

Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees  
 Minutes

Present: <b>Mayor Mike Abrams</b> <b>Clerk/Treasurer Nicole Heeder</b>	Trustees: <b>David Flaherty</b> <b>Dorene Weir</b> <b>James Mark Browne</b> <b>Susan Patterson</b>
Attending: Alexandra Anderson Anne Birckmayer Astrid Montagano Bill Mancini Brian Murphy Dale Leiser Jerry Callahan Jim Dunham John Margan Quinn Murphy Renee Shur Rich Phillips Trevor Bean Larry Eisen	

Call to order:

Mayor Abrams opened the regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. All stood for Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Clerk/Treasurer**

- Minutes of February 8, 2023, Village Board meeting and March 1, 2023 Preliminary budget workshop  
 Trustee Flaherty motioned to approve Minutes, seconded by Trustee Weir, all voted 'Aye'.

- Budget Amendments

Fund	From	To	Amount
General	A.1620.43 Buildings Bandstand Contractual	A.1620.4 Buildings Contractual	\$1,772.84
	A.1680.4 Central Data Process Contractual	A.1680.2 Central Data Process Equipment	819.98
	A.1990.4 Contingent Account	A.1910.4 Unallocated Insurance	1,248.71
	A.7180.4 Special Recreational Facilities Contractual	A.7140.4 Recreation Contractual	668.88
	A.8020.1 Planning Personal Services Contractual	A.7520.1 Historic Commission Personal Services	118.40
	A.8161.1 Leaf Pick Personal Services	A.8540.1 Drainage Personal Services	12.60
	A.9010.8 State Retirement	A.9050.8 Unemployment Insurance	50.00
Water	F.8340.4 Transmission Distribution Contractual	F.8320.4 Source & Pumping Contractual	\$ 2,095.30

Trustee Flaherty motioned to approve, Trustee Weir seconded, all voted 'Ayes.'

- Abstract

Treasurer reported abstract totaling \$66,011.01; General Fund \$48,958.88, Water fund \$6,498.37, new Capital projects Albany Ave. \$10,553.76.

Trustee Flaherty motioned to accept abstract, Trustee Patterson seconded, all voted 'Aye.'

-Treasurer's Report – Trustee Browne motioned to accept, Trustee Flaherty seconded, all voted 'Aye.'

- Records Destruction Authorization – Treasurer Heeder requested board permission to shred the documents listed on 4 pages given to the board from the records management officer, Trustee Flaherty motioned to accept, Trustee Weir seconded, all voted 'Aye.'

- Village Election Tuesday March 21, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Clerk/Treasurer Heeder reminded all that village offices are closed during polling time.

## 2. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO Trevor Bean)

- Monthly Report – CEO reports monthly report received noting \$111,000 improvements this month. Trevor found an error and will correct and send an updated report.

- Building Department Software Update – Go-live date of 5/2/23 – will be accessible to all residents.

## 3. Fire Department. (Chief Matt Cohn absent; Deputy Chief Larry Eisen reported)

3 Calls, 2 drills reported.

Task Force drill to be held a week from Saturday with Kinderhook, Valatie, Niverville training together. Had 4 calls just yesterday with wires down, mutual aid response.

Reports no residents showed up at the firehouse warming station but left meeting room unlocked should there be a need. Comments that the firehouse does not have the ability to transport residents in need of warming station. Mayor responded village would help find transportation if there was a need.

## 4. Water & Sewer Commissioner (Comm. Dale Leiser)

- Unpaid water & sewer

Outstanding water: \$2,557.20; Outstanding sewer \$12,871.27 with past due of 4 people.

- Window pricing of the pump house

Three quotes for thermal pane glass windows 37 x 68:

1) D&D Enterprises (Doug Dumont) \$3,275; with lead time 10-12 weeks.

2) RL Welch Contracting \$4,000; Andersen windows, 3-4 weeks lead time, better quality, with screens – big crank out window, screen with glass above, get a lot of moisture in summer, need windows open.

3) Frank Curran \$9,621.84; National windows

Commissioner comments on pump house: new ceiling in pump house, roof renovation in 2018, vent grate still in ceiling, Rob (Meehan) will pull vent grate to see if he can refurbish it; change lighting to LEDs, new door on front, paint floor, and to alleviate moisture, may need dehumidifier.

Mayor defers to Commissioner Leiser; Commissioner believes RL Welch windows better quality. Mayor motioned to approve, Trustee Flaherty seconded, all voted Ayes.

## 5. DPW (Super. Booth absent)

- Monthly update

Mayor read prepared update by Superintendent Booth:

*The DPW has been occupied with the winter weather that has finally come.*

*We have removed snow from the square and cleaned the curbing on multiple occasions this month.*

*We have started the pump house renovation, replacing the insulation and ceiling, to prepare for the SCADA project*

*There are scheduled repairs for the pumps at the pump house, replacement of a check valve, a ball valve and an expansion tank.*

*Plenty of equipment maintenance throughout the shop.*

*New shocks for older pickup*

*Plow solenoid*

*Sander worm gear*

*etc.*

*Moving forward we will be looking to prepare for spring*

*Little libraries will be installed*

*Continue with the pump house upgrades*

#### 6. Economic Development Director (Director Renee Shur)

- Monthly EDC Report - Director Shur recommends going to village website for Economic Development report, states two new businesses coming to the village in Spring – Village Yoga in Berkshire Hathaway building: and Super Stories next to Village Hall. Explores if trustees are willing to start discussion to allow alcohol during performances upstairs in Van Buren Hall, Renee contacted Metz Wood for insurance/liability, will share email from Jennifer Van Deusen answering questions re: village policies and procedures. Currently alcohol is not allowed.

#### 7. KBPA is planning the Farmers Market, and planning for special events.

#### 8. Trustee Flaherty

- Zoning Board – held meeting discussing possibility of creating brochure for citizens combining HPC & ZBA; Renee looking at artwork for brochure. The ZBA is in favor of proposed fee changes.

- Village Hall door replacement in the spring – Trustee Flaherty will email Jeff Pizza and pass along contact information to Mayor.

- Transition of information to the new board member – Trustee Flaherty will also come up with list of email contacts for whoever takes his position; mentions peaceful transition of power. He has served on many boards and is very impressed with quality of board members in the village, no one has brought personal politics to the board, laudable, and thanks everyone for backup he's received over the years.

#### 9. Trustee Weir

- Recreation Commission – Trustee Weir asks for board approval allowing children of non-residents to attend summer program for fee of \$200; discussion ensued, tabling vote until next month's meeting. Trustee Patterson asked for summer program dates; June 26<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup>; asking residents to register by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Community night - Saisonier would like to sell alcohol outdoors which Trustee Weir motioned to approve and Trustee Flaherty seconded, all voted 'Ayes.' They asked to consider moving their position closer to the playground pavilion, per Mayor they should submit a site plan to the village, tabling vote until next meeting.

- Move Music in Park to Village Square – 15-piece band - Summer Jam, band's name is Brass Kill. Trustee Weir concerns with having them in bandstand which won't support that number; no dates set yet; not in conflict with Ghent band dates.

- Village Website - several Zoom meetings held; concerns about performance and costs; overall costs for period of 4 years are less; wanted to include municipality centered program to allow that payments are taken online and forms digitized, costs \$2,000 per year. Once set up the village can post to its website. Need motion to approve recommendations for Revize with HeyGov municipal software. Mayor recalls budgeting \$13,000, this will be much cheaper after first year. Trustee Patterson questions does this work with municipalities only? HeyGov works with others. Trustee Browne questions email? Per Trustee Weir the software interfaces with

village email. Recommended Revize with HeyGov (next fiscal year) take 3-4 months for Revize to design website, mentions they've been quick to respond. Trustee Browne asks for clarity - what are we approving? 4 year agreement over time; Revize is less expensive than Civic, and HeyGov works with software for payments, allows credit card payments. Mayor complements Trustee Weir for efforts and motioned to accept Revize and HeyGov software at \$14,725 over 4 years; incorporate HeyGov June/July 2023; paying most of Revize this year; with existing budget line, Trustee Flaherty seconded, all voted 'Aye.'

- Little Free Libraries – installed by Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Greenway Grant – Kayak Launch – have meeting tomorrow morning to go over property lines – Carl Williams property.
- Pickleball – meeting with JR Kelleher to fill tennis crack, will have info by next board meeting of all costs to repair tennis court.

#### 10. Trustee Browne

- Historic Preservation Commission – meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night.
- Multi-Year Financial Planning Report – working with Jerry Callahan, finishing roads report showing costs and priorities, will provide better budget estimates; working on reserve analyses, and future water needs, to be discussed in budget meetings; using recommendations to guide budget deliberations this year.
- Albany Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project - sent email out describing status, still in process of forming Steering Committee; needs to talk to two folks, have 8-10 folks lined up willing to serve, the Steering Committee is meant to be used as sounding board prior to public hearings, first meeting to be held in Spring. DOT kickoff meeting was held which showed how to run the project, how to submit invoices and start work, and have received one invoice from HVEA covering January expenses. Working on first invoice to go to DOT very soon, then 80% payback on grant, expect to receive 90 days. Route through DOT to OSC to Village.  
Going to do quick survey on Albany Ave. trees, possible removal for construction project, getting baseline to hand to HVEA's landscaping folks, and will use local tree service.
- Albany Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project - using HVEA for design, contract in front of us, signed by HVEA, reviewed by attorney, ready to sign tonight. Kickoff meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> to share data with designers. Trustee Browne motioned to approve design contract with HVEA, \$175,000, design effort for water main, Trustee Flaherty seconded, all voted 'Aye.'
- Traffic Safety/Speed Feedback sign employment – DOT Response Route 9 – Trustee Browne needs to get together with Dave Booth and local DOT for permission to put up signs.
- Albany Hudson Electric Trail – annual meeting March 31<sup>st</sup>. Has been talking with [Hudson River Valley] Greenway.

#### 11. Trustee Patterson

- Planning Board – received guidance from Attorney Fitzsimmons on outdoor restaurant seating; regular monthly meeting held March 2<sup>nd</sup>, independent villages need to amend site plan for outdoor seating, requires review on case by case basis, needs to be ADA compliant and conform with DOT regulations.
- Climate Smart Task Force monthly update – Bill Mancini reports received DEC Bronze certification; to many congratulations. Has one new addition to February report: Local Champions offering 3 hours consultation with grant writing coach and feasibility coach (Tighe & Bond) Ulster County. They've asked us to make virtual appointments with them before end of April, for any board members with specific project related to environment or energy efficiency which Bill can set up. Lighting may be one issue to discuss. For Heat Smart program – will be putting in flyers for program in water bills for residents.

Planning earth day event April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dash for Trash – Recreation Commission wants to volunteer to cleanup on Broad Street – will get details, composting bin county supplies, transfer station.

-Lighting – Trustee Patterson requested seeking two assessments from National Grid, LED conversion street lights and remaining village properties. Mayor has approved seeking assessments. Trustee Patterson just put in for these assessments.

## 12. Mayor Abrams

- NY Forward grant update - had introductory meeting yesterday with Rene (Shur), Nicole (Heeder), Mark (Browne), and two Department of State employees, one of whom will be the program manager throughout grant, discussed broad overview, NYS DOS to identify team of consultants to work with Village during entire process. Question raised on selection process, folks on committee? Is it up to DOS to find out who that will be? Mayor will get more information. Does Saranac Lake NYForward grant identify this information? Not sure. Resident Anne Birkmayer asks next step? Per Mayor by April they'll identify team of consultants. Anne Birkmayer asks will there be a series of public meetings? Yes per Mayor, minimum monthly meetings during 6 month process. All very transparent. Had good initial meeting. Per Mayor - projects in grant are not guaranteed to be funded, folks may have another opportunity to submit projects. NYS DOS to select committee of residents, who will recommend with consultants, to DOS, who will then decide which projects to be funding through this grant. DOS makes final determination. Part of that – strategic investment plan – final product of 6 month long committee selection process, then to DOS, with projects not starting until next June. Trustee Flaherty asks if they are state workers? Trustee Browne said will be combination of state and contractors. Per Mayor if private entity is chosen, the relationship stays between business owner and DOS, the village will not be involved except in village projects eg. bandstand. 20% match for Albany Ave. is part of this grant, what already bonded should be paid for with federal and state funding, just have to figure out water. Consulting team will be down to tour the village.

- Enhanced Enforcement: 70 speeding tickets issued; will continue monthly moving forward.

- FY24 budget planning process – next meeting is next Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. In good shape.

- Thank you to Trustee Flaherty for his service to the Village. Richie Phillips thanks him for his service. Jim Dunham seconded Richie's remarks thanking Trustee Flaherty.

## 13. Peddler's Permit- Mr. Ding-A-Ling Ice Cream is requesting to sell Good Humor Ice Cream throughout the village from April 1-October 1, 2023

Trustee Flaherty motioned to approve, Trustee Weir seconded, all voted 'Aye.'

## 14. Applications

- a. Karen Abrams is requesting Van Buren Hall on Thursday evenings (3/30, 4/13, 4/27, 5/11, 5/25, 6/8, 6/22, 7/13, 7/27); 4 pm – 5:30 pm for Girl Scout troop meetings
- b. Northern Columbia Little League is requesting the Village's ball fields from April through July; Monday – Friday from 4:30 pm until Dusk and Saturdays all day
- c. Concerts in the Village is requesting Van Buren Hall, the lift and piano on May 21<sup>st</sup> from noon – 6:00 pm for concert of music for piano and winds
- d. Morey Hall is requesting Van Buren Hall and the piano on 5/20; 10 am -11 am and 3 pm-4pm for student rehearsal and piano recital
- e. Kinderhook Memorial Library is requesting the Playground Pavilion on 7/16; from 4 pm-6:30 pm for a Summer Reading Kickoff Party
- f. Linda Van Alstyne for Over Comers Ministries requesting the Playground Pavilion on 6/18; 11am-2 pm for a Juneteenth outreach celebration

Per Clerk Heeder one additional: Kinderhook Elks – Village Square Easter Bunny April 11, Trustee Flaherty motioned to approve all requests, Trustee Weir seconded, all voted ‘Aye.’

#### 15. Taxpayer Time

Resident Rich Phillips – congratulations to Mayor and Board, including Nicole and Rene, on receiving NYForward grant. Glad to hear about LED lights; estimate of savings \$30,000 annually – paying \$38,000 now; could payoff lights.

Resident Anne Birkmayer, Route 9 – asks if any recent thought to village taking over snow clearance of sidewalks? Per Trustee Flaherty – we looked into it years ago, cost was scary due to equipment and man-hours. Per Mayor we received a quote of \$70,000-80,000 for snow clearing (Tom Hall). Route 9 has 5 foot sidewalk.

Resident Astrid Montagano – lives on Albany Ave– doesn’t experience the same volume on sidewalks that Anne Birkmayer (Route 9) experiences (due to plows.) Per Dale Leiser – we don’t have manpower either. Trustee Flaherty reiterates it’s cost prohibitive. Per Mayor we only have two full time DPW employees and other part-time. Mayor states Village tries to give folks slack in clearing sidewalks due to plows coming through.

Resident Anne Birkmayer questions Cornell and climate mitigation action plan. Per Bill Mancini the county has signed onto, along with 12 villages/town, gathering data to report on possible environmental problems that exist that can be rectified. The next step is they’re planning a get together remotely with leadership, looking to add other people on team, Warren Applegate on committee, but looking for additional stakeholders in community, and looking for input. Include folks on planning board, board of appeals, climate resiliency plan. Anne Birkmayer states – may dovetail with NY Forward applications around climate? Bill Mancini agrees. Mayor asks that Bill Mancini call him tomorrow.

Resident Brian Murphy – is it still process to have Rob Fitzsimmons write village code for zoom meetings? Per Mayor it would be a spend of \$3,500 and law sunsets next year. Brian Murphy withdraws question but asks what about paving Gaffney, and getting speed humps on Gaffney? Had Mark [Browne] addressed paving, prioritizing streets? Per Mayor we’re getting report finalized next Friday. The two worst roads are Gaffney & McNary but Gaffney is too big to pave all at once, may do McNary and half of Gaffney with CHIPS money, then finish Gaffney next year and discuss speed humps next fiscal year, will discuss in budget. Question – is it possible to get high speed data off radar cameras? Last report Brian Murphy saw cameras didn’t have high speed data. Per Trustee Browne – still synthesizing data, but not there yet.

Resident Astrid Montagano – possible to put garbage bin next to mutt mitts near Vanderpoel house? Mayor – Yes, couple garbage cans were purchased, will put them back out.

Resident Alexandra Anderson asks – of the 70 speeding tickets, who gets money and how much? The village Per Mayor. The village is supposed to get approximately \$100/ticket with \$25 processing fee, which should come back to village. Based on how much paying police officers for time, it’s positive for village.

8:16 p.m. Mayor motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into executive session to discuss personnel. Trustee Flaherty seconded, all voted ‘Aye.’

Respectfully submitted, Susan Pulver, Recording Secretary

8:30 p.m . Executive session started.

Executive Session-(Clerk Heeder took minutes of Executive Session)

A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the following salaries/wages for the 2023/2024 fiscal year; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted “aye”.

Deputy Clerk	\$23.00/hr
Sup't. Of Public Works	\$28.00/hr
Ass't. Sup't	\$26.00/hr
Ass't. Sup't (part time)	\$22.00/hr
Village Justice	\$4,914/yr
Justice Court Clerk	\$20.005/hr
Secy. Planning & Zoning	\$17.50/hr
Secy. Historic Commission	\$17.50/hr
Secy. Recreation Commission	\$17.50/hr
Records Management	\$17.50/hr
Personell (office/recording secretary)	\$17.50/hr
Meter Reader	\$1.50/mtr
CEO/ZEO	\$13,800/yr
Ass't. CEO/ZEO	\$3,000/yr
Election Inspector (4)	\$15.75/hr
Economic Development	\$16,500/yr
Summer Program Director	\$5,000/yr
Ass't. Director	\$17.00/hr
Camp Counselors (4)	\$15.20/hr
Laborer	\$16.28/hr
MEO	\$19.00/hr
Water Laborer	\$23.10/hr

Clerk Heeder exited the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

A motion made by Mayor Abrams approving the Clerk/Treasurer salary of \$60,000 for the 2023/2024 fiscal year; seconded by Trustee Flaherty. All voted “aye”.

Trustee Weir made a motion to adjourn executive session at 9:20 p.m.; seconded by Trustee Flaherty., All voted “aye”.

Submitted by Mayor Abrams