

1Regular meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
March 17, 2008

Present: President G. Wayne McIlroy, Trustees, Michael Astafan, Kathleen Latremore and Bernard Frezza..

Excused: Trustee Rebecca Vary.

Guests: John McHugh, Economic Development Coordinator, Abigail Ortiz, CRT Reporter, 26 members of the Participation in Government Class.

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

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2008, meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2008 special meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Laveshia McClarin, a 12 Honors Class student approached the Board regarding a fundraising event she is assisting with called Pennies for Patients. The event is a run/walk event that will start at the West Carthage Park and continue to the East Carthage Park. The date is March 29th from 10AM to 1PM. President McIlroy discussed his concerns over safety issues and Trustee Astafan recommend that Chief Rockhill be contacted also about the event. Trustee Frezza said if the group plans to use the recreation facility at the park they should contact the Director, Scott Benson.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve the request for the Pennies for Patients fundraising event scheduled for March 29th between the hours of 10AM and 1PM. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Bernard Frezza that the Village provide a letter of support to the North Country Affordable Housing, Inc. as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy read the Girl Scout Week proclamation as presented to the Board too late for their previous meeting and the actual time of the Girl Scout Week.

OLD BUSINESS:

President McIlroy presented his comments on findings of the handicapped parking spaces in the public parking lot behind the Municipal Building. He has inspected the site at various times during the past two weeks and found that the Bray vehicle was parked in the Handicapped parking spaces on all occasions. Also the parking lot always had available spaces for parking. He also reported

that business people are upset over the continuous parking of tenants in the handicapped space. The lack of a handicapped space for their customers is affecting their business. Without the Bray's in attendance the Board decided not to make any decisions tonight.

Trustee Frezza reported that the Little League is interested in the proposal by the Board for Little League Billboards. They intend to develop a plan over this summer and implement the proposal next year.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proof of notice having been furnished the Second Public Hearing on the CDBG program was called to order at 7:22P.M. by President McIlroy. Economic Development Coordinator, John McHugh provided information on the Small Cities CDBG Program Grant Application.

Mr. McHugh presented the following CDBG Program information – The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant provides funds 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 made 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 to perform one of these activities provided these projects: 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 provided in the application. 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.

Mr. McHugh explained the state process. To apply for these funds, must be a unit of local government in New York in compliance with all HUD regulations, a community must hold two public hearings. The purpose of the first hearing was to explain the program and gather citizen input on community development needs. A second hearing, being held today, is to explain the application and to get citizens comments on the proposed activity that will be undertaken using these funds. Mr. McHugh pointed out that the Public Hearing notice indicates that written comments could be submitted to the Village Clerk.

Mr. McHugh stated that assistance to low to moderate income persons can be obtained by contacting the NYS Office for Small Cities (OFSC) at (518) 474-2057, assistance is available to groups representing low to moderate income persons who are seeking to develop proposals.

Mr. McHugh presented the written Village proposal; a copy of which is on file in the Official Minute Folder of the Village Board. No displacement of persons will occur as a result of this program. No loss of real property taxes is anticipated. No new special assessment districts will be requires.

The floor was opened for public comments and suggestions but there was no one wishing to speak.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:28P.M.

Motion by Bernard Frezza and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to adopt Resolution #1 of 2008, as on file in the Official Resolution File of the Carthage Village Board, a Resolution with reference to authorizing submission of a 2008 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion followed on the Water and Sewer shut off policy. The Clerk presented member with an updated proposal on shutting water off to persons who do not pay their bills in a timely manner. Discussion followed with the Board suggesting a shorter time frame before users have their water turned off for non-payment.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to adopt a new water/sewer shut off policy, as on file in the policy manual of the Village, stating that water users will have their water turned off for non payment, thirty days after the final due date of their current bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to accept the Agreement to extend fixed lump sum municipal snow and ice agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation, expiring on June 30, 2009, as presented. Further, President G. Wayne McIlroy is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Village of Carthage. Motion carried unanimously; 4 – 0.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to adopt the resolution on file in the Village Resolution file creating a Sewer Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of capital expenditures for the maintenance and improvement of such Sewer System. Said resolution being subject to a permissive referendum. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve payment of Payroll #A50,51 & 52, in the amount of \$29,641.54; #F50,51 & 52, \$3,202.34; #G51 & 52, \$2,729.52; #J20, \$8,171.05; and Abstracts #A10, \$60,023.80; #F10, \$4,990.59; #G10, \$12,217.61; #J10, \$43,775.21. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY GEBO'S UPDATE:

Attorney Gebo requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

PRESIDENT MCILROY'S UPDATE:

President McIlroy provided members with the following dates:

March 18th – 4PM – a meeting with the Town of Wilna and Architect, Rick Tague to view the plans for the new Joint Court Room.

March 19th – 5PM Utility Board meetings at West Carthage.

March 27th – Local Government Conference at JCC

April 2nd – 7PM - Planning Board if there is any business to discuss.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

No comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by and Seconded by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to enter into Executive session at 7:40 P.M. to discuss personnel. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular session resumed at 8:14P.M.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to adopt the Resolution on file and authorize Attorney Gebo to send a letter of response to the Teamsters Union representative, Mickey Smith, on behalf of the Village Board, to the grievances filed by former Police Officer Shannon Overton. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carried to adjourn at 8:16P.M.

Linda M. Weir, Village Clerk