

Regular Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Village of Carthage Municipal Building
February 19, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

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 Trustee Smith-Spencer to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019 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. President McIlroy asked Mr. Dietrich to schedule meetings regarding municipal owned street lighting to keep the process moving.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to approve the request of the St. James Church to conduct their annual St. James Fair on June 20, 21, 22, 2019; to include closing off through traffic on West Street from South School Street to South Mechanic Street and to post banners on both ends of the Village by the bridge and the Carthage Park a few weeks prior to the event providing they notify the DPW in advance and further remove the banners immediately after the fair. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the request of the Carthage Revolution Football team to use the fields at the Carthage Park from March through September 2019 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for practice providing it does not conflict with any other previously scheduled events and a certificate of insurance is provided. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from the New York State Department of Health regarding the inspections they performed for the joint water system and stated the findings will be discussed at the Joint Water Board meeting tomorrow.

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from the Pratt Northam Foundation stating they will fund two workshop positions for the Summer Recreation Program. President McIlroy commended the Clerk/Treasurer for writing the grant and obtaining funding for two positions as Pratt Northam previously notified the Village that they may not receive funds for the upcoming year.

President McIlroy read the correspondence Jefferson County Recycling & Waste Management regarding fee increases for tipping fees and waste permit fees.

President McIlroy read the correspondence from the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce thanking the Village for their support of the Winterfest Celebration.

OLD BUSINESS:

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.

Update 2/19/19: Attorney Russell stated he spoke with Attorney Hassler and he is waiting for him to forward a copy of the deed for the property.

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.

Update 2/19/19: President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the March 18, 2019 meeting.

At the October 15, 2018 meeting, the Board declared an emergency at 524 Francis Street due to the unsafe condition of the structure damaged by fire and authorized the use of Blight funds from the Village Loan Fund to be repaid over a five year period.

Update 2/19/19: Attorney Russell stated he will contact the attorney for the property at 524 Francis Street regarding the funds spent to clean up the property.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing Attorney Russell to pursue a law suit against the property owner of 524 Francis Street for the cost to remedy the property in the amount of \$31,110.00 and further authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to transfer funds from the Village Loan fund to the General fund to be repaid over a five year period to cover the costs in the interim. Motion carried unanimously.

At the January 22, 2019 meeting, the Board authorized Chief Huber and the Clerk/Treasurer to accept the bid from Auctions International for 2014 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle providing the bid exceeded \$4,100.00.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to formally accept the bid for the 2014 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle from Auctions International in the amount of \$9,100.00. Motion carried unanimously.

At the January 22, 2019 meeting, the Board accepted the bid received from Kimball Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$2,000.00 plus all applicable closing costs.

Update 2/19/19: Attorney Russell received a purchase contract from Mr. Kimball's attorney and anticipates a mid March closing date.

At the January 22, 2019 meeting the Board set an Evidentiary Hearing regarding 517 Francis Street for Monday, March 18, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Update 2/19/19: Attorney Russell advised the Board to hold off on the Evidentiary Hearing for this property.

President McIlroy read the judgment in the amount of \$27,025.32 filed against John Bushey and JB's Meat Shop for unpaid funds to the Village Loan fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer authorizing Edgar Countryman, Tyler Pominville, and Derrik Lamanteer to attend the NYSDEC endorsed Erosion and Sediment Control Training on March 27, 2019 in Sackets Harbor at a total cost of \$240.00 plus mileage expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer authorizing Kathleen Latremore, Edgar Countryman, and Kristy O'Shaughnessy to attend the 30th Annual Local Government Conference on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at Jefferson Community College in Watertown at a total cost of \$150.00 plus mileage expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan 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 and 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 Smith-Spencer to approve payment of payrolls and bills as follows: General Fund \$293,685.76; Special Grant Fund \$2,696.27; Water Fund \$24,613.91; and Sewer Fund \$117,825.14. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY RUSSELL:

Attorney Russell stated the majority of his items were discussed throughout the meeting. Attorney Russell requested an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining regarding the NYS Teamsters DPW contract.

PRESIDENT McILROY UPDATE:

President McIlroy stated there are Joint Utility meetings tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building; DPW Teamster negotiations Thursday at 10:00 a.m.; CIDC meeting at the Town of Wilna Municipal Building on February 27, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.; Joint Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on February 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of Champion Municipal Building; meeting with BC&A to discuss the storm sewer grant findings on February 28, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.; and

the next regular Board meeting is March 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. President McIlroy stated Robert Ball resigned from the Code Enforcement Officer position at the Town of Wilna and gave two months notice. President McIlroy asked the Board and Chief Huber to forward recommendations for the position. President McIlroy scheduled two budget workshop meetings on March 12th and 14th at 4:15 p.m. President McIlroy thanked the Board and Village employees for their support throughout his daughter's illness.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Deputy President Astafan asked why the Sauer's were not pursuing a PILOT for their Dock Street property and Attorney Russell stated Jefferson County was not in favor of the PILOT. The Sauer's, with the assistance of JCIDA are seeking 485B tax relief for their project.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to enter Executive Session at 6:29 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining regarding the DPW Teamsters contract to include Mr. Countryman. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to resume Regular Session at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy O'Shaughnessy
Village Clerk/Treasurer