
2. Water shut off for non-payment of quarter ending September 30, 2012 water / sewer bills set for Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. was approved by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee Lockhart and carried.
3. Authorization for Mayor and Board to sign list of overdue taxes as of November 1, 2012 in the amount of \$15,965.92 and for the Clerk to submit them to Niagara County Real Property Tax Services for reimbursement was approved by motion of Deputy Mayor Sutor, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.
4. Request by resident for relief to the sewer portion of recent water / sewer bill due to a leak. Mayor Reynolds stated that based on past practice and the fact that the Village does not get sewer relief from the Town, no sewer relief can be passed on.
5. Update on Ullrich Lane stub street. Attorney Caserta stated correspondence has been sent to the Nelsons for details regarding the survey of the stub street. A letter was recently sent to the Ullrich Lane neighbor but with no reply to date.
6. Request from Peggy Hanson to use the gym from December 10-15, 2012 for the annual Youngstown / Porter Community Christmas Baskets preparation was approved by motion of Deputy Mayor Sutor, seconded by Trustee Lockhart and carried.
7. Sahota property maintenance problem resolved. So noted.
8. Authorization for Clerks to attend Niagara County Municipal Clerks Annual Christmas meeting on December 7, 2012 was approved by motion of Trustee VanDeusen, seconded by Trustee Lockhart and carried.
9. Next Board meeting will be held on November 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. So noted.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Trustee Adamson discussed two grants which have been re-purposed for the outdoor L.E.D. sign and then discussed an \$18,000. grant from Senator Maziarz which also needs to be re-purposed. Trustee Adamson reported speaking with residents who mentioned benches and picnic tables are needed at the North Waterfront Dock area. He also suggested new picnic tables are needed at Falkner Park as the ones currently used were salvaged and in need of replacement. Any excess funds could possibly be used for playground equipment and better lighting in the park for park use at night. Mayor Reynolds reported the Village Grant Writer, Bernie Rotella advised him that it could take up to a year to get funds repurposed. A discussion took place and all agreed the benches and picnic tables would be a good choice for repurposing.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Muller alerted the Board that the County will be re-paving spots on Main St. where water has gathered.

Building Inspector Stevens discussed the deterioration of the pipe bridge at the Cold Storage building and that the cost to demolish it would be approximately \$4,000.

Gretchen Duling thanked the Board in regard to a recently published book entitled From the Mouth of the Niagara River. It is on sale throughout Western New York and was written by nine principle authors and six contributing authors. Royalties go to the three

historical societies that supplied information for the book which took three years to complete. Sale proceeds will benefit the historical society selling the book. Mrs. Duling also announced a program scheduled for Monday, November 12, 2012 at the Village Hall will feature author Norah Perez and is open to the public.

Trustee Adamson announced he has 11 ½ acres of land which a developer has asked if Mr. Adamson was interested in selling. The property which lies between Oak and Church Sts. has access at both ends. Trustee Adamson stated he has owned the land for approximately 25 years and that he would abstain from any Board decision making if necessary. Building Inspector Stevens stated he has also talked to the developer in regard to the storm sewer elevations. Trustee Adamson stated he also showed the Cold Storage site to the developer but he was not interested in that property.

## **REPORTS**

Trustee VanDeusen reported the previously scheduled meeting of RRG was cancelled and now set for Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. She also discussed lake water levels and will try to get more information from the IJC regarding the same.

Trustee Lockhart reported he and Superintendent Muller have discussed purchase cost limitations noting that any purchase over \$50. required Board approval in the past. Trustee Lockhart then motioned to change the need for Board authorization for purchases to \$1,500 or more. This would not apply to contracts where regulations are applicable. The motion was seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.

Trustee Lockhart then discussed the water meter issue at the 90 Lake St. apartment complex. He noted that 50% of the meters are out of commission at the site and that the Village has an inventory of approximately 100 meters at the DPW storeroom with a battery life of 20 years and which have already sat on the shelf for 5 years. Trustee Lockhart suggested the replacement would be a good winter project. He also suggested reviewing costs to complete the water conversion using the electronic readers. A quote of \$10,000. was given in the past. Newer equipment would be harder to tamper with. A brief discussion took place regarding the changes in fittings and that changes will be made outlawing the use of certain metals in the equipment. Brush pickup was also discussed with suggestions to limit and / or to possibly change the pickup to every other week.

After a discussion regarding the Village procurement policy, Trustee Lockhart motioned to amend the Village's policy from \$20,000 to \$35,000. for public works projects and changing from \$10,000, to \$20,000. for the purchase of goods and services, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.

Trustee Lockhart discussed water shut offs for non-payment and suggested putting any outstanding bills on the property taxes. He noted this would be less confrontational with residents and would eliminate the need for the DPW crew to stop work to do such shutoffs as well eliminate problems associated with some shutoff. Trustee Lockhart motioned to stop water shutoffs and seconded by Trustee Adamson. Discussion took place and the motion was then tabled for further review of the Village Code by Attorney Caserta.

Trustee Lockhart reported the DPW crew has recently attended safety training at U'Ren and future training will be held later in November. He also stated he would be able to attend and represent the Village at the annual Veteran's Day ceremony on Monday, November 12, 2012.

Deputy Mayor Suitor reported he has updated the Clerk's computer and will change out the next computer in the Village Office in a couple of weeks. He noted the computer system used is an antiquated one and that XP will not support it next year, hence the changeover.

Trustee Adamson reported that Claudia Andres has resigned from the Recreation Commission and the Commission has received a letter from an interested individual

wishing to serve. The Recreation Commission accepted the letter from Carol Andrus and forwarded it to the Village Board of Trustees for approval. Trustee Adamson motioned to approve Carol Andrus to fill the vacancy, seconded by Deputy Mayor Suitor and carried.

Trustee Adamson reported that a local Eagle Scout would like to work on the nameplates of donated trees in Falkner Park, replacing the breakable plastic ones with inscribed bricks. The Recreation Commission asked if the Village would cover the cost of the bricks. Mayor Reynolds stated the Scout should be asked to present his detailed plan to the Village Board before purchase approval of the bricks.

The Christmas in the Village celebration was discussed and Trustee Adamson announced there will be carriage rides, a balloon designer and Santa at the Village Hall. The tea has been moved to the Presbyterian Church this year. Trustee Adamson also reported that the area businesses do not want to be as involved as in the past. Press releases and flyers will be used instead of the ad in the Sentinel which cost \$750. last year.

Trustee Adamson reported other items discussed by the Recreation Commission for the upcoming fiscal year which are two ice rinks in Vets Park and a basketball court at Lion's Park with a light for use after dark. Commission member Ann Johnston will contact the Lion's Club for possible assistance and possible consideration for the donation of playground equipment at the park.

Mayor Reynolds again mentioned the Veteran's Day event and thanked Trustee Lockhart for going as the Village Board representative. The Mayor then asked if there were any more comments from the public before the meeting closed. Building Inspector Stevens stated he will re-write a permit to be used for keeping fowl and for the application to house a bird of prey and forward the sample for Board review.

At 8:07 p.m., Deputy Mayor Suitor motioned to go into Executive Session to address personnel matters as there was no other business. The motion was seconded by Trustee Adamson, carried and the Board entered into Executive Session. At 8:35 p.m. Deputy Mayor Suitor motioned to close Executive Session, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried. Deputy Mayor Suitor then motioned to close the regular meeting, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried. The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Castilon  
Clerk Treasurer

