

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **April 12, 2022**, at 6:30 PM in the Noble Room of the Municipal Building at 9 Park Street, Newark Valley.

<u>Present were</u>	Mayor	James Tornatore
	Trustees	John Tomazin
		Scott Kasmarcik
		Joe Mooney
		Ted Hardenstine
	Clerk/Treasurer	Pam Benthin
	DPW Supervisor	Matt Seamans

GUESTS:

- **John Haney** – On behalf of Northern Tioga Youth League. Haney has taken over as lead of the baseball division of NTYL and is here to talk about improvements to the fields at the Trout Ponds and building a better NTYL-Village relationship. The Village owns the fields as they are part of the park, past agreements have been that NTYL maintains the fields, dugouts, concession stand, etc. Village DPW assists when time allows. NTYL is looking at a 3 game a week schedule at the park beginning in May. Haney is planning fundraising events to help with maintenance cost and is planning to apply for a grant to make improvements to the fields such as lights, so that night games may be played. Tonight, he is requesting permission to purchase a gate to be installed to keep vehicles from driving out onto and vandalizing the fields. Haney will purchase the gate but is looking for assistance from DPW to install. There is also discussion of replacing the missing section of the guard rail, getting the back field back in usable condition as well as DPW assistance with mowing. Supervisor Seamans to meet with Haney about gate/guardrail and will look at altering the park mowing schedule to align with game schedule, Haney to get Seamans a game schedule.
- **Joe Spirito** – Request of refund for SW/Recycling fees paid in March. Misunderstanding of billing time frames when inquired about March bill. Dates listed on bill is the time frame residents are billed for the water they have used, i.e., March bill is water usage for November 15th – February 15th. On that same bill the Solid Waste/Recycling is for collection during April, May, and June. Mr. Spirito paid his full balance in March, then requested to cancel SW/Recycling services end of March, as office staff are not authorized to issue refunds, Mr. Spirito is here requesting the Board of Trustees to refund his \$89.00 for services no longer wanted. Board to discuss and communicate decision to Mr. Spirito.

MINUTES: Unavailable at this time.

FINANCIAL

REPORT: Sent via email prior to meeting. Approved as presented. Reconciled as of March 31, 2022.

BILLS: Presented. Approved in the amount of \$53,783.97 from abstract number 3-23, 4-23, 5-23, and 6-23 with a Motion by Trustee Kasmarcik, seconded by Trustee Mooney.

APPOINTMENTS:

Deputy Mayor	Kasmarcik
Clerk/Treasurer	Benthin
Attorney	Coughlin & Gerhart
Engineers	HUNT Engineers
CPA	Insero & Co. /CPA - Leslie Spurgin
R.E.A.P	Tornatore
T.O.I	Tornatore

C.O.G	Tornatore
TC County Planning	TBD
Emergency Preparedness	Tomazin/Tornatore
Historian	Virginia Mullen

COMMITTEES & LIAISONS:

Code/Fire Inspection	Jerzak/Kasmarcik
Public Works	Seamans/ Kasmarcik/ Mooney
Hope Cemetery	Tornatore
Personnel	Mooney/Tomazin
Planning	Sandy Kasmarcik/Tornatore
Parks	Tomazin/Hardenstine/Seamans
Youth	Tomazin/Hardenstine/Benthin
Infrastructure	Mooney/Tornatore/Benthin
School Districts	Hardenstine/Tornatore
Municipalities	Tomazin/Tornatore
Library/Police	Mooney/Tomazin
Attorney	Benthin/Tomazin
Clerk/Finance	Benthin/Mooney

ORGANIZATION:

- RESOLUTION #7-23** Salaries for Elected Positions & Code Enforcement Officer (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Tomazin*, seconded by *Kasmarcik*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tomazin, Tornatore – Yes. 0 – No.
- RESOLUTION #8-23** Payroll for Appointed Positions & Employees (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Tomazin*, seconded by *Kasmarcik*. Roll call vote. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tomazin, Tornatore – Yes. 0 – No.
- RESOLUTION #9-23** Mileage Allowance (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Tomazin*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tomazin, Tornatore – Yes. 0 – No.
- RESOLUTION #10-23** Village Board Meetings (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore – Yes. Tomazin – No.
- RESOLUTION #11-23** Audit of Claims (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Hardenstine*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tomazin, Tornatore – Yes. 0 – No.
- RESOLUTION #12-23** Designation of Depository (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Tomazin*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tomazin, Tornatore – Yes. 0 – No.

RESOLUTION #13-23 Schools & Conferences approval (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Hardenstine*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tomazin, Tornatore – Yes. 0 – No.

RESOLUTION #14-23 Official Newspapers & Radio Stations (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tomazin, Tornatore – Yes. 0 – No.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- **Water Rates** – Clerk Benthin provides data handout to Board Members. As water rates have not been increased since the 2009/2010 water system project and because the Village has been using fund balance to fund the water budget since approximately 2015 an increase is necessary to keep the village finances on track. Clerk Benthin is proposing increasing the water usage rate for the first 500 cu ft from the current \$30.00 to \$37.50 and each additional cubic foot above 500 from the current rate of \$0.0458 to \$0.063. This increase would effectively balance the water budget and minimize the use of fund balance. Lengthy discussion follows, including changes to the debt service rates, and the usage rate for those living in the Town of NV but are connected to the Village water system. Discussion of NV Fire Department usage and annual payment contract.
- **Municipal Building Windows** – Project going well. The crew began working on the first floor, north side of the building, as that is the less used area of the building. Crew working well with office staff and building tenants, very respectful and professional.
- **TOPS relocating** – Received letter from T.O.P.S (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) stating that they will be relocating to the NVCSA Administration Building at 79 Whig Street as of May 1st. They are requesting a refund of 10-months of their annual rent that they paid in full in the beginning of March.
- **SW/Recycling Refund Requests** – Two residents have inquired about a refund of their SW/Recycling fees. Both residents submitted their request prior to the start of the April/May/June service quarter but after paying their bill. Requests brought to board for approval. Upon conformation from DPW Supervisor that no SW has been collected in the month of April the Village Board approves both refund requests. Lengthy discussion of the future of SW collection service by the Village.
- **ARPA** – Use restrictions have been lessened even more. Board will continue to discuss the use of funds. If awarded the grant funds from Lowes for materials, might use ARPA funds to cover labor for the Trout Ponds Park repairs and upgrades.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #15-23 Transfer from Memorial Fund – Pavilion #1 Roof & Electric Repair (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Tomazin*, seconded by *Kasmarcik*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tomazin, Tornatore – Yes. 0 – No.

MOTION Refund to TOPS (Taking off Pounds Sensibly) for MB rent, May 2022 - Feb 2023 (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik* seconded by *Hardenstine*.

MOTION Refund to Canfield and Spirito for April/May/June Solid Waste & Recycling Fees (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik* seconded by *Hardenstine*.

REPORTS:

- **Code Enforcement** – CEO Jerzak not present. Clerk Benthin reads report, two permits issued.
- **Public Works** – see attached report of completed tasks; Discussion of leak on Whig St. near school, after assistance from HUNT Engineering Supervisor Seamans is confident in pin-pointing the location, unfortunately the location is under the road requiring digging of Whig Street. Supervisor Seamans is in contact with the Town for assistance with the dig. Discussion of what roads will be paved this year follows. Discussion of stone & oil instead of asphalt paving. Discussion of streets/sidewalk/yard levels, some streets have been surfaced many times and need to be milled to bring the road levels back to being lower than the sidewalks/yards. Supervisor Seamans working with Dan Zimmer for pricing options, once CHIPS funding numbers for this year are available a plan will be made.
- **Mayor** – Northern Tioga Chamber of Commerce has sent a letter of request for funding support for this years Summerfest. They have requested \$1000.00 this year. Past and current budgeted amount is \$600.00. Board discusses and agrees to stick with the current budgeted amount, if future requests are made prior to budget being complete than considerations may be made. Mayor and Trustee Kasmarcik attended the Hope Cemetery Board Meeting. Mayor Tornatore through COG is setting a meeting of all local cemeteries in the county in an effort to brainstorm funding.
- **Personnel** – Mayor Tornatore working on Supervisor Seamans and Clerk Benthin’s annual evaluations.
- **Planning** – April meeting minutes were sent out to board members today. The new board is enthusiastic and working to make positive changes for the Village.
- **R.E.A.P** – Next meeting tomorrow, Mayor Tornatore will send meeting minutes on to Trustees.
- **Parks** – The roof and electrical work on pavilion #1 by Spoonhower Construction has been completed. Trustee Mooney has submitted the Lowe’s grant application for park facility upgrades.
- **Youth** – Clerk Benthin has started the necessary paperwork that must be submitted to the Department of Health prior to the program start. Too early to know what grant funds will be received this year.
- **Library** – Representative attended the March school board meeting, requesting a referendum be placed on this budget vote ballot for funding.
- **Attorney** – Currently on vacation this week. Continuing to assist CEO with Rewey Ave violation matter and Clerk with Whig St. water bill dispute.
- **Clerk** – Town clean-up days scheduled for April 22-23rd, office will be handling the senior pick-up schedule and relaying to the DPW. Received this year’s fiscal stress score of 3.3, an increase from last years 1.7 but still a ‘No Designation’ rating.

Motion by Trustee Kasmarcik, seconded by Trustee Mooney to adjourn at 9:24pm. Carried

Jessica Moore
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer