

Regular Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
April 7, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

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

Others: Norman Barkley, Carthage Bears Pop Warner and Ammbrose Souza, Carthage YMCA Director.

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 Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2014 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET WORKSHOPS:

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|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| March 18, 2014 | 4:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Including Water Superintendent. |
| March 24, 2014 | 4:15 p.m. – 5:35 p.m. | Set Public Hearing for Tentative Budget 4/7/14. |

PUBLIC FORUM:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to permit the Carthage YMCA to host their family fun run/walk to promote healthy kids and 4-H Camp Wabasso on Saturday, May 31, 2014 or the rain date on Sunday, June 1, 2014 to include the use of the Carthage Park and Village streets to proceed from Park Drive, State Street, Hospital Drive, West Street, South Washington Street, Cemetery Street, South James Street, North James Street, Fulton Street, and end on Park Drive. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to permit the Village Ecumenical Ministries to hold their Easter Sunrise Service on April 20, 2014 at 6:30 a.m. at Turning Point Park. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy read the letter from the Croghan Ambulance and Fire Departments regarding their annual fire fund drive and stated that it did not pertain to the Village of Carthage.

President McIlroy read the notice for the Solar Energy 101 training on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Jefferson Community College.

President McIlroy read the letter received from Trident Insurance Company notifying the Village of the property deductible increase from \$1,000 to \$2,500 when the policy renews June 1, 2014.

President McIlroy read the correspondence from Erik Hirschey, North Country Forestry Services, LLC, regarding the plans to have timber sale bidding on the 550 acre property in Croghan and use the proceeds to update the forest management plan.

President McIlroy read the letter received from the New York State Department of Health regarding the 2014 monitoring requirements for the Village water system.

President McIlroy requested to hold the letter received from the Village of West Carthage regarding the wastewater salary discussion over for Executive Session.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proof of notice having been furnished regarding the public hearing to discuss the tentative budget for fiscal year June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015, was called to order at 7:10 p.m. No Village residents wished to speak in regard to the tentative budget. Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to Deputy President Astafan to close the public hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to accept the tentative budget as presented and further to recommend the adoption of the final budget at the April 21, 2014 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Village tax rate decreased from \$8.25 to \$7.44 due to the property assessment value increasing from 95% to 100% and the revaluation of properties. The tax levy increased from \$1,043,570 to \$1,077,386 but remained within the NYS Tax Cap guidelines.

President McIlroy commended the board and the Clerk/Treasurer for their efforts during the budget process as it was a hard budget this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

At the 02/18/14 regular meeting, President McIlroy commented on the extensive water shut off list as of February 4, 2014. The Clerk/Treasurer explained that several payments had been received and an updated list will be distributed to the Board at the March 3, 2014 meeting.

Update 03/03/14: President McIlroy commented that there was still an extensive water shut off list as of 02/28/14. Deputy President Astafan requested the Clerk/Treasurer to email the disconnect list on the shut off date of 03/05/14.

Update 03/17/14: An updated list was provided to the Board and President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the April 7, 2014 regular meeting.

Update 04/07/14: Ernie Prievo, Water Superintendent shut off delinquent water/sewer accounts today with the exception of three accounts which have broken shut off valves.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to send the three delinquent accounts which are unable to be turned off to Jefferson County to be relieved on Village taxes on June 1, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

At the December 17, 2013 meeting the Board sent a letter to the Blue Rock Hunting Club notifying them that the Village does not permit any recreational activity including hunting on their water shed property in Lewis County.

Update: 03/17/14: President McIlroy read the response received from the Blue Rock Hunting Club asking for a reason for the change as they have hunted the property for 80 plus years. President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the April 7, 2014 regular meeting.

Update: 04/07/14: President McIlroy stated he spoke with Ernie Prievo, Water Superintendent and he does not recommend leasing the property at this time.

On March 17, 2014, President McIlroy read the letter received from the Watertown Sunday Softball League requesting use of the Carthage Park fields from May 20, 2014 – August 20, 2014. After

considerable discussion, President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to send the Watertown Softball League a letter to set up a meeting to discuss the details of their request.

Update 04/07/14: President McIlroy and Daniel Trembley, DPW Superintendent met with Tonino Alteri, President of the Watertown Sunday Softball League. Mr. Alteri stated it is a large league with members who live in the Village of Carthage and they are interested in hosting games on Sundays at the Carthage Park from May 18, 2014 – August 20, 2014. The Watertown Sunday Softball league would provide a certificate of insurance and would assist with lining the fields. They requested use of the restrooms and it was noted that an additional porta john may need to be rented. Mr. Trembley stated DPW employees would prepare the fields on Friday but could not guarantee their condition on Sunday. Trustee Latremore stated they would need to review the Village Code regarding smoking and alcohol. Deputy President Astafan stated it would bring people into the Village who would frequent local businesses. After considerable discussion, President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the April 21, 2014 regular meeting.

The board reviewed the budget received from the Carthage Bears Pop Warner Program and Mr. Barkley described the program. Deputy President Astafan requested a copy of the playing schedule be forwarded to the board so they could attend the games.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Latremore to enter into an agreement with Carthage Bears Pop Warner to provide youth services to Village residents in the amount of \$500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to accept the annual window cleaning proposal from Kimple Property Services for interior and exterior window cleaning two times per year for the Municipal Building in the amount of \$525.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to formally approve the request of Chief Huber for him and another officer and police vehicle to attend the funeral of a Johnson City Police Officer who died in the line of duty. Motion carried unanimously. The request was previously approved via email poll.

PRESIDENT MCILROY UPDATE:

President McIlroy stated he forwarded his comments regarding the Joint Sewer Intermunicipal Agreement to the Clerk/Treasurer. President McIlroy stated he attended a meeting with the Railroad regarding the 10 million dollar grant they received to rebuild the railroad from the Town of Wilna line through to Newton Falls and expressed his concerns for the deteriorating condition of the ten crossings within the Village. President McIlroy stated there will be a RACOG meeting at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building on April 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a Joint Sewer workshop meeting with GHD to review the proposed capital project on April 10, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building. President McIlroy shared the brochure for the development by Habitat for Humanities of the former Braman Property. President McIlroy welcomed Trustee Smith-Spencer back and stated he was glad that she was feeling better and everyone agreed.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Deputy President Astafan requested an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a wastewater employee and a water employee.

Trustee Latremore thanked the Clerk/Treasurer for her efforts and hard work throughout the budget process.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to enter Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular wastewater employee and a particular water employee. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Latremore to resume Regular Session at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy L. O'Shaughnessy
Village Clerk/Treasurer