VILLAGE OF VALATIE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARCH 10, 2015

FINAL

PRESENT AUDIENCE

Mayor Argyle 2 reporters

Trustee Frank Bevens 14 residents

Trustee Philip Bickerton

Trustee Angelo Nero

Trustee David Williams

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Rustin Dolan, Assistant Fire Chief

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

The Mayor opened up the floor for Public comments. There were none.

Resolution # 111 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2015 meeting. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, Trustee Bickerton abstained since he was not in attendance, motion carried.

Reoslution # 112 was made by Trustee Bickerton to pay claims #2015-10 #420-460 in the amount of $34,629.62. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor reported that there will be another meeting on March 11th to discuss the farmers market. It was decided to hold the market at the Senior Center parking lot on Sundays where there will be access to bathrooms. Eight vendors attended the previous meeting for the farmer’s market.

The Mayor stated that there has only been one check written for the mini grant program to upgrade the façades of area businesses on Main Street. The grant program will be used to take down the garage at the U.S. Hotel to open up the space for public parking.

Mr. James Cantele from Cantele’s Car Wash and Brandee Nelson from Crawford & Associates appeared before the Board to discuss their plans to tear down the former Val-Kin restaurant and build a self-serve car wash. Mr. Cantele stated that he was not sure if this would be an automatic car wash like the one in Hudson. This would be open 24 hours and they are very conscious about noise. He stated that he is unaware of any sewer issues or complaints. He also stated that there will be a cross connection so that water does not go into the sewer. They are still working on all the details.

Trustee Williams asked about lighting issues. Ms. Nelson commented that she would be working with the Planning Board and the Zoning Board for a site plan. They would also seek input from Paul Warner, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent. There were no negative comments from the Board.

Mayor Argyle commented that Tim Holt contacted her again stating that he had another backer to build more senior housing and mixed use for middle income people. This would be on Upper Main Street near Garrigan road. The Mayor asked the Board if they were interested in Mr. Holts plans and they commented that they would need more details. Rob stated that the Village still has outstanding water issues and we are currently in a holding pattern.

Trustee Bickerton spoke on behalf of Joseph Laviano requesting that a sign be placed at Spring Street stating no left hand turn. There have been many complaints of speeding traffic over the years. The Mayor commented that a letter has already been sent to NYS DOT and we are waiting for a response.

The parking lot next to the former American Legion building was also discussed. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that the lot needs detailed maintenance. Gunther Fishgold and Darren Grout, owners of Nut Biz, Inc. and the new owners of the Legion building, are interested in possibly leasing the lot. They would improve the lot and would ask that 2 parking spots be kept available for their tenants. Rob read the SEQR application to issue a negative declaration for the purpose of SEQR for the parking lot.

Resolution # 113 was made by Trustee Bevens to issue a negative declaration for purpose of SEQR. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons read Local Law No. 2 of the year 2014 amending the Code of the Village of Valatie in relation to Vehicles and Traffic Chapter 124. He noted that sections on page 4 and page 5 were highlighted regarding parking on the north side of Main Street from the intersection of Main Street and Church Street. Mayor Argyle asked Trustees Bevens and Bickerton to review the fines as listed on pages 7 & 8 and report back to the Board. Rob stated the maximum fine would be $250.00.

**Fire Department**

Assistant Chief Rustin Dolan reported that there were 9 calls since the last Board meeting. There were 43.35 man hours at calls for the past month, 18 man hours at drills and 18 man hours at meetings. There will be an open house for Recruit NY on April 25th from 10 am- 2 pm. to allow anyone interested in joining the fire department to stop by and sign up to volunteer. Also, the engineer has been working on the floor of the fire house in regards to all the cracks.

Theatre- none

Parks- Callan Park

Mr. Norton of Northern Columbia Little League asked the Board for the use of the MHG playground area for T-ball for the 4-6 year olds. They would practice during the week and the program would end by Father’s Day in June.

Resolution #114 was made by Trustee Bickerton to allow the Northern Columbia Little League to use the field at Callan Park for T- Ball until Father’s Day in June. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #115 was made by Trustee Bevens to allow the 7-12 year olds to use Callan Park for the week of July 13th-17th for the Cannons baseball camp. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 116 was made by Trustee Bickerton to allow the Northern Columbia Lions Club to use Callan Park for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4, 2015 from 8 am to 11 am. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #117 was made by Trustee Bickerton and seconded by Trustee Bevens to allow the Northern Columbia Little League use Callan Park for practices from April through July. All in Favor, motion carried.

Water/Sewer Dept.

A letter was received from the Columbia County Department of Health regarding the Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of surface water (GUDI). Their findings were deemed inconclusive to overturn the prior determination from July 2010. This letter is on file in the Clerk’s Office.

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

A membership drive has begun and they are revamping the organization. They are applying for 501 (C) (3) status and they have been posting articles on Google, etc. to get interest in the group. They are also trying to boost the farmer’s market. The following is the 2015 Events Schedule for VERA;

Sat. July 18- Village Wide Tag Sale

Sat. Oct 10- Handmade in America- Artisans Along Main Street

Sat. Nov. 28- Shop Small Valatie

Sat. Dec. 12- Winterwalk and Winter Parade

Spring Cleanup Day will be May 16th

**Martin H. Glynn Portrait Update-**

Mayor Argyle met with the President of the Ichabod Crane School Board, Mr. Welcome and there is still some issue with the ownership of the portrait. Randall Schmitt and Dominic Lizzi attended a recent meeting of the School Board. The Mayor will continue to discuss this issue with Mr. Welcome until this is resolved.

**Property Tax Cap Limit**

Resolution #118 was made by Trustee Bevens to set the Public Hearing Date of April 14, 2015 to raise the Property Tax Cap Limit. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

A Budget workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday , March 31st.

**Clerk’s Report**

The clerk will look into doing an electronics recycling program in the Village. The new water/sewer program should be coming in soon from BAS and there will be Paper shredding bins available in the Village Hall from Columbia County from 3/16/15 to 3/26/15.

**Senior Center**

Trustee Williams will help locate a television for the Senior Center which will be paid for by Grant the Senior center had been awarded a few years ago.

Trustee Bevens thanked the Highway departments in Columbia County for all of their hard work in keeping our roads cleared and safe this past winter.

**Viridian**

Pat Manning addressed the Board again regarding signing with his company. An update on electric savings rates were discussed.

Zvi Cohen addressed the Board regarding a bill he received for the Village cleaning his sidewalk a few times during bad weather. Mr. Cohen had been asked if a private business could clear his sidewalk for him but Mr. Cohen had refused that help. Mr. Cohen asked that the Board possibly forgive some of the penalty. Mayor Argyle agreed to subtract $50 off of the bill as long as Mr. Cohen agrees to keep his sidewalk clear. The bill has been reduced to a total of $210.00.

**MHG Applications**

Resolution #119 was made by Trustee Bevens and seconded by Trustee Bickerton to allow the Church Street Preschool to hold a 5k Race and kids 50 yard dash in honor of Hope Oakes who passed away from a from myelodysplasia, a form of leukemia. The money raised will benefit Ms. Oakes’ children. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 120 was made by Trustee Bickerton and seconded by Trustee Bevens to allow the Valatie Free Library to hold summer programs from July through August. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #121 was made by Trustee Bevens and seconded by Trustee Bickerton to allow the Valatie Free Library to hold a photo exhibit at the Valatie Senior Center on Sunday, April 12, 2015. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #122 was made by Trustee Bickerton and seconded by Trustee Bevens to allow the Columbia Clippers Baseball Team use the Gym for practice and pitching during the months of March and April. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #123 was made by Trustee Bevens and seconded by Trustee Bickerton to allow the Kinderhook Lady Clippers use the gym during the months of March through June. All in favor, motion carried.

**Election Day**

Election Day will be held March 18th from 12-9 pm.

Resolution # 124 was made by Trustee Bickerton and seconded by Trustee Williams to pay the Election Day Inspectors $100 for the day. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #125 was made by Trustee Bevens and seconded by Trustee Bickerton to pay the Registration Day Election Inspectors $60.00 for the day. All in Favor, motion carried.

**Appointment**

Resolution # 126 was made by Trustee Bevens to appoint Keith Lynch as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to replace Nancy Kelly who retired at the end of December 2014. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Trustee Williams asked about getting new flags for around the memorial across from the Village Hall. Mayor Argyle commented that the Legion will purchase the new flag poles and the Village will pay to have them put up.

**Executive Session**

Resolution #127 was made by Trustee Bickerton to move into executive session at 8:45 pm to discuss personnel, the budget and an Engineer firm proposal. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #128 was made by Trustee Williams to exit out of executive session at 9:25pm. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #129 was made by Trustee Bickerton to place an advertisement in the papers looking for someone to do landscaping around the Village. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 130 was made by Trustee Bickerton to pay the Clerk Over- time pay for attending two nights of classes for Quickbooks and for Registration Day attendance. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #131 was made by Trustee Bickereton to hire a part time Bookeeper at a rate of pay of $22.00 an hour. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #132 was made by Trustee Bevens to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm, seconded by Trustee Bickerton, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk