

Regular meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees 1
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
May 2, 2011

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

Guests: Kathy Amyot, Tug Hill Commission; Ernie, Prievo, Water Superintendant; and Kristy O'Shaughnessy.

President McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. with a moment of silence in memory of Planning Board member Mark McKenna and remembrance of the victims of 911 Twin Towers followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2011 meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Kathy Amyot of the Tug Hill Commission stated the Black River Watershed Kick Off is Wednesday, June 8 at the Croghan Fire Hall from 10 am to 2pm at a cost of \$10.00 per person and they will be reviewing the Black River Watershed Plan. At the next RACOG meeting there would be more discussion on the possibility of closing Route 26 into Fort Drum. Lastly, Ms. Amyot will talk to the DEC about possible grant money to repair the flood damage to Guyot's Island.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The request from Mercy Flight Central will be carried over till the next board meeting when the Village Attorney Mark Gebo is present.

The Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce request for contributions for the 2011 Block Party was denied.

The yearly accounting report sent by Rebecca Reed of the Carthage YMCA stated how the Village's funds were spent within the Carthage YMCA program this past year with Trustee Michael Astafan stating he would contact Mrs. Reed direct with a few additional questions.

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve Gentry Russell's request for a discount on the sewer portion only of his water/sewer bill in the amount of \$635.00 as calculated by computing his average usage for the last four billing cycles and charging only for his average sewer usage not actual. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Linda Smith-Spencer to deny the request of Joseph Getman to receive a discount on his water/sewer bill for his intermittent leak at his rental property. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to hire Christopher McHale as a summer employee at an hourly rate of \$7.50 an hour starting June 1, 2011, as recommended by Water Superintendant Ernie Prievo. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Village Clerk/Treasurer provided an update on five properties in the Village that the Code Enforcement Officer has received complaints on. The first property of 707 Alexandria Street, will be receiving a ticket certified mail from the Village Police Department for the rubbish and garbage violations. It is noted that one problem with this Alexandria Street property is that the owners now live out of state and the local property maintenance contractor will not contact the Code Enforcement Officer. Then on the 746 Fulton Street, the property owners have picked up some of the rubbish at the property but it was decided the Village Attorney would look into this matter further. The couches and miscellaneous debris that was dumped by the railroad track on West End Avenue will be picked up by a railroad employee sometime next week. Finally on Parham Street and South Washington Street the Code Enforcement officer will be issuing violation notice for unsafe structures to each of the home owners for their unsafe garages.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to approve hiring Kristy O'Shaughnessy as Clerk effective May 23, 2011 at an annualized salary of \$46,000.00 and she shall be responsible for 100% medical or major/medical insurance premiums and she will not receive a monetary payment or not enrolling in the medical plan. Furthermore, Mrs. O'Shaughnessy will become the Village Clerk/Treasurer effective July 16, 2011. Roll call vote: President McIlroy – Aye; Trustee Astafan – Aye; Trustee Vary – Aye; Trustee Smith-Spencer – Aye; Trustee Latremore – Aye. Motion carried 5- 0.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore, Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve and authorize the Village President and Clerk/Treasurer to sign the 2011 Tax Warrant and publish the tax notice in the Carthage Republican Tribune. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to approve hiring Erik Hirschey, North Country Forestry Services, LLC to complete a forest management plan on both parcels in the Town of Croghan with a down payment of \$2,000.00 for a total cost of \$8,250.00 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to approve hiring Erik Hirschey, North Country Forestry Services, LLC to administer timber sales on the Village of Carthage watershed for stands #7, 21, 24 and 25 with a down payment of \$500.00 for a total cost of \$5,700.00 as presented. Further Mr. Hirschey is authorized to advertise for sale, the above stands. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Linda Smith-Spencer to approve payment to Avalon Associates in the amount of \$2,102.83 for administrative services that qualified for the 2009 Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

A request from Painting Etc Inc. in the amount of \$7,640.00 for rehabilitation services that qualified for the 2009 Community Block Development Grant was tabled until the next board meeting when an updated bill from the contractor will be presented.

The Treasurer's report was not available.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to approve the payment of payrolls as follows: General Fund P/R #A58, 59, 59A & 60 \$26,903.55; Water Fund, #F 58, 59, 60 \$3,575.33; Sewer Fund, #G58, & 59 \$2,737.09; Joint Fund #J 60 \$400.00 Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT MCILROY'S UPDATE:

President McIlroy thanked the DPW employees for its tremendous effort and great job in handling the effects of the rising water in the Village.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Michael Astafan reported the DPW/Teamsters contract negotiation meeting with the mediator is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4th at 10:30 a.m. at the Municipal building. Then, Trustee Rebecca Vary thanked the board members for their prayers, support, and contributions in memory of her mother in law and aunt that passed away.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carried to adjourn at 8:10 P.M.

Sherry L. Sears Village Clerk/Treasurer