

Regular Meeting of the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees  
Held in the Board Room of the Village of Carthage Municipal Building  
July 15, 2019

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Others:** Edgar Countryman, DPW Superintendent; Reginald Huber, Police Chief/CEO; Joseph Russell, Village Attorney; 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 Franchini and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to approve the minutes of the June 17, 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.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

President McIlroy read the correspondence received from Becky Marino regarding the sidewalk replacement in front of her home.

President McIlroy read the correspondence from the Office of the State Comptroller which stated they will continue to administer the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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.

Update 4/15/19: The Board authorized President McIlroy to sign the Energy Services Program Master Cost Recovery Agreement Between Power Authority of the State of New York and Village of Carthage to facilitate the design phase of the LED street light project.

Update 5/20/19: President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to hold this over until the June 17, 2019 meeting.

Update 6/17/19: President McIlroy stated there will be a meeting later this month for all of the members who signed on to the LED lighting program with the New York Power Authority.

Update 7/15/19: President McIlroy stated in order to move forward with a purchase agreement from National Grid they need a Board resolution.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Franchini to adopt Resolution 5 of 2019 as follows:

**RESOLUTION WITH REFERENCE TO STREET LIGHT ACQUISITION PRICING PROPOSAL  
FROM NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION D/B/A NATIONAL GRID**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Carthage received a Street Light Acquisition Pricing Proposal from Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid dated January 29, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Street Light Acquisition Pricing Proposal, the sales offer remains open for 180 days from the date of the letter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village intends to move forward with the acquisition of their street lighting from National Grid as a cost savings measure for taxpayers; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** as follows: the Village of Carthage Board of Trustees requests that National Grid prepare a Purchase and Sales Agreement and Pole Attachment Agreement for Street Lighting Attachments for their consideration.

Motion carried unanimously.

At the May 20, 2019 meeting, President McIlroy stated the new CEO approved a fence to be installed one foot from the sidewalk on the corner of Fulton Street and North James Street. Village Code states the fence needs to be no less than three feet from the sidewalk therefore President McIlroy requested the Clerk/Treasurer to forward it to the Joint ZBA for their consideration.

Update 06/17/19: The ZBA denied the Village's request for a variance as the Code Enforcement Officer approved the fence. The Board made a motion to pay for the removal of the fence since the CEO screwed up and approved the fence which does not meet Village Code.

Update 7/15/19: President McIlroy stated the tenant contacted the Clerk/Treasurer and was upset that he has to remove the fence as he applied for and received a permit to put it up. Chief Huber stated he sent the adjacent property owner a violation letter as they also have a fence that does not meet code requirements even though they obtained a permit.

Motion by Trustee Franchini to issue a stop work order and revoke the approved permits for the fences on N. James Street which do not meet Village Code requirements. Trustee Smith-Spencer stated she was not in favor of making the property owners/tenants remove their fences as they did not do anything wrong. There was not a second to the motion.

At the June 17, 2019 meeting, Mr. Bracy presented a petition with his neighbors signatures, requesting the Village to reduce the speed limit on West Street from Thorpe Street to the end of the Village limits from thirty miles per hour to twenty or twenty-five miles per hour and President McIlroy stated he will forward Mr. Bracy's concerns to the Police Chief and ask that he submit his recommendation to the Board.

Update 7/15/19: Chief Huber submitted speed logs officers completed on West Street from Thorpe Street to the end of the Village limits. The results of the thirty day study concluded that the average speed was approximately thirty miles per hour. Chief Huber expressed that he is not in favor of decreasing the speed limit on one street in the Village and feels by keeping up the enforcement in that area, vehicles will be deterred from exceeding the speed limit.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer to have the Clerk/Treasurer send a letter to Mr. Brady stating the results of the thirty day study concluded the average speed was approximately thirty miles per hour and the Village police will continue to keep up the enforcement in that area to continue to deter vehicles from exceeding the speed limit. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing President McIlroy to sign the annual agreement for the period June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020 with the Carthage Food Pantry in the amount of \$1,000.00 to provide food services to the community. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer authorizing President McIlroy to sign the annual agreement for the period August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020 with the Carthage Free Library in the amount of \$6,000.00 to provide library privileges to the community. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary authorizing President McIlroy to sign the annual agreement for the period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 with the Wilna-Champion Transportation Association, Inc. in the amount of \$6,000.00 to provide shuttle bus services to the community. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Franchini and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer authorizing President McIlroy to sign the annual agreement for the period June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020 with the Basset-Baxter American Legion Auxiliary in the amount of \$700.00 to assist in offsetting costs of Honor Flights for veterans of the greater Carthage area. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Vary and seconded by Trustee Smith-Spencer authorizing payment from the Village Loan Fund in the amount of \$5,000.00 to the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce to fund 2019 activities as listed in the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary to formally approve the pay out of sick-time per the Personnel Policy and/or as outlined in the Police Teamsters Contract as follows:

Edgar Countryman	10 days	\$150.00
Wendy Oliver	13 days	\$195.00
Kristy O'Shaughnessy	12 days	\$180.00
Ernest Prievio	8 days	\$120.00
Reginald Huber	13 days	\$195.00
Samuel Capone	83 hours	\$259.38
Michael Higman	62 hours	\$193.75

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/CEO, Treasurer, and Water. 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 \$219,016.10; Special Grant Fund \$5,298.11; Water Fund \$38,675.43; and Sewer Fund \$21,828.48. Motion carried unanimously.

**ATTORNEY RUSSELL:**

Attorney Russell stated he continues to try to contact the Jefferson County attorney who has yet to return his calls regarding the North Washington Street property. President McIlroy has been approached by residents who are concerned with the amount of garbage at the property as it is a health issue. Attorney Russell is concerned that if the Village cleans up the property without an agreement with Jefferson County, the Village may not be reimbursed for the expenses they incur. Attorney Russell stated 524 Francis Street property is litigating against their insurance company to receive compensation for the property destroyed by fire.

**PRESIDENT McILROY UPDATE:**

President McIlroy stated there are Joint Utility meetings July 17, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the West Carthage Municipal Building. President McIlroy asked Mr. Countryman if the DPW could decrease their debris pick up to one time per week during the Summer months as it is time consuming to the DPW and costly to the Village. Mr. Countryman stated they will pick up debris on Monday's.

**LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:**

Trustee Smith-Spencer thanked the Board and employees for the card and donation in her brother's memory. Trustee Smith-Spencer commended Chief Huber for his efforts in code enforcement.

**MEDIA QUESTIONS:**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Trustee Smith-Spencer and seconded by Trustee Vary to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy O'Shaughnessy  
Village Clerk/Treasurer