

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **March 9, 2021** at 6:30 PM in the Noble Room of the Municipal Building at 9 Park Street, Newark Valley.

**Present were:**

Mayor	James Tornatore
Deputy Mayor	Cliff Alexander
Trustees	Michael Reynolds
	Scott Parmelee
	John Tomazin
DPW Supervisor	Bill Foster
Clerk/Treasurer	Pam Benthin

**MINUTES:**

Not available at this time.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Not available at this time.

**BILLS:**

Presented. Approved in the amount of \$21,525.44, from abstract number 01-22, 02-22 and 03-22 with a Motion by Deputy Mayor Alexander, seconded by Trustee Parmelee.

**WORK IN PROGRESS:**

- **MEGA** – Review of program; Current CCA agreement is to expire in July 2021; MEGA issued an RFP to 40+ energy suppliers for proposed rates; Current fixed supply rate is \$.0569 the new fixed rate will be \$.04769, if we continue with the program; There are currently 88 households in the Village partaking in the program; Residents who previously opted out of the program will not receive any of the new mailings of program literature but can opt-in if they so choose, just as any one currently in the program can opt-out if they so choose.
- **Code Enforcement** – Discussion of scheduling/COVID issues with moving forward in hiring a new CEO for the Village; CEO Foster informs that he has updated all his required credentials to continue for another year as CEO for the Village but plans to retire next year; Discussion follows, Board agrees to close the position posting, contact applicants, and revisit hiring at a later date.
- **Village Office Staffing** – Position was posted; 10 applicants submitted resumes; 5 candidates interviewed; 2 candidates stood out above the rest, references were called; Offer for employment made to Sarah Rudin, which she has accepted, first day will be March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.
- **Master Plan** – Mayor Tornatore to meet with Trustee Reynolds to adjust two items in his final rough draft of the Master Plan; Final review by the Board members and Planning Board Chairperson, then submit to the County Planning Department for review.

- **9 Brook Street** – Official offer sent to homeowners, they accepted; Acceptance sent to Homeland Security; Discussion of time frame, Village will have 90 days from closing to complete the demolition; Discussion of task to be completed before closing, survey, title search, rights-of-way established, RFP for demolition; Discussion of funding prompted by guest question, review that this is a 100% reimbursement project; Discussion of future of bridge access to property from Brook St.; Discussion of future use and maintenance of site.
- **Franchise Charter Communications** – work in progress; Coughlin & Gerhart’s revised agreement sent to Charter; continuation of free internet service was denied; Clerk awaiting rate information for internet services from Charter/Spectrum.
- **Municipal Building Windows** – work in progress; Crawford & Sterns finishing up current projects so to then be fully focused on our restoration venture.
- **Municipal Building Cameras** – work in progress; Deputy Mayor Alexander researching; on hold until the window restoration project is underway so exterior cabling can be run then.
- **Buildings/Property – MB Bathroom** – Installation of a sliding door to make a supplies closet, fresh paint, and replacement of flooring; Discussion of flooring options, restoration of current concrete that is under sub-floor or installation of new vinyl tile/planks; Discussion as to when DPW will be able to complete this project; Board sets \$500.00 budget for project.
- **Trout Ponds 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 6/01/2021** – Currently park is in complete disarray after the winter/spring storms, will require a major number of manhours before it will be suitable for any kind of anniversary celebration.

### **GUESTS:**

- *Mark Lott* – Voices concerns related to the broken windows at the Village DPW Barn building; windows in question are already on DPW list of spring projects; the area in which the broken windows are located is not a heated space; Discussion follows are to have all the windows professionally replaced at one time or have the DPW replace as time allows in their schedule; Mr. Lott volunteers his time to assist with the window repairs/replacement.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **RESOLUTION #01-22**

Appointment of Office Specialist I (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by Alexander, seconded by Reynolds. Roll call vote. Alexander, Reynolds, Parmelee, Tomazin, Tornatore. - Yes. 0 - No.

#### **RESOLUTION #02-22**

Authorizing Mayor to Sign 2-year Agreement with MEGA (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by Parmelee, seconded by Alexander. Roll call vote. Alexander, Reynolds, Parmelee, Tomazin, Tornatore. - Yes. 0 - No.

## **REPORTS:**

- **Code/Fire Safety Inspector** – Seven Fire Safety Inspections completed; Certificate of Compliance issued to Watson Ave residence that had fire in December, repairs completed and family back in home; 1 new permit issued.
- **Public Works** – see attached; MEO Seamans will be taking his Class C water licensing exam in April; began stripping the #9 2008 Chevy for auction, discussion follows as to what accessories will be sent to auction with truck and what to place a minimum bid at; Resident request to borrow sidewalk forms from DPW to repair/replace their sidewalks, forms have been borrowed and not returned over the years, or returned in unsalvageable condition, currently no forms available to loan, discussion follows as to whether Village should purchase or make new forms to have available.
- **Mayor** – Review of the *American Rescue Plan* that was approved by the U.S. Senate, and what those possible funds would mean to the Village.
- **Planning** – Trustee Reynolds informed the Tioga County Planning Board that the Village would be soon submitting their Master Plan for review.
- **R.E.A.P** – Mayor Tornatore has replaced Ryan Dougherty as the Tioga County Infrastructure representative and is now seeking a Village representative.
- **Youth – Tomazin** – 2021 Golf Tournament planning is in process with Berkshire Supervisor Keith Flesher.
- **Library** – Director communicated to DPW that there are issues with the Library door opening/closing, upon first assessment the concrete appears to be heaved and possible ground down for better operation; DPW to investigate further; Clerk reports continued issues with the Library Boards signing of vouchers and timely approval as to process payments to vendors accordingly.
- **Clerk** – Change over to new IT provider has gone seamlessly and office could not be more satisfied; Discussion of combining more services as a cost savings; Discussion of current server and backups, The Computer Shop will lease the Village a server to use in the interim until the Board reaches a decision between purchasing a new server or converting to cloud storage and backup.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Alexander, seconded by Trustee Tomazin to adjourn at 8:41 PM. Carried

Jessica Moore  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer