

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **November 14, 2023**, at 6:30 PM in the Noble Room of the Municipal Building at 9 Park Street, Newark Valley.

PRESENT: Mayor James Tornatore
Deputy Mayor Scott Kasmarcik
Trustees Joe Mooney
Jackie Wandell
Clerk/Treasurer Pam Benthin

EXCUSED: Trustee Ted Hardenstine
DPW Supervisor Matt Seamans
Code Officer Max Chandler

PUBLIC IN

ATTENDANCE: Kristin Oliver, David Chamberlin, Keith Flesher, and Mark Lott

GUESTS:

- ***Kristin Oliver, President of Shady Strong ALS Awareness:*** Shady Strong who was founded in 2019, and in 2022 became a federally recognized non-profit, has previously held their BBQ Competition Fundraiser Event at Rawley Park in Richford, but is looking to relocate to the Trout Ponds Park for the upcoming 2024 event. Previous events saw 475 to 600 attendees, along with 7 BBQ teams, as well as merch and food vendors, all together raising an estimated \$55,000, which is given back to Southern Tier families, as well as Upstate NY Veterans battling ALS. What they will require will be access to the park all days and overnights on the specified Friday and Saturday of the event, access to running water and bathrooms. Shady Strong brings with them port-a-potties, generators, a stage for bands to play on, and their own landscaping team to repair any damage by equipment to any of the park's green spaces. They carry their own event insurance and work directly with the health department for all necessary food handling requirements. They would like to hold the event on the weekend of June 7th – 9th, 2024. Clerk Benthin will have a resolution available, to allow the use of the park overnight for the event at the December meeting, for further Board discussion of the proposed event.
- ***Keith Flesher, District 7 County Legislature:*** New to being a part of the county legislature, as he was appointed to the spot left vacant with the passing of Ed Hollenbeck. Legislature Flesher is attending board meetings of all the municipalities throughout his District 7, to introduce himself to those that don't know him, and to provide support and assistance where needed; Discussion of the County's 1.17% total tax levy increase; Discussion of the County's Emergency Orders in response to the encouragement by the City of New York to relocate the homeless, needy, and/or migratory persons of NYC to Upstate Counties; Discussion regarding the vacant Community Development Specialist position for TEAM Tioga and whether it will be in next years budget. The position will continue as the community has greatly benefited from its projects, and is a direct benefit of taxpayers' dollars; Discussion of the condition of local bridges i.e. Brown Rd., Silk St., and Water St.
- ***Mark Lott, resident:*** Compliment that "the Trout Ponds looks great!" And he was disappointed that he missed being a part of the volunteer day; Discussion regarding the times of day that the streetlights are turning on and off. Streetlights run on a sunset to sunrise schedule that is mandated by the Public Service Commission; Discussion of 'sprucing up' the DPW Barn in regards to windows, siding, paint; Discussion related to the newsletter submission by Maine EMS, about the progress of the renovations at their Town of Maine station and whether they will still be staffing this location; Discussion as to when budget preparations will begin and resident input/feedback opportunities.

MINUTES: Approved as presented for the months of September and October 2023 with a motion by Trustee Kasmarcik, seconded by Trustee Mooney.

FINANCIAL

REPORT: Approved as presented for the month of October 2023

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- **Current Court Issue** – Resident is up to date on the payment of required penalties but has not made progress on the required repairs at the property. The current CEO has made attempts to contact the individual with no success. Clerk Benthin to contact legal counsel for more information.
- **Northern Tioga Neighbors Network Stipend** – Currently the Town of Berkshire and Richford have made contributions, neither the Town nor Village of NV have. Mayor Tornatore has reached out to the Town Supervisor, inquiring as to whether or not the Town is going to make a contribution. If both the Town and Village budget for a contribution, Village residents will essentially be paying twice. Village Board will wait to receive an answer from the Town Supervisor before making any budgeted commitment.
- **Lowes Hometown Grant** – Materially the project is complete as it can be, due to the time of year items such as painting of the bathroom floors, striping of the basketball court and painting of the entrance fence will have to wait until spring. Clerk Benthin is working to complete all the necessary documentation and submit the final report for the project.
- **Hazard Mitigation** – Consultant firm has sent an updated spreadsheet, Village representatives to review and simplify, and submit to the county.
- **AED in MB** – We have finally received our AED unit! Training will be scheduled with EMS for certification of AED Operation and CPR.
- **ARPA Funds** – Plan for use of \$93,000 must be made by 12/31/2024 and the funds must be spent by 12/31/2026. Public input meetings will be scheduled. The DPW truck was ordered but due to logistics and demand it could be 6 months to a year before we receive the vehicle.
- **LCRR (Lead Copper Rule Revision)** – No new updates. Once the Trout Ponds Project and Budget Prep are complete the Office and DPW will be able to focus on the October 2024 deadline to have the inventory of water lines submitted to the state.

BILLS: Presented. Approved in the amount of \$20,712.20 from abstract number 25-24, 26-24, 27-24, 28-24, and 29-24, with a Motion by *Trustee Wandell*, seconded by *Trustee Kasmarcik*.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #38-24 Authorize Clerk to Transfer Funds – Lowes Hometowns: Trout Ponds Repair & Restoration Project, Pavilion #2 Posts (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. Hardenstine – Excused. 0 - No.

RESOLUTION #39-24 Authorize Clerk to Transfer Funds – Lowes Hometown Trout Ponds Repair & Restoration Project, Project Invoices (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Tornatore*. Roll call vote. Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. Hardenstine – Excused. 0 - No.

REPORTS:

- **Code** – CEO Chandler not in attendance, no report provided.
- **Public Works** – Supervisor Seamans not in attendance. Report provided; New flow meter has been installed at Well #4. Installed new water meter at the Baptist Church. DPW is 100% snow ready. DPW has been continually working at the Trout Pond for the Lowes project, all work that can be completed this season is done. Will be installing all the poles for the Lighting of the Green Christmas trees this week and next. MEO Walburn has passed his written CDL test and now has his CDL permit.
- **Clerk** – The unpaid taxes have been submitted to the county; we should receive reimbursement mid-February. Wi-Fi was installed at the park last week and The Computer Shop began installing our new surveillance cameras. The streetlight on Maple Ave has FINALLY been repaired by NYSEG, residents are very happy. Paperwork has been submitted to the county for the Joint Youth Summer Rec. program funds.
- **Mayor** – R.E.A.P is at a standstill until the Community Development Specialist position for TEAM Tioga is filled. Tioga Opportunities is now a Medicaid Transportation provider. No update for Hope Cemetery, Assemblymen Friend will reach out after the state budget is passed. C.O.G meeting is tomorrow, will relay pertinent information.
- **Parks** – Lowe’s Hometown Project.
- **Library** – Clerk Benthin has sent the Invoice to NVCS D for tax levy stipend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of *Personnel/Collective Negotiation*, made by *Deputy Mayor Kasmarcik*, seconded by, *Trustee Mooney* at 7:59pm. Exited executive session at 8:31.

Motion by *Trustee Mooney*, seconded by *Deputy Mayor Kasmarcik* to adjourn at 8:32pm. Carried

Jessica Moore
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer