

Village Board of Trustees Meeting  
Meeting Minutes – 12-13-23

Present: Mayor Mike Abrams  
Clerk/Treasurer Nicole Heeder

Trustees: Dorene Weir, James Mark Browne, Susan Patterson, Quinn Murphy

Attendees: Renee Shur, Laurel Nicholson Browne, Jerry Callahan, Joe Wildermuth, Bill Mancini, Astrid Montagano, Sabine Murphy, Sean Sawyer, Tim Husband, Jennifer Ose McDonald

Mayor Abrams opened the Regular monthly board meeting at 7:00 p.m. All stood for Pledge of Allegiance.

**Clerk/Treasurer (Nicole Heeder)**

**Approval of Minutes**

The Board approved the minutes for the September 26, 2023, Special Workshop and the November 8, 2023 Village Board meeting.

Trustee Patterson moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Trustee Weir. "All in favor, Aye."

**Budget Amendments**

The following budget amendments were presented.

Trustee Browne motioned to approve the budget amendments, seconded by Trustee Murphy. "All in favor, Aye."

***General Fund***

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
A.1670.4 Central Printing and mailing	A.1680.4 Central Data Processing	\$ 1,453.00
A.7520.1 Historic Preservation Commission	A.8020.1 Planning Personal Services	\$ 43.59

***Water Fund***

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
F.8330.1 Purification Personal Services	F.8340.1 Transportation Distribution Personal Services	\$ 1,036.00

**Abstract**

The total abstract for the month of December was \$89,047.80. General Fund total of \$55,906.29; Water Fund \$2,987.51; Albany Ave Construction Project of \$15,567.00 and Albany Ave Water \$14,475.00.

Trustee Weir made a motion to approve abstract, seconded by Trustee Murphy. "All in favor? Aye."

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and found acceptable with no concerns raised. Waiting on tax revenue update from the county was noted, with the expectation of receiving additional funds due to an identified issue by the county. Trustee Murphy motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Trustee Weir. "All in favor, Aye."

**Code Enforcement Officer (Trevor Bean)**  
**Monthly Report**

An update was provided on the efforts to bring properties into compliance with existing violations. It was mentioned that several improvements are in the planning stages.

### **Fire Department (Larry Eisen)**

The monthly report included nine calls, two drills, and no details. Physicals and fit tests were conducted, and the department's participation in several community events was noted, including an interview on WGY Radio.

An invoice that the fire department wanted paid out of last year's budget was not submitted in time. The funds for that invoice was transferred to fund balance. The invoice was paid in this year's budget not leaving funds for the village to purchase equipment. The Fire Department is requesting the funds affecting the current budget with a motion to transfer \$11,160 from the fund balance to the fire department's equipment budget.

Mayor Abrams motioned to transfer \$11,160 from fund balance to the fire department equipment budget, seconded by Trustee Murphy. "All in favor, Aye."

### **Water & Sewer Commissioner (Dale Leiser - absent)**

#### **Unpaid Water & Sewer**

Fiscal updates were provided, unpaid water of \$14,147.19 and sewer of \$15,057.47.

### **DPW (David Booth)**

#### **Monthly Update**

The DPW provided an update on the month's work, including completing the leaf season, equipment maintenance, decorating for the holidays, and updates at Village pump house. The annual water testing was submitted.

### **Church Street Sidewalk**

An update on the Church Street Sidewalk project was provided. Hall Construction & Landscaping was low bidder. The project came under budget, it required a licensing agreement with the church due to the work being conducted on their property.

### **Economic Development Director (Renee Shur)**

#### **Monthly EDC Report - Grants**

The announcement for the grant application for the window replacement in Van Buren Hall is scheduled for February. Renee requested permission to conduct research regarding a future grant submission for ecological restoration at the Vly.

### **KBPA**

Commendations were given for the organization for Candlelight Nite.

### **Trustee Weir**

#### **Recreation Commission**

Plans for a calendar of events for 2024 and senior advisory activities were discussed. Cabin Fever Day is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm – 4 pm. If it snows on a scheduled event the advisory committee will cancel in accordance with the ICC schedule.

A motion was needed for co-sponsoring library events which was passed in favor.

Trustee Browne motioned to approve the cosponsoring of events, seconded by Trustee Murphy. "All in favor, Aye."

Additionally, guidelines for the Recreation Commission were put forward and subsequently approved by all members.

Trustee Murphy motioned to accept the guidelines, seconded by Trustee Patterson. "All in favor, Aye."

### **Trustee Murphy**

Climate Smart Task Force – the Nexamp contract was canceled and a new contract with Power Market was signed. National Grid provided interior and exterior LED lighting replacement at no cost for the firehouse.

### **Trustee Patterson**

The Planning Board met on October 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss Short term rentals. They will be added to the Site Plan Review. General code will begin to review the draft code in January needing a month or two for review prior to submitting to the Village Board.

### **Trustee Browne**

Updates on two significant infrastructure projects, the Albany Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project as well as the Albany Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project, were discussed including submission of designs to DOT. All documents and minutes are posted online for anyone to review.

Trustee Browne motioned to schedule a special board meeting on 12/21/23 for HVEA to present materials and get questions from public, seconded by Trustee Weir. "All in favor, Aye."

### **Mayor Abrams**

The mayor brought forth agreements regarding Columbia County Shared Service and Partners IN Safety Renewal Contract and provided updates on the NY Forward LPC meeting. The notice of award for the slate of projects is expected in the spring. Mayor motioned for permission to sign agreements, seconded by Trustee Murphy. The motion was unanimously approved. "All in favor, Aye."

### **Applications**

#### **Kinderhook OK5k Event Request**

An application to use the Village Square and Van Buren Hall for the Kinderhook OK5K event was approved with the condition that an alternate route may be needed due to the Albany Ave Project. Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the application, seconded by Trustee Weir. "All in favor, Aye."

### **Taxpayer Time**

Residents voiced their opinions on the New York Forward grant process and concerns about proposed changes to the village, particularly regarding Albany Avenue. Resident Jennifer Ose McDonald was disappointed with the outcome of the NYForward decisions.

The Board resolved to continue discussions and consideration of residents' input on Albany Avenue's layout, keeping the historic character of the village while also prioritizing the safety and welfare of all residents.

Trustee Murphy, as village resident, read the attached petition.

Resident Sean Sawyer commented that Albany Avenue renderings made the case for narrower lanes, and is concerned with limited driveway space and parking for residents. Also believes the road is plenty safe and drone pictures were useful.

Mayor Abrams motioned to close the regular meeting at 7:55 pm and enter Executive Session to discuss staffing, land acquisition, finance, budget, inviting Jerry Callahan, seconded by Trustee Weir. "All in favor, Aye."

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue Pulver utilizing HeyGov.

**Executive Session**

Permission for Clerk Treasurer Heeder to meet with the Bank of Greene County and to inquire outsourcing payroll.

Mayor Abrams motioned to adjourn executive session at 8:15 pm seconded by Trustee Weir. "All in favor, Aye."

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder  
Village Clerk