

Regular Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
September 21, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

Members: President G. Wayne McIlroy; Deputy President Michael Astafan (7:28 p.m.); Trustees Kathleen Latremore; Rebecca Vary and Linda Smith-Spencer.

Others: Mark Gebo, Village Attorney; Reginald Huber, Police Chief; Robert Demars; Micheal Runkles; Penny Ellis; Timothy Steiner; Jon Fisher and Kermit Allen, Watertown Revolution; Elaine Avallone, Johnson Newspapers (7:05 p.m.) and 12 Participation in Government Students.

CALL TO ORDER:

President McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2015 special meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2015 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr. Runkles stated he has a complaint regarding a new law enacted August 17, 2015 regulating the use of campers as temporary housing. Mr. Runkles stated he purchased the camper to be used as temporary housing for the contractor who is working on his house. Mr. Runkles stated he is not against the law; he is against how it was implemented and he did not know about it until the law had been passed. President McIlroy stated the Board discussed the law for two months prior to adopting. Mr. Runkles stated he can only obtain a permit for using the camper for a two week period and was informed by Social Services that he had to give his tenant thirty days notice or be fined by them in the amount of \$250.00. Mr. Runkles proceeded to list code violations he witnessed throughout the Village and expressed he feels he is being singled out. President McIlroy stated he is not being singled out and encouraged Mr. Runkles to speak with the CEO regarding the code violations throughout the Village. After allowing Mr. Runkles to voice his concerns for twenty minutes; President McIlroy encouraged Mr. Runkles to file a permit for the temporary use of the camper the following day or stated he will be fined as the law is currently in effect.

Ms. Ellis stated she is representing the Turkey Bowl which originated in 1975. Ms. Ellis explained the Turkey Bowl is a fundraiser which consists of a football game with teams consisting of Carthage vs. West Carthage. Ms. Ellis presented President McIlroy with a letter requesting a donation from the Village which will be used for local cancer patients. The event will take place at the park in West Carthage on November 7, 2015 at 12:45 p.m. and will be followed by a turkey dinner at the Carthage Elks Lodge at 5:30 p.m. for \$13.00 per person. President McIlroy stated it is a great program and requested to hold this over until later in the meeting.

Mr. Demars stated he would like a response to the concerns he brought to the Village Board at the last meeting. President McIlroy stated Chief Huber sent Mr. Demars a letter after the meeting and further expressed he had no comment as it is a personnel issue. Mr. Demars stated he will forward his concerns to the Jefferson County District Attorney.

Mr. Allen stated he is the head coach of the Watertown Revolution which is a semi-professional football team established in 2009 and part of the Northeastern Football Alliance. Mr. Allen stated they would like the Villages permission to change their name from Watertown Revolution to Carthage Revolution. Attorney Gebo stated they are free to use the name Carthage and encouraged them to contact their attorney for guidance.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to approve the Carthage Area Chambers request to hold the Annual Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. with the parade beginning in West Carthage, traveling across the bridge to State Street and concluding on North James Street at the Carthage Elks Lodge. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from the New York State Department of Public Service regarding regional information sessions and hearings regarding an examination of low income programs offered by the major electric and gas utilities and a joint petition submitted by time Warner Cable and Charter Communications seeking Commission approval to merge.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve CDBG 2013 Draw #8 payable to Mary Mealus and Angus Construction \$23,950.00; Charlotte Rebb and Panting Etc Inc \$6,696.00; Ashley Eisenhower and SJS Builders \$8,350.00; Lead Safe LLC \$1,200.00; R-Factor \$250.00; and Avalon Associates, Inc \$800.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to adopt Resolution 12 of 2015 with reference to support of the Town of Wilna adding stairs to the joint court facility utilizing a JCAP grant as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village of Carthage and the Town of Wilna share a Justice Court facility at the Village Municipal Building, and

WHEREAS, Town Justice Buckingham has applied for and received a JCAP grant to improve the facility by adding stairs at the rear of the Court facility, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Village of Carthage to approve such improvements to its Municipal Building,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Carthage does hereby approve the addition of stairs at the rear of the Municipal Building to service the Justice Court facility provided that the cost of same is covered by the JCAP grant obtained by Town of Wilna Justice Buckingham.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to adopt resolution 13 of 2015 with reference for a review of Village justice court records as follows:

WHEREAS, Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act requires that Village Justices annually provide their court records and dockets to their respective Village auditing boards and that such records then be examined or audited and that fact be entered into the minutes of the board's proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Unified Court System's *Action Plan for the Justice Courts*, announced November 2006, includes initiatives to improve accountability and controls over Justice Court finances and records to include increased monitoring of Village Board compliance with Section 2019-a; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Village of Carthage enlisted Stackel & Navarra, CPA PC to examine their Village Justice Court records for fiscal year 2015 as required by the State of New York Unified Court System.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted unanimously.

President McIlroy stated he is very pleased with Carthage Savings and Loan for their donation to the Carthage Recreation Program in the amount of \$500.00 and further requested the Clerk/Treasurer to send them an acknowledgement of the Boards appreciation.

President McIlroy explained the reconciliation of the Water Fund presented by the Clerk/Treasurer. During the budget process the Board chose not to raise water rates as they discussed implementing an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) charge on the water/sewer bills. President McIlroy expressed the Boards intent to form a committee with West Carthage to implement a similar system for both Villages as they share a water and sewer system. In the interim, the Clerk/Treasurer proposed the following to make up the current year deficit of \$55,205.36 at no additional cost to residents:

Salary and fringe savings due to medical leave	\$5,500.00
Apply water/sewer administrative fee to water fund	\$22,000.00
Do not make current year reserve transfers	\$30,000.00

The Board agreed with the proposed to make up the current year deficit.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary to apply the administrative fee charged on the water/sewer billing to the water fund from the sewer fund. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy also explained the proposed changes to the Village Code regarding water/sewer billing as follows:

Charge a disconnect fee; a nonpayment fee; a fee for final readings; and an annual sprinkler system connection fee.

Attorney Gebo stated he will draft the proposed changes to the Village Code.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to set a public hearing on October 19, 2015 at 7:10 p.m. to discuss the proposed changes to the Village Code regarding water/sewer billing. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to accept the monthly departmental reports from Code Enforcement, Community Development, DPW Department, Police Department, and Treasurer as presented. Motion carried unanimously. The Water Department report was erroneously excluded from the Board packet by the Clerk/Treasurer. The Court report was not submitted and President McIlroy stated he will follow up with the Judge. Deputy President Astafan commended the new format of the Police Report.

Deputy President Astafan and Trustee Smith-Spencer reviewed the monthly bills and bank statements including reconciliations prior to the meeting. The documents were also available at the meeting.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to approve payment of payrolls and bills as follows: General Fund \$173,741.05; Special Grant Fund \$298.11; Water Fund

\$53,629.09; Sewer Fund \$9,500.12; Joint General Fund \$132,943.47; and Joint Capital Fund \$254,555.56. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT MCILROY UPDATE:

President McIlroy stated the DPW worked with MANRR and fixed the railroad crossings on Canal Street and South James Street. President McIlroy also stated CSX railroad is fixing the crossings on Adelaide Street and Boyd Road. Trustee Smith-Spencer stated it has made a big difference. President McIlroy asked Chief Huber if he obtained quotes for new cameras at the park. Chief Huber responded he received the quote from NCC Systems today and will look into other options as the quote is more than he would like to recommend spending. President McIlroy stated there will be a CIDC meeting on September 30, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

At the 08/17/15 meeting; Deputy President Astafan obtained a quote to fix up the existing gazebo at Turning Point Park in the amount of \$3,700.00.

Update 09/21/15: President McIlroy stated he went to North Country Storage Barn to inquire about a price of a new gazebo and feels the Village may be able to purchase one for \$4,000.00.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to have the DPW tear down the existing gazebo and further authorize President McIlroy to purchase a new gazebo at North Country Storage Barn not to exceed \$4,000.00 and further transfer funds from A.1990.0400 Contingency to A.7110.0200 Parks Equipment over \$2,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY GEBO UPDATE:

Attorney Gebo requested an Executive Session to discuss a potential litigation. Attorney Gebo stated he received an email from Jefferson County requesting a meeting to discuss a PILOT with the railroad and asked if President McIlroy was interested. President McIlroy stated he is encouraged with the efforts the railroad has put into the crossings lately. President McIlroy stated DANC and NYSDOT is now involved and he is willing to meet with the railroad and further asked Attorney Gebo to set it up.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Latremore expressed her gratitude to the railroad, DPW, and President McIlroy for their efforts with fixing the railroad crossings as they are much better.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to enter Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss a potential litigation and include Attorney Gebo and Chief Huber. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Huber was excused 8:15 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Latremore to resume Regular Session at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to deny the request of Mr. Runkles to remove the gazebo for \$1.00 because he doesn't have liability or workers compensation insurance. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to proclaim November 7, 2015 as "Turkey Bowl Day" in recognition of the annual football event between Carthage and West Carthage to raise funds for area cancer patients. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to hire Derrik Lamateer as a temporary DPW Laborer due to medical leave effective August 24, 2015 at the rate of \$14.76. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy O'Shaughnessy
Village Clerk/Treasurer