

Wednesday, November 8, 2023
Village of Kinderhook Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

Present: Mayor Mike Abrams Clerk/Treasurer Nicole Heeder	Trustees: Dorene Weir James Mark Browne Susan Patterson Quinn Murphy
Attendees: Matt Cohn, Dale Leiser, Jerry Callahan, Billy Murphy, Malcolm Bird, Sabine Murphy, Elizabeth Martin, Bill Mancini, Astrid Montagano, Sandra Tolosa, Liz Martin, Paul Rinehart, Chris Van Moessner	

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

1. Clerk/Treasurer

[Minutes of September 26, 2023, Special Workshop and October 11, 2023, Village Board meeting](#)

The pending approval of the minutes from September 26, 2023, was delayed due to miscommunication. The minutes from October 11, 2023, were approved with no issues.

Motion to approve the October 11, 2023, minutes made by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted 'Aye.'

[Budget Amendments](#)

F1990.4 contingent to F8340.1 transportation distribution personal services \$1,795.

F8330.1 purification personal services to F. 8340.1 transportation distribution personal services \$430.15.

Motion to approve Budget Amendments made by Trustee Weir, seconded by Trustee Murphy. All voted 'Aye.'

[Abstract \\$81,000.13 General Fund \\$69,244.88 Water Fund \\$11,755.25](#)

No questions were raised regarding the amounts in the abstract, which were agreed upon after being read out loud.

Motion to approve the abstract made by Trustee Weir, seconded by Trustee Patterson. All voted 'Aye.'

[Treasurer's Report](#)

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by Trustee Browne, seconded by Trustee Patterson. All voted 'Aye.'

[Audit report of the Village Clerk and Court Clerk's books](#)

The Village Clerk's audit was approved after review by Trustees Susan Patterson and Dorene Weir, who found the records updated and accurate. Appendix A of the Local Government Management Guide for Fiscal Oversight Responsibilities of the Governing Board was used to conduct the audit for the period of June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023.

The Court Clerk's audit, conducted by Trustees Quinn Murphy and Dorene Weir, was also approved. They also confirmed the accuracy of these records. They used Appendix 10 from the Annual Checklist for Review of Justice Court Records by the State Comptroller for the auditing the period of June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023.

The annual audit for the Village Clerk was moved for approval by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted 'Aye.' The annual audit for the Court Clerk was moved for approval by Trustee Patterson and was seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted 'Aye.'

2. Code Enforcement Officer (absent)

The Code Enforcement Officer wasn't present but sent out an update email regarding the slowdown in bigger projects and the continuation of homeowner work. The officer also mentioned that extensive assessor updates were occurring for unrecognized addition and one new home. A tree on Church Street requires removal.

3. Fire Department

The Fire Department reported that they had two calls and two drills. Maintenance work on trucks was discussed and the announcement of Quinn Murphy's official competency for interior work inside burning structures was recognized.

4. Water & Sewer Commissioner

The Commissioner gave an update on the water bill revenue and remaining balances. Mention was made of a faulty variable drive for a pump at the pump house and an issue of an overestimated water bill on Eichybush Rd., which the board discussed how to credit or compensate the customer. There may be several accounts that have been over charged due to the estimation of bills. An independent auditor assessment of the (8-10) accounts at a cost is \$1,800 to \$2,500.

Mayor motioned to hire Robert Patterson not to exceed \$2,500 towards the engagement contract, seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted 'Aye.'

5. DPW (absent)

No discussion was recorded.

6. KBPA (absent)

Nothing was discussed under this category.

7. Economic Development Director (absent)

Mayor read Resolution to submit grant for windows at Van Buren Hall.

Resolution by: Trustee Dorene Weir

Seconded by: Trustee Quinn Murphy

WHEREAS, the Village of Kinderhook is applying to **Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley (PCA)** for a **Building Decarbonization Grant** for a project to replace existing windows in Van Buren Hall with energy-efficient windows; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires the applicant municipality to obtain the approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Village of Kinderhook hereby does approve and endorse the application for a grant under the Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley Building Decarbonization Grants program for a project known as “Van Buren Hall Energy-Efficient Window Replacement” and located within this community.

Upon question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Board members voted “Aye” in favor of the Resolution:

Mayor Michael Abrams;
Trustee James Mark Browne;
Trustee Dorene Weir;
Trustee Susan Patterson; and
Trustee Quinn Murphy.

The following Board members voted “No” in opposition thereto:

_____ ; and

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Village Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Mayor of the Village of Kinderhook.

8. Trustee Weir

Recreation Commission

Request for the village to revisit opening summer program for children of nonresidents was tabled until December meeting.

Local Water Revitalization Program update - Trustee Weir provided updates about the Local Water Revitalization Program. She mentioned that there will be a community information meeting about the LWRP grant happening on November 15th, from 4:30 – 7:30pm. This open house type meeting will allow attendees to ask questions, watch informational videos and interact with information stations. No motions made.

New Website

Ready to migrate existing information to new website. The ability to accept online payments was added.

9. Trustee Murphy

Historic Preservation Commission

Trustee Murphy provided update.

Zoning Board

No new business.

[Speed Radar Feedback sign update](#)

The cost of two breakaway sign poles needed for the signs to go up along Rt. 9 are \$2,030. The village received a written complaint on the foliage covering the stop sign at the end of William St. entering Hudson Street. Discussion on adding a stop ahead sign and adding a white line was discussed, no decisions were made.

[EV Grant](#)

Trustee Murphy provided update, the car cannot be a leased vehicle.

[Climate Smart Task Force update](#)

Meeting moved to bimonthly. Trustee Murphy provided grant update. Requested board approval to reappoint Bill Mancini to Columbia County Climate Smart Task Force.

Mayor motioned to appoint Bill Mancini, seconded by Trustee Patterson, all voted 'Aye.'

10. Trustee Patterson

[Planning Board update on STR application](#)

Trustee Patterson reported that the planning board met to begin the application for short-term rental hosting. She mentioned that the village attorney and CEO attended the meeting to provide input and ensure that all procedures are carried out correctly. The finalized STR application is expected to be presented in the next board meeting in December.

[Sidewalk snow removal contract with Hall Construction & Landscaping](#)

Trustee Patterson informed about the contract for sidewalk snow removal with Hall Construction & Landscaping. This contract is needed when a resident does not clear their sidewalks in a timely manner after a snowfall. The cost of snow removal will be billed to the resident. The signed contract cost was the same as the previous year.

11. Trustee Browne

[Albany Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project](#)

Trustee Browne reported on the Albany Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project. There were two workshops held in October, focusing on trees, speed/traffic calming measures, and redesigning Albany Hudson Electric Trail hump and crosswalks. They are still in discussions with Hudson Valley Engineering about finalizing the preliminary design to be submitted to the DOT. A total of \$160,000 has been spent to date on Hudson Valley Engineering. A pay down of \$100,000 of the principal on the bond and an interest payment of \$21,092.10 was made. Workshops are set to continue on areas of concern that remain. A dedicated workshop for historic preservation is being planned and others are slated for the month-end, including a workshop on water main implementation. Another meeting is scheduled for November 15th to present the updated design.

[Albany Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project](#)

On Oct 28th DPW visited several houses in work zone, performed scratch tests for lead connections and identify meter types deployed. DPW needs to follow up with approximately 10 houses, present inventory covers 75% of houses within work zone and going after remainder. The state rendering regarding the WIIA grant is still awaited.

12. Mayor Abrams

[Outcome of the Referendum on the establishment of a Service Award Program 49/2 for active volunteer firefighter members of the Palmer Engine and Hose Company](#)

Mayor Abrams announced the successful Referendum on the establishment of a Service Award Program for the active volunteer firefighters. The members of the Palmer Engine and

Hose Company passed the measure by 69 votes to 2. He extended congratulations to the fire company for the achievement.

[Update on the NY Forward LPC meeting](#)

Mayor Abrams provided an update about the recent NY Forward Local Planning Committee (LPC) meeting. A unanimous decision was made to propose a slate of projects for the grants, which included six public projects, two non-for-profit projects, and a \$300,000 fund for private businesses in the community. The state is pushing back on it and requesting more projects be submitted. Further discussions are to be held with the state before final decisions are made.

[Enhanced Enforcement Program](#)

Mayor Abrams provided an update. Trustee Weir inquired if there's any update on revenue from tickets issued. Clerk/Treasurer Heeder explained it can take months to determine. The person being ticketed needs to plea prior to appearing before the judge and a fine being issued. A discussion with the court will be needed.

13. Applications

- a. An application from Grace Pavlicin was submitted proposing the use of Van Buren Hall for a 1st Birthday party scheduled for January 27th from 12 pm to 3 pm.
- b. Elizabeth Cottingham requested the use of Van Buren Hall for a Documentary movie screening on December 16th from 5 pm to 7 pm.
- c. Morey Hall applied to use Van Buren Hall for a piano rehearsal on November 10th from 4 pm to 5 pm and for a piano recital on November 18th from 3 pm to 5 pm.
- d. Kristen Hiller requested to use Van Buren Hall for a birthday party on December 2nd from 11 am to 2 pm.

Trustee Browne made a motion to approve all requests. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy. All voted 'Aye.'

14. Taxpayer Time

Several comments and questions were asked during the taxpayer time. These included inquiries about the design goals, the role of the Historic Preservation Commission, the outcome of the Enhanced Enforcement program, qualifications of Hudson Valley Engineers in traffic engineering, and the acoustics of the venue for public meetings. The board answered and discussed these issues accordingly.

No motions were made during this comment period.

Trustee Browne motioned to adjourn at 7:48 pm and enter executive session to discuss staffing, land acquisition and bonding and asked consultant Jerry Callahan to stay. Trustee Weir seconded the motion. All voted 'Aye.'

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue Pulver using HeyGov technology.

Executive Session

No motions made.

Trustee Browne motioned to adjourn at 8:20pm; Trustee Weir seconded the motion. All voted 'Aye.'

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder

Village Clerk