

Regular meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees 1
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
February 22, 2011

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

Guests: Village Justice, Lucille Shettleton; Village Attorney, Mark Gebo; Boy Scout member Grant Spence and father Donald Spence; Kathy Amyot, Tug Hill Commission; and four-teen Participation in Government Students.

President McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag with a moment of silence in memory of Timothy Wright and all of his accomplishments that benefited the Village of Carthage.

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2011 meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Lucille Shettleton the Village of Carthage Justice handed out a year end summary of the court proceedings to each board member and the clerk. The Board felt the information was very useful but asked if the report could be summarized by the Villages fiscal year not the calendar year and Judge Shettleton agreed with the suggestion. Then Mrs. Shettleton speaking as a resident of the Village approached the board with the problem of the undomesticated cat population in Carthage. After some discussion, Village Attorney Mark Gebo stated one of the problems is no state legislation on cats like there is on dogs therefore enforcement is a problem. Further, what would be done with the cat after he/she is captured? The Village currently has a Dog Warden, who responds to dog complaints, but he has no jurisdiction to respond to cat complaints.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proof of notice having been furnished the public hearing for the proposed changes to the Village of Carthage, Financial Policy was called to order at 7:17 P.M. President McIlroy explained this proposed change would designate two board members whose responsibility is to provide more thorough checks and balance system on reviewing the vouchers and abstracts. No one wished to address the Board on this law and the hearing was closed at 7:19 P.M.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to adopt Local Law #2 of 2011, which would amend the current Financial Policy, that would designate two board members whose responsibility is to provide more thorough checks and balance system on reviewing the vouchers and abstracts. Motion carried unanimously.

Proof of notice having been furnished the public hearing for the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) was called to order at 7:20 P.M.

President McIlroy explained the CDBG program. The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) provides fund 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 awarded 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 depending on the activity and up to \$750,000 for Economic Development projects. Municipalities can also submit joint applications for public infrastructure (water/sewer only) for up to \$900,000. Projects must: 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. 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.

President McIlroy also explained the state process for applying for these funds requires that it must be a unit of local government in New York in compliance with all HUD regulations. Two public hearings must also be held. The first hearing today is to explain the program and gather citizen input on community development needs. A second hearing will be held to obtain citizen comments on the proposed activity that will be undertaken using these funds. The application, in this case, will be prepared quickly so the timeline is fairly short. The Village Board encourage everyone to give them comments by providing written comments to the Village Clerk, Village of Carthage, 120 S. Mechanic Street, Carthage, N.Y. 13619.

President McIlroy then discussed the requirements of the plan to minimize displacement. The Small Cities program encourages communities to minimize displacement of persons benefiting from the program. Depending on the activity proposed, the village would not expect displacement to be a problem. For housing activities, homeowners should not encounter displacement unless the home to be renovated contains extensive lead based paint that would require the family to be out of the home while it is being removed.

Information was made available on the possibility of submitting a \$400,000 joint application with the Village of West Carthage to continue and expand the existing local scattered site housing rehabilitation program into the Village of West Carthage. The Village of Carthage program was started with a 2008 CDBG award.

President McIlroy explained that assistance is available to groups representing low to moderate income persons who are seeking to develop proposals by contacting the NYS Office of Community Renewal at (518) 474-2057. Interested property owners should contact the Chamber of Commerce at 493-3590 if they are interested in receiving a grant to rehabilitate their homes.

Village resident Donald Spence asked President McIlroy to re-read the section on landlord qualifications for the grant and the income guidelines for landlords. No other questions were asked on this grant program and the hearing was closed at 7:25 P.M.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to set the second public hearing on Monday March 21, 2011 at 7:10 p.m. for the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM CONTINUED:

Kathy Amyot of the Tug Hill Commission reminded the Board of the Local Government Conference training on March 31, 2011 at Jefferson Community College.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was received from the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce in response to a letter sent to them from the Carthage Village Board on November 16, 2010 in reference to complaints from Village residents about the removal of flags prior to Veterans Day. The Village Board suggested changing the annual Holiday Parade to the 3rd Saturday in November to remedy the problem but the Chamber board decided, rather than change the date of the parade, that it would be a better solution to just leave the flags up until after Veteran's Day, even if the parade is prior. The Village Board agrees and supports the Chamber's decision.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve Grant Spence, Boy Scout Troop 26 member, request to build thirty bird houses to be installed around the Carthage

Park with coordination from DPW Superintendant Danny Trembley once the bird houses are ready to be installed. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

President McIlroy stated that he has not yet meet with West Carthage Mayor Scott Burto to discuss what the current Health Officer should be paid.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Michael Astafan and Kathleen Latremore to authorize Resolution #2 of 2011 supporting the New York State Tug Hill Commission, to have Governor Andrew Cuomo to restore the New York State Tug Hill Commission to the 2011-2012 NYS Budget, subject to a 10% reduction of its 2010-2011 appropriation as recommended for most all State agencies, so that it may undergo the deliberative and transparent review of the SAGE Commission wherein its future may be decided via due process review of all State agencies, commissions, task forces, etc. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to authorize President McIlroy to sign the Note and Loan Agreement in the amount of \$40,000 with the CIDC for Guyot's Island. Motion carried unanimously.

After some discussion it was decided that if a Village Board meeting falls on a Holiday, the meeting will be rescheduled for Tuesday instead from this point forward.

Motion by Linda Smith-Spencer and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to hire Samuel Lundy as a Bailiff, with the Village of Carthage at a flat rate of \$50 for each night worked, as recommended by Justice Lucille Shettleton. Motion carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was presented and noted that the cash balance of the General fund is \$676,359.31 with Reserves of \$140,747.29. Water Fund cash balance is \$12,695.55 with Reserves of \$26,691.34 and the Sewer Fund cash balance is \$76,288.87 with Reserves of \$20,386.47. At this time, no questions were asked about the submitted reports.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve payment to Redfield Contracting a Division of Waite Enterprises Inc. in the amount of \$10,800.00 for rehabilitation services that qualified for the 2009 Community Block Development Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve the payment of payrolls as follows: General Fund P/R #A46, & 47 \$22,797.64; Water Fund, #F 46, & 47 \$4,054.33; Sewer Fund, #G46, & 47 \$5,177.01; Joint Fund, #J19 \$8,907.20 and General Fund Abstracts, \$77,245.67; Water Fund Abstracts, \$27,852.24; Sewer Fund Abstracts, \$13,945.62; Joint Fund Abstracts, \$92,441.07. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY GEBO UPDATE:

Attorney Gebo stated he would need an executive session to discuss the collective bargaining negotiations with the Teamsters union. President McIlroy asked Attorney Gebo if anything further has been done on Mr. Storm's complaint of his neighbor's unstable garage. Mr. Gebo explained that currently there is no owner or responsible party to pursue. The owner of the residence is deceased and her husband is in a nursing home. Attorney Gebo stated the Village could call a state of emergency or ask the public administrator to handle this, but one problem with the public administrator in that it is the County Clerk and she will be resigning as of March 1, 2011. Deputy President Michael Astafan said he would look into this matter further.

PRESIDENT MCILROY'S UPDATE:

President McIlroy informed the board that Thursday February 24th at 4:00 P.M. will be a CDBG committee meeting and the CIDC meeting will be March 2 at 4:00 P.M. Then the Planning Board will meet Thursday March 3 at 7:00 P.M.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Linda Smith-Spencer to enter Executive Session at 7:55 P.M. for contract negotiations and a personnel matter.

Regular session resumed at 9:02 P.M.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to accept Sherry L. Sears's resignation as Village Clerk/Treasurer due to personnel reasons effective July 8, 2011, with sincere regrets. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carried to adjourn at 9:03 P.M.

Sherry L. Sears Village Clerk/Treasurer