**VILLAGE OF VALATIE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**July 13, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**Martin H. Glynn Municipal Building**

**Board members** **Audience**

Mayor Frank Bevens Randall Schmit, Lisa Hill, Bob Clark

Trustee Sean Casey Stephanie Ruchel- Building Insp.,

Trustee Larry Eleby Nancy Kohler, Irene Morrissey and

Trustee Angelo Nero 3 members of the Senior Center group

Trustee David Williams

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Barbara A. Fischer- Village Clerk

Mayor Bevens opened the meeting at 7:00 pm at the Martin H. Glynn Municipal Building followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Resolution # 13** was made by Trustee Williams to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021. Trustee Casey seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #14** was made by Trustee Casey to approve the abstract of bills #2021-2-#30-76 for a total of $181,284.24 which includes a Water/Sewer BOND payment. The off abstract of vouchers totaled $50,272.92 making the total of all bills, $231,557.16. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, carried.

Mayor Bevens read a letter to the community regarding the passing of Mrs. Joan Archer (letter is attached to minutes) and the formation of a committee named the “Valatie Main Street Traffic Safety Committee”. This Committee is working with NYS DOT to work on the crosswalks on Main Street, do a traffic study on Main Street, and discuss the placement of a 3 way stop to the intersection of Main Street and Church Street. The accident is still under investigation.

Since a parking spot on Main Street is being removed, there was discussion regarding using the parking lot next to the US Hotel. This parking lot can not be deemed a Municipal Parking lot because it is private property.

**Public Comments**-

Irene Morrissey commented that a traffic cone that was placed at the corner of Main and Church Street to prevent someone from parking in that area, had been moved onto the sidewalk and a car had parked in that spot. Another traffic cone had also been taken and is nowhere to be found.

Lisa Hill spoke to the Board about the use of the parking lot next to the US Hotel. She noted that it was her understanding that there was a gentleman’s agreement with Mayor Jason Nastke regarding the Village using this parking lot. She suggested that the Village Engineer and the Village attorney, work with the new owner Robie Whitlock on the drainage issues in this lot. Attorney Fitzsimmons commented that there are many facets to using this lot. He stated that NYS DOT may require their approval of the lot and to sign certain paperwork for use of the lot. The Village may also need to secure a lease and have an unofficial meeting with the Main Street businesses.

Nancy Kohler, who is a member of the newly formed Main Street Traffic Study Committee, commented that the Zoning Board of Appeals is working on a study of parking lots in the Village. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that this is **survey** only not a “study”.

Resident Bob Clark commented that since the tragic passing of Joan Archer, people are now thinking about the dangerous aspects of the Village. Mr. Clark encouraged the Board to think about quick action now to eliminate dangerous situations and was glad to hear about a comprehensive report being done. He believes that the posted “30 mph” speed limit on Main Street is too fast and suggested it be lowered to “15 mph” due to pedestrians coming out between cars parked on Main Street. He also feels that the blind curve on Lake Street as well as Williams and Merwin Lane, are dangerous if children are coming around these corners. He suggested a “Blind Turn Sign” with a 5mph speed limit with a convex mirror, be placed at these turns for site distance. He also believes that vehicles coming down Lake and Church Street as well as Merwin Lane, need to creep out into the road because of poor site distance. He stated that you need 2 car spots for vision.

Mayor Bevens again reiterated that Main Street is a State Road which is overseen by NYS DOT. He commented that the Committee is working on making Main Street and surrounding roads safe. He commented that there is a fine line on whether you take away parking spaces on Main Street because the businesses are stating that there are not enough spaces now.

It was suggested that the 2004 Comprehensive Plan be looked at and signed.

**Fire Department**-

The Fire Department will be working with the Water Department to flush hydrants around the Village in August. This will be posted on the website and an email blast will be sent out to all residents. There are 90 hydrants in the Village and it will take 3-4 days to complete.

**Theater-** Craig Hancock could not attend tonight’s meeting but stated that if anyone had any questions, they could contact the Theater Group or check out the flyer that was included with the Water and Sewer Newsletter.

**V.E.R.A.-** Randall Schmit commented that the Village Wide Tag is on for July 24th. The sign at the entrance of the Village will be worked on and he presented a drawing of what it will look like. Mayor Bevens suggested they use “tamper proof” screws and he stated that John Bryan built a new flower box underneath the existing sign. The Mayor also stated that Robie Whitlock would like to be involved in working on the sign.

**Inter-municipal agreement**- The Board received paperwork regarding an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Columbia County Highway Department and 18 Towns, 4 Villages and the City of Hudson for maintenance, construction and repair of Municipal Roads, bridges, highways and property. This is an annual contract that needs approval from the Board.

**Resolution # 15** was made by Trustee Williams to approve the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Columbia County Highway Department for annual maintenance and repair of the roads. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, carried.

The Board discussed the re-opening of the Martin H. Glynn Building and the Senior Center to the Public.

**Resolution #16** was made by Trustee Nero to re-open the Martin H. Glynn Building and the Senior Center and to re-hire Irene Morrissey to head the Senior Center groups at the same rate of pay she made before the pandemic. Trustee Casey seconded, all in favor, carried.

The Senior Center will re-open on Wednesday, July 14th and Irene will check on the status of the balance for the Hanaford card that is used to purchase lunch supplies for the Seniors.

The Kinderhook Garden Club would like to use the Senior Center on October 12, November 9th and December 7th.

**Resolution # 17** was made by Trustee Williams to allow the Kinderhook Garden Club to use the Senior Center on the days mentioned. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Building Department Report**- no report but very busy office!

**WWTP Report**- (On file in the Clerk’s office) The June water meter readings have been completed and all dead meters have been replaced. Smith Well Drilling has been contacted to do the exploratory test well to replace well # 1. New doors were installed on the Chemical Room at the WWTP and a new entry door and window at WPH1. Twenty Stortz hydrant adapters have bee ordered and will be installed on requested hydrants as time permits. Jamie Malcolm from NYSDEC was at the WWTP to do the annual inspection of the plant and all went well. Assistant WWYP Robert Hills will be attending school for two weeks and he is currently working on his D- Distribution license for Water and they received the study guide for the IIB-GW Operator Water Operators License.

There will be an Electronic Recycling Day at the Town Garage on Rapp Road on September 18 from 9:00 am-12:00 noon sponsored by the Village of Valatie and the Town of Kinderhook Highway Department. There may be another day set up in the spring of 2022.

**Clerk’s Report**- The new Deputy Clerk, Erin Brady is working out extremely well and it is a pleasure to work with her.

**Resolution #18** was made by Trustee Williams to enter into executive session at 7:55 pm to discuss a water bill issue, and a property in the Village. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #19** was made by Trustee Eleby to exit executive session at 8:42 pm. Trustee Casey seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #20** was made by Trustee Williams to not give penalty relief of the water bill to Barnwell Nursing Home because we had already given them relief once the before. The Village policy is to only give relief one time unless there is a certain circumstance involved which will allow more relief. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #21** was made by Trustee Casey to have the Sheriff’s Department serve papers to a property on Upper Main Street for property violations through the Building Department. Trustee Williams seconded, all in favor, carried.

With no further business to discuss,

**Resolution #22** was made by Trustee Eleby to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. Trustee Casey seconded, all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk/Treasurer