Village of Valatie

Board of Trustees

July14, 2015

FINAL

Present Audience

Mayor Diane Argyle 9 residents

Trustee Frank Bevens 1 reporter

Trustee Angelo Nero

Trustee David Williams

Trustee Phil Bickerton

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

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

Public Comment-

Deborah Marinelli of 3069 Upper Main Street cited a concern regarding a local business displaying the Confederate flag. Her concern is with the morality of displaying the flag and feels that it is an intimidation of African Americans living in the area and asked the members of the Board for guidance regarding the impact on local businesses.

Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that according to Village Law, the Board can regulate commercial free speech, sale of items, etc., but not freedom of speech. The Board can say they have gotten complaints but they can’t ask the owner to take anything down on their private property.

Mayor Argyle suggested that she contact the business and tell them that she finds this display offensive. Mrs. Marinelli stated that she felt threatened by the display of this flag. Trustee Bevens inquired whether a police report could be filed? Mr. Fitzsimmons stated if anyone feels threatened they should call the Police but as a jurisdiction, there is nothing on the books to regulate that flag. As long as it is not commercial speech, the Village can’t do anything about it.

Resident Ed Williams asked if something could be done with the Fire Siren located behind his residence? He feels the siren has become a nuisance and asked if it could be toned down a bit?

Mayor Argyle stated that the Board will look into his request.

Resolution # 14 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 15 was made by Trustee Williams to pay the abstract of claims 2015-02-37-2015-02-83 for a total of $80,895.66. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Fire Department**-

Trustee Bevens presented the fire department report which is on file in the clerk’s office.

There were 7 calls since the last Board meeting with 2 drills and one company detail for a total of 115.93 total hours volunteered with an average of 5.27 hours per person. In addition, 1 firefighter graduated from the 6 week/ 48hr NYS Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations Class and 1 firefighter took the NYSDEC 6hr Wildland Search and Rescue Class.

**Highway Dept**.-

High Street will be closed for 4 days to replace drainage starting on Monday, July 20th.

Parking tickets- Trustees Bevens and Bickerton came up with some recommendations for a fee schedule to give to the Sheriff’s Department. Attorney Fitzsimmons will review and report back at the August meeting.

**Building Department**-

Building inspectors report is on file in the clerk’s office.

Other Business-

Trustee Bevens reported that money was secured to help with the purchase of cameras for Main Street with the help of Senator Kathy Marchione and her staff.

The site distance on Marion Blvd. at the Porreca property across from Barnwell is poor due to overgrown bushes. A letter will be sent to Mr. Porreca asking him to trim back the bushes or the Village will offer to have the bushes removed.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**-

Monthly report and memo from Paul Warner is on file in clerk’s office. The Village needs more vendors to take care of hauling sludge. The Village will use Bill Baldwin on a temporary basis for right now but it could take up to a year to find another hauler.

Resolution # 16 was made by Trustee Nero to have Bill Baldwin & Sons provide the hauling of sludge for the wastewater treatment plant on a temporary basis for now. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

A letter will need to be drafted to bring well #3 back on line/upgraded with a temporary filter system.

A letter was also received regarding NYS grants for sewer plants.

The screen is in at the plant but there was a miscalculation by the engineer as to the placement of it. There is a 2 foot gap and the engineers will need to determine how to adjust it. It was also determined that the odor control was not included in the project which will need to be rectified.

**Theater**-

Trustee Bickerton will work on the side stage door of the theatre and the air conditioner will be fixed by Sam Austin Appliance. The insurance company will send a check to the Village to have the air conditioner repaired.

**V.E.R.A.-**

There will be a Village Wide Tag Sale sponsored by VERA on July 18th from 8:00 am- 2:00 pm. Maps will be placed around the Village and on their Facebook page and website.

**Clerk Office**-

Thank you to Trustee Bevens and Trustee Williams for their help on Electronics Recycling Day! Approximately 34 families participated in the program. A fall recycling day will be looked into as well with a little more advertisement and possibly in conjunction with the Town.

The clerk is also looking into having a battery recycling bin set up in the Village Hall for old batteries from radios and small electronics and hearing aids. More information to follow.

**Other business**-

A letter was received from Stacey Zander asking the Board for some sewer relief on her bill due to a hot water heater breaking and flooding the basement on June 8, 2015.

Resolution # 17 was made by Trustee Nero to adjust the bill to the average amount they would normally be charged which would be a total cost of $31.51. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**New Business**-

Applications for MHG use;

Resolution #18 was made by Trustee Nero to allow the Board of Elections to use the gym on September 10, 2015 from 11:00 am-10:00 pm for a primary election and again on November 4, 2015 for the General Election. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 19 was made by Trustee Nero to allow Literacy Connections to use classroom space in August and September. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 20 was made by Trustee Bevens to allow the Democratic Committee to use the building for a Caucus to be held on July 25, 2015 beginning at 10:00 am. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 21 was made by Trustee Bevens to allow the Red Cross to use the gymnasium for a blood drive on Monday, September 14, 2015 from 11:00 am- 8:00 pm. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The migrant education program and CYO which had been tabled for lack of proof of insurance was also okayed by the Board.

Resolution # 22 was made by Trustee Bevens to enter into executive session at 8:12 pm to discuss personnel matters and any other business before the Board. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 23 was made by Trustee Bevens to exit executive session at 9:00 pm. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

There will be a Special Meeting of the Village Board on July 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm to review shutoff notices for water and sewer and any other business before the Board.

Resolution # 24 was made by Trustee Bevens to provide medical reimbursement for the Village Clerk, seconded by Trustee Williams, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 25 was made by Trustee Bevens to adopt a policy that all Village Employees and Officials must seek advice from the Village Attorney first regarding any litigation that is before the Village. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

With no more business to discuss before the Board,

Resolution # 26 was made by Trustee Bickerton to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk/Treasurer