

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening, **February 13, 2024**, 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
Jackie Wandell
Ted Hardenstine
DPW Supervisor Matt Seamans
Clerk/Treasurer Pam Benthin

MINUTES: Approved as presented for the months of January 2024, with a motion by *Trustee Mooney*, seconded by *Trustee Wandell*

FINANCIAL

REPORT: Unavailable at time of meeting.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- **LCRI (Lead Copper Rule Improvements)** – Approximately 50% completed at this time. Information from the previous water project done in the Village was utilized in this project. A newsletter will be created and mailed to residents with directions on how to check their pipes. There will be a separate email address for this project where residents can send their information. For those without email, a telephone number will be available for residents to call for further information. In addition to this, DPW will be creating a calendar to schedule times to go into homes and help residents check their pipes.
- **Toe Tappin at the Trout Ponds (Artistic Expressions Grant)**- Grant funds were successfully acquired. There will be two concerts and line dancing lessons before the concerts start.
- **Village Holidays**- Trustee Mooney brought up the idea of recognizing a more Federal Holiday Schedule as a way for the village to honor the significant people and events that these holidays represent. It was discussed that further research needs to be done as to whether a change in holiday observance would need a public hearing to be accepted. The attorney will be consulted on this matter, and it will be discussed further.
- **Election**- The election will be held Tuesday 19, 2024 in the Noble Room from noon-9:00 PM. There are two trustee positions open. Each position has a term of 4 years. The Candidates are:
 - **Republican:** Jackie Wandell, Kenneth Giblin, James Phillips
 - **Democratic:** Jackie Wandell, Kenneth Giblin

There was the mention of a write-in and an explanation of how that process works. Mail-in ballots were discussed, and it was noted that there were many questions surrounding these. NYCOMM is still trying to obtain the correct information on mail-in ballots. A quick explanation of how candidates could be running for both parties was also had in response to a resident inquiry.

- **Solid Waste Rates**- The Village has a contract with Taylor Garbage for recycling and there has been an increase in cost for the Village. We are currently charging our residents less for the service than what Taylor is charging the Village Office. A resolution was passed to increase solid waste rates for residents by \$1.50 per quarter billing. (See attached)
- **Office Update**- Deputy Clerk Treasurer Moore will be moving in the near future. She was commended for her work, and she will be missed.

- **Hazard Mitigation** – The Village is waiting for the County to report on the plan that was submitted. The plan will be made available to the public.
- **ARPA Funds** – Truck- Decision by: 12-31-24; Spend by: 12-31-26.

BILLS: Presented. Approved in the amount of \$16,384.60 from abstract number 40-24 and 41-24, with a Motion by *Trustee Mooney*, seconded by *Trustee Hardenstine*.

NEW BUSINESS:

- RESOLUTION #55-24** Balancing of Budget (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Wandell*, seconded by *Hardenstine*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell – Yes. 0 - No.
- RESOLUTION #56-24** Increasing Recycling Rate (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Mooney*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.
- RESOLUTION #57-24** 2024-25 Tax Levy (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Mooney*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.
- RESOLUTION #58-24** Authorization to Sign (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Hardenstine*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.
- RESOLUTION #59-24** To Hold Special Meeting (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Mooney*, seconded by *Wandell*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.
- RESOLUTION #60-24** Authorization to Sign (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Hardenstine*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.
- RESOLUTION #61-24** To Vacate Historian Position (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Wandell*, seconded by *Hardenstine*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, Wandell - Yes. 0 - No.

REPORTS:

- **Code** – Village seeking new Code Officer. Utilizing Town Code Officer when needed. Martin Jerzak (former Code Officer for Village) offered to return. Details need to be discussed further but the Board was agreeable towards the idea.
- **Public Works** – Fixed 2 leaks on Smullen Ave. Removed Christmas Trees and Holiday Magic decorations from Village Green. Pipe Inventory approximately 50% complete. Vehicle and Equipment maintenance on John Deere and Garbage Truck. Light Project at Trout Ponds is still in progress.
- **Clerk** – Thanks given to Deputy Clerk Treasurer Jessica Moore for all her hard work throughout her 6+ years with the Village. These well wishes and thanks were seconded by Trustee Mooney. Working on finalizing and closing out the 2024 fiscal year.
- **Youth**- Received forms from the Health Department for Joint Youth Summer Recreation.
- **Library** –Patti Schaffer will be stepping down as President, after many wonderful years of service and Kirstie Hardenstine will be taking her place. There will also be two new board members.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Motion by *Trustee Hardenstine*, seconded by *Trustee Mooney* to adjourn at 7:39 PM. Carried

Trisha Thomas
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer in Training