

Minutes July 10th, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich met on July 10th, 2017 in the Board Room of the Community Center at 6 Academy Street in the Village of Greenwich. Present were Mayor Fuller and Trustees Vandewater, Brown, Edsforth, and Attorney Kelly. Trustee Taylor was absent.

7:01 PM – Mayor Fuller opened the public hearing for the Fire Department. Siren. Deputy Chief Buell began with an overview of the history of fire sirens as a civil defense warning system and how they are currently being utilized in other nearby communities. The Fire Department would like to hear feedback from the public and then ask the Board whether they should move forward with this project or not. The cost is projected to be in the range of \$3,000-9,000 depending on if we fix current siren vs. buy a brand new one. Residents Barbara Perkins, Suzanne Becker, and Diane Kelley all voiced opinions in favor of recommissioning the Siren. Trustees Brown and Vandewater were not in favor of recommissioning the siren as it is a noise nuisance for those living in close proximity. Discussion was had regarding other potential locations for the siren rather than keeping it where it is on the Community Center. Other locations may be limited due to the need for 3-phase power needed. The Board decided to allow the Fire Department to move forward in pursuing quotes for all options. The Board will still have to approve the final proposals.

The regular meeting began at 7:26PM. A motion to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on June 12th and the special meeting held on June 26th was made on a motion by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Edsforth, and carried by Mayor Fuller. Trustee Brown abstained due to her absence from the June 12th Meeting.

Department Reports:

Fire: Deputy Chief Buell reported 21 calls: 9 EMS, 2 motor vehicle accident, 2 lines down, 2 cover assignment, 2 dispatched and cancelled enroute, 1 smoke or odor removal, CO detector activation, and 1 building fire. Total member hours for the month of June was 447.57 hours. The new first response unit is in service and is working great, and no other repairs have been made this month. Pagers have been ordered and will be arriving soon. Two sets of gear lockers were purchased at a discounted price due to their being demo units. Community CPR went well with 12 people in attendance and BLS CPR had 10 people in attendance. Contact the Fire Department if your group is interested in attending a session. A lot of calls have come both to the Fire Department and Police Department regarding open burning and the use of fire pits in the Village. Chief Bell provided the Fire Department with an excerpt from a Village Ordinance from 1979. The ordinance is vague and Attorney Kelly requested to see the entire law or ordinance that the excerpt came from. Attorney Kelly will look into whether or not there are any more recent laws that would supersede this ordinance. Discussion was had about the safety of having a backyard firepit and whether or not the Village should ban them entirely. The board agreed that contained firepits should be allowed, only if specific provisions be met. These provisions would need to be outlined in a new law or added as an amendment to a current law.

Police: Chief Bell was absent but had submitted his report to the Clerk prior to the meeting: 7 criminal cases, arrested 3 different individuals, no arrests for Driving While Intoxicated, 23 calls for service, and 2 motor vehicle accidents. Officers issued 38 traffic tickets during the month of June. Mayor Fuller reported that Chief Bell, Chief White, Deputy Chief Buell, and Health Officer Dr. Sarchino made a visit to 10 Simpson St. earlier in the day and reported that it is in a very bad state, including the exterior wall on the south side of the house facing Greenwich School is caving inward.

Chief Bell called Washington County Code Enforcement to inspect the wall again, and it is likely they will condemn the property. Health Officer Dr. Sarchino will be sending his report to the Clerk, as he deemed the property to be a health hazard. Attorney Kelly stated that the next step will be for the Village to issue a notice of violation to the property owner.

DPW: Supt. Flynn reported that the Village is currently under a boil water advisory from the NYS Department of Health due to a chlorinator malfunction. This advisory is just a precaution as there were no microorganisms found in the water supply. Per NYS Dept. of Health protocol: four samples were taken today, and four samples will be taken tomorrow, and after 24 hours each set of samples will be tested. If all results are positive, the boil water notice will be lifted. The earliest this would be possible would be Wednesday afternoon. The DPW crew finished paving the following streets on the previous Friday and today: Rock St, Barber Ave, Highland St, Whipple Pl, and John St. Even after all of that paving, there should be approximately \$40,000 in funds left over which Supt. Flynn would like to allocate towards a new dump truck without needing a loan to cover any of the cost. Phase I of the Aquifer study has been completed and a report has been issued from Hanson VanVleet. The Hanson VanVleet report suggests that there is no capacity problems, and only reconditioning of the wells would be necessary. It was also suggested that if the Village was ordered to dig a new well by the Dept. of Health that it may be possible to dig in the same location as our other three wells. Attorney Kelly is awaiting a response from our representative at the Dept. of Health as to her interpretation of the Hanson VanVleet report, and the timeline that we need to follow if Phase II needs to be completed.

Youth: Garson Smith reported that the work on the 3rd floor was set to begin. Gannon Park is being well used and there is great attendance at the Youth Center this summer with 421 members. They have clocked 66 volunteer hours at 15-20 hours per week. They have average an increase of 7-12 members per day since the change in hours, especially the opening adjacent to the end of the Food for Kids Program. Any new classes and programs will be offered after the summer when school starts up again.

Mayor: Mayor Fuller reported that the Clerk, Treasurer and she met with Arnie Morehouse from Jaeger and Flynn, our health care insurance agent. The Villages health insurance premiums are set to increase approximately 13% this year, and an expected increase of at least 10% next year. However, our plan still has less of an increase than other comparable plans. Mayor Fuller discussed the strategies to control the increasing health insurance costs that she had taken from the meeting with Arnie, including choosing a plan with a lower deductible and instituting an employee contribution of the monthly premium rather than offering the reimbursement account that we currently offer for half of the high deductible. Another cost saving option would be to remove all elected officials as eligible for health insurance since they do not meet the benchmarks for part-time employees. Discussion was had regarding terminating the elected officials' health insurance option. Attorney Kelly stated that he needed to clarify the legality of terminating health insurance for elected officials, and it was decided that a special meeting should be held on July 24th 6pm to discuss these issues in more detail in addition to approving the edits to the Village Health Insurance Regulations.

Mayor Fuller stated that the environmental documents have been submitted for both the Main Street Anchor Grant and the Empire State Development Grant. The administrator is now ready to issue the Requests for Proposals for the work to be done. The steering committee for the EPA Smartgrowth Grant continues to have conference calls and plan for the community workshop to be held on September 7th and 8th. The Betty Little Grant representatives gave us an update that we are waiting on one more approval before we are in line to receive our contract, although there is no definite timeframe. For the Carrie Woerner Grant, our paperwork looks complete and the project

should be transferred to the Dormitory Authority this month. After that, we will receive the comprehensive application to complete. We plan to schedule presentations from Water Meter Vendors in the September.

The Clean Energy Community Project is in progress with Trustees Taylor and Vandewater assuming responsibility for the next two benchmarks. Trustee Taylor has been in touch with National Grid and has submitted a request for them to provide a quote for replacing the streetlights. Mayor Fuller reported that the next steps for the Eminent Domain/Skybel Property will be to contract with an engineering group to analyze the report, estimate costs, and recommend next steps. Attorney Kelly will contact the EPA to see if the contractor will do additional work, and if there is additional EPA funding available.

Old Business:

1. Health Insurance Regulations were discussed in the Mayor's Report, and the Board decided that a special meeting was needed to discuss this matter in more depth. It was scheduled for Monday, July 24th at 6pm.
2. Due to recent complaints, Mayor Fuller requested a review of the Nuisance Law to determine if recent complaints required any additions to the law. Attorney Kelly advised that there is no need to make additions as the law is broad enough to cover miscellaneous household items left on curbs for an unacceptable period of time.
3. The Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials required by the NYS Comptroller was made on a motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Edsforth, and carried by all.
4. Discussion was had about the if the Court should move forward with a grant source to fund the court room egress recommended by the NYMIR Inspector. Attorney Kelly and the Board determined that rather than find grant funding for a construction project, the easier and possibly safer option would be to institute having an officer present during court sessions. Mayor Fuller will contact the inspector to determine if this will satisfy his request.

New Business:

1. After receiving complaints from the Library and neighbors about an officer issuing parking tickets on the north side of Academy St., the clerk investigated the V&T regulations governing the north side of Academy St. It was determined that the V&T laws governing the north Academy St. were clear, but the signage is inconsistent with the regulations. Discussion was had about leaving the regulations as they are but ensuring the signage is accurate or potentially changing the regulations to allow for more parking spaces. The majority of the public opinion was against the the DMV driving test on Tuesdays and Thursdays and that it is not necessary for the starting point to be near a municipal building. The Clerk pointed out that the institution of that service began before Chief Bell was the police chief, and will need to be looked into further. She will look into the possibility of moving it elsewhere. It was also decided that the Village Clerk will work with Supt. Flynn to correct the signs. While on the topic of signs, Supt. Flynn was asked about the Welcome Signs into the Village. He reported that he had been in touch with the sign maker and that the new signs will be made and installed sometime during the autumn months.
2. Mayor Fuller proposed that the Board increase the Village's tax exemption limits for low-income seniors and low-income disabled citizens. Law Attorney Kelly stated that this change will need to be an amendment to the current local law for exemptions and will prepare such amendments for a public hearing. A public hearing will be scheduled for the September meeting. Unfortunately, the filing deadline has passed for these proposed laws

to be effective for next year's tax roll, 2018-1, so the proposed laws would take effect for the tax year of 2019-20.

3. Mayor Fuller reported that there had been some complaints about people smoking outside the Community Center. The Town of Greenwich had just passed a Smoking Resolution that prohibits smoking on Town Property altogether (both inside and outside) so the Mayor proposed that the Village make a similar resolution. The Clerk found the current, albeit old Smoking Policy that banned smoking inside Village property. Mayor Fuller pointed out that the current policy does not have any restrictions on smoking outside on Village property. It was determined that enforcing a resolution with more stringent guidelines than the current policy would be very difficult, and the issue was dropped.

Correspondence

1. A Letter from Margaret Reid of Ray Rd. was read complementing the help she received from patrolman Cori Wagner.
2. A Complaint from Elizabeth Cockey of 12 Academy St. was read against the owners of 13 and 15 Academy St. The owners of 13 Academy St have had large pieces of furniture on their lawn for days and they also park on their front lawn. 15 Academy St. is being foreclosed on and the yard is overgrown which looks terrible.
3. A Thank you note from Food for Kids was read.
4. Thank you notes from Blythe Kelleher, recipient of both Gannon Scholarships were read.

Public Comment:

Suzanne Becker inquired whether or not the Board had thought about the ramifications of Youth Center members lingering on Village property after signing out. She stated that the Youth Center currently holds the belief that once the members sign out, the Youth Center Staff is no longer responsible to look after them.

Vouchers from 17-24 to 17-71 in the General Fund totaling \$145,887.11, vouchers from 17-4 to 17-9 in the Water Fund totaling \$810.92, and vouchers from 17-1 to 17-12 in the Sewer Fund totaling \$3,699.42 were audited and ordered paid on motion by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Edsforth, and carried by all present.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM by a motion from Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Edsforth, and carried by all present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Prime