

Regular Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Village of Carthage Municipal Building
March 19, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Members: President G. Wayne McIlroy; Deputy President Michael Astafan; and Trustees Rebecca Vary and Marco Franchini. Trustee Linda Smith-Spencer was excused.

Others: Mark Gebo, Village Attorney; Edgar Countryman, DPW Superintendent; Reginald Huber, Police Chief; Elaine Avallone, Johnson Newspapers; Mickey Dietrich, Tug Hill Commissions and one Participation in Government student.

CALL TO ORDER:

President McIlroy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2018 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr. Dietrich reviewed the monthly announcements for RACOG and forwarded a copy of the announcements to the Clerk/Treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the request of Jeanette Turner to use the Carthage Park and Recreation Building for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. free of charge with the proceeds to benefit the VEM Food Pantry. Motion carried unanimously. A certificate of insurance was issued by the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce for the event.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to approve the request for the YMCA to use the Carthage Park and Recreation Building to host its Family Fun Day on Saturday, April 21, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., free of charge, providing the event does not conflict with previously scheduled events at the Park and a certificate of insurance is provided. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the request of the Carthage Area Hospital Auxiliary to use the Carthage Park and Recreation Building free of charge for their annual geranium sale from May 17, 2018 – May 19, 2018 with the understanding that a certificate of insurance will be provided prior to the event.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to permit Grace Episcopal Church to use Turning Point Park for their annual Easter Sunrise Service on April 1, 2018 to commence at 6:30 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Franchini authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to look into signing up for the New York Municipal Energy Program which is sponsored by NYCOM. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy read the correspondence regarding the Village of Carthage receiving a fifty-year Fluoridation Award by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the American Dental Association and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from Pratt Northam Foundation awarding \$8,000 for our Summer Recreation Program. The letter expressed this will be the last year they will fund our program as requested and encouraged the Village to apply for Workership or Careers Here positions in the future.

OLD BUSINESS:

At the December 19, 2016 meeting, the Board declared an emergency to remove the building at 302-306 North Mechanic Street as the structure is severely damaged and unsafe.

Update 01/17/17: President McIlroy stated the building has been knocked down and the debris is currently being removed.

Update 02/21/17: President McIlroy stated we are still waiting for the bill from GYMO for the removal of 302-306 North Mechanic Street. Deputy President Astafan stated the vacant property maybe marketable to the surrounding property owners. Attorney Gebo expressed if the costs to remove the building were re-levied on the Village taxes; the new owner would need to negotiate with the Village to remove the lien on the property.

Update 03/20/17: President McIlroy stated all of the expenses have been received and paid for this property in the amount of \$60,932.00. President McIlroy asked Attorney Gebo if he spoke with Jefferson County about the Village acquiring the property and Attorney Gebo stated he will check with the County and report back to the Board. The Board authorized the Clerk/Treasurer to transfer funds from the Village Blight Fund in the amount of \$60,932.00 and further set up a repayment schedule of five years.

Update 04/17/17: Attorney Gebo stated he spoke with the County attorney and a letter was sent requesting the property be turned over to the Village. Since the last meeting, a bill was received from DANC to dispose of the construction debris at the Rodman Landfill in the amount of \$9,743.97 and the Board revised the previous resolution for 302-306 North Mechanic Street to include the additional \$9,743.97 for a total of \$70,675.97 and further authorizes the Clerk/Treasurer to transfer funds from the Village Blight Fund to the General Fund and further set up a repayment schedule of five years.

Update 05/15/17: Attorney Gebo stated Jefferson County removed the property from the tax auction with the intent of turning the property over to the Village. Attorney Gebo further stated that any proceeds received over what the Village spent to remove the buildings on the property need to be turned over to the County.

Update 06/20/17: Attorney Gebo expressed that he is waiting for the paperwork from the County attorney for the property transfer.

Update 07/17/17: Attorney Gebo stated he is still waiting for the paperwork from the County attorney.

Update 08/21/17: Attorney Gebo state he will contact the County attorney regarding the status of this property.

Update 09/18/17: Attorney Gebo stated the County is willing to turn over 302-306 North Mechanic Street providing the Village forwards 10% of the proceeds received for the sale of the property, up to \$1,000.00 of which the Board agreed to do.

Update 10/16/17: Attorney Gebo stated President McIlroy signed the agreement with Jefferson County and he is awaiting an executed contract from Jefferson County.

Update 11/20/17: Attorney Gebo continues to wait for an executed contract from Jefferson County.

Update 12/18/17: Attorney Gebo said the Jefferson County Board of Legislature approved the transfer of the property on November 14, 2017 and the deed should be forthcoming.

Update 1/16/18: President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this until the February 20, 2018 meeting when Attorney Gebo is present.

Update 2/20/18: Attorney Gebo stated he is still waiting for the paperwork from Jefferson County to be forwarded to his office for the transfer of property.

Update 3/19/18: Attorney Gebo stated the paperwork to transfer the property from Jefferson County has been received and signed by President McIlroy. Tax map parcel 86.40-2-23 is now owned by the Village of Carthage.

At the January 16, 2018 meeting, the Board authorized the Clerk/Treasurer to advertise and distribute Request for Proposals for legal services.

Update 2/20/18: Two proposals were received for legal services and President McIlroy requested that Trustee Smith-Spencer, the Clerk/Treasurer, and he meet to review the proposals and will report the results at the March 19, 2018 regular meeting.

Update 3/19/18: President McIlroy, Deputy President Astafan and the Clerk/Treasurer met with the two candidates who submitted proposals: James Burrows, Conboy, McKay, Bachman & Kendall, LLP and Joseph Russell, Menter, Rudin, Trivelpiece, PC. President McIlroy requested to discuss the qualifications of both law firms in Executive Session.

At the February 20, 2018 meeting, President McIlroy read the quote received from DANC to provide generator power to the entire Municipal Building which they stated will cost the Village \$20,000.00. The Board asked the Clerk/Treasurer to notify DANC that the Village is unable to pay \$20,000.00 to upgrade the generator to include the entire Municipal Building but feel the upgrade should be completed at no cost as the Village allowed DANC to use the portable generator entrance as a cost savings for their project.

Update 3/19/18: DANC has yet to respond to our correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing President McIlroy to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement to Form the River Area Council of Governments to include the Town of Lowville. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing Attorney Gebo to send collection letters to JB's Meat Shop in the amount of \$1,415.34 and Ernest Scribner in the amount of \$1,740.00. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy stated the next budget workshop will be Monday, April 2, 2018 at 4:15 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Franchini to set a Public Hearing on Monday, April 16, 2018 at 6:10 p.m. to discuss the Tentative Budget for 06/01/2018 – 05/31/2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve Budget Adjustments and Transfers as follows:

Budget Adjustments 3/19/2018

AA.1620.2000	Building	28,634.00	
AA.2706	Grants From Governments		28,634.00

Budget Transfers 3/19/2018

AA.3120.4200	Police Internet	500.00	
AA.3120.4100	Police Telephone		500.00
AA.9040.8015	Workers Compensation	8,100.00	
AA.9010.8000	State Retirement		8,100.00
FX.9040.8015	Workers Compensation	2,000.00	
FX.9010.8000	State Retirement		2,000.00
GG.9040.8015	Workers Compensation	1,700.00	
GG.9010.8000	State Retirement		1,700.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to close the Clerk's Office for the entire day on Friday, March 30, 2018 (Good Friday) to install the new flooring. President McIlroy stated the Clerk's Office typically closes at noon on Good Friday. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to accept the monthly Departmental Reports as presented by the Court, DPW, Police, Treasurer, and Water. Motion carried unanimously. The Community Development, and CEO reports were not submitted.

Deputy President Astafan reviewed the monthly bills and bank statements including reconciliations prior to the meeting. The documents were available at the meeting.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve payment of payrolls and bills as follows: General Fund \$139,252.72; Special Grant Fund \$198.74; Water Fund \$15,756.32; and Sewer Fund \$16,901.43. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY GEBO:

Attorney Gebo stated the Clerk/Treasurer forwarded an email to him from General Code regarding changes that need to be made to the local laws passed in 2017. Attorney Gebo stated the majority of the changes were administrative but Local Law #5 of 2017 will need to be amended.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to set a public hearing on April 16, 2018, immediately follow the public hearing regarding the tentative budget, to amend Local Law #5 of 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Gebo requested an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining.

PRESIDENT MCILROY UPDATE:

President McIlroy stated there will be a RACOG meeting on March 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Carthage; Joint Utility meetings on March 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at Carthage; and a CIDC meeting on March 28, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the Town of Wilna.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Vary stated she will not be at the meeting on April 16, 2016.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

Ms. Avallone asked for clarification of items discussed throughout the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to enter Executive Session at 6:22 p.m. to discuss the qualifications of two particular law firms and collective bargaining. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to resume Regular Session at 7:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to permit Deputy President Astafan to appraise 302-306 North Mechanic Street at no charge to the Village. Motion carried with Deputy President Astafan abstained.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to appoint Joseph Russel, Menter, Rudin and Trivelpiece, PC as the Village attorney effective June 1, 2018 for \$1500.00 per month for general legal services. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy O'Shaughnessy
Village Clerk/Treasurer