

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Regular Monthly meeting of the Kinderhook Village Board of Trustees

Minutes

Present: Mayor Michael Abrams Clerk/Treasurer Nicole Heeder	Trustees: Dorene Weir James Mark Browne Susan Patterson Quinn Murphy
Attending: David Booth – DPW Superintendent Trevor Bean – Code Enforcement Officer William Mancini – Climate Smart Chair Renee Shur – Economic Development Director Larry Eisen – Kinderhook Fire Department Tina Lang, Dale Leiser, Malcom Bird, Richard Phillips, Anne Birckmayer, Jim Digioia, Amber Van Mossner, Richard Byrne, Liz Martin, Vesna Marincek, Sabine Murphy, William Murphy, Cathrine Zack, Derek Berner, Clare Monteau, Astrid Montagano	

**Call to order** – Mayor Abrams opened the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. All stood for Pledge of Allegiance.

**NY Forward**

Mayor Abrams wanted to discuss and hear public comments on the Rothermel Park and Village Green projects to be submitted to NY Forward. He apologized that he was expecting to post the renderings last week for the residents to review but he just received the proposed changes to the plans today. He will go through the plans tonight and take public comment but no decisions will be made tonight. He would like to give the public time to view the proposals and he plans to meet again at the end of the month prior to the local planning committee decision on what gets submitted to the state.

*Village Green-*Mayor Abrams explained the proposal to remove the one way street and making a right hand turn from Broad Street onto Hudson Street, removing the parking area in front of the trough area, this will add a larger more green space in front of MVB Statue. The village square area will lose approximately 5 parking spaces.

Several public comments received:

- by making a right hand turn from Rt. 9 onto Hudson Street will keep people from speeding
- there needs to be additional handicapped parking with curb cuts
- the village should narrow the road to reduce speeding and not allow large trucks
- there should be a study on truck traffic and farm truck traffic prior to changing village green
- eliminate parking spots to make the green space larger for community events
- business owners are concerned for their business if parking spots are removed

*Rothermel Park-* Mayor Abrams explained the splash pad is not on the rendering but can be added prior to submitting but additional research needs to be done. Additional parking and resurfacing of the playground area.

Several public comments received:

- How much water will the splash pad use? There is a water table issue on Rothermel. All the residents have water in their basements do we want to add more water to the ground
- Resurfacing of the playground- rubber vs. wood chips vs turf. The rubber and wood chips would pile over onto the lawn causing issues with mowing of the grass. Wood chips can get moldy and neither are ADA complaint or good with baby strollers. The low-maintenance astro turf is the safer solution.
- Instead of planting trees the money could be used to replace or add playground equipment
- Prior to adding trees, additional parking or anything by the Persons of Color Cemetery the ground penetrating survey should be obtained and looked at prior to any decisions.

Mayor Abrams will have the proposed plans posted to the village website for the public to review.

### **Clerk/Treasurer (Nicole Heeder)**

Minutes of September 13, 2023 Regular monthly Village Board meeting was approved - Trustee Weir motioned to accept, Trustee Murphy seconded, all voted "Aye." Minutes of Special Workshop meeting of September 26, 2023 was requested to be less verbatim and will be resubmitted at the next Village Board meeting.

Abstract- Total abstract in the amount \$111,141.09; General fund of \$21,189.21; Water fund of \$3,032.65; Albany Ave –Water of \$25,929.60; Albany Ave –Construction of \$60,989.63 Trustee Weir motioned to accept the abstract, Trustee Murphy seconded, all voted "Aye."  
Treasurer Report-Trustee Murphy motioned to accept, Trustee Patterson seconded, all voted "aye."

### **Reschedule annual audit of the Village Clerks and Court Clerk's books**

Due to the timing of the NY Forward meeting the annual audit needed to be rescheduled. Mayor Abrams appointed Trustee Patterson and Trustee Weir to conduct the annual audit of the Village Clerk and Court Clerk's books on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 am and report back to the Village Board at next month meeting

### **Code Enforcement Officer (Trevor Bean)**

Monthly report received, he issued two violations.

### **Fire Department (Larry Eisen)**

Monthly report received, noting 7 calls, 2 details, 1 drill. The fire Co wanted to thank the village for paving the rear entrance behind the fire house.

Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) – Mayor Abrams announced a special election for a referendum concerning the establishment of a Service Award Program for active volunteer firefighter members of the Palmer Engine and Hose Company. The election is scheduled for October 17, 2023, from noon until 9 pm at the Village Hall. It will be based on a point system with a look back of 5 years. It is an incentive for people to join or a benefit to retain people. It is a cost of \$18,000 a year with an additional \$7,000 a yr for the 5 yr look back for a total of \$25,000 for 5 yrs. Then it will be \$18,000 a yr. The funds were budgeted this year.

### **Water & Sewer Commissioner (Dale Leiser)**

The first billing with the new rate of \$3.00 per thousand gallons. October water billing of \$69,547.73; sewer billed out of \$7,057.11. A call to Ti-Sales concerning the melting of tar behind the tab for the water meter. They stated they have not had an issue. The DPW changes out several meters and approximately 20 tabs.

### **DPW (David Booth)**

The DPW is in the process of removing a part of the fence around the pump house due to the kayak project. When the new fencing arrives the DPW will install. Replaced three water services. He has conducting the lead and copper samples required.

### **Economic Development Director (Renee Shur)**

Monthly report was received. Welcomed two new business to the village: Kinderhook Books and Still Life.

Received approval to apply for Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley Building Decarbonization Grant Program. It is a no match, payment upfront grant. It can be \$5,000 to \$100,000 for a decarbonize project. It is for new windows in Van Buren Hall that will complement the projects put forth with NY Forward. The window replacement is being estimated at approximately \$60,000. HPC will be requested for an advisory opinion.

### **Trustee Weir**

Recreation Commission – Community Night was well attended approximately 300 people attended. They would like to move the start time to 4:00pm and add another big attraction next year. A dunk tank was suggested. A 3 minute motion timer was added to the light in the restrooms.

Senior Advisory panel-met Oct 4, they would like to do hiking, bus trips, snow shoeing, and Holiday card writing party for the military that are out of the county.

#### Local Water Revitalization Program update

The LWRP Committee is currently planning a community information meeting scheduled for November 15th at the Martin H. Glen building from 4:30 to 7:30 in an open house forum.

Newsletter-Items for the newsletter are due Friday Nov 17<sup>th</sup> for publication for the week of Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Trustee Murphy**

Historic Preservation Commission-Met on Thursday Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>.

Zoning Board-Cancelled their Sept 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Speed radar feedback sign-The village is need of two posts for the radar speed signs. A quote of \$1,015 each was received. To move forward with the DOT permit to place the signs an engineer report is needed, a letter signed by the mayor and the funding for the purchase of the posts.

Climate Smart Task Force- Is requesting to place a flyer in the village water bill looking for five village residents who have purchased or leased an electric plug in vehicle. This will assist them in receiving a \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA.

### **Trustee Patterson**

Planning Board working on STR draft application- drafting Short-Term Rental application, they would like input from the CEO and village attorney prior to submitting.

National Grid update on Hudson Street project-has completed their work on Hudson street project. Consolidated Communications will need to pull their wires and remove the polls. National Grid will move onto Williams Street and Chatham Street.

Code Review-Completed the code review and the Editorial and legal analysis. General Code has 100 days to respond.

### **Trustee Browne**

Albany Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project – On August 23<sup>rd</sup> the board agreed to submit the preliminary design to DOT. It was submitted on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a preliminary, a draft, it is not signed off on. The village expects changes and compromises. There are five workshop meetings that have been scheduled and will be published to keep the residents informed. On Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> DOT submitted comments to the village and HVEA to respond. Trustee Browne reviewed the expenses to date and the 80% reimbursements received from DOT to date. He also noted the NY Forward has chosen the Albany Ave as one of the projects for grant award. The grant could cover the villages 20%.

#### Albany Avenue Water Main Upgrade Project

Tighe & Bond is working under Hudson Valley Engineers on the water main upgrade portion of the project. The design has been submitted and approved and will be posted online. The American Rescue Fund will be used to pay for this preliminary design, and the team is seeking further funding from either a WIIA Grant or the Environmental Facilities Corporation low cost loan.

Village resident Sabine Murphy requested clarification on what was submitted in the preliminary design and what will be approved. She feels the village did not submit what the

residents of Albany Ave wanted. They are adamant of not wanting the median and do not want to lose parking. Mayor Abrams explained that the preliminary design is a draft and the the median is coming out. He did state there will be parking removed, DOT does not allow parking within 30 fit of an intersection. Changes can be made to the preliminary design. The village is on a time frame for approval so the project can proceed. Mayor Abrams apologized and stated the board will do better informing the residents. This is not a final plan and the village is listening to the residents but there are regulations the village needs to adhere to.

Discussion of speed reduction measures, width of the road, sidewalks and safety were openly discussed among the public and village board. Trustee Browne stated the village will request options from Hudson Valley Engineering and will need to consider what DOT will approve.

## **Mayor Abrams**

### Review all scheduled meetings through December 2023

Mayor Abrams reviewed the fifteen or so dates and subject matter of each of the upcoming meetings through the end of the year.

NY Forward LPC meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 6 pm at Van Buren Hall

Emergency Management Volunteer Program-There are currently six volunteers registered to the Emergency Management Volunteer Program.

## **Applications**

- a. Kinderhook Bottle Shop requested Van Buren Hall on November 7th from 5-7pm for a documentary movie screening on Empire State Rye.
- b. The application of KBPA to use Van Buren Hall and lift on October 28th from 1:30-2:30pm and 6-8pm for a concert was not approved in this session due to scheduling conflicts with another event. Trustee Weir and Renee will work out the time frame in hopes to allow both events.
- c. Michael Abrams requested to use Van Buren Hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month from 4:30-6:30pm for Girl Scout meetings.
- d. Amanda Boyd requested Van Buren Hall on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 9th from 3-7pm for a recital.

Trustee Murphy motioned to accept, Trustee Weir seconded, all voted “aye.”

## **Taxpayer Time**

No comments received.

## **Executive Session**

Trustee Weir motioned to adjourn the regular month meeting and enter into executive session to discuss bonding, staffing and land acquisition at 8:17pm; seconded by Trustee Murphy, all voted “aye.”

Trustee Browne motioned to pay \$100,000 down on the bonding for the Albany Ave Project; seconded by Trustee Weir, all voted “aye”.

Trustee Weir motioned to adjourn executive session at 8:31pm; seconded by Trustee Patterson, all voted “aye.”

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole H. Heeder  
Village Clerk