

Minutes
Regular monthly meeting of the Village Board
Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Due to COVID-19 pandemic: The Village Board is in the Village Hall social distanced by 6ft. The public is via Zoom Videoconference with a telephone option to listen in.

Present: Mayor James Dunham

Trustees: Richard Phillips
Dale Leiser
Robert Baumeister
David Flaherty (Absent)

Also present via Zoom Videoconference/telephone: William Mancini; Renee Shur; Mike Abrams; William Van Alstyne; Steve Palumbo; Jennifer Ose-McDonald; Laura Hankin; Yoon Chung; and Emelia Teasdale, The Columbia Paper.

MINUTES

A motion made by Trustee Phillips approving the minutes of June 10, 2020 regular monthly Village Board Meeting; seconded by Trustee Baumeister. All voted "aye".

ABSTRACT

A motion made by Trustee Baumeister approving the monthly abstract in the amount of \$52,102.96; seconded by Trustee Leiser. All voted "aye."

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion made by Trustee Phillips approving the monthly treasurer's report; seconded by Trustee Leiser. All voted "aye".

DPW

Weeds along the streets-The dirt and weeds along Rt.9 is the responsibility of New York State DOT Region 8. They cleaned from the village light south. They may not return until August to finish cleaning from the village light north. There is one sweeper for the 8 counties in Region 8. The village DPW will be trying a vinegar solution to kill the weeds along village roads.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Code Enforcement Officer Peter Bujanow monthly activity report was received.

48 William Street-The village is waiting on an estimate for proceedings to demolish. The village did receive an estimate from Alpine Environmental Services Inc. dated June 29, 2020 in the amount of \$2,400 for a full pre-demolition asbestos inspection. Trustee Leiser noted Alpine will need to come back after the testing is complete and that is not covered in the estimate received. A motion made by Trustee Phillips to expend \$2,400 with Alpine Environmental Services Inc.; seconded by Trustee Leiser. All voted "aye".

DEPUTY COURT CLERK

A motion made by Mayor Dunham to appoint Tina Puckett as the Deputy Court Clerk; seconded by Trustee Leiser. All voted "aye".

REOPENING OF THE VILALGE HALL

The Village Hall opened yesterday with the following rules for employees and residents due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Employees will sign in upon entering the Village Hall or DPW

garage. They will take their temperatures and wear a mask when a 6ft distance cannot be kept. One resident at a time will be allowed in the Village Hall. They will sign in leaving their name and contact information for contact tracing.

STATUS OF THE PLAYGROUND AND SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Each municipality may open their playground if they are able and willing to clean/sanitize several times a week. The Village Board has determined to keep the playground equipment area shut down. The basketball court is open for solo play and the tennis courts are open for single play only.

Use of the fields or pavilion for yoga and or Zumba classes-Economic Development Director Renee Shur inquired if the Village Board would like to offer the village fields or pavilion to different classes. At this time due to the increase of Covid cases reported today the Village Board does not want to rent out the pavilion or Van Buren Hall.

ALBANY HUDSON ELECTIC TRAIL

Bicyclists Bring Business- Economic Development Director Renee Shur is working on wayfinding signs to advertise the business in the village.

TABLES FOR DINING IN STREETS

Mayor Dunham feels people are frequenting the businesses that have placed tables outside.

PEOPLE OF COLOR CEMETERY

The last addition to the People of Color Cemetery is a sign noting the donation of the fence was from Oakwood Fencing.

PARKING LOT LIGHTING

Four lights were installed today at the Village parking lot. The village can determine if the fifth light will be needed. If not, the easement questions with property owner Peter Cecchini will not be pursued.

LOCAL LAWS

The village is not ready to move forward with the public hearings of the following local laws. (Air BnB, Storage Containers, Dumpsters, Stop signs on Catskill View; and Geothermal Systems) Jim needs to meet with the Code Enforcement Officer on his comments on the Air BnB. The village attorney needs to draft the local law for the stop signs on Gaffney. Mayor Dunham sent the geothermal law to the board for review. He will request the village attorney to amend the code to not require a special use permit for a building to be used for agriculture.

CABLE TV FRANCHISE

The village received a fifteen year franchise agreement. Mayor Dunham will request the village attorney have the Public Service Commission review.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on June 22, 2020 to review the request from Randal Dawkins (7 Broad Street) to construct an 8ft fence.

PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board rescheduled their meeting to Thursday, July 9, 2020 due to the July 4th Holiday. They will review a proposed Barber Shop at 10 Broad Street. Trustee Phillips may not be able to attend as liaison.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Mayor Dunham spoke with Julian Adams the Director, Bureau of Community Preservation Services at New York State Historic Preservation concerning the concrete pad reviewed by the HPC. He believes this is site work not to be reviewed by HPC. There is no vertical element to it.

KBPA

Due to COVID 19 the annual People's Day Parade was cancelled. A Ghent Band trumpeter Marty Schmitt played patriotic music in the Village Square.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

Economic Development Director Renee Shur submitted her monthly report.

UNPAID WATER, SEWER & TAX BILLS

The total of unpaid water is \$2,562.10; sewer bills were just sent out for the quarter. The unpaid village tax bills for 2020 is \$31,400.99.

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

William Mancini submitted the minutes of the Task Force meeting held on June 16, 2020. They discussed the Capital Region's CCA program and MEGA, Composting, Reusable Bags, Water Conservation, Climate Smart Community, and Community Forest Garden. Mr. Mancini requested the Board write a letter of support to the County Board of Supervisors and to the EMC to become a Climate Smart Community Member.

WATER DEPARTMENT-CIVIC PAY PORTAL

Trustee Leiser has requested our part time village DPW employee Nathaniel Becker to receive his water license.

Springbrook Civil Pay Portal- After tax season, a meeting will be scheduled with Springbrook (Water/sewer billing software) to discuss fees, credit card transactions and any questions the village board may have to determine if the village should move forward with the portal.

Request for Water Service- Mr. Mieske at 31 Wallace Road has requested a water service for a sink in his garage. Trustee Leiser collected the village's tapping fee of \$250.00. Outside users are charged double the meter rate and double the water usage rate. A motion made by Trustee Leiser approving his request seconded by Trustee Phillips. All voted: "aye".

DEMONSTRATIONS

Due to social media, the Mayor was informed a demonstration was planned for Black Lives Matter in the Village Square. On the SURJ Hudson website it was advertised for this Saturday from 1-6pm. As the village has always done with a demonstration; we inform the State Police and Sheriff's Office to insure a safe and peaceful demonstration.

APPLICATIONS

The Village Board approved the following applications from ENY BlackHawks on the condition they follow the COVID 19 Rules and Regulations set out by the ENY BlackHawks and the regulations set forth by the coaches. On the advice of the Village's insurance company the Village Board requested and received a letter from the president of the ENY BlackHawks that he will ensure all the regulations will be followed.

- a. ENY BlackHawks; Jonathan Brignull is requesting the Little League fields for games
- b. ENY BlackHawks; Derek Berner is requesting the Little League fields for games
- c. ENY BlackHawks; Joe Pelizza is requesting the Little League fields for games

TAXPAYER TIME

No public comment received.

Trustee Phillips requested a second garbage can be installed in the village square. He is seeing a need as the garbage can by the bagel shop has been overflowing at times. The business owner has been emptying the garbage at times. Trustee Baumeister will work with the Village DPW order and install one.

A motion made by Mayor Dunham to adjourn at 8:14 pm and enter executive session to discuss personnel; seconded by Trustee Leiser. All voted "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder
Village Clerk

Executive Session

No motions made during executive session.

A motion made by Trustee Leiser to adjourn executive session at 8:24pm; seconded by Trustee Phillips. All voted "aye".

James Dunham
Mayor