

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **July 18, 2023**, at 6:30 PM in the Noble Room of the Municipal Building at 9 Park Street, Newark Valley.

PRESENT: Mayor James Tornatore
Trustees Joe Mooney
Ted Hardenstine
Jackie Wandell
DPW Supervisor Matt Seamans
Clerk/Treasurer Pam Benthin
Code Officer Max Chandler

EXCUSED: Deputy Mayor Scott Kasmarcik

PUBLIC IN

ATTENDANCE: Dave & Carol Chamberlain, and Douglas Cornwell.

MINUTES: May & June Meeting Minutes approved on a motion by *Trustee Mooney*, seconded by *Trustee Wandell*.

FINANCIAL

REPORT: Approved as presented for the month of June 2023. New Money Market accounts have been opened.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- **Lowes Hometown Grant** – Grant awarded! Only 100 grants were awarded across the country! Kudos to the team. Project will include pavilions, bathrooms, bridge, basketball court, grills, and new signage. Need to submit an overview, scope of work, and bid process by July 31st. Project must be completed by November.
- **Bailey Hollow Dump Site** – NYS DEC drilled 3 test wells at the old dump site in the beginning of 2023, to test for emergent particulates. Testing criteria allows for a measure of 10 particulates per trillion, our test samples came back at 80 particulates. Due to this, the DEC will conduct further testing of all water wells within a ¼ mile radius of the dump property. If any well tests above 10 parts per trillion they will establish a mitigation plan. No mitigation at the dump site is planned currently.
- **AED in MB** – EMS checking with supplier as to what is causing such a delay.
- **DPW Truck** – Funding options include a USDA Loan at a rate of 3.625% for 15 years, ARPA funds, Equipment Reserves, Multi-Year, Fund Balance, and possibly C.H.I.P.S funds. Supervisor Seamans would prefer not to use C.H.I.P.S monies as they are very much needed for our roads. Trustee Hardenstine suggests a new truck would be a good use for our ARPA funds.
- **ARPA Funds** – Plan for use of \$93,000 must be made by 12/31/2024 and the funds must be spent by 12/31/2027. Public input meetings will be scheduled.
- **LCRR (Lead Copper Rule Revision)** – No new updates. October 2024, need to have inventory of water lines to state.

BILLS: Presented. Approved in the amount of \$21,063.23 from abstract number 13-24, and 14-24, with a Motion by *Trustee Mooney*, seconded by *Trustee Hardenstine*.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #20-24 Appointment of Library Trustee – Kirstie Hardenstine (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Wandell*, seconded by *Tornatore*. Roll call vote. Mooney, Tornatore - Yes. Hardenstine – Abstained. Kasmarcik – Excused. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #21-24 Appointment of Village Historian – Douglas Cornwell (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Tornatore*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. Kasmarcik – Excused. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #22-24 Authorize Clerk-Treasurer to Accept Grant Funds – Lowe’s Hometown Grant (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Mooney*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. Kasmarcik – Excused. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #23-24 Authorize Mayor to Sign – SFE Energy Contract (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Hardenstine* seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. Kasmarcik – Excused. 0 - No.

REPORTS:

- **Code** – 2 grass/weed notices issued, 1 building permit reviewed and 2 property maintenance violations for junk/debris issued. CEO Chandler worked with Deputy Mayor Kasmarcik to review procedures for notifications. Rewey Ave court rescheduled for July 27th.
- **Public Works** – Report attached. 1st stage of paving complete, all roads done this year had not been paved in the last 10+ years. Owego is letting us borrow their vac truck, once the roads are cleaned of loose stone the final emulsification coating will be applied. This final phase seals the road and will cut down the dust from the regular stone & oil process. This emulsification coating will be applied to this year’s roads and the roads that were stoned & oiled last year. 4 entire roads and 3 additional large sections of road were paved this year, for the same cost it would be to mill down and pave just Brook St., using stone & oil is a budget conscious decision. Supervisor Seamans is obtaining quotes to have the roof over the EMS garage bays redone, as well as quotes to relocate the propane tanks at the Municipal Building and revamp the entrance to the clerk’s office.
- **Clerk** – Already discussed all points in work-in-progress.
- **Mayor** – Now that all Trustee positions are filled Mayor will discuss possible liaison restructuring for the areas best suited. Tioga Opportunities plan to branch into Northern Tioga County, looking at space in Municipal building or the Community Connection Center on Main Street. No update on funding for Hope Cemetery.
- **Planning** – nothing to report.
- **Parks** – Lowe’s Hometown Project will be the focus for the next few months.
- **Youth** – Program going well.
- **Infrastructure** – nothing to report.
- **Library** – Director Chapman continuing to offer great summer programs. Summer Rec. program has been attending all the events at the Trout Ponds and the kids are having a great time.
- **Police** – nothing to report.

- **School Districts** – Discussion of previous request from the FFA/Ag. students, for permission to construct a multipurpose shed/vegetable stand at the Community Garden. Project was put on hold earlier in the year due to resident pushback. Trustee Hardenstine believes that if Mr. Sweiger and Mr. Rice are made aware by the beginning of the coming school year, they will be able to incorporate into the curriculum and have the shed completed for next spring/summer use. Determined that no building permit is required due to the planned size and portability of the shed, Code Enforcement will need structural drawings. All Board members present agree to allow the project to move forward.
- **Municipalities** – Aug 4th round table event with Marc Molinaro at the Hubbard Auditorium in the Tioga County Office Building.
- **Personnel** – Need to address the hiring of an additional staff member in the clerk’s office as a secession plan. Deputy Clerk Moore plans to move south in the coming future. Waiting to hire a replacement until official notice is given could be detrimental to the services offered by the village office as well as deadlines for crucial office tasks and responsibilities. Additional office staff monies were removed from this year’s budget, per resident demand, additional payroll monies would need to be paid out of fund balance.

GUESTS:

- *Douglas Cornwell, Newark Valley Historian:* Introduces himself to Board and those in attendance. Appreciates the appointment as Village historian and looks forward to engaging with residents about the abundance of history Newark Valley holds.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

- Trustee Mooney – the Lowes grant would not have happened without Pam, Matt, and Jess, thank you for all you do. Find it infuriating that people would spearhead a campaign to dissolve the Village for their own financial gain, yet are the first to attack our employees’ and take away their benefits and raises all the while looking to make more money for themselves.

Motion by *Trustee Hardenstine*, seconded by *Trustee Mooney* to adjourn at 8:19pm. Carried

Jessica Moore
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer