

1 Regular meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees  
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building  
April 20, 2009

Present: President G. Wayne McIlroy, Trustees, Michael Astafan, Kathleen Latremore, Rebecca Vary and Bernard Frezza. Village Attorney, Mark Gebo.

Guests: CRT Reporter, Kara Clark; Resident, Rosina Allen, EDCC Community Development Coordinator, John McHugh, Carthage Area Hospital Administrator, Walter Becker, Circuit Rider for Tug Hill, Kathy Amyot, 2 Participation in Government Students and 1 parent.

President McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. 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 6, 2009 meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2009 Budget Hearing for the June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 fiscal year, as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Kathy Amyot, circuit rider for Tug Hill explained that the RACOG Comprehensive Plan Effort is nearly completed and on March 23 the final meeting was held with Peter J. Smith. The results of this meeting will be discussed on May 5, at 5:30 P.M. at the West Carthage Municipal Building. Also she announced the RACOG Recreation Committee meeting will be April 22 at 6:30 P.M. at the West Carthage Municipal Building.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve Pastor Robert Sly's request to use Turning Point Park on August 2, 2009 from 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. for the Eleventh Annual All Day Gospel Concert. Motion carried unanimously.

A letter was received from the Carthage Free Library inquiring about obtaining the small adjacent parking lot located behind the Library. Attorney Gebo explained that there are two options, determine the fair market value of the property and sell the property to them or have a contract with the Library. After much discussion President McIlroy asked that discussion be tabled until the next board meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> when Attorney Gebo will once again be present.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Proof of notice having been furnished the public hearing for Restore NY Communities Initiative Grant was called to order at 7:12 P.M. The Administrator for the Carthage Area Hospital, Walter Becker explained that the only way this renovation can be done is through this grant. He further explained this would increase the number of doctor visit downtown to 10,600 in one year and then would increase to 17,000 visits in five years. Then he explained how needed this project is for housing physicians and other key services. Community Development Coordinator for EDCC/CIDC John McHugh explained that this is phase two of the Carthage Renovation site plan. He said that this project is critical to the future of the downtown businesses and will draw a lot of people from the region downtown. Hopefully these visitors will shop and frequent the local businesses when they are here for their appointments at the medical office complex. He said everybody is working together to make sure the park area will not be touched. Mr. McHugh further discussed how great of an opportunity this is for the Hospital and would be eligible for \$570,000 to \$600,000 in grant money. Trustee Bernard Frezza then asked Mr. McHugh if this was matching funds and

Mr. McHugh response was that the Hospital would commit the funds. Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no one in the public who wished to address the Board on this public hearing.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the public hearing was closed at 7:19P.M.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to apply for funds designating the Village as a lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Resolution for the Restore NY Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bernard Frezza and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Application Process for the Restore NY Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Proof of notice having been furnished the public hearing on Proposed Local Law #3 which would limit handicap parking in the Village Municipal lot to two hours was called to order at 7:24 P.M. President McIlroy explained the law and opened the hearing to the public.

Mrs. Rosina Allen, resident of Heritage Apartments, explained that she felt the time limit on handicap parking was unfair.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the public hearing was closed at 7:28P.M.

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to adopt Local Law #3 which would limit handicap parking in the Village Municipal lot, located on West Street behind the Municipal Building, to two hours between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Parking between 8:00 P.M. and 8:00 A.M. may be for an extended period. Motion carried 4 – 1 with Trustee Michael Astafan abstaining.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion followed on the Climate Smart Communities Pledge and Trustee Kathleen Latremore asked that Attorney Gebo review this matter further.

President McIlroy decided that Attorney Gebo should review the Identity Theft Prevention Program before a final decision is made. Attorney Gebo emphasized that this policy is geared toward utility type Municipalities and would get in touch with NYCOM.

President McIlroy decided the Snow Shovel Billing policy needs to be amended and needs to be carried over until the May 18<sup>th</sup> Village Board meeting. Trustee Michael Astafan explained that he has been speaking with Danny Trembley, Superintendent of the DPW to discuss proper billing for snow shovel removal.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to authorize payment to Lead Safe LLC in the amount of \$700.00 for lead paint inspections on homes that qualify for the 2008 Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to authorize an amendment to the existing policy of the Village to include “all Tobacco Products” in the “smoke free” policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to accept the Direct Deposit Authorization form as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Michael Astafan to accept the Travel and Training Expense Voucher as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve payment of payrolls A56, 57, 57A in the amount of \$22,932.43 ; F56,57,57A \$3,185.38 ; G56,57,57A \$2,403.93 ;J 23 \$8,236.05 and Abstracts #A11, \$16,785.94; #F11 \$442.71; #G11 \$1,247.04; #JA \$34,038.05. Motion carried unanimously.

#### PRESIDENT MCILROY'S UPDATE:

President McIlroy presented members with meeting reminders and announced that April 28<sup>th</sup> be declared Mary Ann Margray day as the Citizen of the Year.

#### ATTORNEY GEBO'S UPDATE:

Attorney Gebo explained that the Carbon Credits which would be available at the water reservoir is a great idea for a potential source of revenue for the Village. Attorney Gebo added that the carbon credits are traded as a commodity on the Chicago stock market. Businesses that are not in compliance with clean air have to buy these carbon credits in order to become compliant with the government regulations. Attorney Gebo was not sure what amount of money one would have to spend in order to receive money for the carbon credits. President McIlroy directed the Clerk to contact forester Erik Hirschey about getting detailed information on carbon credits.

Attorney Gebo reviewed the suggestions by forester Erik Hirschey and the possibility of leasing Village land out for Recreational benefits.

Attorney Gebo also explained that Lori Major's Bankruptcy process has been approved and they are working on releasing the property for resale.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to re-adopt the Family Medical Leave Act, which would state; it is the policy of the Village of Carthage to comply with the provisions of Family Medical Leave Act. The Village of Carthage does not employ fifty or more employees who work twenty or more calendar work weeks per year. Therefore, Village employees may not be eligible under the Family Medical Leave Act. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Gebo explained that he is waiting on NYCOM's findings in order to give his opinion on National Grid's request for a refund on overpayment of gross utility tax.

#### LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Kathleen Latremore informed the Board that she is in the process of setting up dates to meet with the DPW about the Parks and Recreation program.

Motion carried to adjourn at 8:02P.M.

**Sherry L. Sears**, Village Clerk