**VILLAGE OF VALATIE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**MARCH 9, 2021**

**VALATIE SENIOR CENTER**

**7:00 PM**

**Attendance** **Audience**

Mayor Diane Argyle Stephanie- Caradine-Ruchel- Building Inspector

Trustee Frank Bevens Craig Hancock- Valatie Theater

Trustee Larry Eleby Emelia Teasdale- The Columbia Paper

Trustee Angelo Nero

Trustee David Williams

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Barbara Fischer- Village Clerk

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

**Resolution #78** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the minutes of February 9, 2021. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #79** was made by Trustee Williams to approve the abstract of bills #2020-10-#363-#401 for a total of $46,081.25 and a total of $95,052.91 for off abstract bills (which includes an EFC Loan payment of $76,000). Total of all bills is $141,134.16. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Public Comment**- Emelia Teasdale commented that the sidewalk in front of her house has not been fixed yet and State DOT has not fixed the drain in front yet either. Mayor Argyle explained that this is all part of the bigger Main Street project where trees will be replaced and new lighting will be installed on the north side of Main Street. Once the lights and trees are done, then the sidewalks will be replaced. Emelia stated that State DOT said they would remove the tree as well as fix the drain, but it still has not been done.

**Theater**- Craig Hancock stated that Trustee Bevens had attended the Theater Board meeting and that they received a Decentralization Grant. They are working on getting an air infiltration system. The Theater will start opening soon with small crowds but will continue to meet virtually as a board for a while. They are hoping to have a production of an original play sometime possibly in April or May at the gazebo but they still need to do a contingency plan.

**Fire Department**- (on file in the clerk’s office)

There were nine calls in the month of February. Ground ladder, aerial ladder testing and non-destructive testing was completed on February 16th with no issues. A water pipe flow test was also completed. There were 4 fire alarms at Barnwell throughout the month of February.

**Street light update**-Trustee Eleby gave a short report regarding the lighting for Main Street. More information will follow.

**Resolution # 80** was made by Trustee Bevens to accept a quote received by Columbia County MIS for a new laptop for the bookkeeper at a cost of $1,555.38. The current laptop only has Windows 7 and is currently obsolete. Trustee Eleby seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Little League/Baseball/Men’s Softball requests**-

We have received the annual requests for use of the baseball fields. The Town has decided to open their fields starting April 12th. Garbage cans would not be placed on the village fields, therefore, each team would need to dispose of their garbage. The bathrooms also would not be available and the teams would need to supply port-o-lets for use. All Board members were in agreement to open the fields on April 12th as long as they supply social distancing/COVID-19 guidelines for safety.

Mayor Argyle stated that left over mulch that was purchased for the Callan park playground, may be used for the playground at the Martin H. Glynn building if there is anything left.

**Highway quote**- The Board received a quote from the Town Highway Department for road repairs/repaving. The Village currently has a total of $80,074.82 in CHIPS money. A list of roads that need work was supplied by the Town Highway Superintendent. The Board will decide which roads will need top priority and report at the April meeting.

**Clerk Report**-

A motion is needed to approve payment of $100 each for the four election inspectors for the Village Election to be held on March 16th.

**Resolution # 81** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve payment of $100 each, for a total of $400, for the election inspectors for the March 16, 2021 Village Election. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

The Clerk asked the Board for approval to get a quote to rebind the Marriage/ Death and Birth Certificate registry book which dates back to the 1800’s. All Board members agreed.

A question was asked if water re-levies could be added to the 2021-2022 taxes yet? Attorney Fitzsimmons stated not as of yet.

The Board received a “Thank You” and a brochure from the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail for their donation of $1500.00 to help provide maintenance to the trail.

**Applications for MHG**- All applications are on hold currently.

**Other matters before the Board-**

Mayor Argyle commented that there is an Intermunicipal Agreement for highway and bridges, etc. between the County, Town and Village to help each other out.

**Resolution # 82** was made by Trustee Bevens to sign a 5 year agreement with the County Highway Department for shared services. Trustee Williams seconded, all in favor, carried.

Mayor Argyle stated that the Boards (Village, ZBA & Planning) need to discuss regulations for Air B and B’s.

**Resolution #83** was made by Trustee Bevens to have attorney Fitzsimmons draft regulations for Air B and B’s for the Village of Valatie. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

The Hydro Station will be coming online with National Grid in a few weeks. The Village should be getting a break on our electric thanks to Mr. Durand and the Hydro Plant. Mr. Durand is planning on having a bridge installed to an island where he will have an Air B and B. There will be another building on his current property as well.

Trustee Nero inquired about the Spirit of Valatie Award tag for Pinky Laviano. This will be looked into.

**Public comment**-

Emelia Teasdale asked if the Energy Onyx building had been sold and she was told yes. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that the Village is finalizing a potential contract with contingencies with a buyer which will turn the property into a 55 and older community with 30, one to 2 bedroom apartments. Mayor Argyle also stated that the US Hotel and the Trolley Station have also been sold to Robert Whitlock. Hopefully the LDC will finally be dissolved and all properties will be placed back on the tax rolls.

Emelia expressed her thanks to Mayor Argyle for a “good job” and to enjoy her retirement.

Trustee Bevens and the rest of the Board members, clerk and Building Inspector Stephanie Caradine- Ruchel, expressed their thanks to Mayor Argyle by presenting her with a clock with an engraved expression of a job well done.

Mayor Argyle stated that there is only one more debt to pay off , besides the fire truck, and that is Holly Hills which will be paid off in 2 years. Also, well number 1 may need to be rebuilt.

**Resolution #84** was made by Trustee Eleby to enter into executive session to discuss matters before the Board regarding the Energy Onyx Building and the sale of the US Hotel and Trolley Station. Trustee Williams seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #85** was made by Trustee Eleby to exit executive session with no decisions being made. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, carried.

With no further business to discuss,

**Resolution #86** was made by Trustee Bevens to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk/Treasurer