

**Village of Valatie
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 21, 2024
6:30 PM**

Board members

Mayor Frank Bevens
Trustee Larry Eleby
Trustee Patrick Rodgers
Trustee Matthew Carter
Trustee Angelo Nero
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.
Barbara A. Fischer- Village Clerk

Audience

Meg Todisco, Emelia Teasdale
Stephanie-Caradine-Ruchel, Bldg./CEO

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

Resolution #65 was made by Trustee Carter to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed.

Resolution #66 was made by Trustee Eleby to approve the abstract of bills 2023-2024- #9-406-477 for a total of \$55,037. Off abstract of bills total \$10,057.14. Total all bills are \$65,094.37 Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Climate Smart- (Meg Todisco)- The committee has been planning a few events to take place in the Spring such as Riversweep, invasive plant removal and native species planting. They are still planning to run a compost program and they are trying to get a speaker for this. The committee is hoping to hold part of the program at the Library on May 4th for this.

The Benchmarking report has been completed and will be on the website. There is a form to be filled out to submit this. We are in line for a no- cost energy study and will apply the no- cost energy study to the Theater.

The Village/Committee will need to decide which building they will apply the \$5,000 heat pump grant. They are going for a "Flex-Tech" study but there will be a cost to do that. The Flex-Tech audit will provide more information on where a building stands as far as being energy efficient.

Building Inspector/CEO Caradine Ruchel suggested that an energy audit be done first and then check on a Climate Smart grant.

Committee members agreed that the no cost energy study should be applied to the Theater. They believe that the \$5,000 grant from heat pump installations should be used to apply for the Flex Tech energy audit. The WWTP is on the list as the most expensive facility with the Fire House being third on the list. The committee asked the Board to make a determination as to where the money should be applied but Mayor Bevens stated that he would like to take the recommendation of the Climate Smart Committee as to where the grant money should be applied. All Board members agreed.

Mayor Bevens commented that he, Building Inspector Stephanie and the WWTP Supervisor Ed Czyzewski, attended a Hazard Mitigation Plan event put on by Columbia County recently. There will be a survey sent out to Village residents that will need to be sent back by March 8th.

Parks-Trustee Rodgers commented that they will be cutting vines at the River Street Park the first Saturday of April, May and June before new trees are put in.

Public Comment- none

Fire Department Report- There were 8 calls in January. Air Pak testing was completed on 1/30/24 and all Paks and bottles passed the required test. The annual aerial and ground ladder testing was completed on 2/13 and 2/14 with all ladders passing the testing. There is an intermittent electrical problem with the swivel on the ladder truck. The chief received a quote from Bulldog Apparatus in the amount of \$27,319.93 to fix this issue.

V.E.R.A.- The following are events scheduled for this year:

August 3- Village-wide Tag Sale

October 12- Artisan Festival: Handmade in America

November 30- "Shop Small"- Small Business Saturday

December 14- Winter Walk & Winter Parade

Theater- no report

Highway- Brush pickup will start soon. In the meantime, residents can drop off any brush behind the Highway Garage.

WWTP- (full report on file)- All routines were performed as scheduled and all results are within acceptable limits. The dark green bolted steel water tank (South Tower) has 2 leaks on the ladder mounting brackets. They are working with Statewide Aqua Store to schedule repairs. Currently the tower is offline.

There has been an update from Statewide Aqua Store stating that after pictures and a drone video of the tower, it is determined that repairs to the water tower are more involved for leaks on the ladder brackets. A bolting plate on the inside of the water tank is likely corroded and needs replacement. The tank will need to be completely drained and patch plates need to be installed. In an October 2022 inspection report, it was recommended that Cathodic Protection System Anodes needed to be replaced as soon as possible. These anodes are designed to corrode before the other metals in the tank to prevent corrosion. It has been noted that corrosion is likely the cause of the current water leaks. The October 2022 inspection report also recommended an interior cleaning and reseal of the tank and replacement of the mixing system in the tank. It was noted that this tank was installed in 2000 and after almost 25 years of service, these items should be addressed. The inspection report and quotes from November 2022 are available at the WWTP. A full report is on file in the clerks' office.

Resolution # 67 was made by Trustee Nero authorizing an Undertaking Agreement for a General Permit with NYS Department of Transportation to facilitate work performed in the NYS DOT right-of-way. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Building Dept.- The Building Inspector stated she is very busy doing searches and permits. She discussed the fee schedule for her department that were approved by the Board in prior years. She gave an updated fee schedule and asked the Board to review it. She stated that she needs to do more Fire inspections. She discussed Air B and B's and Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that it is up to the Board on how to regulate them. There have not been any complaints as of yet but Stephanie stated that this is something that needs to be looked at and maybe inspected every 2 years. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that the Board could say that this is a Tenancy Inspection that will be applied to Air B and B's. The Board can look at modifying the Tenancy Inspections.

Clerk Report- The election is coming up on March 19th from 12 noon until 9 pm. We have two candidates for the Trustee positions.

Applications for MHG-

1. Northern Columbia Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt

Resolution # 68 was made by Trustee Carter to approve the Northern Columbia Lions Club to hold their Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 30, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Trustee Eleby seconded the motion, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

2. Valatie Santa Claus Club for use of the gym on December 14 & 23 to pack toys.

Resolution # 69 was made by Trustee Nero to approve the Santa Claus Club to use the gym on December 14 & 23, 2024 to pack toys. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

3. Neighbors of Northern Columbia County to hold a presentation by Community Bank on Financial Safety on February 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Resolution # 70 was made by Trustee Carter to allow the Neighbors of Northern Columbia County to hold a presentation on February 26th at 10:00 a.m. on Financial Safety. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Other business-

A Command Vehicle Use policy was presented at the meeting. This vehicle is for the Fire Chief's use 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Fire Chief can use the vehicle for emergencies, training, meetings or official Fire Department business or activities approved by the Village Board. It is not to be used as a personal on the job work vehicle or to commute to employment. The policy is on file at the Village Office. All Board members are in approval of the policy.

Any other comments- Emelia Teasdale asked whether the River Street project was moving ahead? The Board commented yes and there will be a Planning Board meeting on 2/22/24 to discussing this project again.

Resolution #71 was made by Trustee Eleby to enter into executive session to discuss matters before the Board at 7:14 pm. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

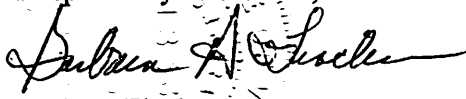
Resolution #72 was made by Trustee Eleby to exit executive session at 7:34 pm with no decisions being made. Trustee Rodgers seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Other business- none

With no further business to discuss,

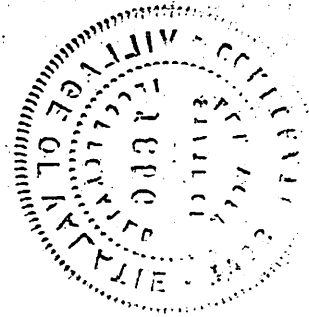
Resolution #73 was made by Trustee Eleby to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, none opposed, carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Fischer
Village Clerk

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REPORT:

Water-Wastewater Department

Village of Valatie, NY

Submitted February 2024

Routines: All performed as scheduled. All results within acceptable limits.

Mechanical Failures/Alarms:

-The dark green bolted steel water tank (AKA South Tower) has 2 leaks on the ladder mounting brackets. The department is working with Statewide Aqua Store to schedule repairs. The warm weather has helped melt away the ice buildup on the ladder and we should be able to schedule repairs in the near future. Currently the water tower is offline.

UPDATE – after sending pictures and drone video to the service department at Statewide Aquastore they have advised that repairs are more involved for the leaks on the ladder brackets. There is a bolting plate on the inside that is likely corroded and needs replacement. The tank would need to be completely drained and patch plates would need to be installed. In an October 2022 inspection report it was recommended that Cathodic Protection System (Anodes) needed to be replaced as soon as possible. These anodes are designed to corrode before the other metals in the tank to prevent corrosion. It has been noted that corrosion is likely the cause of the current water leaks. In the October 2022 inspection report it was also recommending an interior cleaning and reseal of the tank and replacement of a mixing system in the tank. This tank was installed in 2000. After almost 25 years of service these items should be addressed. The inspection report and quotes from November 2022 are available at the WWTP.

-The brake pedal has been repaired on the John Deere 1025R compact tractor. This was completed in house.

UPDATES:

-Smith Control Systems were here to replace the battery in the Water System Control Panel. Unfortunately, we still experienced a loss of program after a power flicker at the WWTP. It was determined the power storage capacitor in the PLC not functioning. A UPS backup power battery has been installed in the control cabinet to stop the issue. It has been recommended that due to the age of the Control Cabinet that the PLC be replaced. Parts for these PLC's are no longer available. These controls are 25 to 30 years old. This would also include the PLC in the control cabinets at WPH 1 and 2. Smith Control is putting together an update quote.

-The water/wastewater superintendent, mayor and building inspector attended the FEMA meeting at the Columbia County Fire Training Center. This was in regards to updating the county's 2024 Hazard Mitigation Program updates.

-All dead water meters have been replaced and the last remaining water shut off for non-payment has been turned back on.

NEW or CRITICAL ITEMS:

-The Steel Water Tower on Albany Ave has had a series of repairs. The first leak was in August of 2022 (1 patch), the second in June 2023 (2 patches), and the third in July 2023 (2 patches). In September of 2022 Statewide Aqua Store completed a video inspection of both tanks. It was determined the interior coating of the steel tank has failed and there are areas of rust and corrosion. 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 department reached out to two tank coating companies for general quotations for reference. These are also available at the WWTP.

The department recommends at this time to start a project to recoat and repair the Welded Steel Standpipe on Albany Ave.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS OF INTEREST:

-All dead water meters have been replaced and the last remaining water shut off for non-payment has been turned back on.

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