**VILLAGE OF VALATIE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

**SENIOR CENTER- 7:00 PM**

**Board members present** **Audience**

Mayor Diane Argyle Claudia and Chuck Dings

Trustee Frank Bevens Emelia Teasdale

Trustee Larry Eleby Mike Rivenburg

Trustee Angelo Nero

Trustee David Williams

Clerk Barbara Fischer

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Mayor Argyle opened the meeting at 7:00 pm at the Senior Center due to COVID-19. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Resolution #23** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution # 24** was made by Trustee Eleby to approve the abstract of bills #2020-4-#109-138 for a total of $46,595.75 (includes a BOND), off abstract of bills that total $10,655.33 for a total of all bills of $57,251.08.

**Public Comment**- none

**Energy Onyx**- Attorney Fitzsimmons commented that there is an issue with the Title for the LDC-(foreclosure) in transferring out of the Village of Valatie. Until the issues are settled in the court, Realtor Mike Castellano asked that there be no more showings of the Energy Onyx building until this is resolved. The Board agreed and will wait until the paperwork is resolved.

**Pavilion at Callan Park/playground equipment**- Mayor Argyle stated that the pavilion has/will be removed as well as the weeds around the playground. A new underlayment of rubber chips will replace the mulch that is under the playground equipment now. At least 4 playground pieces should be replaced for now. The Board was asked to review the playground equipment book and voice their opinion on which piece of equipment they felt should be in the playground. The pavilion, and possibly the playground pieces, should be replaced by the end of October weather permitting and barring any issues.

**Street lights**- Mayor Argyle commented that the Village received a refund back from National Grid of a little over $4,000 since the Village switched over to LED lights. By switching over to LED, the Village has saved around $8,000.

**Bike rack on Main Street**- Mike Rivenburg presented the idea of placing a bike rack on Main Street that would hold around 12 bicycles. Trustee Bevens asked Mr. Rivenburg to get some prices and come back to the Board. Mr. Rivenburg also asked permission to place some barrel planters in front of his Brewery business that he can grow hops in for his business. They will be lagged into the building so they cannot be taken.

**Trees on Main Street?-** Mayor Argyle stated that resident suggested that a survey be sent out to residents regarding keeping, replacing or removing trees along Main Street. A survey will be sent out with the next water bills asking or opinions and ideas. Trustee Eleby asked about finding trees that don’t grow as fast or as high? Trustee Nero stated that the Columbia County Fairgrounds has trees that only grow to around 8-10 feet and they only need to trim the bottom. He will find out what kind they are and get back to the Board.

**Santa Claus Hill**- A resident suggested re-naming the hill section of Callan Park that kids slide down. She suggested the name Santa Claus Hill. The Board was in agreement with this suggestion and will get a plaque made up to be placed there.

**Resolution # 25** was made by Trustee Bevens and seconded by Trustee Nero to rename the hill portion of Callan Park as “Santa Claus Hill” and represent this by placing a plaque in this location. All Board members were in favor, carried.

**Theater Study**- The Board discussed the Theater Building Study that was received recently. Board members agreed that the “bones” of the building are not bad the terra cotta tile and the water issues need to be addressed. Also, the heating system needs work and it was questioned whether putting in radiant heating would affect the historical aspect of the building? Mike Rivenburg was very helpful with his thoughts on this study and therefore Mayor Argyle asked him to be part of a committee to address the issues with the Theater as part of a committee. Other members of this committee that the mayor appointed are Martin McDermott, Craig Hancock, Trustee David Williams and Trustee Frank Bevens.

**Clerk’s Report**- Clerk Fischer reminded everyone again that the election of two Trustees will take place on September 15th from 12 noon until 9:00 pm. Clerk Fischer also asked that the Board re-visit approving the Standard Work Day form because some information was needed from the Bookkeeper that was not available the last time the Board approved it. Also, the clerk asked for approval to appoint Stephanie Caradine- Ruchel as the Deputy Registrar since the last Deputy Clerk resigned in June. Mrs. Caradine-Ruchel is already a notary which will be beneficial to this position when the clerk is not available.

Clerk Fischer also asked Attorney Fitzsimmons if the water department is allowed to “shutoff” the water yet for those who are more than two quarters behind in payment. The answer was “not yet”, even 180 days after COVID- 19 is over, although, the amount can be re-levied to the taxes.

**Resolution #26** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the Standard Work- Day paperwork again with the information from the Bookkeeper. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution # 27** was made by Trustee Eleby to approve Stephanie- Caradine- Ruchel as the Deputy Registar for the Village. Trustee Bevens seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Applications**- Mayor Argyle stated that sport teams who are usually using the gym, are asking to start using it again for practice and she asked the Board members’ opinion on doing this. None of the Board members were in favor of opening the gym until at least January of 2021 and only unless all precautionary measures have been met.

**Fire Department**- (on file in the Clerk’s Office)- Trustee Bevens read Fire Chief Loefflers report…. There were 4 calls in the month of August and new turn-out gear was ordered. Peter Bashford was voted in as an active Firefighter at the September 1, 2020 meeting. Air bottles and a gas meter were received and a budget increase request was given to the Town of Kinderhook Board for Fire Protection in 2021. A driver training class is scheduled for 10/15 & 10/18 and an OSHA class on 11/7/20. Additional suction hose and equipment are being mounted to apparatus.

**Water-Wastewater Department**- Report on file in the clerk’s office

**Comments from Audience**-

Chuck Dings inquired about any report on the drainage issue on his property. Mayor Argyle stated there was nothing received yet and she would contact him when something comes in. The Board discussed the issue and it has been forwarded on to the Attorney.

Emelia Teasdale asked what the asking price for the Energy Onyx building was and was told $225,000. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that there is a pending petition in the courts for the LDC so everything is at a stand still right now until information is received. He will attend a “Skype” Court Conference call so he will have a better idea of what is going on.

**Resolution # 28** was made by Trustee Bevens to enter in to executive session at 7:43 pm to discuss a personnel matter. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #29** was made by Trustee Bevens to exit executive session at 8:06 pm. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution # 30** was made by Trustee Bevens to hire Robert Hill as an Assistant Wastewater Operator. Trustee Williams seconded, all in favor, carried.

With no further business to discuss,

**Resolution # 31** was made by Trustee Eleby to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Trustee Bevens seconded, all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fischer

Village Clerk