

Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Newark Valley was held Tuesday evening **March 12, 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
Ted Hardenstine
DPW Supervisor Matt Seamans
Clerk/Treasurer Pam Benthin

GUEST: Megan Schnabel from Tioga County ED&P joined us to discuss the Restore NY Grant Application for 10 Whig Street, 14-16 Whig Street and possibly 29, 30, 31 South Main Street (dependent upon cost estimates). The first step in this process is a letter of intent must be submitted. The buildings can be restored for commercial, residential, or mixed use. The Village will be more like a sponsor throughout this process. We are grateful to Tioga County ED&P for their assistance with this project. The cost limit for the project will depend on the square footage of the building and the property owner is responsible for expenses up front but will be reimbursed if awarded the grant. If properties are restored their taxes will also increase.

MINUTES: Approved as presented for the month of February 2024, with a motion by *Trustee Mooney*, seconded by *Trustee Hardenstine*

FINANCIAL REPORT: Attached – Approved as presented.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- **Increase AIM Funding (Aid and Incentives for Municipalities)-** This is an appeal to the New York State Legislature to increase the amount of aid that is given to municipalities. This is further outlined in the attached resolution.
- **Electric issue:** There were flickers in the power at the DPW Barn and Well #3. John Tomazin worked with DPW and NYSEG to find the problem. He found that a neutral lug was stripped, which caused the flickers. When electric current was running through the lug it would heat up, causing it to expand and the power would be steady, but when it cooled down the lug would shrink, and connection would be lost. NYSEG has been back and fixed the problem.
- **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 mailer will be created and mailed to residents with directions on how to check their pipes. This is almost completed and ready to send out. The board will be receiving an email copy to test the process before mailing out the final directions.
- **Hazard Mitigation:** We are waiting for a response from the County.
- **ARPA Funds –** Truck is still ordered but we are no further along than last month.

BILLS: Presented. Approved in the amount of \$11,976.62 from abstract number 01-25, 02-25, and 03-25, with a Motion by *Trustee Hardenstine*, seconded by *Trustee Mooney*.

NEW BUSINESS:

- RESOLUTION #01-25** Calling for an increase in AIM Funding (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Hardenstine*, seconded by *Mooney*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore, -Yes. 0 - No.
- RESOLUTION #02-25** Intent to Apply- Restore NY (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Mooney*, seconded by *Hardenstine*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore - Yes. 0 - No.
- RESOLUTION #03-25** Appoint Library Trustees (Copy attached) – adopted with a motion by *Mooney*, seconded by *Tornatore*. Roll call vote. Hardenstine, Mooney, Tornatore - Yes. 0 - No.

REPORTS:

- **Code** –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** – Downed tree removal saved for a later date to keep grounds from being ruined in the process. The process to replace a DPW employee has started.
- **Clerk** – Thanks were given to Trustee Hardenstine for his work during his term. Summer Recreation paperwork is coming in. Village employees were trained in CPR/AED/Stop the Bleed protocol. Office traffic has increased due to election questions. Submitted Annual Building Permits/Census Questions. Working on Year End Reports, Code Enforcement Report, and our audit is in June. SRBC Report was submitted.
- **Mayor**- Hope Cemetery is waiting on Assemblyman Chris Friend to hear back on restoring the Mausoleum. The proposition to move souls to the cemetery has been dismissed. The village has no fiscal responsibility for the cemetery, so if the cemetery were to go bankrupt the mowing and care would be the responsibility of the Town.
- **Parks**- The ice rink is all taken care of and put away. The light post is to go up soon. We are just waiting on the ground to dry up a bit.
- **School Districts**- Newark Valley School District will be off on April 8th to observe the solar eclipse.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

A Village Resident mentioned that the Tax Levy amount was at 2.6% and was originally accepted at 2.3%. The Tax Levy is correct and the amount per thousand is correct. Another Resident wanted to clarify that write-ins are allowed on the upcoming village election ballot. Trustee Mooney thanked Trustee Hardenstine for his time and work on the board. Trustee Hardenstine made some closing remarks about his time on the board and his hopes for the future of the village.

Motion by *Trustee Hardenstine*, seconded by *Trustee Mooney* to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Carried

Trisha Thomas
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer in Training