**JUNE 6, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dievendorf called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Trustees Jones, Lyden, Watt and Stetin. Also present were Sandra Ward, Deputy Clerk, Jerry Ward, Project Manager, Frank Nestle, Superintendent DPW/Water/Fire Chief, Peter Briele, Superintendent WWTP, Judge CJ Jones, Gail Coppernoll, Court Clerk, Peter Douglass, Wintergreen Park Committee Chairman and several village residents.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Mayor Dievendorf read the following statement: **As a Mayor and Board of Trustees for two months, we are finding that some issues cannot be addressed immediately and take time to research and resolve. Sometimes, financial constraints make it incumbent as a board, to prioritize between multiple, worthy projects. However, in the end, all projects will be accomplished. That is our pledge.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Hazel Hyney, village resident and business owner, expressed her concern over her increase in the Village Tax. Trustee Lyden advised that the board was stuck with the budget given as was adopted prior to the new board taking office. The village tax is based on 100% assessment but could be disputed by contacting the town assessor.

Julie Slaper, village resident, inquired if budget could be nullified. Trustee Lyden stated that it could not. Trustee Watt further explained that the budget was required to be filed with the State before the new board took office and welcomed the opportunity to review with village residents what was being spent and why if requested.

Joann Douglass, Wintergreen Park Committee member and village resident expressed her concern that part of the County’s grant of $300,000 for the park renovations would be used for the cleanup of 58 Otsego Street and diminish the renovations that could be made at the park. Trustee Lyden advised that it was at the suggestion of the county to use some of that funding. Trustee Watt interjected that they were exploring other grant options for funding for the cleanup of 58 Otsego Street.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: USDA funding for fire department tanker truck

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Dievendorf inquired if there were any corrections necessary to the prior months meeting. None. **Trustee Watt MADE the MOTION to Approve the May 2nd, 2023 minutes, seconded by Trustee Lyden. All were in favor, motion carried.**

**58 OTSEGO ST CLEANUP:** Trustee Lyden advised that the use of Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank will not be an option therefore an alternative plan to clean up must be taken. The $118,000 of funding set for cleanup doesn’t become available until the spring of 2024. The delay is in finding the owner of the property who is missing in action and it will take approximately 4-6 months to obtain ownership of the property. Following up with the County for review of back taxes. Will also be checking for other grant options.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: Mayor Dievendorf requested proposal of $12,000 for engineering services for NYDOT approval of non-conforming traffic devices AKA dummy light. As further information necessary it was tabled awaiting the additional information.

VETERANS FLAGS: Trustee Stetin advised that she had a meeting June 12th regarding the Veterans Flag and will have more information after the meeting. Families of the Veterans will pay for the production costs of the flags at no expense to the village residents. More information to follow.

CANAJOHARIE COURT AUDIT: Gail Coppernoll, Court Clerk provided copy of Annual Court Audit. **MOTION MADE by Trustee Lyden and seconded by Trustee Watt noting that the records were duly examined and that the fines therein collected had been turned over to the proper officials of the Village as required by law. All in favor, motion carried.**

DOCKS AT RIVERFRONT PARK: Mayor Dievendorf received correspondence from Kimberly Russo of American’s Great Loop Cruisers’ Association advising that they were interested in using the canal docks. The canal docks are not installed as they were lost/destroyed in the 2006 Flood. Trustee Watt advised that we are working with Delaware Engineering on the NY Forward Grant, which could result in $4.5 million in funding next year. Will advise further if funding becomes available.

VAN ALSTYNE HOMESTEAD LETTER: Mayor Dievendorf received a letter from Charles Clark advising that the Van Alstyne Homestead is looking to give the creek side of the property to the Village. Jerry Ward, Project Manager/Prior DPW Superintendent inspected property and determined that there is no rock wall which could result in the village assuming liability for erosion of road.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

DPW-Frank Nestle:

CSEA Approved creation of Provisional DPW/Water employee (3 days water/2 days DPW) with only one applicant, Bruce Clouthier Jr. **Trustee Jones MADE MOTION to Appoint Bruce Clouthier in split position. Seconded by Trustee Watt. All were in favor, motion carried.**

Assemblyman Robert Smullen was requested to assist with issues with manholes collapsing in Village as National Grid and Frontier kept denying responsibility for repair prompting an immediate response from National Grid Customer Relations who is collaborating with Frontier to repair manholes. Gail Coppernoll inquired when potholes on Montgomery St would be repaired and Jerry Ward spoke to indicate after Phase II is complete.

CINTAS Uniform Company has provided us a quote for a savings of approximately $800. Customer service and quality of uniforms with Unifirst are unacceptable. Frank to meet with representative of Unifirst to express his concern with service and for clarification of contract terms.

CHIPS Funding Available this year up to $311,000. Designated streets scheduled to be paved: Maple Ave, Cliff St & Mitchell St.

Lightpoles are in process of being replaced by National Grid. New LED light fixtures are being removed and placed on ground without village knowledge. Problem addressed. Now getting notification that they are being removed therefore can reinstall light fixtures on new pole.

Fuelmaster System now up and running. Was down due to computer system not compatible with programming.

WATER DEPARTMENT-Frank Nestle:

NYDEC Dam Inspection: The inspection noted that brush and trees were cut (recommendation of Maser consultants in the 2020 Engineering Assessment) and debris left. The debris will be removed in a responsible manner when Village staffing and timing allow. The Village will also be developing an Inspection and Maintenance plan (I. & M.) as per DEC report dated May 17, 2023 to bring the Village and its reservoir into full compliance.

Sent Ford F350 to Roosevelt’s for front end repair; Cleared Spring Pond feeds of debris; Harrowed filter bed # 2

Power washed Gray Spring and Young Spring; Several mark outs; Started picking up garbage along Mud Rd and State Rd

Started mowing and trimming; Assisted mowing at Wintergreen

Installed new water meters at locations that we were not getting reads from the old water meters. Meters are nearing their life expectancy therefore should consider phasing in replacements sooner than later as in September the cost of the meter goes up 50%. Currently $310 for whole meter. Neptune water reading equipment is under warranty. Trustee Watt interjected that EFC grants are available.

Couple 90 day reads; Monthly reports; Trimmed trees at bore hole roads and removed trees from feeder springs.

FILLING NEW TANK: Having issues with burst pipes due to pressure in line. Determined that pipe is bad due to soil corrosive to pipes. USGS determined that a section of Moyer St has the corrosive soil therefore should be replaced with plastic pipes (no steel pipes.) Twenty-Seven hundred feet of pipe needs replacing. Plastic pipe less expensive, however, labor remains the same.

WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT-Peter Briele:

NYS DEC Inspection: The inspection determined process and practices are satisfactory, however, the staffing is not in compliance to minimum standards. If someone is receiving training, schooling and pursuing certification to be a 2A operator trainee then DEC will be lenient and consider us in compliance again. With board acceptance, Peter A. Briele will start that process.  **Trustee Stetin MADE a MOTION that Peter A. Briele be hired with a caveat that he pass the ABC test within 3 attempts. Seconded by Trustee Jones. All in favor, motion carried.**

Steve Chase bid on Maintenance Foreman as he was not pursuing operators position. Position effective new fiscal year of 6/1/2023.

Dennis Clark was able to correct SCADA issue to fix effluent automatic chlorination system and was able to get press running with new computer board from the manufacturer.

Erie Blvd pump station was offline for a day as the pumps and system experienced failures. Don’s Electric ordered and installed a new system including 2 pumps, rail, chain for pump installation & removal, new floats and controls. System now online.

Sludge Digester #2 diffusers are plugged hindering aeration and mixing causing undue stress on blower. We have cleaned off thousands of pounds of debris off the top and are currently using the press to empty the digester. The plan is to clean the bottom as best we can manually and fix, repair and unplug the diffusers.

Clean clarifier weirs and effluent channel weekly.

Completed monthly paperwork, reports, invoices and submitted accordingly.

Wasted, decanted, transferred, pressed and delivered sludge to landfill.

FIRE DEPARTMENT-Chief Frank Nestle

To make the community safer the department is looking to increase ISO rating by improving gallons of water through a Safer grant or possible financing with USDA for interest rate of 3.75 % with no penalty for early payoff penalty. **Trustee Watt MADE the MOTION to begin to look into applying for USDA loan to purchase fire truck with higher gallon capacity. Seconded by Peter Lyden. Request for public comment. None given. All in favor, motion carried.**

Mayor Dievendorf inquired if there are any junior members and there are.

POLICE DEPARTMENT-Chief MacFadden

Detour problems created by DOT signage. Corrected.

Mitchell Street tentative closure to all traffic June 8-10th.

His retirement date set for 8/29/2023. Can hire new provisional chief??? Copy of draft employment agreement obtained.

CODE ENFORCEMENT-Cliff Dorrough (absent)

Provided log of 12 building permits issued, 17 certificates of completion and 1 certificate of occupancy.

SPECIAL PROJECT MANAGER-Jerry Ward

Phase II Sewer Study: Three bids received for the Phase II Sewer Study Camera Inspection and Cleaning. Adirondack Septic bid $2.70 per linear square foot or $24,300; Arnold Construction $3.60 per linear square foot or $32,400 and Badger & Underground Survey $65,890 (Bid Rejected-Did not confirm to RFQ requirements) recommending Adirondack Septic bid be accepted. **MOTION MADE BY Trustee Jones and seconded by Trustee Lyden to accept bid with Adirondack Septic for $2.70 per linear square foot. All in favor, motion carried.**

CHIPS monies available this year $311,000.

Meeting with NYS DOT as well as Emergency Services over bridge replacement. Bridge Closure tentatively June 8-10th. Many variables could change the date.

Meeting/walk around held with National Grid regarding conditions of the manhole/access vaults to repair deep drops to grade. National Grid and Frontier will be addressing the issues with the same mutually agreed upon contractor.

Meeting with NYSERDA and NYPA regarding lighting project. Project is now in the punch list phase and should be able to close the project. It is yet to be determined if any funds remain which we’d like to use for a two year service contract to maintain, repair or replace any fixture that needs to be serviced or reinstalled.

Assisted water superintendent with targeted cleanup of lower section of Wintergreen Park raking, debris removal and early work on grill installation.

Meeting with Prime Engineering at Wintergreen Park to survey property, map and document utilities in preparation for proposed improvements. Engineering is ongoing.

Worked with Wintergreen Park Committee and DPW Superintendent to provide materials for improvements at the park’s horseshoe pits.

Held discussions with Delaware Engineering in regards to drainage around Smith Street Reservoir as well as storm water and drainage on Smith Street. Swail ditch is in poor condition and will in time need addressing to prevent further damage to upper Smith Street.

Working with DPW Superintendent to schedule installation of new streetlight on corner of Church St and Little Mohawk Street.

Meeting with Beech Nut contractors per request of Mayor and Superintendent Nestle in regards to blasting rumors. Blasting not planned. Removal of Beech Nut will be done by excavator.

Will be reaching out to school system to get update on capital project Storm Water Diversion (Errigo Creek) Plan is to divert some water flow towards Cunningham Rd and improve retention ponds flooding Barclay Street section of the Village.

Contacted Dan’s Hauling to get an updated price for cleanup of Otsego Street Building. Awaiting pricing. Will advise when received.

Supplied forced account information to EFT to give labor cost and equipment for traffic control and lane closure for sewer study. This will satisfy Village’s share of the 10% portion that needs to be contributed.

Other projects are still in the works but have no updates to report.

WINTERGREEN PARK COMMITTEE-Peter Douglass

We would like to increase number of members. We are at the cap of 9 volunteers. However, each of us work at least one full time job, and are on multiple committees. Added health issues and family obligations, we never have all members available. Mayor Dievendorf stated, “Just Do It!”

Make Boiling Pot an official village park. We feel this will open opportunities for outside funding. Currently, the path to the boiling pot is caving into the creek, and I'm sure the cost would be substantial to repair. We feel that this should still have full public access, as it is the namesake of our community. Trustee Watt indicated that it may have a historical feature. We may be able to designate it forever wild to obtain grant funding (OPRHB)

Julie Slaper inquired if this isn’t inviting additional liability issues? Potentially could. Suzanne Stegich inquired if it wouldn’t increase traffic to local residents. Potentially could.

Peter Douglass further stated they were looking for options for digital donations. Members of the public have been asking (for some time now) how they can donate to the parks online. We need to know if/how we can set up a Venmo or Paypal account, that would deposit into an account for the parks. Another option that doesn't require use of the tax exempt number would be GoFundMe. Their program can be run with no time or dollar limit, so could be a perpetual source for online donations to our parks. This also would require a bank account to deposit into. Trustee Watt advised that Village of Millbrook hosted on their website a Go Fund Me account. We could use that as an example. Mayor Dievendorf advised we would need to check with our attorney and insurance carrier.

Joann Douglass stated just looking for funding options. Trustee Watt suggested Mohawk Valley Beautiful, Cornell or Mohawk Valley Economic Development.

Five barbeque grills have been purchased with donations collected and with the assistance of DPW have been installed. Someone has even attempted to steal one of the barbeque grills. Chief MacFadden indicated that they would step up patrols to that area.

Annual Wintergreen Park Clean Up Day was held and was a success. A potluck/bbq was added this year with food donations from Community Bank, Courtney at State Farm and Stewarts. Mickey Boslet entertained and a bounce house from L&M Inflatables was rented.

TRANSFERS: N/A

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACTS:

Abstract # Date General Water Sewer Bans-Bonds Trust

AP5 00005.05.2023 5/4 $29,549.64 $ 3,905.60 $25,343.51 $2,073.95 $50

AP5 00002.05.2023 5/10 $13,884.07 $ 6,383.51 $ 881.36

AP5 00003.05.2023 5/17 $ 5,019.01 $ 5,968.85 $ 3,215.60

AP5 00004.05.2023 5/22 $ 308.26

AP5 00005.05.2023 5/31 $98,843.59 $15,076.33 $31,207.32

**Trustee Watt made the MOTION to approve the abstracts completed in May, seconded by Trustee Lyden. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Trustee Jones made the MOTION to cancel July Board Meeting as it falls on the 4th of July. Seconded by Trustee Peter Lyden. All in favor, motion carried.**

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Trustee Jones made MOTION to adjourn meeting, seconded by Trustee Lyden. All in favor, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Ward, Deputy Clerk