**Village of Valatie**

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**September 12, 2023**

**6:30 PM**

**Board members** **Audience**

Mayor Frank Bevens Meg Todisco, Randall Schmit.

Trustee Angelo Nero Fire Chief Joe Loeffler4 residents,

Trustee Patrick Rodgers Lou Bonacker

Trustee Matthew Carter

Trustee Larry Eleby

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Barbara A. Fischer- Village Clerk

Mayor Bevens opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bevens opened the Public Hearing at 6:31 pm to adopt Local Law #2 of 2023 regarding the re-zoning of the River Street Mill. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained that the purchaser has petitioned the Village to re-zone the existing zoning of the River Street Mill formerly owned by Energy Onix.

Mayor Bevens asked for any comments/questions from the audience and there were none.

Mayor Bevens asked that the Public Hearing be closed and asked for a motion/resolution, to adopt Local Law #2 of 2023.

**Resolution # 28** was made by Trustee Carter to approve Local Law #2 of 2023 to re-zone the existing zoning of the River Street Mill formerly owned by Energy Onix. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Resolution #29** was made by Trustee Rodgers to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023 meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

**Resolution # 30** was made by Trustee Eleby to approve the abstract of bills 2023-2024- #4-139-181 for a total of $112,371.27 and $48,876.01 for the off abstract of bills. Total of all bills was $161,247.28 Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Climate Smart**- (Meg Todisco)- (Full report is on file in the Clerk’s Office) The Task Force was scheduled to meet on September 14 since the Village Board meeting had been moved to August 15. A Scoping Document has been filed with NYSERDA in anticipation of the Village Board moving forward with the Community Solar Campaign. As part of the Climate Smart Community Program, data for the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, Pledge Element 2, has been collected and transmitted to the Capital District Regional Planning Commission and analyzed through a GHG Inventory Tool. The Summary Report will be available at the October Board meeting.

The deadline for responses for the CARP Survey has been extended to September 13.

Mayor Bevens presented a flyer regarding Food Scrap Composting being run by Columbia County. The flyer will be available outside the Clerk’s office.

Facebook Page- A copy of the Facebook page rules was given to the Board members for review.

**Resolution # 31** was made by Trustee Carter to approve the Facebook Page for the Village. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, carried.

The Board will continue to research the Power Market Company (Solar) regarding getting a discount on their electric bill. A presentation regarding the program was given in August.

**Parks**- Trustee Rodgers commented that on Saturday, September 16th, volunteers will start with the second phase of re-foresting and erosion control at the bend in the creek at the River Street Park from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The group is looking to do cleanup possibly every other month now or maybe each quarter.   
The Town of Kinderhook approved the installation of a Pickle ball court next to the Town/Village Hall at their last Board meeting. The Pickle ball group is looking to do 2 courts now for at total cost of $15,068. The Town portion to pay toward the courts would be $9,342 and the Village portion would be $5,726. The Town Recreation department would be paying for the nets that are needed.

The estimated cost of striping the Pickleball court from D & B Paving would be $1760; the Town portion would be $1091 and the Village would be $699. Fine Lines cost is $700 making the Town portion $434 and the Village portion $266.

The estimated cost of paving the walkway from the front of the MHG building to the parking lot in the back of the building is $4,310. The Town portion is $2,561 and the Village portion is $1570.

**Resolution # 32** was made by Trustee Carter to approveputting in 2 Pickleball courts next to the MHG building at a total cost of $15,068 being divided between the Town of Kinderhook and the Village of Valatie. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Resolution #33** was made by Trustee Carter to approve the cost of the striping of the Pickleball court at a total cost of $700 through Fine Lines with the cost again being divided between the Town of Kinderhook and the Village of Valatie. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Resolution # 34** was made by Trustee Carter to approve putting in a new walkway from the front of the MHG to the parking lot behind the building at a total cost of $4,310 with the cost being divided between the Town of Kinderhook and the Village of Valatie. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Public Comment**- Meg Todisco commented that the Pickleball court had also been approved at the Town meeting but there was a question regarding the netting. Meg also had a question directed toward Attorney Fitzsimmons regarding Open Meetings Law and Executive sessions. The Town Recreation Committee will be purchasing the netting.

**Fire Department Report**- (Report on file in Clerk’s Office)

The bid opening for the Command Vehicle was read by the Village Clerk. There was only one bid received and that was through Red Truck Sales from Deer Park, NY. The cost of the vehicle is $26, 500.00.

Mayor Bevens opened up any discussion from the public and there was none and then asked for a motion from the Board.

**Resolution # 35** was made by Trustee Carter to purchase the 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe Command Vehicle from Red Truck Sales of Deer Park, NY at a cost of $26,500. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Mayor Bevens stated that the Command Vehicle would be paid through ARPA Funding.

Chief Joe Loeffler reported that the fire department answered 10 calls in the month of August. He presented a list of Fire Alarm activations in Barnwell to be recorded for the Village Fire Alarm Law.

During the Thursday evening storm, the fire department handled multiple calls for trees and wires down. Hazards to Village streets were checked and they continued to monitor road closures. On 9/9/23, the fire department assisted the Village of Chatham Fire Department with handing out bottled water and dry ice to the residents that were affected by the storm. The fire department will be handing out free smoke detectors to the residents of the fire district on September 14 & 18 from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the firehouse.

**V.E.R.A**.- Randall Schmit reported that the Artisan Festival will take place on October 14 from 11:00 am-5:00 pm along Main Street. There will be lots of vendors/artisans with live music and book signings. More information is on the VEAR website.

**Theater**- Trustee Rodgers commented that they are still waiting on the Council on the Arts Capital Grant for improvements to the building.

**Highway**- The Highway department is keeping busy. There will be pickup of storm damage on September 18 which will be separate form the Brush pickup which will start on Mondays only beginning October 23 and will run through November 27.

**WWTP**- (full report on file)- The third quarter water meter readings have been completed and two meters needed changing. The department inspected and sealed 2 new meters that were installed at 14 and 18 Rod & Gun Club Road.

Water shutoff for non- payment will begin on September 19th. A tree came down on the generator at the WWTP over the Labor Day weekend but fortunately it was not damaged. The Highway Department was able to safely remove the tree. The Village has received “Approval of Completed Works Status” for the Well 3 Filter Project.

The Steel water tower on Albany Avenue has received a series of repairs since August of 2022. In September of 2022, Statewide Aqua Store completed a video inspection of both water tanks. It was determined that the interior costing of the steel tank has failed and there are areas of rust and corrosion. The bolted steel tank inspection was also completed and received an overall rating of good condition. Inspection reports are available at the WWTP.

During the power outage on September 7 & 8, the water and wastewater back up generators supplied power to keep the systems running. The department recommends contacting the cell phone providers who have backup generators on site to look into hooking up the Vault electrical panel to the backup power. This is necessary because there is a signaling device on the tower that transmits the water level in the towers to the water system panel at the WWTP. Without the signal from the towers, the system has to be operated manually.

**Building Dept**.- Very busy.

**Clerk Report**- The Village Clerk will be attending the NYCOM Conference in Lake Placid the week of September 18-22.

**Applications for MHG**-none. Only one application for use of the Pavilion at Callan Park.

**Resolution # 36** was made by Trustee Rodgers to approve the use of the Pavilion at Callan Park. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Other Business**- Trustee Rodgers received an email about the blue building on Main Street regarding a grant. Would like to form a committee to consider grants for next year as the timeline currently is too short. He would like to have a proactive approach to these grants. Several residents in the audience volunteered to be on the Committee.

**Resolution #37** was made by Trustee Carter to enter into executive session at 7:20 pm to discuss matters before the Board. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Resolution #38** was made by Trustee Eleby to exit out of executive session at 7:33 pm with no decisions being made. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

With no further business to discuss,

**Resolution # 39** was made by Trustee Eleby to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fischer

Village Clerk