

Village of Rhinebeck  
Organizational/ Board of Trustees Meeting  
Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
3:30 PM

Mayor Gary Bassett:	Present
Trustee 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, Environmental Specialist Vanessa Bertozzi

Mayor explained that there was a bandwidth issue at the originally scheduled meeting on Tuesday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and the meeting had to be rescheduled.

Mayor began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor gave legislative update on behalf of Brennan Kearney.

Vanessa Bertozzi informed the Board on Rhinebeck Responds. Ms. Bertozzi explained that the volunteer lead organization came about at the start of the COVID pandemic. She said that now through mid-September they were fundraising with the Better Together Birdhouse Auction. Williams had donated the materials and birdhouses were custom painted by local celebrities Paul Rudd and Hilarie Burton as well as about 30 local artists. Ms. Bertozzi said that online bidding would begin on August 21, 2020. Funds would go towards small business grants, and the organization had already given out 13 \$5000 grants to independently owned businesses. Ms. Bertozzi said that the organization also supported local food pantries and makes call to senior citizens to check in with them.

Interrupted broadcast. Lost live stream connection for several minutes.  
Livestreaming resumed.

Department Reports

Karen McLaughlin gave Treasurer's Report.

Mayor made **motion to accept Treasurer's Report**. Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye**.

Mayor gave Police Report.

Trustee Korczak gave Building, Planning and Zoning Report.

Trustee Lewit gave Highway Report.

Trustee Neuneker gave Water Report.

Trustee Neuneker informed the Board of leftover distribution materials and explained that if the Village purchased these materials, they would be 15 % lower than other supplies, it would save on delivery

charges, and the Village could have materials available for future repairs. Trustee Neuneker proposed buying the spare pipes from Grant Street for \$4717. The Mayor asked if these materials were already purchased as part of the contract with Grant Street. Trustee Neuneker said that the Village only paid for items used, and the leftover were from their inventory.

Trustee Neuneker made a **motion to purchase the leftover pipes from Grant Street for \$4717.** Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye**

Trustee Rossi gave Wastewater Report.

Trustee Rossi requested having emergency repairs done on the sewer lines. A quote from Arold Construction was \$3750 for the day and would include root removal and an inspection to prevent back up. Additionally, they would provide a camera for cleaning and root cutting.

Trustee Rossi made a **motion to approve a one-day cleaning and inspection of the sewer lines for \$3750.** Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye.**

#### Committee Reports

Vanessa Bertozzi gave Climate Smart Committee Report.

Ms. Bertozzi talked about road salt and having an alternative for the future. She explained this will need to be a joint effort with the Town.

Trustee Lewit gave Tree Commission Report.

Trustee Lewit made a **motion to accept Tree Commission recommendations of tree removal for David Miller and tree pruning for Deirdre Burns.** Seconded by Trustee Rossi. **All aye.**

Trustee Lewit gave update on handicap accessibility repair work in Crystal lake park.

#### Other Business

Trustee Korczak gave update on Village owned parcels. The Building Department is helping with research and they are looking into 2-3 parcels. The investigation is ongoing, and no action is to be taken at this point.

Trustee Lewit gave update on Village entrance landscapes. No new information to give currently.

Village Clerk presented the proposed layout for the Village Election. Trustee Korczak asked if volunteers were needed. The Mayor said the Election Inspectors had already been selected, individuals had been assigned to clean, and no volunteers were needed.

Village Clerk spoke about absentee ballots. Ms. McClinton explained the process for requesting an absentee ballot, who is eligible to vote via absentee, and the due dates for applications.

Mayor spoke about the new COVID cleaning procedure for after court and meetings in the big room upstairs at the Village Hall. Mayor explained that a fogger will be used to disinfect all surfaces of the room. Designated employees would be trained how to use the fogger and would be fitted with an N95

mask. The cleaning process would take 15 minutes or less and would be done while the building is closed.

Mayor made **motion to approve the COVID cleaning process**. Seconded by Trustee Neuneker. **All aye.**

Mayor made **motion to allow Vehicle & Traffic court to begin on 9/2/2020**. Seconded by Trustee Neuneker. **All aye.**

Trustee Korczak asked if there were any protocols for checking individual's temperature. The Village Clerk said that a thermometer was purchased. The Mayor said that the Court has their own entry protocols.

Trustee Rossi spoke about alternative video conference platforms for Village Board meetings. Trustee Rossi said that the Board had elected the one platform that prevents the public voice from being heard, and while there are challenges with each platform, why not aspire to a platform that allows people to be heard. Trustee Lewit said that the Planning Board and the Town meetings only allow residents to participate or make comments, with an invitation. Trustee Lewit also explained that any platform would need a "gatekeeper" to manage the meeting. Trustee Rossi said he wants to hear public comment, and said that Ryan Dowden, the Building Planning and Zoning Clerk, is capable with zoom and could be the meeting manager for the Village Board meetings. Trustee Neuneker agreed that Mr. Dowden could be utilized. The Mayor said that the only thing missing from the Village Board meetings was public comment, which Facebook can do. Trustee Neuneker said that it is not the same. The Mayor said it is better when the Board is in the same room for a meeting, so that they can interact together, and the public can watch. Trustee Korczak said they need to find the easiest, most reliable technology, and if necessary, a person to manage the meeting and interact with the Board in the room. The Mayor also said an administrator would be needed and that if the Board were to switch platforms, they would need to find someone who is available that they will pay. Trustee Rossi said there is an existing licensing agreement with Zoom. Trustee Lewit explained that currently there is a portal to send comments specifically to the Board for meetings and that residents should be encouraged to utilize that. The Mayor said the Board can look for an administrator and should research other platforms then come back with a recommendation. Trustee Rossi said that once a potential manager is found, then a platform can be decided.

The Village Clerk and Treasurer asked for the Village Hall to be closed for two days to do inventory, reorganize files, and clean.

The Mayor made a **motion to close the Village Hall on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for inventory**. Seconded by Trustee Neuneker. **All aye.**

The Mayor suggested combining the next Board meeting with the annual Organizational meeting. The Mayor **made a motion to have a joint Board/ Organizational Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2020 pending there are no other scheduled meetings at that time**. Seconded by Trustee Lewit. **All aye.**

Trustee Rossi explained to the Board that a member of the State Historic Preservation will be giving a formal presentation in order to expand the Village Historic District boundaries, and requested either a letter from Mayor or a signed resolution from the Board, to include with the application. The Mayor asked if a resolution is signed, would that make it binding to expand. Trustee Rossi said it would not. Trustee Neuneker said a public hearing would need to be held to discuss what areas would be expanded. Trustee Rossi said that the resolution would be used to help get nationally registered, and then it would be up to the Village Board to actually expand or not. The Mayor clarified that the

resolution would not make it binding to expand the Historic District but used to move the application process forward. Trustee Neuneker said that the resolution could be worded to specify that.

Mayor made a **motion to adopt a resolution to expand the Historic District based on additional comments to be added after legal review**. Seconded by Trustee Korczak. **All aye.**

#### Minutes Approval

Mayor made a **motion to accept the minutes for the Village Board meeting on 7/14/2020**. Seconded by Trustee Rossi. **All aye.**

#### Personnel Anniversaries

The Mayor congratulated Officer Patrick Murphy for 23 years and Officer Daniel Killian for 4 years of service to the Village of Rhinebeck.

Mayor made a **motion to adjourn meeting**. Seconded by Trustee Neuneker. **All aye.**

Meeting concluded at 5:14 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted by Martina McClinton, Village Clerk.