

1 Regular meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
February 16, 2009

Present: President G. Wayne McIlroy, Trustees, Michael Astafan, Rebecca Vary, Kathleen Latremore and Bernard Frezza. Also attending; Attorney Mark Gebo.

Guests: George Redfield, Kara Clark, CRT; Kelly Warth, WDT; and 9 members of the Participation in Government Class.

President McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, with a moment of silence for a former Village of Carthage employee Gary Burr who recently passed away.

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

George Redfield a Village of Carthage resident explained his unhappiness with his current water/sewer bill. President McIlroy explained the water bill process. Then explained what Water Superintendent, Ernie Prievo had already explained to Mr. Redfield as to why his bill was higher than normal.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve the request of Peggy Gill, for use of Turning Point Park on August 15, 2009 for a wedding ceremony. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve the request from Margaret Woods, St. James Church, to hold their annual fair to be held on June 18, 19, 20, 2009, and further requested that West Street be blocked off from the corner of South Mechanic to the corner of South School Street. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proof of notice having been furnished the Public Hearing on the CDBG program was called to order at 7:15P.M. by President McIlroy.

President McIlroy explained the CDBG program. The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) provides fund to municipalities that can be used in three categories: housing rehabilitation or homeownership; public facilities (infrastructure improvements or service related projects) and Economic Development (creation/retention of jobs or micro enterprise). The grants are awarded on an annual basis, except for Economic Development where applications can be submitted at any time. A single municipality can apply for \$400,000 - \$600,000 depending on the activity and up to \$750,000 for Economic Development projects. Municipalities can also submit joint applications for public infrastructure (water/sewer only) for up to \$900,000. Projects must: benefit low and moderate income families; prevent or eliminate slums or blight; or meet other urgent community development needs. To meet the first criteria, at least 51% of the persons benefiting must be low and moderate-income persons according to the HUD income limits. These limits adjust based on household size. This is the primary objective of the Community Development Block Grant Program. At least 70% of the grant funds must be allocated to activities that meet the primary objective of benefit to low and moderate-income persons.

President McIlroy also explained the state process for applying for these funds requires that it must be a unit of local government in New York in compliance with all HUD regulations. Two public hearings must also be held. The first hearing today is to explain the program and gather citizen input on community development needs. A second hearing will be held to obtain citizen comments on the proposed activity that

will be undertaken using these funds. The application, in this case, will be prepared quickly so the timeline is fairly short. The Village Board encourage everyone to give them comments by providing written comments to the Village Clerk, Village of Carthage, 120 S. Mechanic Street, Carthage, N.Y. 13619.

President McIlroy then discussed the requirements of the plan to minimize displacement. The Small Cities program encourages communities to minimize displacement of persons benefiting from the program. Depending on the activity proposed, the village would not expect displacement to be a problem. For housing activities, homeowners should not encounter displacement unless the home to be renovated contains extensive lead based paint that would require the family to be out of the home while it is being removed.

Information was made available on the possibility of submitting a \$400,000 joint application with the Village of West Carthage to continue and expand the existing local scattered site housing rehabilitation program into the Village of West Carthage. The Village of Carthage program was started with a 2008 CDBG award.

President McIlroy explained that assistance is available to groups representing low to moderate income persons who are seeking to develop proposals by contacting the NYS Office of Community Renewal at (518) 474-2057. Interested property owners should contact the Chamber of Commerce at 493-3590 if they are interested in receiving a grant to rehabilitate their homes.

President McIlroy opened the floor for comments and suggestions, but there was no one wishing to speak.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing closed at 7:23 P.M.

Motions by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to have the Village's of Carthage and West Carthage jointly apply for the CDBG grant.

OLD BUSINESS:

Village Attorney Mark Gebo confirmed that the Fire Site Parking Lot Agreement changes have been made and signed by all parties.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to authorize the Clerk to advertise for a Public hearing on March 16, 2009, immediately following the CDBG public hearing, on Proposed Local Law # 1 to amend Chapter 135 of the Village Code. This Local law would prohibit parking on the east side of South Washington Street, from State Street to Oxford Street and prohibit parking on the west side of South Washington Street within 100' of either entry to the helipad.

Judge Shettleton request for additional funding for the new Court Room needs has been resolved in a meeting attended by President McIlroy, Trustee Michael Astafan, Judge Shettleton, Judge Buckingham, and Town Supervisor Paul Smith.

Motion by Bernard Frezza and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to authorize the Clerk to advertise for a Public hearing on proposed Local Law # 2 regarding notification to residents of their responsibility to shovel their sidewalks. Said hearing to be held on Monday March 16, 2009, immediately following the Local Law to amend Chapter 135. Currently, the Village Police are issuing notifications and the proposed law would allow the DPW Superintendent or his designee to give notification to residents regarding their need to shovel their sidewalk. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve payment of Payroll #A44, 45 & 46, in the amount of \$34,996.61; #F44, 45 & 46, \$10,434.74; #G44, 45 & 46, \$3,299.97, #J19, \$8,375.25 and Abstracts #A9, F9, G9, J9, \$197,754.55. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:

Attorney Gebo has four pending litigation issues to discuss in Executive Session.

PRESIDENT MCILROY'S UPDATE:

President McIlroy asked Attorney Gebo if there is an update on National Grid's request for reimbursement of utility tax funds paid to the Village and Attorney Gebo explained that NYCOM has not completed there investigation into this matter. However, last week President McIlroy, The Public Service Commission, and other Village Mayors had a multi-person conference call with National Grid to voice there concerns. President McIlroy reminded members of the RACOG meeting Tuesday, February 17, at 7:00pm. and the Utility Board meeting to be held Wednesday February 18 at 4PM in the Carthage Municipal building.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Latremore pleaded with the community to please make sure that the space around there fire hydrant located in front of their property is properly shoveled out. She also thanked Recreation Attendant, Scott Benson for his hard work at the Park helping to make Winterfest 2009 a success.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to enter into Executive session at 7:26 P.M. to discuss pending litigation issues as requested by Attorney Gebo. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular session resumed at 8:21P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carried to adjourn at 8:22P.M.

Sherry L. Sears, Village Clerk