

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **December 12, 2023**, at 6:30 PM in the Noble Room of the Municipal Building at 9 Park Street, Newark Valley.

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Mayor	James Tornatore
	Deputy Mayor	Scott Kasmarcik
	Trustees	Joe Mooney
		Jackie Wandell
		Ted Hardenstine
	DPW Supervisor	Matt Seamans
	Clerk/Treasurer	Pam Benthin

**PUBLIC IN**

**ATTENDANCE:** Doug Cornwell, David Chamberlin, Mark Lott, John and Janet Frieman.

**MINUTES:** Approved as presented for the months of November 2023 with a motion by Trustee Kasmarcik, seconded by Trustee Wandell.

**FINANCIAL**

**REPORT:** Approved as presented for the month of November 2023

**WORK IN PROGRESS:**

- **Current Court Issue** – no update.
- **Northern Tioga Neighbors Network Stipend** – Provides transportation services to residents of Northern Tioga. Requesting a contribution for their services. The Village Board needs confirmation as to whether the Town of NV has contributed, as well as statistics of how many Village residents use the service, before a determination can be made to contribute. If the Town and Village both contribute, village residents are paying twice. Mayor Tornatore to contact Town Supervisor Yetter.
- **Hazard Mitigation** – No update, continuing to work on, but other priorities have taken precedence.
- **ARPA Funds** – No update on truck. Supervisor Seamans continuing to ‘shop around’ as some municipalities have been waiting 2yrs for vehicles that were ordered.
- **LCRR (Lead Copper Rule Revision)** – No update. Supervisor Seamans will focus on once the budget is complete.
- **Budget** – Fiscal year March 2024 – February 2025. Factors affecting this year’s budget include: Current inflation rate at 5.4%, which is down from last year; NYS required retirement contribution is up \$8,000 from last year; Electric supply rates have seen a 25-33% increase; Insurance premiums have increased; Infrastructure and Capital improvement plans for the coming year; new assets at the Trout Ponds park require being added to the insurance; on a positive note revenue has seen an increase of approximately \$5,000 thanks to the new money market accounts that the Clerk/Treasurer took the time to set up with the bank earlier this year; Cuts that employees took to their health/dental/HSA benefits last year equated to a \$7,000 savings to the Village. Last year, residents saw an increase of 4.6%, currently this years proposed increase is 5.7% which equates to \$0.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Discussion around the NYS Comptrollers suggestion of having 3 months of operating funds in fund balance.

**BILLS:** Presented. Approved in the amount of \$57,625.34 from abstract number 30-24, 31-24, 32-24, 33-24, 34-24 and 35-24, with a Motion by *Trustee Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Trustee Mooney*.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION #40-24** Approval of NYS Minimum Wage Increase for Library Staff (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. Mooney – Abstained. 0 - No.

**RESOLUTION #41-24** Public Hearing 1/9/24 – Tax Levy Limit (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Hardenstine*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

**RESOLUTION #42-24** Public Hearing 1/9/24 – 2024-25 Budget (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Hardenstine*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

**RESOLUTION #43-24** Authorize Transfer of Funds – Lowe’s Hometowns Grant (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Wandell*, seconded by *Kasmarcik*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

**RESOLUTION #44-24** Authorize Transfer of Funds/Budget Adjustment – AED for Municipal Building (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

**RESOLUTION #45-24** Authorizing Overnight use of the Trout Ponds – Shady Strong BBQ Competition (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Kasmarcik*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Kasmarcik, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

**REPORTS:**

- **Code** – Village seeking new Code Officer.
- **Public Works** – Installation of the waterline at the Trout Ponds. Spent a lot of time doing set up/clean up of Holiday Magic. Trimmed all low hanging branches on all Village streets. New surveillance cameras at the Trout Ponds and the DPW Barn are set up and running.
- **Clerk** – Spent the last month working on the budget with the budget committee. New surveillance cameras at the Municipal building have been installed and are working. Received our annual audit report, good audit with no findings.
- **Mayor** – Marc Molinaro attending February C.O.G meeting.
- **Youth** – Annual meeting went well. Change in Directorship, Heidi Cardone will continue to handle the admin tasks of the program, Joe Frieser will handle the day to day, on-site Director tasks. State Aid for the program has been received. Municipalities will continue to contribute as they did in prior years.
- **Infrastructure** – The revamp of the office entrance and improvements to the DPW barn have been incorporated into the budget.
- **Library** – Monthly meeting past Sunday was canceled. Received first installment of School tax monies.

**COMMENTS/CONCERNS:**

Mark Lott, Resident – Budget questions that included whether we have a tax cap, use of fund balance to fund the budget and avoid an increase, why certain line items are budgeted higher than we used the previous year, and will employees receive raises this coming year.

Doug Cornwell, Historian – comments regarding resources he has available for those wishing to research their ancestry, as well as the importance of maintaining history.

Motion by *Trustee Hardenstine*, seconded by *Deputy Mayor Kasmarcik* to adjourn at 8:02pm. Carried

Jessica Moore  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer