VILLAGE OF VALATIE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

OCTOBER 14, 2014

FINAL

MEMBERS PRESENT ABSENT AUDIENCE

Mayor Diane Argyle none 11 residents/attendees

Trustee Frank Bevens 2 reporters

Trustee Philip Bickerton

Trustee Angelo Nero

Trustee David Williams

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Dan Rourke, Delaware Engineering

Jesse Fraine, Delaware Engineering

Mayor Argyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Darren Grout and Gunther Fishgold of Tierra Farms and the new owners of the Valatie Bar & Grill, presented Mayor Argyle with a check for $20,000 as a donation to start a “Grant” for businesses along Main Street to apply for the upgrade of the facades of their buildings. This grant will be administered by the Village and it will be handed out at the discretion of the Village to those businesses that comply with all building code regulations and currently have no violations against them. The money can be used for either signage, painting, or glass work to the facades of the business. Mr. Grout and Mr. Fishgold are hoping that this will attract other donors to invest in the community and are hoping for at least $40,000- $50,000 in total proceeds for this grant so that many businesses may have the opportunity to upgrade. This grant would encompass businesses from Shooters to the corner by Route 9. Applicants would need to apply for building permits to perform any work on their building and a special account will be set up for the collection of donations for this grant. According to Attorney Fitzsimmons, the paperwork presented for the grant is good. The only stipulation would be that the applicant would not be able to receive the money until the work is completed.

**Public Comment**

Randall Schmitt had comments regarding the Spirit of Valatie Award that was given out on Community Day. He questioned whether the award could be amended to give credit to Jean Palace posthumously.

There was discussion regarding work being done at 3035 Main Street. The Mayor and Code Enforcement Officer Walt Simmonsmeir have discussed code violations on Main Street and stated that it is difficult getting access to some buildings. There currently is no fine system in place since the Village no longer has a court and landlords receive no penalties now if they do not respond to a summons. The Mayor and Mr. Simmonsmeier have discussed possibly hiring a Deputy Building Inspector. The job duties could be divided up between building inspector and code enforcement.

**Resolution** #54 was made by Trustee Nero to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting of the Board of Trustees, seconded by Trustee Bevens. All in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution** # 55 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve claims # 2014.05-186-2014.05.245 for a total of $47,985.32. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Tim Carr of Monolith Solar Energy gave a presentation on his company to the audience and the Board. He handed out a packet that explained “Remote Net Metering”. This company can build a system in a vacant area and generate as much electricity a Village or Town needs on an annual basis. There is no cost for installation of the system to the Village although the Village would have to sign on to a 20 year agreement whereby the Village would purchase the electricity. He commented that area businesses such as Winding Brook Country Club, Manor Home Center and the Schodack School System as well as many other businesses throughout New York State are current clients. It would take up to 6 months for this system to go on-line and they would take care of all paperwork associated with the set up.

**Fire Department**

Second Assistant Chief Rustin Dolan reported that there was only one call in September which was a fire alarm activation. Three sets of new turnout gear have arrived and all airpaks and bottles have been tested. There will be a take-out Chicken Barbeque on November 11th from 4-6 pm.

**Correspondence**

A response was received from the engineering firm of Weston and Sampson regarding the recent on site visit to the fire house to comment on the structural integrity of the building. The letter reports that the footings are fine but there is not enough support in the concrete and there are no expansion joints. The report discusses repairing the cracks in the walls and the floor of the apparatus room would need to be replaced at a cost of approximately $64,000 with an additional cost of $10-$15,000 for professional engineering services for the design, bidding and construction administration. The Board agreed that this would need to be placed in next year’s budget.

Mayor Argyle appointed a Committee of Trustees Bickerton and Bevens with at least 2 other members of the fire department to investigate financing for this project.

**Theater**

The Rory Block concert was a sold out success and enjoyed by approximately 200 attendees. There will be a program with the Potsdam Acapella Glee Club coming up and a viewing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show will take place on October 25th at midnight. The bathrooms will be available on Artisan Fair/Community Day. There will also be a Christmas Caberet on Sunday December 7th at 2 p.m.

**Parks**

Mayor Argyle stated that the shale has now been removed from the Wastewater Treatment Plant grounds and the bathrooms at the park are now closed for the winter months. She and Trustee Bickerton will be placing mulch around the swings at the playground at the park.

**Delaware Engineering**

The Board reviewed a letter from Delaware Engineering on the status of the screen project. The Sewer Screen project will go out to bid and the bids will be opened on November 12th at 4:00 pm. The bid will be awarded at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees which has been moved to Monday, November 17th at 7:00 pm due to Veterans Day. According to Mr. Rourke, the screen project is on schedule with a delivery date of March 2015. Jesse Fraine gave a response to some of the questions the Board had previously asked but wanted more clarification on. He referred to a letter from Delaware Engineering dated October 14, 2014 which is on file in the clerk’s office. Lab results should be received by the end of October for well #2 to see if it is under the influence of surface water. This will then go to the Columbia County Health Department for their consideration. We are currently waiting for the GUDI report.

**Other correspondence**

The Board reviewed the letter Trustee Bevens sent to NYS DOT regarding the pedestrian crossings on Main Street, a letter from V.E.R.A regarding the crossings, as well as the response from NYS DOT Transport Analyst Gayle Sudder stating that a formal investigation has been initiated now and a study will be conducted as time and resources allow. Tickets will be issued for those who fail to obey the pedestrian crossing according to Mayor Argyle. The letters are on file in the clerk’s office.

The Monthly report of the Wastewater/Water department is on file in the clerk’s office as well as the monthly report from the Building Department.

**VERA**

October 18th will be Artisan Fair/ Community Day from 11:00 am- 5:00 pm in the Village. A tree ceremony will take place in memory of former Town Clerk Margaret Butcher in front of the MHG Building as well as the presentation of the Spirit of Valatie Award and a Guy Gamello picture display which will be in the meeting room.

**Library**

The Library will be hosting an Ecology Program on Sunday, October 26, 2014 from 1- 3 pm at the Senior Center. The program will focus on the use and disposal of plastics and will be presented by Chrissy Dykeman, an oceanographer and ecologist and daughter of the Library’s Program Coordinator, Lesley Hallenbeck.

**Veteran’s Day**

The Veteran’s Day celebration will be held at 11:00 am on November 11th at Governor Glynn Square. The annual Valatie Boy Scout Troop 114- 5K road race will take place in the morning before the ceremony and will use the same route as in previous years.

**2015- 350 year Celebration**

Mayor Argyle received a call from the NYS Legislative Gazette regarding any celebrations being planned for the 350 year celebration of the Village. A committee will be set up to work on this.

**Resolution** #56 was made by Trustee Bevens to be on the committee along with Trustee Bickerton and Village Historian Dominic Lizzi as the main coordinator. Motion seconded by Trustee Bickerton, all in favor, motion carried.

**Rabies Clinic**

A Rabies Clinic will be held on November 1st in the gymnasium. Cats will be vaccinated from 2-3 pm and dogs from 3-4 pm.

**Clerk Office Updates**

The clerk reported that our computer expert gave a list of equipment needed and work to be done in the clerk’s office. The Board will review and decide on any priorities.

**Resolution** #57 was made by Trustee Bickerton to move the 2015 Village elections to Wednesday, March 18th because of St. Patrick’s Day. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution** # 58 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve opening a new bank account for the collection of fees from credit card/debit card transactions in the Clerk’s office. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The clerk reported that we had our first credit card transaction and many more inquiries regarding doing this.

**Resolution** # 59 was made by Trustee Bevens to allow Village employees to partake in a Deferred Compensation Plan through NYS Compensation if they choose to enroll as well as payroll direct deposit in to the banks of their choosing. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution** # 60 was made by Trustee Bickerton to allow the Village Clerk to collect donations for Operation Adopt a Soldier for the Holidays. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The clerk will collect items from residents who wish to donate to this cause (a detailed list will be provided for items to donate) and the clerk will deliver the items to the American Legion Post 42 in Chatham at their Veterans Day ceremony on November 8th. These items will be shipped overseas for the troops in time for the holidays.

**Other business**

Resolution # 61 was made by Trustee Bevens to ask people who wish to use the MHG Municipal Building in 2015 for functions, to provide us with an updated insurance form and to re-apply for use of the building. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The building use needs to have better tracking of who is using the building. The bathrooms have been left a mess after some functions and the Board discussed possible use fees as well.

**Resolution** #62 was made by Trustee Bickerton to hold a Public Hearing before the November meeting for Local Law #3 for “Sewers”. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution** #63 was made by Trustee Williams to go in to executive session to discuss some matters before the Board at 8:48 pm, Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution** #64 was made by Trustee Bevens to come out of executive session at 9:30 pm seconded by Trustee Bickerton, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution** # 65 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve a HUD Loan for Bonnie Van Steenburg, seconded by Trustee Williams. All in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution** #66 was made by Trustee Nero to declare the parking lot next to the American Legion as surplus and to allow it to go to bid with a minimum asking price of $7500. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. A notice will be in the local newspaper.

Mayor Argyle reported that the Valatie Medical Arts building will be going on a payment program for back taxes.

**Resolution** #67 was made by Trustee Williams to raise the sewer rates from $6.76 to $7.45. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution** #68 was made by Trustee Nero to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk/Treasurer