

Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Carthage Municipal Building Board Room
April 15, 2009 – 7P.M.

Present: President G. Wayne McIlroy, Trustee Kathleen Latremore, Bernard Frezza, Rebecca Vary and Michael Astafan.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to hold a public hearing on the Tentative June 1, 2009 budget of the Village of Carthage.

Guests: Kara Clark; Carthage Republican Tribune, Kelly Warth; Watertown Daily Times Residents Brian Draper, Sean McHale, Tara Benson and Valarie Compo. Parks and Recreation Director Scott Benson and Joanne Lazore, Recreation Assistant.

President McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proof of notice having been furnished the Public Hearing on Village Budgets for the fiscal year June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 was opened by President McIlroy at 7:00P.M. President McIlroy asked if anyone in attendance had any questions on the budget. Hand-outs were prepared for the public and those in attendance all addressed the Board. Mr. McHale addressed the board on the reduction of services if the Village decides to lay off one Department of Public Works employee and the Parks and Recreation Director. Mr. Draper explained that he feels the Parks and Recreation Director should not be laid off and would like to see West Carthage and Carthage Recreation programs join together. Mrs. Compo stated that while the Carthage property taxes are already too high she would not want to see layoffs. Mrs. Lazore addressed the Board with a letter that she wrote explaining that the Parks and Recreation position should not be cut. Mrs. Lazore further explained her commitment and dedication to the Parks and Recreation Program.

After public comment, President McIlroy said he called every board member last night to discuss the Parks and Recreation Position. President McIlroy explained that he felt there were three options: one, to leave the tax rate as is \$8.00 per \$1,000 assessment, Secondly, to reinstate the Parks and Recreation Director Position. Thirdly, to hire some summer help who would work at the Recreation Department. Then President McIlroy opened up discussion to the Board. Trustee Bernard Frezza spoke first and explained how times are changing and the downturn of the economy. Then Trustee Kathleen Latremore and Rebecca Vary explained what their own Village taxes would increase too. Trustee Michael Astafan explained how all the Village taxpayers have seen an increase in Town of Wilna and School Taxes.

Motion by President McIlroy to reinstate the Parks and Recreation Director position, Seconded by Bernard Frezza. Three Trustees opposed. Motion defeated.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to transfer funds received this week, for police officer training reimbursement, towards the cost of hiring three part time summer employees to work at the Recreation site. Motion carried 4 – 1 with Trustee Bernard Frezza opposing.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to rescind his first motion and change the motion to use the \$8,467.06 police officer training reimbursement received to hire 3 part time summer workers. Any additional funds needed are to be taken from the contingency fund. Motion carried 4 – 1 with Trustee Bernard Frezza opposing.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:54 P.M.

Motion by Michael Astafan Seconded by Bernard Frezza and carried to adopt the Village Budgets, as presented, for the fiscal year, June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010, with the one exception adopted at this meeting, the addition to hire three part time summer employees. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carried to adjourn at 7:55 P.M.

Sherry L. Sears , Village Clerk