

Minutes

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Regular Monthly Village Board Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees

Present: Mayor Leiser

Trustees: David Flaherty
Dorene Weir
James Mark Browne

Also present:; Climate Smart Committee Chair, William Mancini; Raymond Lauster; Dennis Kinnicut; Larry Eisen; Nick Eisen; Gregory Merryweather; Pierce Manufacturing representative Bill Krug.

Via videoconference: Trustee Michael Abrams; Code enforcement Officer, Peter Bujanow; Village Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons. Economic Development Director, Renee Shur and several resident.

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

CLERK/TREASURER

Minutes -A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to approve the minutes of December 8, 2021 Village Board meeting. All voted “aye”.

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

General Fund

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
A.3120.4 Police Contractual	A.3620.4 Safety Inspection Contractual	\$1.57
A.8161.2 Leaf Pickup Equipment	A.5142.2 Snow Removal Equipment	\$640.68
A.7140.1 Recreation Personal Services	A.7180.1 Special Recreational Facilities Personal Services	\$65.70
A.5110.1 Street Maintenance Personal Services	A.8160.1 Refuse and Garbage Personal Services	\$371.80
A.5110.1 Street Maintenance Personal Services	A.8161.1 Leaf Pickup Personal Services	\$241.00

Water Fund

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
F.8340.4 Transmission and Distribution Contractual	F.8330.4 Purification Contractual	\$216.19

Abstract- A motion made by Trustee Browne approving January’s monthly abstract in the amount of \$34,436.02 with General Fund expenses of \$26,214.19; Water Fund expenses of \$5,977.33; Capital Projects of \$244.50; seconded by Trustee Flaherty. All voted “aye”.

Treasurer’s Report

A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the monthly treasurer’s report for January 12, 2021; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted “aye”.

Election resolutions- A motion made by Trustee Flaherty approving the following resolutions; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted “aye”.

Whereas the General Village Election of the Village of Kinderhook will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022,

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the polling place for such election will be a the Village Hall, 6 Chatham Street in the Village of Kinderhook and that the polls will be open from noon until nine o'clock in the evening.

RESOLVED THAT: The following persons are appointed inspectors for the village election to be held on the 15th day of March 2022.

Geraldine Smith, Chair
Susan Lauster
William Mancini
Mary Longacker

Sandra Meier, Alternate

WHEREAS, Registration Day is required to accomplish this action, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Registration Day will be held for the Village of Kinderhook General Election on March 5, 2022, 12 noon to 5 PM at the Village Hall.

Inspectors of Election will meet at the foregoing place to prepare a register for the Village Election.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Peter Bujanow submitted his monthly report to the Village Board. He stated for the 2021 year he issued 36 building permits; 37 record searches; he collected \$30,990 in permit fees permits adding 1.86 million dollars to the village's assessment. To show comparison in 2020 he issued 30 building permits; he collected \$15,382.00 in permit fees permits adding 1.96 million dollars to the village's assessment.

Village Hall-A proposal from the architect for the work to be performed on the Village Hall due to the accident was received. The proposal shows the additional work the village requested for the back room. Mayor Leiser requested Peter contact the architect to separate the work needed due to the accident and the work the village is requesting. Peter will contact the architect requesting the changes be made and resubmit.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Economic Development Director, Renee Shur is not present at the meeting. Her monthly report for December was received and will be posted on the village's website.

MAYOR LEISER

DPW-Picking up Christmas trees in the village, snow plowing as needed and removed the sheet rock in the back room of the Village Hall.

Fire truck-Trustee Mark Browne recommends the Fire Department submit in writing their recommendations for the need of a new fire truck and the design of the fire truck for public communication and procurement purposes. He has a sample public communication from another municipality they can use as a template. He is willing to sit with the Fire Department to prepare a questions and answers (Q & A) for the public communication.

Village Attorney, Robert Fitzsimmons supports the Q & A documentation for the residents as a public hearing is not required for the acquisition of a fire apparatus. It is giving the residents documentation on the justification of the acquisition on the fire truck. In informing the residents of the financing of the fire truck and any tax implications will help the residents process the acquisition of the fire truck. If the village bonds the funds and does not lease the bond resolution is subject to a permissive referendum.

Representative of Pierce manufacturing Bill Krug stated the contract needs to be signed by January 31, 2021 before the 6.8% price increase. Financing can be determined at a later time when the village decides if they would like to lease the fire truck or finance with a municipal bond.

Mayor Leiser and Trustee Browne will meet with the Fire Department on Thursday, January 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Fire House to prepare a public communication to be sent out to the village residents.

Mayor Leiser set January 26, 2022 at 6:00pm for a Special meeting at the Village Hall in preparation to sign the contract with Pierce Manufacturing.

Discussion ensued on the amount of money that would need to be financed. There are several variables to be considered when discussing the amount to be financed. How much money is in the fire truck savings account? How much more can be saved until the fire truck arrives? How much from the sale of the 2008 fire truck will go towards reducing the amount to be financed for the new truck? The fire department is requesting the funds from the sale of the 2008 fire truck be placed in a Fire Department savings account that could be used to purchase equipment or Fire House repairs etc. Mayor Leiser stated he and Clerk/Treasurer Heeder spoke with Kim from PNC Equipment about financing and rates for 10 and 15 years. He also received rates from the Bank of Greene County for 10 and 15 year bonds. The village could not sell the 2008 fire truck until the new truck arrived. The village will receive a discount if the new truck is paid for with the signing of the contract. The village could consider placing the \$160,000 from the fire truck saving funds

down on the truck; plus take the yearly \$25,000 the village places in the savings account and the \$40,000 budgeted bond payments the village will no longer be paying out after this year for the air paks and the 2016 Tahoe and place it towards the fire truck reducing the amount to be financed by the time the fire truck arrives in approximately two years.

Fire Department-Larry Eisen reported 5 calls, 1 drill and 1 detail. Officer's meeting minutes were received.

Solar Project- Mayor Leiser received an email from Dan Degan from Suncommon for the NYSEARDA Solar Project on the DPW Garage and the Fire House. They are having a supply chain issue. He is proposing two options for the village. The village can have LG panels installed with a cost savings of \$109 on the \$40,050 project and the project will not start until April. The village's fiscal year ends in May. The second option is to install more panels that are in stock and the project would start in March with a \$1,900 savings reducing the project to \$38,053. Trustee Browne inquired if there were any changes to the components? LG is a bigger company. Trustee Weir inquired if they produce the same amount of kilowatts? It will be a little less kilowatt produced. A motion made by Trustee Flaherty for option II for a March install to have the project complete by the village's fiscal year end; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

TRUSTEE FLAHERTY

Village Hall Justice Court-The village is going to request an extension of the Justice Court grant. The village received one quote to replace the entire window and door unit to the Village Hall. A second quote will be obtained.

Bandstand-Preliminary drawings of the bandstand was received from Greg Merryweather. The plans propose ADA bathrooms to the left of the bandstand using the fence as a decorative covering to the bathroom doors. The drawings will be submitted to the HPC for review.

Zoning Board of Appeals-The December 27, 2021 meeting was cancelled for a lack of agenda items.

Climate Smart Task Force-The Task Force met on January 11, 2021. Their monthly report was received and will be posted on the village's website. Mr. Mancini reported with a total of 56 signups the village will receive \$3,275 from Astral Power and Solstice in addition to the \$5,000 grant awarded by NYSEARDA. These funds will be used by the village to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Charging Station- Flex Billing has been set up for the EV charging station. The fee feature is currently disabled at this time, but is preset at 28 cents per kWh with an additional parking fee of 75 cents per hour after the first two hours. This was for set up purposes only the village will need to determine the fees to charge.

Mr. Mancini is a member of the Columbia County Task Force he reported on the following two items:

Pilot program for food scraps- The pilot food scraps composting initiative has started at the Chatham and Copake transfer stations in partnership with Gro Max. The Commissioner of Solid Waste hopes to expand the program to all county transfer stations during 2022.

The village's Climate Smart Task Force was requested to assist in a one day event at the County's Climate Smart Task Force proposed Climate Carnival in July at the Chatham Fairgrounds. The event will include a Repair Café, a Free Store and bicycle recycling.

TRUSTEE ABRAMS

Water and Sewer-There is \$4,000 of unpaid Water bills and \$6,000 of unpaid sewer bills. Late letters will be going out.

Roads and Sidewalk-The DPW installed several French drains along Albany Ave to alleviate the standing water in areas where the road was higher than the driveways.

Snow clearing of sidewalks-Hall Construction was called to clear approximately 20 sidewalks throughout the village. The property owners will be billed.

Truck traffic-Trustee Browne and Trustee Abrams worked together drafting a letter to the state senator and assemblyman requesting assistance to support the plans in the truck traffic study that was completed for Hudson. The letter will emphasize on safety. Trustee Browne shared the study with the Village Board. He believes the village will need to work with other communities, DOT and with assistance from representatives to implement rerouting the traffic outlined in the truck traffic study. The village and surrounding municipalities may want to have a study conducted for the immediate area. With the approval from the village board Trustee Browne will work with Clerk Heeder in sending the letter out.

Village Square parking- Trustee Abrams and Trustee Weir met with several business owners in the village square concerning the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles in the one way street in village square and the parking area. Discussion on the safety of the area and ideas for parking or reducing the speed of traffic entering the one way street. A possible bulb out could be installed, painting of parking lines to delineate parking spots, not allowing large trucks on the one way street or adding bicycle racks are ideas to be considered.

HPC-At their December 16, 2021 meeting the Commission reviewed one application for 15 Chatham Street to replace a door.

TRUSTEE WEIR

Recreation Commission- The commission considered the proposal from Miracle Playground Equipment for two new pieces of equipment with four small bongo looking pieces for the children to jump from one to another. With an option for our DPW and volunteers to have an assistance in building and installing the equipment for \$3,000. The fee will include the tools needed and concrete. If the village declines the assistance and the equipment is not built correctly could void the

warranty on the equipment. Trustee Flaherty made a motion to approve the proposal from Miracle Recreation Equipment as described with the approval of the village attorney on the contract; seconded by Trustee Browne. All voted “aye”.
Greenway-Kayak Launch sites-Trustee Weir presented preliminary sketches from Barton & Loguidice for the kayak site at the creek. They are proposing to move the fence at the pump house back to install 10 parking spaces including two handicapped spaces and five parking spaces parallel to Hudson Street. Placing two large boulders in the creek to change the current for the kayak site. Installing interlocking cement blocks that are mildew resistance and planting live stakes for a natural barrier in preparation for the placement of a dock in the cove area in the future. Ted Kolinowski from Barton & Loguidice will draft a more formal plan to submit in the next few weeks.

Memorial Day Parade-Trustee Weir met with Town of Kinderhook Recreation Director Barbara Berger in preparation for the parade. Trustee Weir will speak with Fire Chief Matt Cohn to communicate with other fire departments for the Parade and with EDC Director Renee Shur for advertising on social media.

TRUSTEE BROWNE

Planning Board met on January 6th for an application proposing a used car dealership at 5 Hudson Street. The applicant was requested to provide additional documentation and to return at next month’s board meeting.

Alternate Members-Trustee Browne attended the Columbia County Planning Board meeting held on December 21, 2021 reviewing the village’s proposed local law 1 of 2022 to provide for alternate members to the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Recreation Commission. In a letter dated December 21, 2021 the County Planning Board recommendation found the proposed action has no significant county-wide impact associated with it. They suggest the Village Board review the provisions that ban an alternate member from participating as a resident of the community in a public meeting. Due to a case in Connecticut Village Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons recommends the alternate be allowed to listen in but not participate unless called upon to fill in as an alternate member as they may have undue influence on the board. Trustee Browne recommends going with Village Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons recommendation and hold the code as is. A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to set a public hearing for proposed local law 1 of 2022 and SEQR Determination for February 9, 2022 at 6:45 pm; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted “aye”.

Policy Handbook-Trustee Browne is reviewing the benefits section of the policy handbook. Dates on adopted policies were researched to be listed in the handbook to show the handbook supersedes all other policies. Comparison of benefits from other municipalities especially health insurance is being researched in consideration of what an employee’s compensation is. As prices of health increase a big portion of a person’s compensation may go towards their health insurance.

TAXPAYER TIME

Columbia County Emergency Management contacted Mayor Leiser and will be giving the village approximately 30-50 COVID test kits. The village handed out the previous 30 test kits received. When they arrive Mayor Leiser will contact the board to determine how to hand out first come first serve and possibly on a Saturday.

Former Trustee Brian Murphy stated if the village board wanted more civic involvement microphones need to be placed around the meeting room to allow the people on zoom to hear everyone's comments. Trustee Flaherty noted the village will be purchasing our own microphone as we had been borrowing Trustee Abrams.

He also stated with the number of people on the Planning Board meeting there is civic concern with a used car dealer ship going in the village square. Trustee Browne responded that is an application with the Planning Board and they may require Parameters around their application. How many vehicles they are allowed in the parking lot etc...

A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to have Mayor Leiser signed the annual contracts with Partner's and Safety and Columbia County IT; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

A motion made by Trustee Flaherty to adjourn at 8:42pm and enter into executive session on personal; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

A motion made by Mayor Leiser to adjourn executive session at 8:59 pm; seconded by Trustee Weir. All voted "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder
Village Clerk