**Village of Valatie**

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**August 15, 2023**

**6:30 PM**

**Board members** **Audience**

Mayor Frank Bevens Craig Hancock, Meg Todisco

Trustee Angelo Nero Dr. Baillargeon, Mark Leining

Trustee Patrick Rodgers Fire Chief Joe Loeffler

Trustee Matthew Carter

Trustee Larry Eleby- absent, notified

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq. -absent, notified

Barbara A. Fischer- Village Clerk

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

**Resolution # 19** was made by Trustee Matthew Carter to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 and August 2, 2023 Special meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Angelo Nero seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

**Resolution # 20** was made by Trustee Rodgers to approve the abstract of bills 2023-2024- #3-76-133 for a total of $55, 061.62 and $61,102.40 (Which includes an insurance payment) for a total of all bills being $116,164.02. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Climate Smart**- (Meg Todisco) A Power Point presentation was given by Director Brad Tito of Power Market via a zoom platform. He explained that the Town of Kinderhook and the Village of Kinderhook did a campaign a few years ago regarding solar power. The Board members asked many questions such as how the Village would benefit while we are part of the Town of Kinderhook? How would credit be allocated for enrollments in each municipality? How many other municipalities have completed a campaign? What happens to resident’s bills after the campaign is completed? What is the average savings per participant and how does Power Market make money off of this? How many megawatts of solar have been given in NYS in the last 10 years?

Mr. Tito stated that all material on solar power can be translated into Spanish and each new customer will receive a welcome packet. Applications to sign on with the program will also be online but he would help anyone fill out the forms if needed. Residents can cancel their program at any time. This program will allow a 10 % a year in savings to the customer.

**Parks**- Nate Becker and Trustee Rodgers found the information for the Trees for Tribs “grant” and applied for it. They met with an environmentalist from DEC for “help” with applying and did a walk around to recommend any suggestions for the area along the river. The environmentalist did not feel that plants would help with the erosion but felt that cutting back the vegetation would help instead. Volunteers had cut away some of the brush along the riverbed side and are scheduling another date in the fall.

**Public Comment**- none

**Fire Department Report**- (Report on file in Clerk’s Office) Chief Joe Loeffler reported that the fire department answered 4 calls in the month of July. He presented a list of Fire Alarm activations in Barnwell to be recorded for the Village Fire Alarm Law.

Chief Loeffler spoke with the Board regarding a conversation he had with them a few months ago regarding going out to bid for a “Command Vehicle” for the fire department. He is currently using his own personal vehicle when responding to fire calls and paying for gas. He is concerned with the gas prices rising and any accidents while on a fire scene and insurance costs. He has located a vehicle that may work with the Village finances and it would be used for transporting firefighters to fire school events, etc. Chief Loeffler asked for permission to pursue this vehicle and bring it back to the Board for review. This would need to go out for bid. Chief Loeffler stated that there are reputable companies out there that already have the equipment included in the package sale. Any other items that are needed would come out of the Fire Department budget.

**Resolution # 20** was made by Trustee Carter to place the Command Vehicle out for bid. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried. The mayor will ask the Village attorney to prepare a bid package.

**V.E.R.A**.- no report

**Theater**- Craig Hancock stated that there was a Theater Board meeting and the members agreed to move forward with a building grant. They are waiting to hear back from someone regarding the grant program. They had over 368 people attend the performances that were held recently and they are looking forward to the events coming up such as music performance, a presentation by the Friends of the Rail Trail, the Legend of Sleepy Hollow (around Halloween time), a film on Houdini, a film put together by some students, and a Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band.

**Highway**- no report, keeping busy.

**WWTP**- (full report on file)- Mayor Bevens commented that NYS DOT had planned on putting up a building near the 9H overpass but that plan has been cancelled and the contractor for the DOT project is asking if the money they put down for the water hookup could be returned to them.

**Resolution # 21** was made by Trustee Nero to return the $1500 for the water hookup project to the contractor who was working on the State DOT project that was going to be built near the 9H overpass. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

In other WWTP news, the village truck has been inspected and routine maintenance was performed. Mr. Czyzewski met with engineer Jeff Budrow from Westin & Sampson to go over the grant application for the upcoming water project. The application has been completed and has been submitted for review. The department has completed a punch list of items for the Well 3 Filter project and is awaiting final approval from NYSDOH and CCDOH. The WWTP plant received a Satisfactory rating in the Annual Inspection Report from Jamie Malcolm from NYSDEC.

The Steel Water Tower on Albany Avenue has had 3 repairs since August of 2022 until July of 2023. In September of 2022, Statewide Aqua Store completed a video inspection of both water tanks. It was determined that the interior coating of the steel tank has failed and there are areas of rust and erosion. The bolted steel tank inspection was also completed and received an overall rating of “good condition” although the Cathodic Protection System was determined to be in need of replacement. Inspection reports are available at the WWTP. The WWTP department reached out to two tank coating companies for general quotes for reference and are available at the WWTP. The WWTP recommends that the Village start a project to recoat and repair the welded steel standpipe on Albany Avenue.

**Building Dept**.- A letter was received for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Caradine-Ruchel regarding adding a “short term rental code.”

**Resolution # 22** was made by Trustee Rodgers to proceed with the Planning Board to have them review/develop a “short term rental code” for the Village. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Clerk Report**- no report

Applications for MHG-

1. Santa Claus Club for use of the gym in December to help out Santa.
2. Literacy Connections- use of Senior Center for an English language class for adults

**Resolution # 23** was made by Trustee Rodgers to approve the Santa Claus Club and the Literacy Connections group. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

A quote was received from Mark Leining regarding building a “Pickleball Court” on the grounds of the Town/Village Hall. The cost would be divided between the Town and the Village. The total cost is $12,490 for 2 courts.

**Resolution # 24** was made by Trustee Rodgers to approve the Pickleball Court with the cost divided between the Town of Kinderhook and the Village of Valatie with a total cost of $12,490. The cost for the Village will be $4,746.20. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Resolution #25** was made by Trustee Carter to enter into executive session at $ 7.51pm to discuss matters before the Board. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

**Resolution #26** was made by Trustee Nero to exit out of executive session at 8:02 pm with no decisions being made. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

With no further business to discuss,

**Resolution # 27** was made by Trustee Nero to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fischer

Village Clerk