

Minutes  
Regular monthly Village Board Meeting  
Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Due to COVID-19 and the Governors Executive Order 202.26 the Village Board and the public are via Zoom Videoconference with a telephone option to listen in.

Present: Mayor Dale Leiser

Trustees: David Flaherty  
Dorene Weir  
Michael Abrams  
James Mark Browne

Also present via Zoom Videoconference/telephone: Climate Smart Committee Chair, William Mancini; Economic Development Director, Renee Shur; Building Inspector, Peter Bujanow; George Spencer; Rima Bostick; Stephanie Lally, Stuart Pecknar Stephen Palumbo; John Hatfield; Amber Van moessner; Michael Robins; Amber Ambrosetti; Ann Kovel; Jamie & Laura Hankin; Emelia Teasdale

Mayor Leiser opened the monthly meeting of the Village Board at 7:00 PM.

#### **CLERK/TREASURER**

Minutes- A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the minutes of November 18, 2020 regular monthly Village Board Meeting; seconded by Trustee Abrams. All voted "aye".

Budget Amendments- A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the following budget amendments presented by the Village Treasurer; seconded by Trustee Abrams. All voted "aye".

<i>FROM</i>	<i>TO</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
A.1990.4 Contingent	A.1680.4 Central Data Processing Contractual	\$1,112.82
A.5142.1 Snow Removal Personal Service	A. 8161.1 Leaf Pick up Personal Service	\$1,867.84

Abstract-A motion made by Trustee Weir approving the monthly abstract for the total amount of \$22,256.88. The General Fund expenditures of \$18,795.94; Water Fund expenditures of \$3,460.94; seconded by Trustee Flaherty. All voted "aye."

Treasurer's Report-A motion made by Trustee Abrams approving the monthly treasurer's report; seconded by Trustee Flaherty. All voted "aye".

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Code Enforcement Officer Peter Bujanow submitted his monthly activity report for the month of November. He noted he has had a significant amount of record searches to complete which indicates sales/property transfers in the village.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Economic Development Director Renee Shur submitted her November 2020 monthly report to the Village Board. She reported there are four proposed new business preparing to open in the village. A restaurant, The Aviary at 8 Hudson St; Bones Barbershop at 10 Broad St; Julie Jayne Pilates at 5 Hudson St and Renee saw on social media Christopher Knable a restaurant owner in Chatham will be opening at the old Carolina House at 59 Broad St.

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Grant-The village received the grant fund reimbursement from Hudson Valley Greenway for the "Historic Kinderhook Village A Walking & Bicycling Tour Brochure". The reimbursement closes out that grant. The village was notified today we have been awarded grant funding in the amount of \$2,000 for a GeoTourist.com tour app of the Walking & Bicycling tour brochure. This will bring the village in a more digital

position concerning the heritage of the village. Renee will be working with Ann Birckmayer, Ruth Piwonka and Wendy Spielmann. Their goal is to have the app up and running by the spring season.

Pop up Shops- Renee is in discussion with Trustee Mark Browne who has been doing research on pop up shops. They are trying to figure out how the village can enable businesses and property owners to take advantage of that marketing tool. What processes should be in place and ready for whenever a business may have an interest in doing this. Can there be various ways and or different levels for a pop up shop to happen? Can it be in a vacant building for an extended period? Can it be in an existing business for one day? They would like something in place prior to a request.

Village Facebook page-Renee is requesting the Village Board to consider an official village of Kinderhook Facebook page. She sent all of the board members reasons for her request. She is willing to assist being an administrator but feels a board member should assist to in the administration on how it should be set up and what should be posted. Trustee Abrams will be meeting with Renee tomorrow and will discuss the Facebook page and report to the Village Board at the January 2021 meeting.

## **MAYOR LEISER**

COVID- Mayor Leiser attended a webinar concerning COVID and the new regulations the Governor is requiring each municipality to adopt a policy for an Emergency Management Plan. Mayor Leiser, Trustee Weir and Trustee Browne will work on the NYS Public Employer Health Emergency Plan for adoption by February.

48 William Street- The village did receive the variance from the state for the asbestos removal at 48 William Street. A bid packet and the variance are in route to Alpine Environmental for their review. The public notice will be published in the paper for bids to be opened at the village's January 13, 2021 meeting. The village board will award a bidder contingent of final review from the village attorney. The village will approve the demolition to move forward with the approval of the village attorney.

DPW-The DPW has finished leaf pickup and has started prepping the equipment for snow.

Fire Department-Last month the Fire Department responded to 15 calls they had 1 Drill and 1 Detail. Their annual physicals were held on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the firehouse. Trustee Flaherty made a motion to have Mayor Leiser sign the Agreement Extending Contract for Fire Protection between the Town of Kinderhook and the Village of Kinderhook for the 2021 calendar year; seconded by Trustee Abrams; all voted "aye."

## **TRUSTEE FLAHERTY**

Van Buren Hall-Due to safety concerns with the COVID virus the rental of Van Buren Hall or the use of the playground at Rothermel Park will remain closed.

Leaf pick up-The DPW hauled away 236 loads of leaves equaling 877 tons.

Zoning Board of Appeals-Due to no new applications presented before the Zoning Board of Appeals no meeting was held.

Climate Smart Task Force-Mr. Mancini submitted an application for an \$8,000 grant to LIFEBOATS HV to be part of their Local Champions program. Six CSCTF coordinators will be selected to participate in training and mentoring program that will assist them in achieving a bronze certification for their municipalities.

Mills Park sign- Mr. Mancini has had a discussion with Renee Shur to use some of the Committee's funds to help pay for signage at Mills Park explaining the environmental significance and benefits of the garden created by Sigrid Grey.

Electric Charging Station-Mr. Mancini will be researching the Chare Point website for details on charging for the use of the EVCS that is in the municipal parking lot. He will provide the Board

with that information for review. Tara Donadio, the committee's senior planner from the Capital District Regional Planning Corporation, announced that a new round of Clean Energy Community grants will be available in 2021. She will keep the committee abreast of grant funds available.

Solar-Committee member, Aileen Leventon is gathering information for the possibility of having the Village Hall and the Pump House receive their electric power from a solar farm. She is also preparing information for the Village to consider the use of a nontoxic, pre-emergent weed spray to be used late winter early spring to prevent the weeds from coming up along the street curbs.

Meatless Monday –The committee is planning on having a second Meatless Monday event in January in partnership with the Library as they did this year. The committee invites all to participate.

### **TRUSTEE ABRAMS**

Water & Sewer Department-There are 44 unpaid water bills totaling \$5,847.93 and eight unpaid sewer bills totaling \$2,513.92 this is historically about average and will follow up with late letters.

Historic Preservation Commission- A meeting was held on November 19<sup>th</sup> where the owners of 8 Hudson Street (Darren Waterston) presented the Commission with an overview of their project plans and signage. The commissions next scheduled meeting is on December 17, 2020.

### **TRUSTEE WEIR**

Village of Kinderhook Cable TV Franchise Renewal-The village has received the Spectrum franchise agreement that has been reviewed and approved by the Public Service Commission along with the Village Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons. A public hearing is required to move forward with the franchise agreement. Trustee Flaherty made a motion to hold a public hearing granting a cable television franchise agreement by and between the Village of Kinderhook and Spectrum Northeast on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm; seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted "aye".

Recreation Commission-Last month the Village Board accepted the resignation of Angie Hickman to the Recreation Commission. The village has two residents willing to serve on the Commission but one spot available. The two residents have been invited to attend the January meeting of the Recreation Commission. The Commission members will recommend to the Village Board one of the residents for Mayor Leiser and the Village Board to appoint to the Recreation Commission.

Playground- The playground is currently closed due to COVID. There was orange fencing placed around the playground to keep residents off the playground. The fencing did not deter people from using the playground. The fencing was removed and signs were placed on the perimeter of the playground, stating that the playground is shut down and the equipment is not being sanitized.

### **TRUSTEE BROWNE**

Albany Hudson Electric Trail- With the support of the former Mayor Jim Dunham they have monitored the progress of the construction. They have a punch list of items that need to be finished with emphasizing the need for the signage due to safety concerns at the crossing. Other trail concerns are parking along the streets and the landscape screening that was promised to residents to be completed by spring. Flyers will be made informing visitors of the trail head parking on Rothermel to address the complaints about parking along the streets. Temporary signs like the political signs people put on their lawns will be used at road crossings as a safety measure when the trail opens to raise awareness for safety concerns.

Sign at Mills Park –Trustee Browne is working with Renee on a sign to inform visitors of the businesses in the village square. When he receives the rendering of the sign he will forward to the Village Board. In the future a symbol can be displayed that will lead you to a website for additional information.

Planning Board- A public hearing for Mr. Waterston’s restaurant “The Aviary” at 8 Hudson Street is scheduled for a Public Hearing for December 17, 2020 at 7pm. He is also working with Renee something along the lines of Small business Saturday for resident who have a business within their home.

Recommendations-Trustee Browne is working on recommendations for the improvements to the processes to be more business friendly and possibly to have alternates for the members of the Planning and zoning boards.

## **KBPA**

December Nights-Renee reported there was a great response from the village residents to the door decorating contest. There were forty four village residents participated in the contest and over ninety residents who have outside decoration making the village a destination for people to come to during the Holiday season. Renee wanted to thank Karen Sheffer for the decorating of the village square along with the village DPW who went beyond their regular decorating of the Village Square.

## **APPLICATION OF USE**

The following request was approved via email. Trustee Flaherty made a motion approving the request from the Zonta Club of the Upper Hudson Valley to display a sign from 12/1-12/10; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted “aye”.

## **TAXPAYER TIME**

Water-Mayor Leiser stated he previously told Trustee Abrams he would review the prior usage of water readings from the pump house due to the questions the village received from residents during the October water billing. The village did not feel the water was excessive with taking into account the residents being home due to COVID and requiring to wash hands longer and more often. He reviewed the records for this time period for the last three years. From last year this time to this year there was an increase of 552,832 gallons of water which is approximately 1,000 extra gallons a month. When Trustee Abrams ran the numbers previously he said it was approximately a 30% increase. In 2016 the numbers were higher than this past year.

Resident Rima Bostick inquired if the Village Board was concerned with the increase of water usage is the village worried about being at capacity of pulling of water.

Trustee Abrams noted the village has the ability to scale back the amount of water the village pumps if need be but the village is not concerned.

Rima Bostic requested the documents the Village Board reviews during the meeting be placed on the village website for review for her to follow along so she can better participate in the meeting.

A motion made by Mayor Leiser to adjourn 8:03 pm; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted “aye”.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder  
Village Clerk

