

Village of Rhinebeck
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, June 9th 2020
7:00 PM

Mayor Gary Bassett:	Present
Deputy Mayor Richard Lewit:	Present
Trustee Brant Neuneker:	Present
Trustee Paul Korczak:	Present
Trustee John Rossi:	Present

Also present were: Treasurer-Karen McLaughlin, Village Clerk- Martina McClinton, Vanessa Bertozzi, Victoria Polidoro and Elijah Bender.

Mayor began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor read the joint statement from him and Officer in Charge on Policing Policies.

Reopening Plans

Mayor read County Executive's order on Phase 2 restaurant and retail reopening. The Board discussed. Trustee Lewit explains Villages reopening plan. Trustee Neuneker has concerns about zoning, closing down state highways and narrowing East Market St. Trustee Lewit explains it would be a one way for traffic and parking lots would remain accessible. Trustee Neuneker says restaurants could utilize municipal lot for dining instead of parking which could be moved elsewhere. Trustee Lewit says the SLA wants a contiguous area, and that the municipal lot would not be ideal for waitstaff. The Mayor says that the County Executive has given authority for the road closure. Trustee Neuneker says that the County Executive cannot trump the DOT. Trustee Rossi has the same concerns as Trustee Neuneker and also mentions the concern about the proximity of people to the cars driving by. Trustee Lewit says that jersey barriers would be used, and this has been discussed with Sgt Dunn. Trustee Rossi would rather see the road closed completely, and Trustee Neuneker agrees. Trustee Rossi says that there was no discussion with the residents for their feedback on this plan. Mayor says he has discussed these plans and has gotten support from most people he talked to. He also mentions that the issue with closing the road completely is CVS, Rhinebeck Savings Bank and the alleyway that serves people for parking. These need to maintain accessible for residents and customers. Mayor also explains that the Police and Fire Depts have agreed to the current plans. Trustee Rossi clarifies that he does not want to close the street, just pointing out that it would be safer. Trustee Neuneker wants a plan B, that would proceed without the road closed or partially blocked. Trustee Rossi asks if the Village attorney Rich Olson has seen the plan. The Mayor says that he has. Trustee Rossi also mentions that he is concerned about language in the re-opening plan requiring people wearing masks full time in dining areas and should be clarified to exclude patrons eating a meal. Trustee Korczak says this plan is a temporary measure in response to the emergency situation of COVID-19, and that we need to work through situations to implement a plan and provide relief. He also says they need to trust in the word and written document of the County Executive, and that revisions and amendments can be made. Trustee Neuneker responds that he wants to do everything within our own laws and does not agree with closing a state road. Trustee Rossi says he has concerns for safety and respects the police department's judgment but does not feel that this is safe. The Mayor says that they have free access to barriers, and nothing can or will be done until those are placed. Trustee Rossi is still concerned about how narrow the road with will. Trustee Lewit explains

that there will be enough room, and that other municipalities are using barriers as well. Trustee Neuneker is still concerned about the highways and the DOT and suggests utilizing just the sidewalks. The Mayor says that restaurants have expressed that just the sidewalks would not be enough room. Trustee Lewit says that this is the time to choose restaurants, otherwise these businesses will suffer. Trustee Neuneker says he is equally concerned about the hospitality industry. The Mayor suggests that Trustee Neuneker come up with an alternative plan. Trustee Neuneker says any vote he makes is subject to DOT approval. Trustee Rossi agrees with Trustee Neuneker and says that sharing space with the road, even with barriers, is still concerning in regard to safety. He also says that there has not been sufficient resident input. Trustee Korczak says that they cannot say they do not like the plan when our professionals have approved it.

The Mayor makes a **motion to pass the reopening plan and get DOT approval**. Trustee Lewit seconds.

Mayor Bassett- Aye

Trustee Lewit- Aye

Trustee Korczak-Aye

All Aye. No Nay. No Abstentions.

Trustee Neuneker- Aye

Trustee Rossi- Aye

The Mayor reads permit applications from Aba's Falafel, Pizzeria Posto, Le Petit Bistro, Gigi's Trattoria, Foster's Coach House, and Terrapin. All are approved by the board. Future applications are approved expeditiously, and will be reviewed by John Fenton as they come in.

Skipped ahead Peddlers Permit Application from Mr. Ding-a-ling Ice Cream Truck. The complete application is on file in the clerk's office with approval from the police and fire departments. Trustee Lewit makes **motion to approve Mr. Ding-a-ling's Peddlers' Permit**. Seconded by the Mayor. **All aye.**

Environmental

Vanessa Bertozzi talks about Internship Project, which would be from June – December, and was approved by the Town on 6/8/20. Trustee Rossi says the proposal was reviewed by attorney Rich Olson who had concerns and said it needed it provisions. Changes were made but a new copy has not been received. Vanessa said she had updated the dates and fixed the language of the contract, and would send the revised copy. Treasurer Karen McLaughlin asked about the grant information. Vanessa explains that \$10,000 would be a private grant split between the Village and the Town.

Mayor makes **motion to accept Internship agreement**. Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye.**

Vanessa explains her new Specialist Role, a volunteer position within the environmental committee. Mayor makes **motion to employ Vanessa Bertozzi as the Environmental Specialist for the Village of Rhinebeck**. Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye.**

Vanessa explains the issues with the worn off labels on the big bellies, and requests funds to replace them. She had requested a donation from the Frost Foundation that was denied. The requested amount is \$94. Mayor makes **motion to reimburse Vanessa Bertozzi for new Big Belly labels**. Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye.**

Department Reports

Skipped ahead to Building, Planning and Zoning - Grasmere project. Trustee Korczak explains Grasmere impact. Victoria Polidoro explains previous project from 2013 held a full SEQRA review, and many impacts were considered and approved by the Town. Trustee Korczak wants the full project documents. Victoria says that is the responsibility of the Planning Board as the lead agency. Trustee Korczak asks if the Town gave the Village an opportunity for a full SEQRA review or if we were invited and waived the invitation. The Mayor says we have asked the Town to be fully involved in the process going forward. Mayor asks the Village Clerk to find any correspondence from 2013 in regard to the SEQRA process for the Grasmere Project, and asked the representative of the client to provide any information. Victoria wants to move forward without finding previous information. The Mayor says we need previous information, given that there is a new administration and a new involved agency status. Victoria wants a workshop meeting for the Board to ask the applicant questions.

Trustee Korczak reads letter from President Denise George from Nuvance.

Karen McLaughlin reads Treasurer's Report.

Trustee Neuneker makes **motion to approve water adjustments**. Seconded by Trustee Rossi. **All aye.**

Trustee Rossi makes **motion to accept wastewater adjustments**. Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye.**

Mayor makes **motion to accept budget amendments**. Seconded by Trustee Rossi. **All aye.**

Mayor says that we are now in the new fiscal year, but we need to be mindful, and he confirmed we are getting AIM funding and sales tax money (in contract). Karen says she will remind department heads to keep track of what is purchased and to abide by procurement policies. Mayor cautions all agents on the use of our engineering services and says that John Fenton is the maintainer of the tasks list.

Trustee Lewit says there is no official Highway report this month but there are some updates, such as the brush pick up being resumed.

Trustee Neuneker gives the water report updates and landscaping plan for the water tank. Trustee Neuneker makes **motion to approve the plan with birch substitutes**. Seconded by Trustee Rossi. **All aye.**

Trustee Rossi gives wastewater report updates.

Mayor says all department reports need to be submitted to the Village Clerk by noon on the Friday before the Board meeting. Karen says departments need to try and get vouchers and invoices in ideally that Friday as well.

Vanessa gives updates on the Climate Smart Committee. Climate resiliency is moving forward and will meet with John Fenton. She says they would like to present to the Board in September.

Trustee Korczak gives Building, Planning and Zoning report updates.

Mayor makes **motion to add in Tree Committee Report**. Seconded by Trustee Lewit. **All aye.**

Trustee Lewit makes **motion for a tree removal request submitted by the Third Lutheran Church**. Seconded by Trustee Neuneker. **All aye.**

The Mayor says a second tree was found to have rotting at the Third Lutheran Church and will also need to come down. This was reported by the utility company. Trustee Lewit will wait for further information from the Tree Commission.

Other Business

Mayor reads requests for Elementary and High school graduations.

Mayor makes **motion to accept plans by RCS for graduation ceremonies**. Seconded by Trustee Rossi. **All aye.**

Mayor explains Village Hall reopening plans. In person appointments are now allowed by appointment only. The Village Hall will add a mechanically operated door system with video. Two bids were obtained, from Liberty Security Services at \$2750, and The Camera Guy at \$3873.91.

Mayor makes **motion to accept Liberty Security Services bid**. Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye.**

Mayor asks Village Clerk to make sure this is executed immediately and thanks John Raimondo of the Maintenance Department for his efforts with this.

Minutes Approval

Mayor makes **motion to approve minutes for the Village Board meetings on 4/14/2020 and 5/12/2020**. Seconded by Trustee Rossi. **All aye.**

Personnel Anniversaries

Mayor congratulates personnel on their employment anniversaries. Officer Brian Reavy-19 years, Anthony Fata-19 years, Thomas Johnson-19 years, Karen McLaughlin-5 years, and John Fenton- 5 years.

Executive Discussion

Mayor makes **motion to go into Executive Session for employee request for extended time off**. Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye.**

Trustee Lewit stops live feed for executive session privacy. All guests in attendance leave the room. Trustee Lewit resumes live feed after executive session.

Mayor makes **motion to end executive session**. Seconded by Trustee Neuneker. **All aye.**

Mayor makes **motion to extend time off up to 80 hours for employee # 16**. Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye.**

Mayor makes **motion to adjourn meeting**. Seconded by Trustee Rossi. **All aye.**

Meeting concluded at 9:25 PM.

All reports and correspondence on file in clerk's office.

Respectfully submitted by Martina McClinton, Village Clerk.

