

## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING –February 28, 2013

Mayor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present were Deputy Mayor Sutor, Trustees Adamson, Lockhart and VanDeusen, Building Inspector Stevens, DPW Superintendent Muller, Engineer Lannon, several interested residents and two Lew-Port students. He also asked for everyone to silence their cell phones and electronic devices.

Mayor Reynolds asked for public comment. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

Building Inspector Stevens reported he has been discussing drainage issues with Superintendent Muller and staff in Lewiston to create specs and drawings regarding sump pumps, downspout tie-ins and other pertinent data. Mayor Reynolds asked Engineer Lannon to review the specs and then forward the information to Attorney Caserta for possible addition to the Village Code. Trustee Lockhart stated the sanitary sewer codes could also be revised and that backyard drainage needs to be reviewed as there is nothing related to drainage in the Village Code Book. Building Inspector Stevens stated revisions could also be made to the I & I form used by the Village. Mr. Stevens then stated there are two new houses being built in the Village.

Police Chief Salada was absent and his report was presented at the previous meeting.

DPW Superintendent reported the crew has finished the work on the Veterans Park bathrooms and are currently working on the Falkner Park bathrooms, cleaning Main St. and the DPW shop.

Engineer Lannon distributed a New York State 2012 Water and Wastewater Rate Survey to the Village Board. He also addressed the February 22, 2013 letter from the DEC reviewing expectations and requirements for new subdivisions. Mr. Lannon stated infrastructure overflow problems are concerns in older municipalities due to its age. The DEC program of inflow and infiltration offsets started in Erie County and is now in Niagara County.

Attorney Caserta was absent.

The minutes of the February 14, 2013 Board meeting were approved by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sutor and carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Utility taxes received from TWC Digital Phone-\$88.48, Granite Telecom-\$1.36, Justice Court funds-\$270. Time Warner franchise fees - \$28,803.32 and Niagara County Sales Tax for January-\$30,124.74, down \$1,513.17 from the same time period last year. So noted.
2. National Grid correspondence regarding energy audits and financial assistance incentives. A brief discussion took place regarding an audit and although the Village has had an evaluation in the past, the Board decided to have another review as energy technology has improved even in the most recent years.

### **AGENDA**

1. The Abstract of Audited Vouchers for period ending February 28, 2013 – General Fund-\$51,196.26, Water Fund-\$1,455.45, Sewer Fund-\$775.85 and Trust Agency-\$75. was approved by motion of Trustee VanDeusen, seconded by Trustee Lockhart and carried.

2. A request for use of North Dock Park on Saturday, September 14, 2013 from noon to 4:00 p.m. for a marriage ceremony was approved by motion of Trustee VanDeusen, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried. Mayor Reynolds stated the only stipulation is that no reservation can be made for Village parks as they are public parks and open to everyone.
3. SEQR paperwork has been received regarding proposed capital improvements at Joseph Davis State Park. Mayor Reynolds stated at this point, the item is so noted unless there are environmental concerns.
4. Niagara County Veterans Service Agency requests the use of a room on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 to meet individually with local veterans regarding their entitled benefits. Deputy Mayor Sutor motioned to approve the request, seconded by Trustee Lockhart and carried. The Board Room may be used for the appointments.
5. Next NFAVO meeting set for Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Details will be forthcoming from host, Village of Holley. So noted. A decision was not made on whether or not to join NFAVO as the meetings are often a distance to travel. The matter was tabled.
6. The Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce Gala advertisement request was approved by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried. It was agreed to have a quarter page ad as in the past which will cost \$75.
7. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. So noted.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Adamson stated there is a conflict with the December 14, 2013 date for the Christmas in the Village event and the community Christmas basket preparation and distribution. Mayor Reynolds had spoken earlier to Kim Cudmore, Recreation Director and Peggy Hanson, community basket coordinator but will discuss the matter again with them.

### **REPORTS**

Trustee Adamson reported Recreation Director Cudmore has submitted her budget data which remains approximately the same as last year. He then reported the Recreation Commission is discussing improvements to Lions Park.

Deputy Mayor Sutor reported the computer data conversion in the Village Office is in progress.

Trustee Lockhart reported he has received a price quote from Lock City for a Badger Orion handheld package which is effective through June. He also reported the DOT construction schedules for Lockport St. have a low priority for the next several years. This will give the Village time to do waterline replacement work. A brief discussion took place regarding the DPW shop lights which were replaced approximately five years ago during an energy audit. Superintendent Muller reported the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co. is getting an updated energy audit since energy technology is always improving. Trustee Lockhart stated he would like to take the lead to get an updated energy audit for the Village. He then stated with daylight savings time approaching on March 10<sup>th</sup> and reminders always go out to replace smoke detector batteries, it's a good idea to replace the battery in automatic thermostats as well and cited an incident where a homeowner had a flooded basement when the battery failed and temperatures fell in the home, causing water pipes to freeze and break while the owner was out of town.

Trustee VanDeusen reported that since Welcome Wagon disbanded, the Friends of the Library have taken on a welcoming program which currently sends a postcard to new residents in the Village whereby stating they may pick up an information packet at the Library. She stated she would like to put together a packet, have the Board review it and mail it to newcomers as they move in. This would not interfere with the Friends postcard project. The Board agreed it would be a good endeavor and also agreed to have Trustee VanDuesen head the project.

Mayor Reynolds asked the Village Board members for dates they would be available to meet with the Town of Porter Board. He stated a previously suggested meeting date had to be re-scheduled in order to meet public notification requirements. The Mayor will contact Supervisor Mert Wiepert with suggested meeting dates.

Mayor Reynolds stated he has received a request from Historian Kate Emerson to place a plaque in the Village honoring Betsy Doyle for her efforts in the War of 1812. The plaque would match the blue and gold ones throughout the Village and placement will be in the Falkner Park area. Deputy Mayor Suitor motioned to allow placement of the plaque, seconded by Trustee Lockhart and carried.

The Mayor reported Jason Stickney wants to put together a program entitled Hometown Pride and wants to use Youngstown as its pilot. Depending on the weather, he would like to start work on his project in April over two weekends. In his letter to the Mayor, he noted that small towns across the country have hidden gems. Mayor Reynolds will speak to Attorney Caserta regarding any applicable licenses, permits or releases.

Mayor Reynolds stated he had hoped grant writer Bernie Rotella would have been in attendance tonight for updates on grants. CFA grant opportunities are opening up again and stated he would like to have Mr. Rotella pursue grant funds for needed Village waterline work. He stated Mr. Rotella will be working with Superintendent Muller to complete final grant work drawings so the final \$10,000. disbursement can be made to the Village. We are still awaiting the Senate's release of Senator Maziarz's sponsored grant funds as well as an \$18,000. repurposed grant to be used for waterfront landscaping. The Mayor stated he was advised that the release of funds could take anywhere from months to a year. Mayor Reynolds advised grant writer Bernie Rotella that the \$350,000. grant awarded to the Village but not yet received for the demolition of the Cold Storage building and for the building of a waterfront homeland security station needs to be repurposed. The homeland security station is not needed at this time. The funds could still be used for the Cold Storage demolition and the remainder could be used for waterline repairs. If in the meantime, interest develops in the Cold Storage site, demolition plans can be adjusted.

The Board agreed to meet for a budget meeting on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

Mayor Reynolds asked for public comment again. Building Inspector Stevens stated he liked Trustee VanDeusen's idea of welcoming new residents and suggested she also pay a visit to the home. Trustee VanDeusen stated she liked that idea also.

Stuart Comerford of Lockport St. alerted the Board that the plows are dumping snow onto his lawn which is located at the corner of Lockport and Elm Sts. This is causing damage to his lawn which is discovered in the spring once the snow has melted. Superintendent Muller stated adjustments can be made to eliminate the problem.

With no further business, Trustee Adamson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Suitor and carried. The meeting ended at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Castilon  
Clerk Treasurer

