

Regular Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Village of Carthage Municipal Building
January 22, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

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

Others: Joseph Russell, Village Attorney; Edgar Countryman, DPW Superintendent; Reginald Huber, Police Chief; Mickey Dietrich, Tug Hill Commissions; and Robert Ball, Code Enforcement Officer.

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 Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the minutes of the December 17, 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:

President McIlroy read the request from Ms. Archer-Runge, Carthage Right to Life, to conduct their 36th Annual Walk for Life on January 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. which was previously approved by the Board via email poll. President McIlroy stated the walk was cancelled due to inclement weather therefore no formal action needed to be taken.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to permit the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce to use the Carthage Park and Recreation Building to set up on Friday, February 8, 2019 for the Annual Winterfest Celebration on Saturday, February 9, 2019 and waive the rental fee and further, allow horse drawn wagon rides which will begin at the Carthage Park, to Hospital Drive, then West Street to Thorp Street and back to the Carthage Park as long as a certificate of insurance is provided for the event. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the request of Cub Scout Pack 39 to use the Carthage Park Recreation Building free of charge for an overnight event on Friday, February 22, 2019 and Saturday, February 23, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the request of the Carthage Little League to use the Carthage Park baseball fields during the 2019 season for practice and games from April 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019 contingent upon receipt of a certificate of insurance. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to permit the Development Authority of the North Country to place a conduit on the Municipal Building out of the DANC Central Office, strap up the outside wall and extend fifteen feet above the roof line and place a twenty-four inch dish to provide temporary fiber optic service to Petawatt located at 695 West End Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy stated the correspondence received from New York State Department of Health expressed they approved the revisions to the Water Supply Emergency Plan.

President McIlroy read the notice of public hearing regarding Jefferson County IDA and Turning Point LLC which was scheduled for January 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Carthage Municipal Building. Attorney Russell expressed that the hearing was cancelled as Turning Point LLC is no longer pursuing a Payment In Lieu of Taxes agreement.

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from NYS Tug Hill Commission regarding their meeting on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Parish Village Gym.

President McIlroy read the invitation received from Augustinian Academy for their 15th Annual Winter Gala on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

President McIlroy read the thank you card received from Sara Storms regarding the proclamation the Village provided to her.

President McIlroy read the thank you card received from the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce for the Village's support for the Holiday Parade and Fireworks.

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from Larry Pete regarding leaving his water running at 224 North Clinton Street because the water line under the road freezes. Mr. Prievo recommended adjusting Mr. Pete's bill next quarter.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary, based on the recommendation of the Water Superintendent, to provide a water/sewer credit for 224 North Clinton Street next quarter based on their average usage which will be calculated by the Water Superintendent. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy said the minutes for the Town of Wilna Joint Planning Board for December 5, 2018 and January 2, 2019 are included for the Board's information.

OLD BUSINESS:

At the October 15, 2018 meeting, the Board made a motion to advertise for bids for the sale of the 302-306 North Mechanic Street with a minimum bid at the appraised price of \$12,000.00 to be opened at the November 19, 2018 meeting.

Update 11/26/18: No bids were received and the Board decided to re-advertise for bids for the sale of 302-306 North Mechanic Street to be opened at the December 17, 2018 meeting with no minimum bid requirement.

Update 12/17/18: The Board rejected the only bid received from Donald Spence in the amount of \$10.00 and further to re-advertise for bids for the sale of 302-306 North Mechanic Street to be opened at the January 22, 2019 meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Update 01/22/19: Attorney Russell opened the only bid received from Kimball Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$2,000.00 which included a cashier's check for \$200.00.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to accept the bid received from Kimball Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$2,000.00 plus all applicable closing costs. Motion carried unanimously.

At the October 15, 2018 meeting, President McIlroy asked Attorney Russell if Water Street was abandoned and Attorney Russell suggested researching the minutes to see the Board's decision at that time. President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to research the minutes during the 1960's regarding the abandonment of Water Street by the Board.

Update 11/26/18: The Clerk/Treasurer researched the minutes and discovered that the road was abandoned but there was no record of the property being transferred. Attorney Gebo stated they researched the records at Jefferson County and did not find a deed from the Village conveying Water Street. President McIlroy stated he spoke with Ms. Ablan, the adjacent property owner, who stated she has documentation that proves she owns the property and will forward it to the Village when time permits. President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the December 17, 2018 meeting.

Update 12/17/18: President McIlroy requested Attorney Russell to contact Ms. Ablan's attorney to see if he has documents regarding ownership of Water Street. President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the January 22, 2018 meeting.

Update 1/22/19: Attorney Russell stated he will follow up with Ms. Ablan's attorney.

At previous meetings, the Board discussed Carthage Specialty Paperboard's bankruptcy and the amount due to the Village Loan Fund of \$98,059.96 which was backed by the Carthage Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC) in the amount of \$50,000.00

Update 1/22/19: The Village Loan Fund received \$1,024.24 from bankruptcy and the CIDC paid \$50,000.00 on December 27, 2018 which left an outstanding amount of \$47,035.72.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Franchini to write off the balance of \$45,724.58 in the Village Loan Fund as the amount is uncollectible. Motion carried unanimously.

At the December 17, 2018 meeting, President McIlroy read the correspondence received from National Grid regarding replacing existing HID National Grid-owned roadway street lights to efficient LED roadway street lights at minimal cost as part of National Grid's Outdoor Street Lighting LED Conversion Program stated he will set up a meeting with National Grid to discuss our options and further requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the January 22, 2019 meeting.

Update 1/22/19: President McIlroy and the Clerk/Treasurer met with Ms. Egeberg from National Grid regarding their street lighting conversion program. President McIlroy stated if the Village has National Grid convert our non-ornamental street lighting, it will cost approximately \$10,000 and National Grid has a first come, first serve incentive program which will pay approximately \$20,000 after the conversion is complete; therefore the Village will net \$10,000. If the Village chose to convert, the delivery fees on the bill will increase and energy usage will decrease; which should provide minimal savings. President McIlroy asked the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the February 19, 2019 meeting as RACOG is looking at a different option for LED street lighting.

At the December 17, 2018 meeting, President McIlroy read the correspondence received from Jim Yuhas, Town of Wilna regarding their billing for 2018 Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) services stating the Town billed the Village incorrectly for 2018 and the Village owes an additional \$1,200.00 to the Town for calendar year 2018 and CEO services will increase to \$1,525.00 per month effective January 1, 2019. President McIlroy stated per the agreement between the Town and Village for CEO services, the compensation paid to the Town by the Village may be modified each year by agreement of the parties to allow the Village to budget for the additional expense and he will contact Paul Smith, Town of Wilna Supervisor to discuss this issue.

Update 1/22/19: President McIlroy spoke with Mr. Smith who told him to disregard the \$1,200.00 for 2018 but effective January 1, 2019 the fee will be \$1,525.00 per month.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Franchini to approve monthly payment to the Town of Wilna for Code Enforcement Officer Services effective January 1, 2019 in the amount of \$1,525.00. Motion carried unanimously.

At the December 17, 2018 meeting, the Board authorized President McIlroy to sign the MOU between the Village of Carthage and Scott Sauer which identifies the parking areas Mr. Sauer will be able to use for his business and the conditions for using those parking areas.

Update 1/22/19: President McIlroy stated the agreement was sent to Mr. Sauer who requested further clarification in Section 4.f. regarding future capital improvements to the South Lot.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary to have Attorney Russell revise the MOU Section 4.f. between the Village of Carthage and Scott Sauer to clarify Mr. Sauer will be responsible for future capital improvements on the nine additional parking spots added. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to formally hire Erin Cervini effective January 7, 2019 as a part-time Clerk at the starting rate of \$11.25 per hour for the first three months (probationary period) and increase to \$11.50 per hour after a favorable evaluation. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing President McIlroy to sign the agreement with Missing Link Snowmobile Club stating the Village of Carthage has no objection of the Club using Niagara Mohawk's land for a snowmobile trail. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer authorizing President McIlroy to sign the agreement with Lewis County General Hospital Occupation Medicine for Random Drug Testing in the annual amount of \$1,100.00 plus \$40.00 for each onsite testing conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing President McIlroy to sign National Grid Form SL2 and Schedule SL2 regarding their recent street lighting audit which results in a settlement refund in the amount of \$2,744.03. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to issue a water/sewer credit for 849 Parham Street for 4,661 cubic feet in the amount of \$284.32 sewer and \$226.53 water due to a one inch register being installed on a ¾ inch meter in error. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve budget transfers for account balancing as follows:

AA.7110.4932	Long Falls/Guyots Island	4,000.00	
AA.7140.4320	Contracts/Maint Agreements	200.00	
AA.7140.4620	Equipment Rental		200.00
AA.8170.4600	Street Cleaning Vehicle/Equipment Repair	450.00	
AA.8170.4620	Street Cleaning Equipment Rental		450.00
AA.1990.4000	Contingencies		4,000.00

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer authorizing Chief Huber and the Clerk/Treasurer to accept the bids from Auctions International for 2014 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle which auction closes January 23, 2019 providing the bid exceeds the current amount of \$4,100.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to accept the monthly Departmental Reports as presented by the Court, DPW, Police, Treasurer, and Water. The CEO report was not submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Smith-Spencer reviewed the monthly bills and bank statements including reconciliations prior to the meeting. The documents were available at the meeting.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve payment of payrolls and bills as follows: General Fund \$131,628.97; Special Grant Fund \$200.40; Water Fund \$20,789.24; and Sewer Fund \$13,126.80. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY RUSSELL:

Attorney Russell stated there are four code violations he is currently working on. Attorney Russell advised the Board to set Evidentiary Hearings for 517 Francis Street and 142 North Mechanic Street.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to set an Evidentiary Hearing regarding 517 Francis Street and 142 North Mechanic Street on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT McILROY UPDATE:

President McIlroy stated there is a RACOG LED lighting meeting tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. and a CIDC meeting at 4:00 p.m.; RAGOG meeting January 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Lorraine; and Joint Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on February 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of Champion Municipal Building.

Chief Huber stated he will be on vacation and unavailable for more than five consecutive days from February 10, 2019 – February 16, 2019, therefore Samuel Capone will be Acting Chief during that timeframe and should be compensated accordingly.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Vary stated there was a water main break in front of her house last week and she commended the efforts of the Water Department and DPW.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy O'Shaughnessy
Village Clerk/Treasurer