

Regular Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
February 18, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Members: President G. Wayne McIlroy, Deputy President Astafan and Trustees Kathleen Latremore and Rebecca Vary. Trustee Linda Smith-Spencer was excused.

Others: Mark Gebo, Village Attorney; Kathy Amyot, Tug Hill Commissions; Elaine Avallone, Johnsons Newspapers; and three 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 Vary to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2014 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Ms. Amyot stated there are changes to the Local Government Conference Sessions at JCC and distributed the information to the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President McIlroy read the thank you letter from the City of Ogdensburg for the Village's support of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center which will remain open.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the request of the St. James Church to host the annual St. James Fair on June 12, 13, and 14 2014; allow the closure of West Street from South School Street to South Mechanic Street during the event; and further authorize the placement of banners on State Street by the bridge and the Carthage Park a few weeks prior to the event providing they notify the DPW in advance. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy read the request from the Carthage Youth Sports a.k.a. Carthage Bears Pop Warner requesting sponsorship for the 2014 football/cheerleading season. President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to include the request during the 2015 budget and request an annual budget from the Carthage Youth Sports Organization.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Latremore to permit the New York State Nurses Association to engage in a candlelight vigil on Monday, February 24, 2014 at Turning Point Park from 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. to bring to the public's attention the need to maintain vital health care services in the Village of Carthage. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing President McIlroy to sign the NYSDOT Permit renewal for the placement of supplementary pedestrian crossing devices on State Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing the request from Chief Huber to permit Officer Higman to attend the Basic Police Photography Course for \$100.00 from 03/31/2014 – 04/04/2014 and the Police Crime Scene and Evidence Technician Course for \$600.00 04/28/2014 – 05/09/2014 at the Elmira Regional Training Center, Elmira, New York to include travel and lodging expenses; and further to permit Officer Smith to attend the Glock Armor Course for \$195.00 on May 1, 2014 at the Jefferson County Public Safety Building to include travel expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy commented on the extensive water shut off list as of February 4, 2014. The Clerk/Treasurer explained that several payments have been received and an updated list will be distributed to the Board at the March 3, 2014 meeting.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Latremore to accept the monthly departmental reports from the CEO, Community Development, Court, DPW, Police, Treasurer, and Water Department as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve payment of payrolls and bills as follows: General Fund P/R 01/23/14, 01/30/14, 02/06/14, and 02/13/14 \$62,305.16; Water Fund P/R 01/23/14, 01/30/14, 02/06/14, and 02/13/14 \$8,370.99; Sewer Fund P/R 01/23/14, 01/30/14, 02/06/14, and 02/13/14 \$10,618.49; Joint Fund P/R 01/23/14, and 02/06/14 \$17,229.86. General Fund Abstracts \$147,954.29; Water Fund Abstracts \$23,286.19; Sewer Fund Abstracts \$86,223.50; and Joint Fund Abstracts \$0. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

President McIlroy called the public hearing to order at 7:10 pm. President McIlroy explained the proposed local law to consider the adoption of a local law to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015. No one wished to comment on the local law therefore motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to close the hearing at 7:12 p.m. Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to adopt Local Law #1 of 2014 as follows:

A local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c

Section 1. Legislative Intent. It is the intent of this local law to allow the Village of Carthage to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2014 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority. This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government’s governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override. The Board of Trustees of the Village of Carthage, County of Jefferson, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2014 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability. If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court’s order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT MCILROY UPDATE:

President McIlroy asked Attorney Gebo about the status of the former EDCC. Attorney Gebo stated he is still awaiting the final paperwork from the NYS Taxation and Finance. President McIlroy stated there will be a Joint Utility meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building.

ATTORNEY GEBO UPDATE:

Attorney Gebo requested an Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining agreement with the NYS Teamsters Union and contract negotiations which if discussed in public could jeopardize negotiations.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Latremore thanked the DPW for clearing the fire hydrant near 135 Washington Street and stated they did a great job.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

Ms. Avallone requested clarification for items discussed throughout the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Latremore to enter Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss a collective bargaining agreement with the NYS Teamsters Union and contract negotiations which if discussed in public could jeopardize negotiations and invited Attorney Gebo to attend. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to resume Regular Session at 7:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy L. O'Shaughnessy
Village Clerk/Treasurer