

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **July 13, 2021**, at 6:30 PM in the Noble Room of the Municipal Building at 9 Park Street, Newark Valley.

Present were:

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| Mayor | James Tornatore |
| Deputy Mayor | Cliff Alexander |
| Trustees | Michael Reynolds |
| | Scott Parmelee |
| Clerk/Treasurer | Pam Benthin |

PUBLIC HEARING: NYS Office of Community Renewal - Community Development Block Grant, public hearing opened at 6:31pm. Mayor Tornatore explains that this CDB Grant would be applying for funds for a study by Hunt Engineering, to evaluate the current water system on Smullen Ave. in the Village of Newark Valley. Grant is a 95/5 funding opportunity, total project cost of \$52,500, Village cost \$2,500. Hunt Engineering is preparing & submitting grant application at no cost to the Village. Community member, June Elser comments 'Water is very important, and should be a priority, without a water system we don't have a village.'
Public hearing closes at 6:50pm.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: No report at this time.

BILLS: Presented. Approved in the amount of \$51,116.03, from abstract number 14-22, 15-22, and 16-22 with a Motion by Trustee Parmelee, seconded by Deputy Mayor Alexander. Trustee Reynolds abstained from signing voucher #9110862 for Coughlin & Gerhart, legal services related to 9 Brook St.

GUESTS:

- **June Elser:** Expresses concerns about the vacant and rundown properties in the village and the effects they have on well kept properties. Discussion of the Tioga County Landbank follows.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- **9 Brook Street** – We have received the closing funds and the project is moving forward.
- **Municipal Building Windows** – Crawford & Sterns will be sending out the RFP in approx. 3 weeks.
- **Juneteenth** – With Juneteenth becoming an official federal holiday, the mayor feels the Village holiday schedule should be reviewed. Current Village holidays are *New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day & day after, and Christmas Day*. Current Federal Holidays are, *New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day* and now *Juneteenth*. Discussion follows, comments include; if we are going to consider recognizing Juneteenth then we need to recognize all the other holidays as well; County and State departments, as well as the bank and Post Office are closed on all federal holidays, all of which the Village does business with or contacts daily; determined further discussion is required.

- **Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA)** – Public information session is scheduled for Monday August 23rd at 6:30pm, at the Newark Valley Fire Station. CASA Trinity/TC ASAP and Team Tioga will conduct an informational presentation.
- **Master Plan** – completed and approved at the Village level. Office to submit to Tioga County Planning for review at their August meeting.
- **American Rescue Plan** – Received official verification that the Village will be receiving approx. \$94,000, half to be paid this summer and the remaining half to be paid Summer of 2022. More discussion to follow once Federal regulations as to uses of funds become clearer.
- **Franchise Charter Communications** – Awaiting response from Spectrum.
- **Code Enforcement** – CEO Foster, Trustee Parmelee and Deputy Mayor Alexander interviewed Chance Spoonhower for the position of Code Enforcement Officer. Interview went well, all three recommend to officially offer Chance the position. Discussion follows as to availability as Chance is CEO for Town of NV and Berkshire. Current CEO Foster states, if Chance accepts position, he will stay on through August 31st to train and make sure Chance is comfortable with our code software and processes.
- **Municipal Building Cameras** – nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- RESOLUTION #20-22 Authorize Budget Adjustment – New York Leak Detection (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Alexander*, seconded by *Parmelee*. Roll call vote. Alexander, Reynolds, Parmelee, Tornatore – Yes. Tomazin – Excused. 0 – No.
- RESOLUTION #21-22 Approve Public Hearing and Endorse Community Development Block Grant. (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Parmelee*, seconded by *Reynolds*. Roll call vote. Alexander, Reynolds, Parmelee, Tornatore – Yes. Tomazin – Excused. 0 – No.
- RESOLUTION #22-22 Approve Summer Recreation Employees & Budget Adjustment (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Reynolds*, seconded by *Alexander*. Roll call vote. Alexander, Reynolds, Parmelee, Tornatore – Yes. Tomazin – Excused. 0 – No.

REPORTS:

- **Code Enforcement** – see attached report; No news from Mr. Arnold and the required documentation for his site plan review for Rewey Ave. to move forward. Six new permits issued. Two mowing complaints mailed.
- **Public Works** – see attached report; MEO Seamans is renewing his CDL permit. Due to the new complexities DOT has imposed on CDL road test requirements Supervisor Foster suggests sending MEO Seamans to Sage Truck Driving School for their 24hr program which includes training and use

of a Sage vehicle for the road test. Town of Owego has adopted this routine as well for all its newly hired CDL drivers. Board members unanimously agree, the cost of \$2700 to be taken from the DPW contingency fund.

- **Parks** - Discussion of repair to pavilion roofs, including the possibility of the funds be taken from the Trout Ponds Memorial Fund to complete the work.
- **Youth** - Received notice that program will receive the state funding grant of \$4200. Director reports that the program is going well.
- **Library** - Tappan Spaulding has been chosen by Tioga County as a location to receive a dedicated laptop and scanner specifically to be used for applying for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
- **Police** - Coverage for Summerfest to be arranged, off-duty coverage to be used this year, Deputy Mayor Alexander to assist with arrangement. Trustee Reynolds has reported the ongoing issues on Maple Ave and Whig St., more presence has been observed.
- **Clerk** - Audit is still in progress but going well. Office has been changed over to the new phone system and it is working well, the 8686 line consists of 3 channels allowing all office personnel to be calling out or receiving calls in at the same time. The 3330 line is slated to be disconnected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive session entered at the time of 8:03pm, on a motion by Deputy Mayor Alexander, seconded by Trustee Reynolds, for the purpose of discussing Personnel related matters. Exited executive session at 8:29pm.

Motion by Trustee Reynolds, seconded by Trustee Parmelee to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Carried

Jessica Moore
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer