

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **May 11, 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:

Minutes were read and approved as presented from April 2021 with a motion by Trustee Parmelee, seconded by Deputy Mayor Alexander. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Discussed as presented.
Reconciled as of April 30, 2021.

BILLS:

Presented. Approved in the amount of \$37,006.20, from abstract number 07-22, 08-22 and 09-22 with a Motion by Deputy Mayor Alexander, seconded by Trustee Tomazin. Trustee Reynolds abstained from signing voucher #9110651 for Williams & Edsall Land Surveyors, P.C.

GUESTS:

- **Mona Reagan:** Business permit application #01-21, Newark Valley Creamery. Still working on the official sale of the property but hoping to open mid-June if business permit is approved. Will be selling hard ice cream to begin with, so not to incur the water bill costs of running soft serve machines that the previous owner struggled with. Depending on business may look into a closed loop glycol system in the future to be able to offer soft ice cream without the need for constant water flow. Board approves business permit with resolution #14-22.
- **Richard Stocking:** Bringing to the board attention issues with the crosswalk signal devices at the Main/Water/Rock St. intersection. On multiple occasions Mr. Stocking has almost been hit while crossing the road when the signal device is telling him to walk and feels the timing is off. Due to this being a Main St./State Route, NYSDOT will need to be contacted to have the signals evaluated.
- **Vikki Callahan:** From NTYL, seeking permission to erect a batting cage near the baseball fields at the Trout Ponds Park. Board approves, Ms. Callahan to work with PW Supervisor Foster to determine the best location for batting cage.
- **Dave Arnold:** Seeking to move forward with Site Plan review for his Rewey Ave building project. CEO Foster, Mr. Arnold needs to provide, Part 1 of the SEQRA, his septic certification from DOH,

and an engineering certification for the current pillars/footers that have been poured before the review can move forward.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- **Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA)** – Review of the details of this new law; Allowing dispensaries/consumption establishments is a possible revenue source for the Village but can bring along their own issues; Each municipality can make its own determination if it will allow retail dispensaries and/or on-site consumption establishments within its Village/Town/City limits; The Village Board must decide by December 31, 2021 if we will opt-out of allowing dispensaries/consumption establishments, a choice of opting out can be repealed at any time.
- **DEC Fisheries/Trout Ponds** – Board agrees currently to move forward with just allowing the DEC to place their official signage at the park, not to move forward with the PFR's easement.
- **Cyber Security Insurance** – Review and discussion of coverage. \$250,000 policy with a \$1,000 deductible, increases the annual insurance premium by \$645.70. It is a suggested policy. Policy only covers replacing or repairing damage done to system and equipment, will not pay a ransomware hack. Clerk to get quote from our IT provider as to how much it would cost to replace/rebuild our system, including both hardware and IT time. Tabled.
- **American Rescue Plan** – Mayor sent data to Trustees.
- **Whig Street Signage** – PW Supervisor Foster in contact with Bradco for a quote to replace all the signage from the School to the UHS office with the new florescent/reflective signs.
- **Master Plan** – Mayor Tornatore gives thanks and appreciation to Trustee Reynolds for all his work on the Master Plan update; Village Planning Board Chairperson Sandy Kasmarcik was unable to attend review meeting.
- **9 Brook Street** – work in progress; Coughlin & Gerhart working on RFP and readying other closing documents; on the court docket for June 4th for the Court to grant an Order approving the proposed purchase is in accordance with the requirements of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and that the Village is not granting any preferential treatment as the owner of the property is a member of the Village Board of Trustees.
- **Franchise Charter Communications** – Awaiting response from Spectrum.
- **Municipal Building Windows** – Crawford & Sterns actively working on bid package, approx. 95% complete, should be wrapped up in a week or so, then submit to Village for review.
- **Municipal Building Cameras** – on hold.
- **Code Enforcement** – CEO Foster will be submitting his written resignation but will stay on as CEO until a new candidate is hired or 12/31/2021 whichever comes first.
- **Buildings/Property – MB Bathroom** – on hold, DPW currently busy with paving and other summer related projects and maintenance.

- **Trout Ponds 150th Anniversary 6/01/2021** – Mayor Tornatore & Marty Schneider from the Historical Society working to incorporate celebration into Summerfest.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #14-22

Approval of Business Permit Application – Newark Valley Creamery (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Parmelee*, seconded by *Reynolds*. Roll call vote. Alexander, Reynolds, Parmelee, Tomazin, Tornatore. - Yes. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #15-22

Transfer from General Fund/Budget Adjustment – 9 Brook St. Survey (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Tomazin*, seconded by *Parmelee*. Roll call vote. Alexander, Parmelee, Tomazin, Tornatore. - Yes. 0 - No. Reynolds – Abstained.

RESOLUTION #__-22

Add Cyber Security Rider to Insurance Policy (Copy attached) – TABLED

REPORTS:

- **Code Enforcement** – 3 new permits issued; 4 inquiries regarding specifications for decks, garages, fences, and sheds; 10 fire safety inspections completed and all but 2 of the yearly required fire safety inspections are complete; permits that were issued last year for pools and decks will be extended by 120 days, due to installation lags because of COVID.
- **Public Works** – see attached report; MEO Seamans passed his B and C Water License exams; Milling and paving of Silk St. and a section of Maple Ave. have been completed; Weekly brush and leaves collection is going well; the 2008 Truck, plow, sander, and old JD Trailer have been posted to Auctions International.
- **Mayor** – NYMIR offering via Zoom the required annual sexual harassment training for anyone that still needs it for this year, Mayor Tornatore and Trustee Parmelee to attend, all other Village staff have completed.
- **Personnel** – Mayor Tornatore has completed the evaluations for Clerk Benthin and DPW Supervisor Foster, Deputy Mayor Alexander to review and add his input.
- **Planning** – Discussion of Solar Farms in Towns of Newark Valley and Owego; Discussion of the many complaints regarding a solar company that was canvassing throughout Tioga County, being quite pushy with residents, coming into people’s homes, demanding to see residents NYSEG bills and not willing to produce company ID’s. Police reports were filed. No canvassing/peddling permits were issued from the Village of Newark Valley office.
- **Youth** – Director working on year-end report.

- **Library** – Expanding open hours to Tues., Wednesday, Thurs., and Saturday; Hiring for a Library Assistant; Started having in person board meetings this past Sunday and will be continuing in person going forward; Board member Melanie Coombs will be resigning from the Library Board effective June 30th.
- **Police** – Police coverage for Summerfest July 31st; Discussion of using off duty officers this year.
- **Clerk** – Northern Tioga Chamber has requested contributions for Summerfest, \$600 was budgeted in years budget; New office employee, Sarah is continuing to excel in her position and took her Notary exam today, she should have her result in a few weeks.

BOARD COMMENT/CONCERNS:

- Trustee Tomazin voices concerns, and discussions follow regarding:
 - Trout Ponds Park - condition of bathrooms and pavilion, the leak in the dam, and the ponds needing to be brought back to their former glory. Suggest approaching the Town with improvement ideas and discuss a collaborative effort. Discussion of other local parks and the improvements that have been made at them. Form a committee to evaluate park and develop an action plan for improvements.
 - LED Lighting Upgrade at MB & DPW Barn – Discussion of the Energy Efficiency Proposal from the NYSEG Energy Saver Program. Trustee Tomazin feels the DPW can perform the same upgrade over time at a fraction of the cost. Trustee Parmelee feels that the DPW does not have the time in their days to tackle such a large project and that the Village should take advantage of the NYSEG contribution funds while available since the project is projected to pay for itself in just under 2 years. Lengthy discussion ensues, tabled until August, in the meantime Trustees to do research of other vendors and obtain quotes, PW Supervisor Foster to bring to August meeting a quote for if the DPW was to complete the project including cost and necessary manhours.

Motion by Trustee Tomazin, seconded by Trustee Parmelee to adjourn at 9:16 PM. Carried

Jessica Moore
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer