

Minutes

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Regular Monthly Village Board Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees

Present: Mayor Leiser

Trustees: Dorene Weir
James Mark Browne

Absent: Trustees; David Flaherty and Michael Abrams

Also present: Code enforcement Officer, Peter Bujanow; Economic Development Director, Renee Shur; Climate Smart Committee Chair, William Mancini; Tighe & Bond Engineer Daniel Valentine. Several resident are via zoom videoconference.

Mayor Leiser opened the Village Board meeting at 6:30 pm to conduct the audit of the Village Clerk’s Books.

AUDIT OF VILLAGE CLERK’S BOOKS

Due to COVID -19 The annual audit of the Village Clerks’ books for the June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020 fiscal year was not audited. The Village Board conducted the audit for the June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020 fiscal year and the June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 fiscal year using the State Comptrollers Appendix A-General Record Keeping requirements for the Chief Physical Officers. The Village Board found both year’s in satisfactory order.

Mayor Leiser closed the meeting at 6:45 pm and reopened the meeting at 7:00 pm for the Regular Monthly Village Board Meeting.

CLERK/TREASURER

Minutes A motion made by Trustee Browne to approve the minutes of October 13, 2021 Village Board meeting with minor changes he previously sent to the Village Clerk; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted “aye”.

Budget Amendments A motion made by Trustee Weir to approve the budget amendments; seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted “aye”.

General Fund

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
A.7620.4 Adult Recreational Contractual	A.7140.41 Recreation Recc. Contractual	\$357.84
A.7140.1 Recreational Personal Service	A.7180.1 Special Recreational Facilities Personal	\$12.10

Abstract A motion made by Trustee Browne approving November’s monthly abstract in the amount of \$61,921.68 with General Fund expenses of \$54,643.95; Water Fund expenses of \$1,861.81; and Sewer Fund expenses of \$5,415.92; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted “aye”.

Treasurer’s Report

A motion made by Trustee Browne approving the monthly treasurer’s report for November 10, 2021; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted “aye”.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Peter Bujanow submitted his monthly report to the Village Board. He issued 13 permits this month with a total of \$166,000 dollars of home improvements this month and 1.4 million dollars of home improvements year to date that will be added to the village assessment roll.

Food Trucks-NYS requires each municipal building inspector to inspect any food truck that will be working within their municipality. The Food Truck vendors will need to be inspected by the County Health Department and by the Code Enforcement Officer. Peter will be establishing a permit process as required by code and creating an inspection check list for the Food truck vendors that will be required prior to the food truck operating in the village.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Economic Development Director, Renee Shurs's monthly report was received and will be posted on the village website.

Historic Kinderhook GeoTourist App-Renee is working with Village Historian Kate Johnson on the GeoTourist App with a spring completion. They are discussing ways to connect with Buren on their GeoTourist App to let the communities to get to know about each other.

Light post-If possible, Renee would like the light post to be installed at 8 Hudson Street prior to Candle Light Night as it is very dark in that area. Peter requested she remind the contractor to submit a building permit for his file.

Garbage receptacle-There was a request to relocate the garbage receptacle on the one way street in front of 2, 4 and 8 Hudson Street. The receptacle was taken out but not relocated. With the new businesses opening in that area the receptacle will be needed. Renee requested Mayor Leiser speak with the new businesses as to the best placement.

KBPA

Candlelight night will be Friday, December 3rd from 5-8pm in the Village Square.

MAYOR LEISER

DPW-The DPW has been picking up leaves for the month. The milling and paving of Albany Ave was done by Colarusso today.

National Grid-Hudson Street transformer project-National Grids' plan for the transformer on Hudson Street is scheduled to be completed this month. They will determine if National Grid or an outside company will be hired to complete the project. Mayor Leiser spoke with Consolidated Communications today and they will begin removing the double wood poles.

Committee w/Town of Kinderhook, Villages of Valatie and Kinderhook on Cannabis-Mayor Leiser set a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021 for December 8, 2021 at 6:45 PM. The law is to opt-out of allowing adult use on-site cannabis consumption sites to locate within the Village of Kinderhook as authorized under Article 4 of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act. This will allow the village to opt in on the tax revenue.

Rt. 9 at Albany Ave & Hudson Street Traffic Signal Transfer Switches-New York State DOT is in the design phase to install traffic signals generator transfer switches region wide in Columbia County. There will be one installed at Route 9 at Albany Avenue & Hudson Street.

Martin Van Buren's Birthday Ceremony-will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 11:00 am.

Valatie's Winter Walk-The Village Board was invited to parade in the Valatie's winter walk.

The Town of Supervisor invited the board to ride in a wagon during the parade.

Memorial Day Parade-The parade will be in the Village of Kinderhook this year.

Parking Regulations-Several businesses will be opening in the village square soon. Village parking regulations may need to be viewed.

Appointment of Deputy Village Clerk-the village received ten resumes for the deputy clerk position. Mayor Leiser appointed Kristy Silvia as the Deputy Village Clerk. Trustee Weir made a motion approving the appointment; seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted "aye". Kristy will begin on Monday, November 29th.

Donation of piano-Village resident David Smith informed the village that a benefactor would like to donate a piano for Van Buren Hall. The village would need to pay for the piano to be moved to Van Buren Hall, tuning of the piano, at the time of the move and tuning as needed, and insurance coverage. Mayor Leiser would like to table this item until the December Village Board meeting when the full board is in attendance.

TRUSTEE FLAHERTY

In Trustee Flaherty's absence Mayor Leiser reported the following:

Village Hall Justice Court-The village is awaiting quotes for a new front entrance door to the Village Hall.

Bandstand-Awaiting preliminary drawings for the new bandstand from Greg Merryweather.
Zoning Board of Appeals-After much discussion and testimony concerning a fence at 10 Broad Street the board determined Mr. Calcagno will need a building permit and possibly need to receive HPC approval.

Historic Preservation Commission-Trustee Flaherty attended the meeting in Trustee Abrams absence. 8 Hudson Street was before the Commission for two signs, Kinderhook and Bottle Shop. Darren Waterson was requesting approval for an exterior staircase at 2 Hudson Street and approval for the entrance at 8 Hudson Street for The Aviary. The Commission had a lengthy conversation concerning parking in the Village Square. Trustee Flaherty informed them the issue is being addressed by the Village Board.

Climate Smart Task Force-Mr. Mancini reported on the following: Solar Campaign, Bat Week The Big Green Box and Community Choice Aggregation.

Solar Campaign-The Village's Community Solar Campaign will continue until the end of the month. It is estimated there are approximately 50 signups. NYERDA has approved the documentation confirming the Task Force has met their goal for the village to receive grant funds. The Task Force has received 200 additional points in the Clean Energy Communities Leadership program, giving the village a total of 1,300 points. Tara Donadio of CDRPC informed the Task Force that NYERDA will confirm the amount to be awarded and request that they submit plans for its use within 90 days of that confirmation. In anticipation of that, Mr. Mancini has asked the committee members and the Village Board to provide suggestions for using the funds. The criteria is similar to the previous grant the village received from NYERDA in that it should be applied to improving energy efficiency or sustainability projects. Bike racks are being considered.

Bat Week-More than thirty children participated in various bat related activities during the week. There were also five bat houses built by teen and family participants with donated materials and the woodworking expertise of Tom Messina of Ghent. The Library has purchased twenty new bat books for the children's library.

The Big Green Box is a battery recycling box. The box in the Library was filled with batteries and small electronics in a little over a week. Additional boxes have been ordered to replace the one being shipped to the recycler.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program- Mr. Mancini has been in touch with representatives of other municipalities involved in the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. They have concerns about the latest proposal offered by MEGA in partnership with Joule Assets. The new arrangement does not offer any assurances that there will be sufficient community solar available to meet the renewable energy needs of the municipalities and that the current cost of Renewable Energy Credits (REC) will make it difficult to provide competitive fixed green energy costs. Mayor Leiser and Mr. Mancini sent a letter to Ron Feldstein the President of MEGA citing these reason for declining the latest proposal for a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. Mr. Mancini will be meeting next week with other representatives of the Capital District CCA to discuss plans for moving forward with the CCA.

Electric Charging Station-A grant was received to install the Electric Charging Station at the municipal parking lot. The grant covered the first two years of electric charges. The Village Board will need to determine how much the village will charge a user to cover the electric charges and if any other fees may be applied. For example, if there was a two hour minimum charge would there be a fee for any charges over two hours. When the Village Board sets the fees the village will need to input the amount into the Chargepoint software at the charging station and add the fees to the village's fee schedule. Trustee Browne will work with Mr. Mancini on how to charge residents using the electric with the Chargepoint software.

TRUSTEE ABRAMS

In Trustee Abrams absence Mayor Leiser reported the following:

Roads and Sidewalk-Williams Street and Albany Ave-The village would like to apply for a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grant (WIIA Grant) to install new water mains on Albany Ave and Williams Street and also to re-pave the streets. The grant is due November 22, 2021. If the village is awarded the grant, the grant will cover 60% of the cost of the project. Hudson Valley Engineering has produced updated costs for each road: Williams Street at \$830,000 thousand dollars and \$1.25 million dollars for Albany Ave. A total approximate cost is \$2.1 million dollars. The WIIA grant will cover \$1.25 million dollars and the Village will need to cover approximately \$850,000 thousand dollars. The village has received a proposal from Tighe & Bond in the amount of \$6,500 dollars to assist the village in applying for the grant. The fee can be taken from the engineering budget line or from the water budget. Engineer Mr. Valentine from Tighe & Bond was present and noted the state has offered the WIIA Grant for the last five years and the grant will cover 60% of a project up to a 3 million dollar project. Tighe & Bond will also assist the village in completing an application for a low interest loan through the NYS revolving water drinking fund. A motion made by Trustee Weir to approve Tighe & Bond's proposal of \$6,500 to assist the village in submitting for the WIIA grant (including an overall water engineering recommendation to replace the water mains on Albany and Williams); seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted "aye". Mr. Valentine will meet with Superintendent David Booth on Friday and is working with Clerk -Treasurer Heeder with items needed to submit with the grant application. Trustee Abrams is in contact with Congressman Delgado's district director (Amanda De Santis) to receive a letter of support. A special meeting will be required prior to November 22, 2021 for the approval of the following three items that are required to be submitted with the grant application (1) bond resolution in anticipation of borrowing funds, (2) SEQR Resolution, (3) an authorization for Mayor Leiser to submit for the WIIA Grant. Mayor Leiser set a Special Meeting for Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Snow Removal Contract with Tom Hall Construction & Landscaping, Inc. -The snow clearing contract with Tom Hall is for any village resident who does not clear their sidewalk per village code. The Superintendent can request Hall Construction to clear the sidewalk and the village will bill the resident with an additional \$15.00 administration fee. A motion made by Trustee Browne to have Mayor Leiser sign the sidewalk snow removal contract with Hall Construction & Landscaping, Inc for the 2021-2022 season; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

TRUSTEE WEIR

Recreation Commission-Halloween Event-the Halloween event was a successful event. They believe it was so successful due to partnering with the Kinderhook Memorial Library and the KBPA as they are targeting the same audience. They are working on their 2022 calendar and would like to partner with the Kinderhook Memorial Library on more events.

Alternate member-The commission consists of seven members. At this time they only have five members. The commissions thought was to hold off appointing an alternate member until the commission has seven members.

Greenway-Kayak Launch sites-Valatie has approved working with Barton & Loguidice for their kayak site. The committees for the Village of Valatie and Village of Kinderhook are expecting to meet with Barton & Loguidice to determine what each site needs to move forward.

LWRP-RFP Engineering firm-Renee is working on the RFP to hire an engineering firm for the LWRP project. Trustee Weir is scheduled to meet with her to review the documents Renee needs for the RFP.

Celebrations-With the assistance of Tom Butcher, Consolidate Communications, KBPA, village Recreation Commission and the DPW the village Square is scheduled to be decorated at 7am on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. The village Recreation commission will take the lead on decorating the tree and the countdown to the lighting of the Christmas tree during Candlelight night.

TRUSTEE BROWNE

Trees-Tom Butcher, Homstead Tree service was hired to remove a tree on an emergency basis at Mills Park. The village does not have regulations on trees in the village but Trustee Browne would like to get a consensus on how the village would like to get some principals on how the village address our trees and shrubs in the village. He did some research and will publish some high level principals on trees in the upcoming Kinderhook Times to share with the village.

Mayor Leiser requested Trustee Browne inspect the tree on Albany Ave next to one Chatham Street and the tree on Chatham Street in front of one Chatham Street. The tree on Albany Ave is upheaving the sidewalk. Trustee Browne will speak with Superintendent Booth if cutting the tree roots and releveling under the sidewalk would be the best way to address the upheaving of the sidewalk. He also needs to address high branches over the trail, a tree at the bandstand and an ornamental tree overhanging the road on Albany Ave.

Insurance-Last month the village approved the terms and conditions of our insurance policy. The village now has the policy on file that includes the terms and conditions.

AHET-the village does not maintain the trial in late fall or winter unless there is a tree down or something dangerous that needs to be handled.

Policy Handbook-Now that the Deputy Clerk has been hired the village office will have staff to move forward. There are items the Village Board will need to vote on that will affect the village budget.

Planning Board-the Planning Board met on November 4th and approved the request for a lot line adjustment at 30 Rothermel Lane.

Liaison Updates-Trustee Browne has submitted the proposed legislation for an alternate member for each board or commission to the Village Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons. Mr. Fitzsimmons was unwavering on the option to allow the alternate to participate during the meeting and ask questions to the applicant as if a member. The alternate would be silent until they are called upon to fill in as a member. A board or commission can choose not to have an alternate in place. If that changes, the law will be on the books and the Village Board could appoint an alternate. A public hearing may be set at the Special Village Board meeting on November 17th when all members of the Village Board are present.

APPLICATION OF USE

A motion made by Trustee Weir to approve Leslie Astanta for St. John's Church request to place a sign in the Village Square advertising their Christmas sale from November 11, 2021 to November 22, 2021; seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted "aye".

TAXPAYER TIME

Mayor Leiser announced if anyone on the zoom videoconference has a question or comment they may send an email to the Village Hall.

A motion made by Mayor Leiser to adjourn the regular monthly Village Board meeting at 8:12 pm; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder
Village Clerk

