

Village of Youngstown

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INCORPORATED:
 APRIL 18, 1854

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Board of Trustees meeting minutes – May 9, 2024

Trustee attendees	Present	Absent	Staff attendees	Present	Absent
Mayor Rob Reisman	X		Clerk-Treasurer Amy Beaudreau	X	
Deputy Mayor Rick Storstecky	X		DPW Superintendent Greg Quarantillo	X	
Trustee Catherine Stella	X		Chief Joe Paul	X	
Trustee Kristel Stevens	X		Recreation Director Jeff Guarin		X
Trustee Nicole Quarantillo	X		Attorney Tom Caserta	X	
			Engineer Bob Lannon	X	
			Grant Writer Christine Rath		X

Clerk-Treasurer Beaudreau reminded the Trustees and Department Heads to use a microphone for speaking. To conserve battery life and to reduce background noise, the microphones should be turned off if not speaking.

QUORUM ANNOUNCEMENT:

Clerk- Treasurer Beaudreau announced there is a quorum and the meeting can proceed.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Reisman at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Reisman asked for public comment and stated that all comments shall be kept to 3 minutes and directed to the Village Board of Trustees.

Resident Sue McNaughton requested that the DPW raise the brackets for some of the hanging baskets as they have been bumped into by people walking. She also asked if the tree canopies on Main Street can be lifted and the dead branches removed to allow for better clearance. Ms. McNaughton stated that the bricks in front of area businesses Organique and the barber shop are raised and are a tripping hazard that need to be smoothed again. DPW Superintendent stated he has created a list with her concerns.

Resident Henry Sloma addressed the board and stated that he is an interested resident who wanted to remind the board that the “work of the tax payers” should be transparent and available during board

meetings. He specifically referred to the department head reports stating that the reports have not been available to the public prior or during the meeting, yet appear on the minutes.

Mayor Reisman Quarantillo stated that as this was brought to the attention of Clerk-Treasurer Beaudreau, the reports received via email are on the agenda for this meeting. He also stated he would be asking each department head to highlight areas on the report verbally at the meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Written reports submitted are in italics.

Department of Public Works:

DPW Superintendent stated that the work on Water Street is almost complete. The department has been working on cleaning up the Village for the summer and he has Ms. McNaughton's list to consider.

April Activities

We re did the conf room area at Vets Park with new LED lighting, fixed drywall and a fresh coat of paint. The ball diamonds will be getting a much-needed face lift. North dock building we tore down the ceiling and made sure there was no mold in the wood structure. The keys have been turned over to YYC Jr sailing. The stair closures for the North dock stairs have been removed. Also the Water St project is just about complete, just a few touches to finish it up. They did a nice job!

Spring has arrived and we have started our spring cleanup. All the streets have been swept, plow, markers removed, plows and salters cleaned and put away for the summer months. Brush pick up has started and will be every Monday till leaf season starts. Grass is growing like crazy and we are trying to keep up with it but the rain hasn't helped but were getting it! My guys cleaned all the storm sewers on Main St and when the machine comes back, we will continue the rest in the Village.

New occupancy signs have been hung up in the GYM. We have been working with the Clerks office continuing the organization efforts in the office. On rainy days we have been going through the buildings throwing out all garbage items, and re organizing them. There is a lot to do and go through. Going to take time to get up to speed but we are definitely moving FORWARD! Have a great day. Thanks Greg!

Engineer:

Mayor Reisman thanked DPW Superintendent Quarantillo for his oversight on the REDI project and asked what was remaining on the project. Engineer Lannon stated that they project is being finished and that there are a few areas to finish including the striping, curb edging and getting a quote for the re-decking of the stairs.

My report is as follows:

- *REDI Construction – paving of the roadway is complete. Next is striping of the parking areas.*
- *Anticipated schedule on the pump station delivery is July*
- *Awaiting pricing on stairway replacement (excluding posts)*
- *Had a meeting to review/discuss Cold Storage infrastructure – no further action at this time*

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Thanks
ROBERT P. LANNON JR, PE / A GHD PRINCIPAL

Police:

Chief Paul stated that the officers have been keeping an eye on illegally parked vehicles, speeding and noise complaints.

Chief Paul informed the Board that the City of Niagara Fall Police Department has donated four police bicycles and that Village Officers will be using them not only for day-to-day operations, but especially for special events.

May 12, 2024
Village of Youngstown Board of Trustees:

Police Report for March 2024- Submitted by Police Chief Joseph Paul
Patrol Report:

- 01. Officers have responded to multiple complaints of illegally parked vehicles and have addressed the issue.*
- 02. Officers have responded to multiple loud noise complaints involving neighbors in past several weeks.*
- 03. Officers continue to address the vehicle and traffic violations and have stopped multiple vehicles and issued warnings.*
- 04. Officers still are continuing to make checks around the waterfront for any suspicious activity or persons.*
- 05. Officers continue to make checks of the Village Parks to insure all can enjoy the relaxation and the amenities.*
- 06. As always We continue to remain in contact with our partners in the US Border Patrol and was informed that no undocumented persons had crossed the river into our community.*
- 07. Lastly I am once again grateful to the City of Niagara Falls for their generous contribution of Police patrol bicycles that the will be utilized by the Youngstown Police Department in the very near future.*

Clerk's Office:

Clerk-Treasurer Beaudreau stated that the tax cap, constitutional tax limit and budget have been submitted to the NYS Comptroller's Office as required. Month end reconciling is complete for March and April and going forward, a written procedure will be created.

Clerk-Treasurer Beaudrau continued that the Archive's Grant is complete and that contractor Alicia Jettner put in many extra hours on the project. When the grant request was submitted and then approved and paid, the number of files was grossly underestimated. Clerk-Treasurer Beaudreau explained that although Ms. Jettner is done, the Clerk's Office still has a lot of work to finish the project.

April board report from the Clerk's Office:

With the budget approved, the tax cap and constitutional tax limit were submitted to the NY Comptroller's Office as required.

DPW Superintendent Quarantillo, Deputy Clerk Certo and I will be working on the Annual Water Quality Report together so they are familiar with the process. This report is a combination of the gallons of water purchased, consumed, and the results of the monthly testing so that the public is aware of the safety of their drinking water. This report is filed every year with a specific process to be followed as per NYS.

Sales tax for March was paid from Niagara County in the amount of \$48,336.95 on April 26, 2024.

The yearly lease agreement from Verizon for the water tower in the amount of \$18,394.59 was paid on May 1, 2024 as required per their contract. They pay the easement monthly.

In working with Williamson, I have been learning the proper procedure for reconciling month end and will have a written procedure for this process going forward. After each month is reconciled, the financials will be provided to the board as well as department heads. Your patience during this process is greatly appreciated.

The formal work for the Archives Grant has been completed by Alicia Jettner. In the end, there is still quite a bit of work to be completed. The original grant request was grossly underestimated and Ms. Jettner went above and beyond the original scope of the job. Her dedication is greatly appreciated. Deputy Clerk Certo and I have a game plan to complete the filing and labeling. Ms. Jettner provided a spreadsheet with the filed items that will be used regularly and added to anytime a new file is created.

May will be another busy month as taxes will be prepared, the election is May 21st and year end is quickly approaching.

Amy Beaudreau
Clerk-Treasurer

Recreation:

Recreation Director Gruarin was absent.

Recreation Report from Jeff Gruarin for April 2024

Indoor

Wrapping up indoor, we will probably close it down in a couple weeks.

Open gym volleyball has been a surprising success and we have attracted a few new families who don't participate with us normally

Nancy price: 57 participants so far signed up. We hope to get 90 plus that would be a good turnout

Punchlist:

1. gym mats pricing has been received (approx. \$10,500 to cover the rest of the walls) still waiting for grant work (**waiting**)
2. DPW started painting the gym (**complete**)
3. Figure out dirt situation with TOL and TOP (**complete**)
4. Perfect seal confirmed we are first on his list (**waiting**)
5. Plan Summer schedule at Vets and Falkner (**in process**)
6. Get new signage for disc golf via modern- waiting for confirmation on exact hole yardage (**waiting on grant first**)

Summer

- Booked a few events so far (Shenandoa & Nickel Reptiles)
- Girl scouts are going to do (3) in kind days for crafts

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- The clown will do (2) events
- Fire Department (2) days of truck rides
- I will continue to fill up days and plan for vets classes

Volunteer Grant Writing Update for Village of Youngstown - Board of Trustees Update

Date: April 11, 2024

Grant Writer:

Grant Writer Rath was absent.

Volunteer Grant Writing Update for Village of Youngstown - Board of Trustees Update

Date: April 11, 2024

Grants Status Summary

Grant Status	Count	Potential Value	Potential Required Matching \$'s
<i>In Process</i>	6	<i>TBD</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Submitted</i>	5	<i>\$89,469 + \$763,590 (TAP)</i>	<i>\$190,889 (TAP)</i>
<i>Approved</i>	2	<i>\$4,500 + sporting goods</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Declined</i>	1		
<i>Hold</i>	11		

In-Process Grants:

<i>Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation</i>	<i>Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities: Sensory Nights at the Rec Center</i>
<i>Niagara Area Foundation</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>NY Forward</i>	<i>Revitalize rural village downtowns</i>
<i>Smart Growth</i>	<i>Update master plans and zoning documents</i>
<i>Greenway</i>	<i>Trails and waterfront</i>
<i>East Hill Foundation</i>	<i>Improvements to Vets Park - Phase 1</i>
<i>Water line Grant NYS</i>	<i>Replace aging water lines in the village – on hold</i>

Submitted Grants Awaiting Decision:

<i>Grigg Lewis Foundation</i>	<i>Improvements to Vets Park - Phase 1</i>
<i>Project Play Summer Free Play Series Ralph C Wilson</i>	<i>Open play/sport sampling to take place in Summer 2024</i>
<i>Sabre's Foundation</i>	<i>wall padding for gym</i>
<i>Garman Family Foundation</i>	<i>gym renovations - wall padding and interactive projector</i>
<i>DOT TAP Grant DOT01-TPCM23-2023</i>	<i>Mobility, sidewalks & train corridor reuse</i>

Activities since last update:

- *NY Forward Grant: Developed roles & responsibilities for Youngstown Economic Development Council. Developed a prioritization / selection criterion for projects. Developed example projects. Began hosting informational sessions to recruit participants for the Council. 5 additional are scheduled. Jennifer Pauly from Upward Niagara has agreed to participate.*

- *FOY has submitted the Grigg Lewis Foundation grant request for ~\$49k focusing on new scoreboards and replacing mulch at Veteran’s Park. Decision by June 20, 2024.*
- *Project Free Play – we should hear within the next week decision on grant request.*
- *Greenway June 1 event is being moved to June 15.*
- *Nancy Price 5K Memorial run is this Friday! May 10*
- *Continuing various activities to further develop In-Process grants.*

Building Inspector:

Building Inspector Jeffery was absent.

- ◆ *Reviewed and issued twelve (12) **Building Permits** for the month of **April**;*
 - *9 permits for the Town of Porter*
 - *3 Permits for the Village of Youngstown*
- ◆ *Issued two (2) Registration Certificates for **Town Short Term Rental Homes (STRH)**.*
- ◆ *Received, Inspected, and followed up on seven (7) **New formal Complaint/Violations**;*
 - *5 Complaints for permits for the Town of Porter*
 - *3 Complaints for the Village of Youngstown*
- ◆ *Completed eighteen (18) **inspections** for Permits & Complaints compliance.*
- ◆ *Coordinated/Reviewed Town **Planning and Zoning Board applications** and Documentation.*
- ◆ *Participated in Town of Porter **Justice Court** for pending Zoning enforcement cases.*
- ◆ *Participated in the Town **Planning Board** meeting April 4, 2024.*
- ◆ *Continued, regular/daily response to **phone inquiries** on Land Use & Building questions.*
Peter T. Jeffery, Code Enforcement Officer, Town of Porter/Village of Youngstown

Attorney:

Attorney Caserta stated he had nothing further to discuss than what was already on the agenda.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Abstract of Audited Vouchers:

Approval of the Abstract of Audited Vouchers for the period from March 14, 2024 through April 11, 2024.

General:	\$ 36,734.88
Water:	\$ 546.32
Sewer:	\$ 44,186.97
H-Cap	\$ 78,774.60
Trust:	\$ 219.00
Total	\$ 160,461.77

Mayor Reisman asked for a motion to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers. The motion to approve the abstract was made by Trustee Stella and seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

CONTRACTS/AUTHORIZATIONS:

Niagara County Board of Elections:

Mayor Reisman announced that determination is needed for the Niagara County Board of Elections contract with the Village. This contract expands the use of the voting machines for Village elections with Niagara County for 5 years (previously year to year). The Board of Elections has already signed the contract and therefore are awaiting our approval.

Trustee Stevens asked how the machines will be transported as the contract states they must be transported with vehicles that have air ride brakes. Clerk-Treasurer Beaudreau stated that Lewiston-Porter has the same election date as the Village and will be transporting the machines for the Village election. The transportation costs will be split by the two (LP and the Village).

Trustee Stevens asked if there would be any additional expenses for the election. Clerk-Treasurer Beaudreau stated that there is no cost from Niagara County to use the machines. There are costs for the ballots and publishing the notices – all of which are budgeted.

With no further discussion, a motion to approve the contract with the Niagara County Board of Elections was made by Trustee Quarantillo and seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUESTS:

River Rum Runners:

Mayor Reisman stated that a Special Use Permit application has been received from River Rum Runners of Niagara LLC (Kerrie Conrad) for docking and boarding at the South docks.

Mayor Reisman read: *Notes/Statement of Intent: A river cruise with a max. capacity of 6 people plus a captain. We believe the boarding and unboarding of guests will take approx. 20 min. at a time. We are fully insured and hold a seasonal vessel liquor license. We are inspected by the USCG (US Coast Guard). Our plan is to offer 2 tours a day, each tour is 2 hrs. unless privately chartered for longer. Insurance is on file.*

For the 2023 season, the Village board approved the use with the charge of \$150 for the Special Use Permit. The 2024 application specifications are the exact same from last year as confirmed with Ms. Conrad.

Libby Broderick, Ms. Conrad's business partner, was in attendance and stated she was happy to answer any questions about the application. Trustee Stevens asked when the River Rum Runners plans to operate. Ms. Broderick stated they plan to run mid-May through September. Mayor Reisman asked how many runs were completed in the 2023 season. Ms. Broderick said

that last year was a soft-opening of the business and estimated there were 15 trips. Mayor Reisman stated he was not aware of any complaints about the boarding/unboarding last year. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the Special Use Permit as presented with a fee of \$150.00. The motion was made by Trustee Stortecky and seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

ITEMS / DISCUSSION/ CORRESPONDENCE:

Metal detection devices in parks:

Mayor Reisman read: *At the work session on April 25, 2024, Attorney Caserta presented local law 1-2024 for Metal Detection Devices in Parks. At that time, he asked the Board to review the proposed law for discussion at the board meeting on May 9, 2024.*

Trustee Quarantillo stated that she feels there should be a limit of how many permits are issued at one time. She also stated that there should be an expiration date of the permit. Mayor Reisman read the current local law and asked Attorney Caserta about the differences. Attorney Caserta stated that he feels the board is looking for a less restrictive law so that the historical society does not have to be on location while the detection is taking place.

Attorney Caserta stated he would further clarify the proposed local law and include permit specifications including expirations, number issued and regulations for the applicants. He stated he would email the board with the updated draft repealing section 128 (Historical Preservation) and adding it to section 148 (Parks).

2024 Assessment Notification received via mail on May 2, 2024

Mayor Reisman read: *The Village has been notified that NYS law requires all properties in the municipality to be assessed at market value or at a uniform level of assessment each year.*

*701 Nancy Price Drive – Cold storage
2023 assessed value: \$177,800
2024 assessed value: \$ 34,800
Net change: -\$143,000*

If you disagree with your property's assessment, in order to protect your right to assessment review, you must file a formal written complaint . . .

This correspondence was emailed to the Board on May 2, 2024.

Attorney Caserta stated that because the Assessor is no longer seeing the Cold Storage property as a municipality used parcel, the property will go back onto the tax rolls and the Village will

be responsible for that property tax. Attorney Caserta stated that because the Village has a reasonable deal for the property sale of \$1.00 he feels that the assessment of \$34,800 land value was high because the property is not cleared. Trustee Stevens stated that in the past multiple buyers have only been willing to buy the site for \$1 to \$500 at most. The cost to take down the Cold Storage building is estimated at between \$250,000 and \$375,000 and therefore the taxation on \$34,800 is prohibitive. Attorney Caserta stated he will challenge the assessment.

Correspondence from resident Henry Sloma:

Mayor Reisman read: *Correspondence was received via mail on May 2, 2024 from resident Henry Sloma. His letter was written to express his concerns about the events that unfolded during the Village Meeting on April 11, 2024.*

This correspondence was emailed to the Board on May 2, 2024.

Mayor Reisman stated that he reviewed the letter and stated that each member of the Board can always use additional education to better improve our meetings and Village work. He continued that the amount of information needed to effectively hold an elected position is a lot. Initial training/education is limited. Therefore, Mayor Reisman stated that summer is a good time to increase training for the Board.

Village work session schedule:

Mayor Reisman stated that for at least the past 12 years, work session meetings were not held in June, July, August, November and December. He stated that because of the holiday schedule in November and December it is hard to schedule a work session during those months.

Mayor Reisman stated that he is proposing that work sessions during June, July and August become training sessions and if there are conflicts with community events, that the dates can be changed as needed. Mayor Reisman discussed having NYCOM do the training for the Village in addition to other local municipalities. Deputy Mayor Strotecky stated that it would be a good idea to contact NYCOM to check their availability for training in WNY during the summer months.

BOARD REPORTS:

Upward Niagara Chamber and Youngstown Business and Professional Association (YBPA)

Trustee Stella stated that the events calendar is being published by Upward Niagara who is also working on the jazz festival and gearing up for summer festivals.

For the YPBA, Trustee Stella said that Petey's Treats will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony coming up. The Falkner Park Friday concerts are being scheduled for June through August. The street dance will be held on June 20. And Trustee Stella stated that the YBPA continues to work on updating it's brochures and communication.

Trustee Stella stated that the Nancy Price 5k is Friday, May 10 and the Garden Club Plant-O-Rama is on June 8, 2024.

Youngstown Free Library

Trustee Stevens announced that the Library will be holding a fundraiser after the Nancy Price run on Friday, May 10 at the Jug. She stated that the Library has no plans to do an electronics recycling event this year.

Employee handbook

Trustee Stevens stated she has contacted the Department of Labor to get more information about their human resources services and employee handbook writing. She is currently waiting for more information.

Budget review

Trustee Stevens asked if the budget will be reviewed by the accounting firm prior to June 1. Clerk-Treasurer Beaudreau stated that the budget was approved by the board in April and filed with the State as required, but the accounting firm will be working closely with the office to confirm that accounting practices are correct moving forward.

Correspondence from resident Henry Sloma

Trustee Stevens stated that she felt that the letter from Mr. Sloma should have been read to the public and therefore read the following:

To the Honorable Mayor Rob Reisman and the Board of Trustees

I am writing to express my deep concern about the events that unfolded during the recent Village meeting on April 11, 2024. The actions that I witnessed were incidents of speech suppression targeting a trustee, which is deeply troubling and unacceptable in a democratic society.

Specifically, after the Deputy Mayor's presentation, when another trustee attempted to share her perspective on the matter, she was unjustly interrupted and told, "You had your turn." Subsequently, someone was yelling to "shut off her microphone," followed by another trustee actually shutting it off. These actions culminated in the loss of control of the meeting and an abrupt decision to end it.

Such behavior not only undermines the principles of free speech and open discourse but also erodes trust in our local government and the democratic process. Elected officials have a duty to

represent the voices of their constituents and engage in constructive dialogue, even when there are disagreements or differing viewpoints.

I urge the Village Board of Trustees to conduct a thorough review of the events that transpired during the April 11, 2024 meeting and to take decisive action to address any instances of speech suppression or misconduct. It is imperative that all trustees are afforded the opportunity to express their opinions and engage in meaningful debate without fear of retaliation or censorship. Furthermore, I encourage the Board to implement measures to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future, including clear guidelines for respectful communication and procedures for addressing disruptions during meetings.

As a resident of Youngstown, I believe it is crucial that our local government upholds the values of transparency, accountability, and free expression. I trust that the Village Board will take this matter seriously and work on creating a more inclusive and respectful environment for all members of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Mayor Reisman stated that these concerns are being addressed through additional training for all board members as previously noted.

Splash pad/recreation

Trustee Quarantillo stated the splash pad project is an additional \$1699 that was not anticipated. She stated that the board approved this expense via email, and wanted it documented for the record.

Trustee Quarantillo stated that the police will lead the Nancy Price run and currently there are 101 participants signed up for the event.

Police Schedule

Trustee Quarantillo asked if the police schedule can be distributed to the board. Chief Paul stated he did not have an issue doing so. Mayor Reisman did ask that the schedule not be distributed to the general public and asked how the board will be made aware of any changes to the schedule. Chief Paul stated that he would inform the board if changes occurred, but he was comfortable that the schedule will be met.

Electronic Recycling

Town Councilman Tim Adamson who was in attendance announced that the Town of Porter has electronic recycling available to Village residents all year long on Braley Road.

Friends of Youngstown (FOY)

Deputy Mayor Stortecky stated that the FOY is working on development of the economic development committee for the NY Forward Grant.

Deputy Mayor Stortecky stated the FOY did the registration for the Nancy Price run by directing everyone to their website at FOY14174.com

Deputy Mayor Stortecky announced that the FOY will be holding a celebrating bartending event on June 30 at the Griffon.

Veteran's Park updates

Mayor Reisman informed the board that the ball diamonds at Veteran's Park are almost complete and thanked the Town of Lewiston recreation department as well as the Town of Porter for the equipment and labor to make these improvements. He stated that the dirt alone cost approximately \$10,000.

EV Charging Stations/Simply Solar

Mayor Resiman informed the board that he spoke with the Griffon and PPR Energy Solutions as the Griffon may be interested in hosting the spaces for the EV charging stations. He said they are currently communicating with each other to develop a plan.

Mayor Reisman stated that he was informed by Simply Solar that they have reached capacity for the grant application so any resident that applied for their services should be seeing a savings on their billing shortly. He stated that with this, the Village should be receiving around \$20,000 and suggested that updates on lighting at Veteran's Park may be a good use for these funds. However, he said further discussion will occur once the funding is received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Resiman read:

***Executive Session:** The Board of Trustees will move into Executive Session to discuss individual employee benefits immediately after the Board Meeting is adjourned.*

The Village of Youngstown election is May 21, 2024

The following notice has been published and posted for the Village Election:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Youngstown will be holding an election on May 21, 2024 for the purpose of filling (2) two seats for the position of Trustee on the Youngstown Village Board.

The polling place will be at the Village Center gym, 240 Lockport Street, Youngstown, New York 14174, starting at 12:00 noon and closing at 9:00 p.m.

The following are the candidates running for a term of (4) four years for each position. Village residents who are registered to vote can vote for (2) candidates.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

Jennifer Dick, 200 Elliott Street, Youngstown, NY 14174

Nicole Quarantillo, 441 Northfield Drive, Youngstown, NY 14174

REPUBLICAN PARTY:

Todd Muller, 515 Third Street, Youngstown, NY 14174

Frederick "Rick" Stortecky, 550 Main Street, Youngstown, NY 14174

Village Work Session: May 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Village Organization Meeting: June 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

With no further discussion, a motion to adjourn the meeting and enter into executive session was made at 8:03 p.m. The motion was made by Trustee Stevens and seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the executive session at 9:06 p.m. was made by Trustee Quarantillo and seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.