



Mayor: Robert Allen
Deputy Mayor: Robert Ryan

Trustees: Deb Alter, Robert Decker, Kevin O'Malley,
Doug Sauer, and Dan Schuttig

Regular Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, April 10th, 2023

Location: New Highway Garage – 7 Waterworks Road

6:00PM: Open the Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

PRESENT: Mayor Rob Allen, Dep. Mayor Ryan, Tr. Alter, Tr. Decker, Tr. O'Malley, Tr. Sauer, Tr. Schuttig, Attorney Alaina Finan.

MOTION to open a public hearing at 6 pm on the tentative budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024 by Dep. Mayor Ryan, seconded by Tr. Alter; all in favor.

MAYOR reads overview of the numbers and details of budget lines. Board has various questions that were clarified, board will review and email questions. Budget needs to be adopted no later than May 1 2023. Leave public hearing open for at least an hour for anyone to be heard.

MAYOR announces that the Village Elections were held on Tuesday, March 21st 2023 and the following were the results:

- **Mayor: Robert Allen** (31 votes) was the only name on the ballot, and was reelected. Michael Hickey received one write-in vote.
- **2 Trustees Seats** (2 year term): **Robert Ryan** (36 votes) and **Doug Sauer** (31 votes) were the only names on the ballot, and were elected.
- **1 Trustee Seat** (1 year term): **Kevin O'Malley** (35 votes) was the only name that appeared on the ballot, and was elected.
- There were 36 total votes.
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Village Spring Brush/Leaf pickup started on April 3rd and will finish this Friday, April 14th. This pickup is limited to leaves, grass clippings, and branches (4" diameter or less only) that fell due to the winter weather. The flyer with all directions and limitations remain online, and published in local newspapers.

MOTION to approve request from the Girl Scouts (Judy Rancourt, leader) to use the little league field park on June 10th (they have their own insurance) by Tr. Schuttig, seconded by Tr. Alter; all in favor.

MOTION to allow Little League to hold their opening day parade on Saturday, April 29th at 9:45am from Wood Park to the fields by Tr. Decker, seconded by Dep. Mayor Ryan; all in favor.

MOTION to approve request from the Historic Society to use Wood Park and the property behind St. Mark's Church on May 20th as part of their civil war reenactment unit portion of the May 20th event in the Village by Tr. Decker, seconded by Dep. Mayor Ryan; all in favor. This will include setting up tents, but not shooting off weapons.

Tr. O'Malley suggests that tables and tents be set up more along the side away from the dead trees that will soon be taken down. Asks Highway Supt. Holbrook to put up caution tape in that area.

MAYOR announces the annual hydrant flushing will be happening in early June. We will have firm dates on the May meeting agenda.

Megan Albert discusses and suggests the creation of a Historic Preservation Commission. Suggests doing a survey of Hoosick Falls for historic places and buildings as there is a lot of grant money available for improvements. Suggests setting up a review board which would have no authority but would act as a commission to make recommendations to the Village Board regarding projects and grant opportunities and outcome of the survey. If the village opts to become a Certified Local Government thru the National Park Service there is a huge pool of grants available.

ATTY FINAN the board would need to hold a public hearing and adopt a local law. The board would appoint individuals to form the commission.

Megan Albert will reach out to some interested people and help organize the commission.

MAYOR: The Village, in conjunction with Rensselaer County Highway Department (Spicer Road Division), will be taking down two very old/dead trees from Wood Park soon, possibly as soon as this week. The two trees in question (one in between the Gazebo and Eberly Way, the other closest to Walgreens) have been dropping bark and limbs. We will be replanting in the near future. There are 5 trees in the property behind St. Marks that will also becoming down in the next couple of years for similar reasons. The Village is looking into doing these gradually over the next 2 to 3 years, which will also allow for time for the new trees to grow.

MOTION to set a Special Meeting for Wednesday, April 26th at 6PM at the Highway Garage for the following two main purposes: Organizational Meeting: it will contain the annual Organizational Meeting, which includes various appointments and annual renewal of policies, etc. Budget Discussions and possible Adoption: it will allow the Board to use the evening to discuss and make changes to the Tentative 23-24 Fiscal Year Budget with the hope of adopting it. The deadline for Village in NY to adopt their tentative budget (with whatever changes are decided by the Board) is May 1st by Dep. Mayor Ryan, seconded by Tr. Decker; all in favor.

MOTION to close public hearing on the budget by Tr. Alter, seconded by Tr. Sauer; all in favor.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

RICK HUNT, 8 Easy Street sent an email to board members whose email he had. Requests the board to stay on top of Country club project pertaining to access to the country club via Ball Street and Griffin Avenue.

Dep. Mayor Ryan states that as far as he knows the access road is Griffin Ave.

REPORTS

MOTION to approve police monthly report by Tr. Decker, seconded by Tr. Alter; all in favor

OFFICER IN CHARGE PAUL ALEKSONIS states that on April 29, 2023 there will be a drug take back effort and also the RCHD will be having a drive thru Narcam training for residents. Rensselaer County is supposed to be handing out informational bags next week.

MOTION to approve Code Enforcement monthly report by Tr. Decker, seconded by Tr. Alter; all in favor.

MARK SURDAM states that Jay Burgess came to see him regarding the fact that there is a mistake in the ROW or easement to the retention pond at Burgess Hills. It involves the village right of way. He would like Atty. Finan to speak to his attorney for a simple solution.

MARK SURDAM states that there is a large broken window at 59 Church Street. He will start to get quotes on the repair of the window hopefully by April 26th meeting. There is also an ongoing issue at 6 Third Street. He has sent letter, violations, etc., no response, will need to go to court.

TR. O'MALLEY asks if we have a local law regarding garbage cans.

DISCUSSION regarding placement of dumpsters. Will give current local law to Attorney Finan for review and possible changes.

MOTION to approve Treasurer's report by Dep. Mayor Ryan, seconded by Tr. Decker; all in favor.

MOTION to approve Clerk/Deputy Clerk's report by Dep. Mayor Ryan, seconded by Tr. Decker; all in favor.

MOTION to approve Highway/DPW monthly report by Tr. Decker, seconded by Dep. Mayor Ryan; all in favor.

MOTION to approve Sewer department monthly report by Dep. Mayor Ryan, seconded by Tr. Decker; all in favor.

MOTION to approve Water department monthly report by Schuttig, seconded by Tr. Alter; all in favor.

MOTION to approve March 4, 2023 regular minutes by Dep. Mayor Ryan, seconded by Tr. Decker; all in favor.

MAYOR states still working on the minutes for April 6, 2023 and April 10, 2023; hope to have them ready for the next meeting.

TR. SAUER questions abandoned vehicles and towing.

MAYOR states we are in discussion with a possible towing person. Mayor asks Alaina to look into the legalities of the village towing vehicles pertaining to parking issues.

DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN discusses transfer station costs to the village have risen which directly effects the residents of the village. States in the future the possibility of approaching and requesting a contribution from the Town to help offset the operational costs.

BOARD is in agreement with the suggestion. Discussion at future meeting to follow.

TR. O'MALLEY would like the board to look into what ERCSWMA as an organization does for the village, there was supposed to be co-compositing which never happened, can we contact him and ask some questions. Can we get a copy of our service agreement to review?

TR. O'MALLEY states street cleaning will be done 5/8th thru 6/1st, mayor agrees to put on village website and there will be an ad in the Eastwick the week of April 28th and May 5th.

TR. DECKER states that he has been working on water budget and possible rate structures, also met with Jim and Josh regarding relocating panel at WTP, need to get bids out on this.

TR ALTER has nothing new to report

TR SCHUTTIG has been working with Attorney Finan regarding a handbook of policies, sexual harassment policy, benefits, etc. Also Tr. Decker brought up the thought of a local law regarding vacant storefronts, properties in downtown, we need to determine how the board wants to handle guidelines and fines, etc.

TR. DECKER and Atty Finan will work on vacant storefronts and fine schedule to present to board.

DEP MAYOR RYAN has been working with RealTerm Energy regarding the LED street light switchover. We have been looking at acorn post tops for the new lights, would retro fit.

TR O'MALLEY suggest the board be careful about color of lights so that they don't dim and deteriorate, and asks why we are replacing the LED's that are already there.

DEP MAYOR RYAN states they are uniform and would be able to be controlled. Ryan states they were taken out of the LED bid (29) of them. Bid already accepted. The color temperature is equal to 3000k. Will continue to work through the Niagara Mohawk acquisition process coordinated with RTE.

DISCUSSION regarding receiving 3 bids on parking study. One was incomplete and not submitted. MC Loren was bare bones with no specifics for \$11,000, put in extras such as \$2,000 for meeting presentation and an additional \$1500.00. Creighton Manning was the other bid for \$19,100 which was more detailed and all of their people are local in the Albany area and spent a lot of time here doing the specs for their bid.

MOTION to approve Creighton Manning parking study at a cost of \$19,100 by Tr. Sauer, seconded by Tr. Alter; all in favor.

Ongoing Discussion: Tr. Schuttig would like to read all proposals more in depth.

MOTION to rescind motion to approve Creighton Manning parking study bid and table until April 26, 2023 meeting by Tr. Alter, seconded by Tr. Decker; all in favor.

TR SAUER comments on NY Forward Grant, got feedback for next round of funding. 3 out of 19 told what to do to be more competitive. States that they state offered to objectively assist us in our next application. Cap area 50% municipal distribution; 30% non profit, 20% private. Can use local labor force as leverage.

TR. SAUER discussion on abandoned vehicles; how many? Can we tow, etc.

DISCUSSION regarding Local Law on unregistered vehicles, we can make our law more stringent than NYS law if we choose to.

ATTY FINAN needs map of Cataneo property to show.

MOTION to approve a request that has come in from the Sutton/Brewster families to put a tree and bench in or near Wood Park in honor of Leslie Sutton, who passed away in 1975 by Tr. O'Malley, seconded by Tr. Decker; all in favor. Mayor will reach out to Cindy Brewster

DISCUSSION regarding CRRB law. Police review last year had 5 participants. It then went to 4 and they have not met, now it is at 3 members. The range should be 3-5 people to give flexibility. The board needs to set the required number of members on the CRRB Board and what constitutes a quorum.

MOTION to adjourn by Tr. Decker, seconded by Tr. Alter; all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted
Denise R McMahan
Treasurer