

Regular Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees
Held in the Board Room of the Village of Carthage Municipal Building
March 18, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

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

Others: Joseph Russell, Village Attorney; Edgar Countryman, DPW Superintendent; Mickey Dietrich, Tug Hill Commissions, Todd Burkner and Carlton Huff Carthage High School 12 Honors.

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 February 19, 2019 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2019 budget workshop 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. Mr. Dietrich provided an update on the meetings which took place regarding municipal owned street lighting. President McIlroy stated he received documents from the NY Power Authority today of which the Board needs time to review.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Burkner provided handouts regarding their proposed Community Garden. Mr. Huff explained that he and Mr. Burkner would like to install a Community Garden at the Carthage Park at the dilapidated tennis courts. Mr. Huff explained the old tennis court area has a fence around it which will keep animals away from the garden. Mr. Huff explained they would like to place tanks near the Recreation Building to collect rain water to be used for the garden. President McIlroy and Deputy President Astafan both expressed interest in the garden and asked Mr. Burkner to work on a more in depth design to be considered by the Board.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Franchini, based on the recommendation of the Water Superintendent, to issue a sewer credit to 314 South James Street for 2,140 cubic feet which equates to \$130.54 due to a broken pipe in the greenhouse which drained onto the floor. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan, based on the recommendation of the Water Superintendent, to issue a sewer credit to 725 State Street for 1,850 cubic feet which equates to \$112.85 due to a broken pipe in the kitchen which drained into the dirt floor in the basement. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Franchini, based on information submitted by the Water Superintendent, to deny the request for a reduction in the water/sewer bill at 733 Alexandria Street due to the amount of water used; it is assumed it went through a floor drain in the basement. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to approve the request of Jeanette Turner to use the Carthage Park and Recreation Building for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 13, 2019 free of charge as the proceeds will benefit the VEM Food Pantry.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the request of the Carthage American Legion Auxiliary Bassett-Baxter Unit 789 to conduct their Annual Poppy Drive on May 17th and 24th, 2019, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. by distributing poppies at various businesses within the Village limits. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary to have the Clerk/Treasurer forward to the Town Assessor, the correspondence received from the US Census Bureau regarding the Boundary and Annexation Survey they are currently conducting for his review and comment. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from Upstate University Hospital regarding the grant they received to initiate a Mobile Mammography Van which may appear in our area.

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from the New York State Department of Health regarding the 2019 public water system monitoring requirements.

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from the New York State Tug Hill Commission regarding their meeting on March 27, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Tug Hill offices in Watertown.

President McIlroy stated the Town of Wilna Joint Planning Board minutes are included for the Board's information.

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.

Update 3/18/19: Attorney Russell stated he received a copy of the deed from Attorney Hassler and the property transfer from the Village is included in the deed in the 1960's and recorded with Jefferson County.

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.

Update 3/18/19: President McIlroy stated that he has participated in RACOG meetings with the New York Power Authority who is offering an option for the Village to convert to LED lighting and own their street lights. The New York Power Authority projects if the Village converts to LED lighting and buys out National Grid, the Village will save approximately 75% for street lighting after the debt is repaid which they project will be ten years. President McIlroy asked the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the April 15, 2019 meeting to allow more time to gather information.

At the January 22, 2019 meeting, the Board, based on the recommendation of the Water Superintendent, made a motion to provide a water/sewer credit for 224 North Clinton Street for the third quarter based on their average usage which will be calculated by the Water Superintendent due to running water so the water main doesn't freeze.

Update 3/18/19: The Water Superintendent calculated the credit of 1162 cubic feet which equates to \$56.42 water and \$70.88 sewer for a total credit of \$127.35.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Franchini authorizing President McIlroy to sign the Card Services Agreement with Global Direct to permit the Clerk's Office to accept credit cards as a method of payment and further permit Global Direct to charge a 3% transaction fee directly to the consumer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to adopt Resolution 1 of 2019 as follows:

RESOLUTION TO DECLARE LEAD AGENCY

WHEREAS, the Village of Carthage has problems with infiltration and inflow (I&I) into the sanitary sewer system. The increased sanitary sewer flows increases cost for the Village of Carthage who shares a wastewater treatment facility with the Village of West Carthage; and

WHEREAS, some portions of the storm sewer are tied into the sanitary sewer and creates higher than necessary flows to be treated at the wastewater treatment facility; and

WHEREAS, the sanitary and storm sewer systems are aging and many portions are original clay tile pipe; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Carthage intends to replace and/or rehabilitate identified areas and separate storm sewer from the sanitary sewer system; and

WHEREAS, said Actions require review under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), per 6NYCRR Part 617, and;

WHEREAS, said Actions are defined as an Unlisted Actions under 6NYCRR Part 617 because the action is not listed under 6NYCRR Part 617.4 or 617.5.

WHEREAS, multiple agencies have approval or funding authority over said Actions, and;

WHEREAS, 6NYCRR Part 617.6(b)(3) calls for coordinated review of Unlisted Actions, and;

WHEREAS, 6NYCRR Part 617.6(b)(2)(i) requires that a Lead Agency for a coordinated review of an Unlisted Action be established prior to a determination of significance, and;

WHEREAS, 6NYCRR Part 617.2(u) defines “Lead Agency” as, “an involved agency principally responsible for undertaking funding or approving an action, and therefore responsible for determining whether an environmental impact statement is required in connection with the action, and for the preparation and filing of the statement if one is required”, and;

WHEREAS, the Village of Carthage intends to act as Lead Agency in the coordinated review of said Actions as Unlisted Action under SEQRA and further intends to implement and complete all responsibilities of that office,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Carthage declares itself Lead Agency, as defined in 6NYCRR Part 617.2(u), for the coordinated review of said Actions as Unlisted Actions under SEQRA.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted unanimously.

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing President McIlroy to send a letter of support for S554/A424 to create the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program known as SWAP to Senator Patty Richie. Motion carried unanimously.

President McIlroy requested to hold the Town of Wilna Water District #1 agreement over until after Executive Session.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to electronically submit the Constitutional Tax Limit form for fiscal year 2020 to the NYS Office of the State Comptroller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to set a public hearing on April 15, 2019 at 6:10 p.m. on the Tentative Budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2019. 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. The CEO report was not submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

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 \$111,647.99; Special Grant Fund \$35,694.37; Water Fund \$40,643.48; and Sewer Fund \$11,992.13. 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 and Police contracts.

PRESIDENT McILROY UPDATE:

President McIlroy stated there are Joint Utility meetings March 20, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. at the Village of West Carthage Municipal Building; CIDC meeting at the Town of Wilna Municipal Building on March 27, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.; and the next regular Board meeting is April 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Trustee Franchini inquired about the status of repayment for costs incurred for 524 Francis Street. Attorney Russell stated he will speak to the property owner's attorney to find out the repayment status for this property.

MEDIA QUESTIONS:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Deputy President Astafan and seconded by Trustee Vary to enter Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining regarding the Teamsters contracts with the DPW and Police and the employment history of a particular Water Department employee to include Mr. Countryman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Countryman was excused at 6:59 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Deputy President Astafan to resume Regular Session at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Deputy President Astafan authorizing President McIlroy to sign the agreement with Teamsters Local 687 and Village of Carthage DPW contingent upon Article 3 being revised to reflect the current state of the law following the Supreme Court decision on non union employees. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Deputy President Astafan authorizing President McIlroy to sign the agreement with the Town of Wilna on behalf of Water District #1 to commence on April 1, 2019 through April 1, 2039. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Franchini to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy O'Shaughnessy
Village Clerk/Treasurer