

## Minutes

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

### Regular Monthly Village Board Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees

Present: Mayor Leiser

Trustees: David Flaherty  
Dorene Weir  
Michael Abrams  
James Mark Browne

Also present: Code enforcement Officer, Peter Bujanow; Economic Development Director, Renee Shur; Climate Smart Committee Chair, William Mancini; Former Trustee Brian Murphy; Sean Sawyer; Paul Calcagno; Alexandra Anderson; and the Columbia Paper Reporter, Emelia Teasdale

Mayor Leiser called the Village Board meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Leiser said a few words on the loss of the Village Historian, Ruth Piwonka. She was a member of the Historic Preservation Commission and had been a member of the Village Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. We recently lost a bright star in our Village. In remembrance of our Village Historian and member of the Historic Preservation Commission, a former member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Village Board. Ruth Piwonka's knowledge of local history was outstanding. When asked a question, she would take a moment to think and then reply with an accurate answer. Ruth drove a small car, lived in a small house and had the smallest handwriting but she commanded a large presence. She loved her Village and we all mourn her loss as a void remains at 21 Albany Avenue, and in our hearts and our in our minds. Mayor Leiser requested a moment of silence. He would like the Village Board to think of special dedication that may be done in memory of Ruth other than a tree or bench something more fitting for Ruth.

### **CLERK/TREASURER**

#### Abstract

A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving July's abstract in the amount of \$147,530.13 with General Fund expenses of \$22,836.55; Water Fund expenses of \$2,589.29; Capital Projects Fund expenses of \$114,652.15 and Sewer Fund expenses of \$7,452.14; seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted "aye".

#### Treasurer Report

A motion made by Trustee Abrams approving the monthly treasurer's report for August 11, 2021; seconded by Trustee Flaherty. All voted "aye".

Annual Financial Report (AUD)-The village's annual financial report was filed with the New York's State Comptroller's office on Saturday, July 24, 2021.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Peter Bujanow submitted is monthly report noting 12 permits with a total of 97 permits year to date. He collected \$1,440.00 of permit fees.

eCode360- The village will be moving forward with eCode360 for a startup cost of \$1,320 with an annual maintenance of \$1,195. The Village Board will need to determine how hard copies they would like to maintain. Village Clerk, Heeder is in contact with General Code on the steps needed to be completed prior to being able to go live with eCode360. The price of hard copies and the time frame it will take to go live with eCode360 will be requested from General Code.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

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

#### Naming of village pocket park

Renee is requesting the Village Board to consider naming the pocket park at the pump house on Hudson Street as Hudson Street Landing or Hudson Street Landing at Creekside Park. Renee had met with Village Historian, Ruth Piwonka and she wanted Hudson Street Landing at Creekside Park. The naming of the area will help support future grant applications for kayak launches, accompanying site and infrastructure improvements, and resiliency measures as well as the on-going preparation of the LWRP grant.

A motion made by Trustee Abrams to designate and name the area owned by the Village of Kinderhook that is located on Hudson Street adjacent to the Kinderhook Creek by the village's pump house as Hudson Street Landing at Creekside Park; seconded by Trustee Flaherty. All voted "aye".

Business Report- Renee will be briefly reporting on businesses in the village and how their economic impacts are to the village. She met with The School, they have four full time employees, two permanent part time employees and 26 freelancers that include helping for exhibits and their Saturday openings. The other impacts The School has on the local economy is their hiring of local contractors, food establishments, cleaners etc... when needed.

Sandwich Board Sign-Renee inquired on the regulations for a village business to place a sandwich board sign on their property. She spoke with the Tim Husband, chair of the HPC who advised her of Zoning Chapter 130-19. It was noted sandwich board signs are allowed in the B-1 and B-2 district during business hours and on the business's properties. The village will need to approve a request for a sign to be placed on village property. The Village Board and Planning Board agreed if the signs meets the sign requirements they do not need to go before a board to request permission.

#### **KBPA**

The Farmers Market is doing great, their themed events are doing very well for the market. They are planning their Fall Festival and planning an art walk with the Kinderhook Memorial Library planning a garden walk.

#### **MAYOR LEISER**

DPW-The DPW have been doing a lot of mowing.

Fire Department-Their monthly report and Officer's meeting minutes was received. They had ten calls, one drill no details.

Village Historian-Anyone interested may send a letter of interest to the Mayor. As a representative of the Historical Society Alexandra Anderson offered any assistance to assist in fulfilling this position.

National Grid-At last month's meeting three representatives from National Grid attended the Village Board meeting concerning the platform transformer that was installed on Hudson Street. The village was given four options on how they wanted to address the platform. The Village Board listened to comments from the residents on Hudson Street and voted to go with Option #4. Option #4 is to keep the platform-mounted ratio transformer bank and move forward with the projects which will allow better service to the village residents and the removal of the platform transformer within a two year period. Village resident, Chris Gibson and the Village Board requested a letter from National Grid with their intentions for the project. National Grid representative, Bob Chevy called Mayor Leiser today to state the letter is written and when his boss returns from vacation it will be signed and sent out no later than Tuesday.

Committee w/Town of Kinderhook, Villages of Valatie and Kinderhook on Cannabis-If anyone from the village is interested in volunteering on a committee comprising of one member of each

village and town with the Mayors and Town Supervisor they may contact the village or the town Supervisor, Patsy Leader.

### **TRUSTEE FLAHERTY**

Village Hall Justice Court-The concrete ramp, sections of sidewalk and the railing have been installed. A modification to add a circular grip to the railing and the additional railing that will be secured to the building is forthcoming. A proposal for a new entrance door to the Village Hall that will match the State Troopers door is being requested.

Bandstand-Trustee Flaherty met with Greg Merryweather on plans for the bandstand and ADA bathrooms. Mr. Merryweather thought raising the bandstand a foot and having the bathrooms underneath the bandstand maybe the best direction. He will give the village a quote to draw blueprints for the village. There are exterior ADA lifts that could be installed for access to the bandstand. Mr. Merryweather requested the engineer's report conducted on the bandstand and a map showing the metes and bounds of the property.

Climate Smart Task Force- The task force met on August 10th in the Village Hall. Mr. Mancini wants to thank Carol Vandenburg and David Flaherty for their help in allowing him access to the Village Buildings' utility usage. This will make it easier for him to prepare the village's energy usage and GHG emissions reports.

Solar Campaign-The community solar campaign was approved by NYSERDA last month. It is similar to the community solar initiative taken by the Village for its municipal buildings. The task force will work with two community solar providers, Solstice and Astral Power, to sign up individual households to subscribe to a solar farm for their electrical needs. Mr. Mancini has spoken with Nick Mirsky from Solstice and Cara Humphrey from Astral Power and provided them with information so that they can prepare campaign materials. They asked for permission to use the Village Logo in the materials. The campaign is tentatively scheduled to begin on August 21<sup>st</sup> at the Farmers' Market. The Library has also agreed to help promote the campaign. The task force would also like to make use of the village's e-mail blasts for this promotion.

Solar panels for the DPW garage and firehouse- Mayor Leiser and Mr. Mancini have discussed the RFP for solar installation on the DPW garage and the firehouse. As the engineering firm given the project has yet to complete it, Mayor Leiser asked Peter Bujanow to complete it. He placed another call to the engineer firm and would like to wait until Monday to hear from them before requesting Peter to move forward. The village could apply for an extension of grant funds if need be.

Big Green Box-the Task Force is planning to have a battery/electronics recycling event in the coming months. They plan on setting collection boxes at the Library and in the Village Hall. They would like to purchase the boxes from the Big Green Box program that has a onetime \$65.00 charge. When the boxes are filled, the items are sent to recycling centers. Shipping costs are included in the purchase price.

### **TRUSTEE ABRAMS**

Water & Sewer-There is unpaid water of \$1,027.68 and unpaid sewer of \$2,807.98. The penalty billing will be sent out this week.

Water meters-Mayor Leiser, Trustee Abrams and Superintendent David Booth have met with approximately five vendors to determine what the best water meter is for the village. There are different types of meters and software for the village to consider. The village did apply for grant funds for the replacement of the meters. The grant would cover 50% of the estimated \$300,000 cost of the meters themselves and installation of the meters.

Roads and Sidewalks- The village has forwarded the old street plans for William Street and Albany Ave to Hudson Valley Engineering to be updated. The village will be sending a letter of intent to apply for a TAP grant for the street projects. To complete everything needed on Albany Ave (drainage, replacement of water lines, sidewalk, curbing and repaving of the road) would realistically take a few years to complete. In the meantime, the village would like to grind down and skid box 4ft of the sides of Albany Ave where people park and pave the middle of the road. This will help until the village is able to complete the street project. The village received a \$68,000 estimate for this work. The village had a cost saving of \$35,000 not used on Eichybush Road; \$16,000 in a savings account awarded to the village for undesirable work on Hudson Street and the village can take the remaining \$17,000 needed from the street maintenance budget line to improve Albany Ave at this time. The village did receive stimulus funds but we are limited to what the village is allowed to use those funds for. There are several water projects that the village is considering but would like to wait until the village has a list of the projects that need to be done and what grant funds the village may receive for those projects. There was a discussion on traffic calming designs the village will consider to reduce speeding on Albany Ave when the full project is being developed.

Speeding-Former Trustee Brian Murphy spoke on the speeds and data he receives from the village's speed signs. At last months meeting they approved a resolution that was submitted to DOT requesting to reduce the speed limit on selected streets. He is looking for a more permanent solution to speeding. Trustee Abrams has been in contact with the State Troopers and the Sheriff's office since his first contact with them over a month ago. They are monitoring the village more closely and he has seen trucks pulled over by the troopers. Trustee Abrams was researching the purchase of eight speed signs at \$2,500 apiece. Trustee Abrams would like to hold off on any purchases until the village is more secure in knowing what is needed for Albany Ave and William Street. Former Trustee Brian Murphy was going to canvass residents for the support of speed humps on Gaffney Lane. The cost of each speed hump and the requirement of two signs per speed hump will need support.

Historic Preservation Commission-The commission met on July 15<sup>th</sup> and reviewed applications for 1 Hudson Street for a roofs on their outbuildings and windows for 29 Broad Street.

## **TRUSTEE WEIR**

Recreation Commission-The Commission did not meet on August 9<sup>th</sup> due to a lack of a quorum. A special meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Community Night-The Commission was informed their planned September 11<sup>th</sup> Community Night event needed to be cancelled as the Town of Kinderhook will be hosting a special Ceremony and Parade honoring the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>. They are considering moving Community night to September 25, 2021.

Mural Park-The Girl Scouts finished the mural at Rothermel Park. A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to send a letter of appreciation to the Girl Scouts; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

Kayak Launch- An informational meeting will be held for kayakers or anyone interested in the proposed ADA kayak launches for Kinderhook and Valatie. The meeting will be held at the Kinderhook Memorial Library on August 18<sup>th</sup> or August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm whichever date can be best attended. The meeting will be advertised by email blast, Facebook, Instagram in search of kayakers for their input.

Vacancy on Recreation Commission-On August 10<sup>th</sup> the village received a resignation letter from Chairperson, Valerie Spensieri that her personal and professional responsibilities make it difficult to devote the necessary time and energy into the committee. Trustee Weir thanked her for her years of service.

Picnic tables at Mills Park-The picnic table was delivered and was installed at Mills Park. It is ADA complainant and they are working on making it ADA accessible.

Public Service commission-The Public Service Commission has finalized the 15 year contract with the village. The contract was official as of August 3<sup>rd</sup> and will end on August 3, 2036.

## **TRUSTEE BROWNE**

Albany Hudson Electric Trail-The DPW has done a great job mowing along the trail and removing the brush. It was reported an invasive species of knot weed is along the trail. The weed is not as of yet on the village's property but may need to be addressed if it does. Maine has had an issue with the weed and had to rent goats to remove the weed.

Personnel Policy-Trustee Browne needs more time to finalize the employee hand book.

Planning Board- The August 5<sup>th</sup> Planning Board meeting was the continuation and approval of the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Hearing for the Special Use Permit on The Three Sisters Tavern.

Alternate Board Positions- Trustee Browne has been working on legislation to allow alternatives to fill in on the Planning Board when there is an issue of a quorum. He has been asked to complete that legislation to include the other Boards and Commissions. He feels the Planning Board and Recreation Commission is in most need right now.

Tree Maintenance-Trustee Browne is working on a bid document to remove a tree at Mills Park and hanging limbs over the trail off of Sunset Ave.

Insurance-A review of the village's insurance policy and the list of equipment covered was completed. When the two mowers are sold they can be removed from the policy.

Cares Act Webinar-Trustee Browne and Village Clerk Heeder attended a webinar on the Cares Act. The village will need to allocate the funds on projects that is allowable under the states guidelines. The village has until 2024 to spend the money.

## **APPLICATION OF USE**

A request from Sally Hogan the Republican Women's Club to use the village square on 9/18 from 2-5pm for a Community collection of clothing and canned goods for local charities. She is requesting not to submit the required insurance. She stated the village approved her request in a prior year. The village placed a call with Metz Wood and they advised the village to require insurance on all applications.

A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the following applications including the Republican Women's Club pending an insurance certificate; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

- A. Kinderhook Reformed Church is requesting Van Buren Hall on 10/23 from 9:30am 11:30 pm and 2:00pm-5:00pm and 10/24/2020; noon to 6pm for setup and clean up concert hours are 3pm-5pm
- B. Kinderhook Reformed Church is requesting Van Buren Hall on 12/4/2020; 3pm-5pm
- C. Kristina Berger is requesting the playground pavilion on 8/14 from 9am-7pm (set up and clean up) for a baby shower the shower will be from 2-pm-7pm
- D. Mary Cronin is requesting a place a sign in the Village Square for Friends of Kinderhook Memorial Library

## **TAXPAYER TIME**

Salt Shed-Mayor Leiser stated the village applied for grant funds for a new salt shed.

### Trail parking

Alexandra Anderson-She would like the village to address the cars parking along Sunset Ave to walk the trail. She does not want any more signs installed. The Board agreed to add a no parking to the fence with Samascott's permission. The village will advertise the trail head parking at

Rothermel Park. The Greenway is now working with digital maps that will be distributed and the Greenway is working google maps.

### Broad Street Bagel

Paul Calcagno requested the village remove the garbage can by the electrical pole near his building. He said the village can place the garbage can on the other side of the driveway He will install garbage cans with lids and maintain all garbage near his business. A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to remove the garbage can and install on the other side of the driveway; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

He inquired on how he should proceed with his request to install sails in his seating area. He has reviewed the code book and the HPC guidelines and cannot find where the HPC has the preview to review seasonal items. He stated the sails and posts are seasonal. They used sail stretched fabric years ago not umbrellas. Umbrellas are dangerous. He can remove the posts when not in use they are temporary in nature. He has not received from Peter the building inspector where in the code book does it state the poles are structural. He states Glenn the previous building inspector said he did not need a building permit. He has a signed, stamped plans when he had the property line moved that the posts are in the plans. He has requested to have a member of the HPC recuse themselves on voting. He is not sure where to go he has tried every avenue. He offered to put them up and see how everyone likes them. But the HPC denied him. If he was to just put the sails then he could receive a violation form Peter and he can appeal before the Zoning Board of Appeals or do they fight it out in court. He said due to the pea stone he poured a concrete footing. But it is not structure, it does not hold anything up, it is temporary in nature. He stated the poles were installed when the property was in residential area prior to the lot line adjustment.

There was discussion on if the HPC had preview over the sails. He went before the HPC and they denied the sails but he never got approval for the poles. He wanted to appeal the HPC and go before the Village Board but it was determined they never denied the poles for him to appeal.

Peter said it is a structure and it is in concrete pier that cannot come down. Peter has determines it is a structure. He tried addressing all of Paul's concerns that he brought up. He has spoken with Paul on submitting a building permit and going before the HPC for approval as they approve items in the right of way. He informed Paul to complete the building permit and go before the HPC for determination.

The Village Board requested Paul to give them a few days to contact the village attorney to review Paul's request.

A motion made by Mayor Leiser to adjourn the regular monthly Village Board meeting at 9:25 pm; seconded by Trustee Flaherty. All voted "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder  
Village Clerk

