

Regular Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
April 2, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

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

Guests: Elaine Avallone, Johnson Newspapers; Richard Simmons, American Legion; Kathy Amyot, NYS Tug Hill Commission; Teri Ellis, and three Participation in Government Students.

BUDGET WORKSHOPS:

March 20, 2012 at 6:15 p.m.; March 26, 2012 at 6:15 p.m.; and April 2, 2012 at 6:15 p.m. at the Carthage Municipal Building.

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 March 19, 2012 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Ms. Ellis presented her idea to the board regarding holding an old fashion flea market at the Farmers Market Pavilion on the first and third Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. during the months of June, July, and August 2012. Ms. Ellis will take full responsibility, address the idea to the Town of Wilna board, and provide more details as the date approaches.

Ms. Amyot stated information is forthcoming regarding a Watershed Conference in June at the Carthage Elks Club. Ms. Amyot also stated she will continue to follow up with NYS Parks and Recreation regarding the closeout funds for Long Falls Park. Ms. Amyot expressed there were over seven hundred participants at the NYS Tug Hill Conference at JCC.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Simmons provided a brief explanation of his request for use of Turning Point Park. Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Latremore to allow the Carthage American Legion to hold their annual "Cruise-in" Classic Car, Truck, Motorcycle Show on Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. at Turning Point Park from May 23, 2012 till August 30, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to allow the Carthage Little League to use the Carthage Park for the 2012 Little League Season commencing on April 28, 2012 through the end of June 2012 and Deputy President Astafan will check with the DPW to see if it is possible to have the fields ready prior to the games. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Latremore to not support the resolution received by St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators regarding "Reinforcing Support for the Constructions of the Interstate 98 Multi-Modal Corridor and Supporting Improvements to US Route 11 and to Give Priority to the Canton, Potsdam and Gouverneur areas". Motion carried with Deputy President Astafan and Trustee Smith-Spencer opposed.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to allow Troop 50097 to use the Carthage Park Recreation Building on May 12, 2012 for their Iron Cupcake fundraising event, waive the rental fee of \$50.00, and refund the \$50.00 deposit received providing the key is returned and the room is in acceptable condition. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to allow Ed Murphy, President VEM to use the pavilion at Turning Point Park on April 8, 2012 at 6:30 a.m. for a Sunrise Easter Service. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Latremore to adjust the sewer portion of the water/sewer bill for 540 John Street as requested by the homeowner and recommended by Ernie Prievo, Water Superintendent in the amount of \$55.92 due to a broken water pipe. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy briefly read a complaint signed by a concerned resident regarding another resident parking in an unauthorized area and asked the Clerk/Treasurer to forward the complaint to the Police Department.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to allow the Police Department to participate in the initiative to receive a LiveScan unit made possible through a Northern Boarder grant funded by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Carthage Coordinated Development Group, LLC is in the process of having their attorney develop the paperwork necessary for the Village to acquire the Village Green to include the maintenance of the property. Attorney Gebo spoke with Tim Farley who is finalizing the paperwork to complete the transfer of property. No action was taken therefore the board requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this issue over until the April 16, 2012 regular board meeting.

National Grid submitted an easement request for line relocation near Cemetery Street for safety purposes. Mark Gebo, Village Attorney; Michael Astafan, Village Deputy President; and John McHugh, Community Development Coordinator met with National Grid on February 15, 2012 to discuss the easement request. National Grid explored other options for the guy wires and submitted a revised map for the boards' consideration. The revised plan means that there will be no facilities on the Village's property. After discussion, the board wished to go to the site to see the revisions prior to signing an easement request for trimming purposes and line maintenance. Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing President McIlroy to sign the easement request for line relocation for safety purposes. Motion carried unanimously.

Nathalie Zecher submitted a request for consideration of the Disability Tax Exemption for Real Property of Persons with Disabilities and Limited Incomes from Nathalie Zecher. Attorney Gebo advised that Robert Ball, Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) is currently looking into this exemption to provide the board with more information prior to making a decision. Mr. Ball submitted the statistics he provided to the Town of Wilna board regarding the potential implications of this exemption to the Town. Attorney Gebo advised that surrounding Towns and Villages within Jefferson County do not implement this exemption. Attorney Gebo further advised that the board had until March 1, 2013 to decide because that is when the new tax rolls will be submitted. President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to remove this item from the agenda and wait to see what the Town of Wilna decides.

Attorney Gebo revised the dog law regarding the distance of the dogs near Village owned playground equipment from 25 ft. to 5 ft. which was proposed during the Public Hearing on March 19, 2012. Due to the tie vote; a decision was not made regarding the dog law therefore it is up to the board to decide if they wish to pursue the law as revised by Attorney Gebo. The board requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this issue over until the April 16, 2012 regular board meeting when Attorney Gebo will be present.

President McIlroy read the letter received regarding the Carthage Central School District Capital Project. The correspondence included a copy of the Negative Declaration with respect to the Carthage Central Schools District's capital project which was approved at the March 12, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer authorizing President McIlroy to sign the Consent to Assignment and amendment to Collateral Pledge and Control Agreement with First Niagara Bank, NA contingent upon Attorney Gebo reviewing it and the Clerk/Treasurer confirming First Niagara will network with the Village payroll software for direct deposit. Motion carried unanimously.

The CEO Report was reviewed and the board was very pleased with the detailed format.

The Village Justice Report for the period 03/01/12 – 03/31/12 was review and there were no questions.

The Treasurers Report was reviewed and there were no questions. The General Fund cash balance is \$887,159.16 with Reserves of \$149,917.14; Water Fund cash balance is \$156,329.17 with Reserves of \$46,798.71 and the Sewer Fund cash balance is \$55,047.80 with Reserves of \$30,459.74 the Joint Fund cash balance is \$123,009.05 with Reserves of \$397,908.36.

Motion by Trustee Smith Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve payment of payrolls and bills as follows: General Fund P/R 03/22/12, 03/29/12, and 04/02/12 \$29,404.63; Water Fund, P/R 03/22/12, 03/29/12, and 04/02/12 \$4,812.61; Sewer Fund, P/R 03/22/12, 03/29/12, and 04/02/12 \$5,005.05; Joint Fund P/R 03/21/12 and 04/02/12 \$9,290.90 and General Fund Abstracts, \$49,786.98; Water Fund Abstracts, \$65,957.88; Sewer Fund Abstracts, \$29,017.72; and Joint Fund Abstracts, \$133,796.68. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT McILROY UPDATE:

President McIlroy was very pleased with the newsletter which was distributed with the water/sewer bills and commended the employees involved with the process. President McIlroy stated on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 there will be a WPCF Special Meeting at 4:15 p.m. to review the tentative WPCF budget and a Budget Workshop at 6:15 p.m. at the Carthage Municipal Building.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Latremore attended the NYS Tug Hill Commission Conference and specifically the ADA Training. She forwarded the materials she received during the training to the Clerk/Treasurer and feels they may be beneficial to the Village.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

Ms. Avallone requested a copy of the newsletter which was sent with the water/sewer bills.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy L. O'Shaughnessy
Village Clerk/Treasurer