

1 Regular meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Carthage Municipal Building
February 19, 2007

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

Guests: Shirley Tyner and Ernest Scribner, Buckley Group; John McHugh, Economic Development Coordinator; Jeremiah Papineau, CRT; Robert Brauchle, WDT; 15 members of the Participation in Government Class.

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

Motion by Rebecca Vary and Seconded by Michael Astafan to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2007 meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

John McHugh advised members that he has a status update on the Buckley Building. The Buckley Group voted Friday night to accept an offer from Michael Trainer & Associates. Mr. Trainer is interested in purchasing the Buckley Building, and making the needed improvements while contributing \$130,000 in funds and \$600,000 in sweat equity. The SHPO review is complete and the Board has completed the SEQR. John will need authorization from the Board to submit this proposal to the State. Once we receive a response back from the State we will then know where we stand.

Motion by Bernard Frezza and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to authorize John McHugh to submit the proposed plan for the Buckley Building to the State for their feedback. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy applauded both John McHugh and the Buckley Group for their work on this project.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President McIlroy read the following proclamation in honor of the 95th anniversary of Girl Scouting, March 17, 2007.

WHEREAS, Saturday, March 17, 2007 marks the 95th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, throughout its long and distinguished history, Girl Scouting has inspired millions of girls and women with the highest ideas of courage, confidence and character; and

WHEREAS, through Girl Scouting girls grow strong, gain self confidence and leadership skills, and learn the lifelong lesson of contributing to their communities; and,

WHEREAS, Girl Scouting takes an active role in increasing girls' awareness of the opportunities available to them today in math, science, sports, technology and other fields that can expand their horizons; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, G. Wayne McIlroy, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Village of Carthage, do hereby applaud the commitment Girl Scouting has made to America's girls and proudly proclaim the week of March 11 – 17, 2007 as Girl Scout Week.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to adopt the proclamation as proposed by President McIlroy. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy presented members with a 1941 Centennial Banner that was provided to members by Howard Splete through Historian Laura Prievo. President McIlroy has had the banner framed and it will be displayed in the Village Office.

NEW BUSINESS:

John McHugh explained to members that the advertisement for Consultants to assist with the filing of a CDBG grant provided only one response. Mr. McHugh recommended that the Board accept this proposal and noted that the CIDC has agreed to cover the cost of the application up to \$6,000.00.

Motion by Michael Astafan and Seconded by Rebecca Vary and

Resolved, that the President of the Village of Carthage is authorized to execute a contract with Avalon Associates, Inc., Community Development Consultants, for preparation of an application for federal grant funding and administrative services required to complete all activities under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Compensation for these services will be made in the form of specified lump sum fees or hourly billing rates plus expenses where applicable, as outlined in a Proposal for Services dated January 22, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bernard Frezza and Seconded by Michael Astafan to authorize a public hearing on Monday, March 5, 2007 at 7:15P.M. for the purpose of adopting a local law to extend the Moratorium on Outdoor Burning Furnaces for an additional six months. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed on the new requirement that Planning and Zoning Board members need to attend training classes. Trustee Astafan asked if the Village is making their own decision on this matter or jointly with RACOG. President McIlroy said the Planning Board members are Village members only while the two Zoning Board members are the Villages but work through a joint RACOG Board. Members agreed to ask members of the Boards their thoughts on being compensated for the attendance.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Michael Astafan to compensate Planning Board members and the Villages two Zoning Board members for costs associated with their attendance at training sessions to include the training cost, meals and mileage as long as receipts are provided. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proof of notice having been provided, the public hearing on Proposed Local Law #1 of 2007, a local law amending Chapter 35 of the Village of Carthage Code to establish a crosswalk on Canal Street, was called to order at 7:20P.M. by President McIlroy.

After highlighting the law President McIlroy opened the hearing to public comment.

Resident Shirley Tyner said the crosswalk is definitely needed. It is very hard for the residents of the Highrise to get across the street due to the traffic in that area. She is in favor of the law.

John McHugh added that he agrees, the Senior Citizens at the Highrise need the crossing.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard the public hearing was closed at 7:23P.M.

Motion by Bernard Frezza and Seconded by Michael Astafan to adopt Local Law #1 of 2007, establishing a crosswalk on Canal Street. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Bernard Frezza to approve payment of Payrolls #A46 & 47 \$27,729.79; #F426 & 47, \$2,786.14; #G46 & 47, \$2,120.28; #J19, \$7,942.95 and Abstracts #A9, \$110,269.75; #F9, \$26,676.92; #G9, \$17,564.17; and #J9, \$42,859.32. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:

Attorney Gebo reported that the 801 housing project continues to move forward; there has been no response from the Fire District on the shared services agreement and no response from the Library on the parking lot. The Long Falls Park grant needs a Legal response, but Attorney Gebo is awaiting the grant number before proceeding. Attorney Gebo also has two items for Executive session; collective bargaining and a claim issue.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proof of notice having been provided, the public hearing to discuss housing and community development needs in the Village and to consider an application for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funding through the NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities was called to order at 7:25P.M. President McIlroy opened the public hearing and turned it over to John McHugh.

Mr. McHugh explained the CDBG Program stating that the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant provides funds 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 made on an annual basis, except for Economic Development where applications can be submitted at any time. In the past a single municipality could apply for up to \$400,000 to perform one of these activities and up to \$750,000 for Economic Development projects and \$650,000 for Comprehensive projects provided these projects;

Benefited low and moderate income families; Prevented or eliminated 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 or moderate-income persons according to the HUD income limits provided in the application. 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.

Mr. McHugh also explained the state process. To apply for these funds, the applicant must be a unit of local government in New York, in compliance with all HUD regulations, a community must hold two public hearings. The first, which we are holding today, is to explain the program and gather citizen input on community development needs. A second hearing will be held to obtain citizens 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. We encourage everyone to give us comments. Written comments can be submitted to the Village Clerk, Village of Carthage, 120 South Mechanic Street, Carthage, NY 13619.

Mr. McHugh then discussed the requirement of plans 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 using CDBG funds to assist the Village of Carthage with implementing a scattered site Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Mr. McHugh also explained that by contacting the Governor's Office for Small Cities (GOSC) at (518) 474-2057, assistance is available to groups representing low to moderate income persons who are seeking to develop proposals.

Mr. McHugh opened the floor for comments and suggestions. There was no one present who wished to address the Board with comments or suggestions. Mr. McHugh invited citizens to contact his office if interested in participating in the program in the Village.

All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the public hearing was closed at 7:32 P.M.

Motion by Kathleen Latremore and Seconded by Rebecca Vary to continue the process of applying for a Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT MCILROY'S UPDATE:

During his update President McIlroy noted that the developers for the new 40 unit housing at the 801 site will be at the Planning Board meeting March 1st with a presentation.

President McIlroy also asked the newspapers to put a notice in the paper advising persons not to bury the fire hydrants with snow they are removing from their driveways or sidewalks. Also residents should be reminded to clear their sidewalks.

There is a RACOG meeting the 20th; a Utilities Board meeting the 21st; RACOG recreation meeting the 22nd; Towns and Village meeting at Brownville on the 23rd to discuss the clothing sales tax issue and a Planning Board meeting on March 1st.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Vary reported that she and members of the Tug Hill Commission are meeting with Jim Noon, State Parks and Recreation tomorrow on the Long Falls Project.

Trustee Latremore commended the DPW on the excellent job they are doing keeping the roads open and removal of the snow from the crosswalks at a time when there has been snow everyday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Bernard Frezza and Seconded by Kathleen Latremore to enter into Executive session at 7:38P.M. as requested by Attorney Gebo to discuss a collective bargaining and claim issue. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular session resumed at 8:17P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion carried to adjourn at 8:17P.M.

Linda M. Weir, Village Clerk