

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING –March 14, 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, Attorney Caserta, Building Inspector Stevens, two students, business owners and interested residents. The Mayor asked for all cell phones to be silenced.

Mayor Reynolds asked for public comment. Ed Wojcik owner of the Stone Jug asked about the empty lot across the street from his business. He stated that rumor has it that a Board member said to stop any action regarding purchasing attempts. Mayor Reynolds stated the land is currently not for sale. Mr. Wojcik referenced attempts to purchase the lot when the former mayor, Neil Riordan was alive. Attorney Caserta stated the property owner was approached in regard to selling the lot at that time but the cost was too high. Mr. Wojcik referenced grant monies for the purchase. Trustee Adamson reported he had talked to the property owners, Gary Smith and an attorney from Rochester about the sale of the property as he stated grant writer Bernie Rotella had advised. A property appraisal would be required before applying for grant funds and the Village did not own the property.

Gretchen Duling of Main St. asked about using Greenway funds for purchasing the lot. Trustee Adamson stated several municipalities and Lewiston Porter Schools have received Greenway funds but are not willing to give such funds to Youngtown. Trustee Adamson went on to say the Village would have to go to Niagara County Legislature Clyde Burmaster to request County Greenway funds. Donna Huggins of Main St. stated she has called Mr. Smith inquiring if the property is for sale. Mrs. Duling stated that rumors are out there that the property is for sale.

Ron Ashker of Ashker's Coffee House stated he wanted to go on record that he is in favor of the purchase of the lot and that signatures had been collected of those also in favor of purchasing the land. Mr. Ashker stated it would be important to the Village business district for the Village to own the land. Mr. Wojcik reported people stop at the property to enjoy the view and also take photographs. Mr. Ashker agreed that he too sees people stop at the vacant land to enjoy the view.

Trustee Adamson stated the logical way to purchase the land would be with Greenway funds. He also reported that the owner, Mr. Smith had paid \$120,000. for the lot. Mr. Ashker stated people who live here are interested in purchasing the lot for the signature view it provides. A brief discussion took place regarding where the signature sheets are being kept.

Mayor Reynolds stated the Board will be looking further into the matter.

Mr. Ashker then thanked the Village for removing a piece of metal protruding from the sidewalk in the business district which was a safety hazard.

Matt Lorenz stated he currently does not live in the Village but is looking at two homes in Youngstown. He told the Board that he does wild life rehabilitation for ducks / fowl and wanted to continue doing this work. He explained he has fully enclosed areas for the orphaned birds and may have approximately ten hatchlings at a time. A brief discussion took place and Mr. Lorenz will investigate his options with regards to purchasing a home and rehabbing fowl. Attorney Caserta will review the code book in regard to this matter and see if there could be issues with the DEC. Trustee Lockhart stated that fish and wildlife fall under a federal agency and could advise the Village if needed. Mrs. Duling advised those in attendance of medical problems that can be spread by fowl dung.

Donna Huggins of Main St. confirmed with the Mayor that the Christmas in the Village tea could be held in the Village Board Room. Mayor Reynolds stated it could.

Building Inspector Stevens submitted his monthly report for February. One building permit was issued for a new home with an estimated cost of \$175,000. and \$395. in fees collected. He also advised the Board that paperwork is now being transferred between the Village and the Town of Porter Assessor via email making files and data keeping more efficient.

Police Chief Salada was absent but submitted his monthly report. 184 patrol hours were worked, 1,005 patrol miles logged, 14 Village calls, 14 Town of Porter calls, 16 calls outside the Village, 7 UTT'S, 10 parking tickets issued and 6 arrests were made.

DPW Superintendent Muller was absent but submitted his monthly report. 61 hours of overtime was worked in February and 41.85 tons of garbage collected.

Engineer Lannon was absent.

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

The minutes of the February 28, 2013 meeting were approved by Deputy Mayor Sutor, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Utility taxes received from Vonage-\$6.38. So noted.
2. Thank you letter received from Colonel Lance Dickinson (Retired) for allowing the ROTC Cadets to use the gym for practice before the annual Cadet -vs- faculty basketball game. The successful event helped to raise funds for their field trip to Andrews Air Force Base and Washington, DC. So noted.
3. Niagara County Water District gallonage report for January 31 - February 28, 2013, consumption down 22,894 gallons per day for the same time period last year. So noted.

AGENDA

1. The Abstract of Audited Vouchers for period ending March 31, 2013 – General Fund-\$37,724.50, Water Fund-\$1,437.35, Sewer Fund-\$802.35 and Trust Agency Account-\$1,073.00 were approved by motion of Trustee Lockhart, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sutor and carried.
2. Authorization for the Deputy Clerks to attend the Niagara County Municipal Clerks Association meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2013 was made by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.
3. Approval of monthly balance sheets, revenues and appropriation reports for the General, Water, Sewer and Trust Agency for the period ending February 2013 was made by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee Lockhart and carried.
4. Authorization for Clerk to transfer funds from the Water Fund owed to the Sewer Fund from water/sewer bill collections in the amount of \$23,244.87 for the period of February 2013 was made by motion of Trustee Adamson, seconded by Trustee Lockhart and carried.
5. Authorization of transfer of appropriations for 2012-2013 General Fund budget in the amount of \$30,607., Water Fund budget in the amount of \$318. and Sewer Fund budget in the amount of \$85. was made by motion of Trustee Lockhart, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.
6. Authorization for audit expenditure. Mayor Reynolds stated he has received a price quote of \$5,500. from Brown and Associates for a municipal audit. Trustee Lockhart motioned to accept the audit quote, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried.

7. Authorization for purchase of water meter reading device was made by motion of Trustee Lockhart with the stipulation that the reader and 25 meters do not exceed \$11,500. Trustee Adamson had questions in regard to the price per meter and possible grant funding for future meter purchases. Trustee Lockhart stated the cost per meter is \$150. Trustee Adamson then seconded the motion which was carried.
8. Update on Robert Moses Parkway. Mayor Reynolds updated the Board on information he received at a recent meeting regarding the Parkway. Different alternatives were given and alternative #3 would be in the best interest of Youngstown and Lewiston. It would basically leave the Parkway as is and some repairs and cleaning would be done. The Mayor stated the Village should go on record supporting this alternative. Trustee Adamson motioned to support alternative #3 for the Robert Moses Parkway, seconded by Trustee VanDeusen and carried. This decision will be forwarded to the Parkway committee.
9. Authorization for the Deputy Clerks to attend the New York State Clerks Association conference to be held in Buffalo from April 28-May 1, 2013 was given by motion of Deputy Mayor Suitor, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried.
10. Library request to place a "little library" at the waterfront. Mayor Reynolds stated he received the request earlier today and has spoken with Librarian Jan Gilgore. The size will be slightly larger than a bird house and will provide books which will not require returning. Joe Cecconi of the Friends of the Library will build the library. Donna Huggins stated many yacht clubs have a book corner in their facility but the Youngstown Yacht Club does not. The Mayor will speak to Ms. Gilgore regarding the request.
11. Item tabled from the February 28, 2013 Board meeting-NFAVO meeting to be held in the Village of Holley on April 17, 2013 to discuss membership and meeting issues. After a brief discussion regarding the merits of the Village participating, the Board agreed to attend the meetings as their availability allows.
12. Water shut off practices. Trustee Lockhart discussed placing unpaid water bills onto taxes instead of the current practice of shut off notification letters and having the DPW actually turn water off. He stated the need to have Attorney Caserta check the Village Code Book before implementing a new practice. Trustee Lockhart stated that in the event the property is a rental unit, two water bills can be generated with the new computer water billing system, having one bill go to the tenant and one bill going to the property owner. It would be the owner's responsibility to pay any outstanding water bills. Mrs. Duling stated her outside meter had stopped due to nesting spiders. Trustee Lockhart stated this problem would be eliminated with the new system as the reader would electronically read the inside water meter.
13. The Board meeting scheduled for March 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. was cancelled due it being Holy Thursday. The next meeting date will be April 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Adamson asked if the core of the water meters could be reused or recycled. Trustee Lockhart stated the existing meters will remain in use and only the tops would be replaced.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

REPORTS

Trustee Lockhart reported grant funds are available for lighting upgrades and DPW Superintendent Muller has contacted a vendor regarding such upgrades. The \$1,000.

investment would have a two year pay back. Trustee Lockhart also reported the DPW crew is re-fabricating brackets for flowering baskets on the light poles at a cost of approximately \$500. for materials. He also thank Deputy Mayor Suitor for computer website updates.

Mayor Reynolds stated some business owners would like another bracket for hanging a second flag on the light poles. Trustee Lockhart will check with the DPW regarding the request. Building Inspector Stevens recalled a statement from the electrician who installed the light poles, stating nothing should be put on the poles.

Mrs. Duling suggested the lights discussed reflect downward to avoid light pollution. A brief discussion took place regarding the energy efficient lights.

Deputy Mayor Suitor reported the office is currently in the process of software conversions and training pertaining to the same.

Trustee Adamson reminded everyone of the pre-St. Patrick's Day parade to be held on Saturday, March 16th at noon and in memory of former mayor, Neil Riordan. Bob Emerson from Fort Niagara will be the grand marshal.

Trustee Adamson also reported a half basketball court will be refurbished at Lion's Park and paid for with the Recreation savings funds. A celebrity bartenders night will be held at the Stone Jug with proceeds to benefit the Nancy Price Scholarship Fund. The Nancy Price Race will be held on May 11, 2013.

Mayor Reynolds was asked by Greg Robertson of the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co. to announce that a pistol permitting class will be held at the Fire Hall on March 26 and April 22.

With no further public comment or business, Mayor Reynolds stated the Board would enter into Executive Session to discuss personal matter. Trustee Lockhart then motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Adamson and carried. The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

The Board of Trustees entered into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. and ended the session at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Castilon
Clerk Treasurer

