**VILLAGE OF VALATIE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**JULY 14, 2020**

**SENIOR CENTER LOCATION (Due to COVID-19)**

**ATTENDANCE** **AUDIENCE**

Mayor Diane Argyle Fire Chief Joe Loeffler

Trustee Frank Bevens Lou Bonacker

Trustee Angelo Nero

Trustee Larry Eleby

Trustee David Williams

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Village Clerk Barbara Fischer

Mayor Argyle opened the meeting at 7:00 pm at the Senior Center with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Resolution # 7** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020. Trustee Williams seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #8** was made by Trustee Eleby to approve the abstract of bills #2020-2-#35-72 in the amount of $55,193.55, off abstract of bills in the amount of $58,842.84 (which includes a BOND payment) for a total of $114,036.39 for all bills. Trustee Bevens seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Fire Department**-

Fire Chief Joe Loeffler presented his report to the Board which is on file in the clerk’s office. The new officers for the coming year are:

Chief- Joseph H. Loeffler 1st Asst. Chief- Joseph Laviano

2nd Asst. Chief- Sam Becker Captain- Phil Martel

1st Lieutenant- Anthony Bashford

There were unexpected repairs to two trucks and the annual hose testing will be done on July 8th at the fire house. He also stated that there had been approximately 6 false alarms within a 6 month period. A notice will be sent to area businesses once information is received from the Chief regarding the Knox Boxes that can be purchased by businesses.

The Building inspectors’ office can send violation notices to those who have repeated false alarms.

Attorney Fitzsimmons will work with the Village Clerk to send notices to area businesses regarding the Knox Boxes.

**Energy Onyx contract**-

The Board discussed listing the Energy Onyx Building with a Real Estate Agent. The Board decided to contract with Gilcrest Realty and not restrict what the buyer would like to do with the building. Attorney Fitzsimmons commented that Columbia County is currently holding back on any foreclosure proceedings due to COVID-19.

**Resolution # 9** was made by Trustee Eleby to sign a contract with Gilcrest Realty for the sale of the Energy Onyx Building. Trustee Bevens seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Banner Law**-

The Board decided to place a moratorium for 3 months which would not restrict any business/ homeowner from putting up a banner. Trustee Bevens stated that we should not discriminate who can put up a banner but we can control how long they have it up. A process could be set up to have an applicant sign a form that states when a banner can be put up or taken down. An extension can be made but they would need to sign another form. The Village Board would make the decision to allow the banner but the Code Enforcement Officer would need to enforce it. Trustee Nero would like to restrict the size of the banner not to exceed 24 square feet and that it would not impede pedestrians or vehicular traffic.

Attorney Fitzsimmons suggested that the Village not allow spinners or fluttering objects. He will work on this.

**New Employee for WWTP**- A new prospective employee took a tour of the Sewer Plant and spoke to Paul and Ed but has decided not to go any further for employment. Another notice will be placed in the various newspapers and Wastewater sites for more applicants.

**Senior Center future**?- The Board questioned whether the Senior Center would open up again and the future is still uncertain due to COVID-19. Only one person has asked about the center opening. The Board was advised to call the Empire State Development or look at the website for updates/guidance on Senior Centers re-opening during the pandemic.

**Pavilion**- The Board received a quote from Richard Coons to replace the Pavilion at Callan Park. This will also need to go out to bid for at least 3 proposals. We have received 2 quotes so far and will need one more. As long as it is documented that another quote was sought after, if they do not reply, this will document that it was at least done.

Mayor Argyle stated that Callan Park has been opened to a couple of baseball leagues and they need to comply with COVID regulations. They have submitted paperwork to the Board for compliance.

Callan Park playground has not opened yet because we are getting quotes for new equipment and bids for the chips for the park ground.

**Theater**- The Theater group would like to hold a workshop at the gazebo across from the MHG building. Attorney Fitzsimmons advised against it since the guidance for COVID-19 changes every day. They would need to provide more information on what they plan on doing.

**Climate Smart Resolution**-

Trustee Eleby stated that new LED lighting has been installed now at the Fire House, The Senior Center and the Sewer Plant as well as for the street lights. The next step is to work on the MHG Building.

Trustee Eleby proposed the Village do another Climate Smart Communities Pledge which states that the Village of Valatie acknowledges that climate change is real, is impacting our communities and that action is needed to create a sustainable world for future generations.

**Resolution # 10** was made by Trustee Larry Eleby adopting and supporting the NYS Climate Smart Communities Pledge again this year. (Formal resolution is attached to minutes). Trustee Bevens seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Clerk’s Report**- The clerk reported that the tax season for this year is now completed but we will still receive taxes through to the end of the year when another notice for delinquent taxes will go out. Water bills are now out for this third quarter. New computers have been installed for all the village offices thanks to Columbia County MIS and the message board for the front of the MHG building has now been installed and is in use thanks to Tim Van Wagner. The clerk also asked that the board look at more space for the Village offices because we have none. One idea is to look at possibly moving to the Senior Center in the future but any other option is certainly welcome.

**Applications**:

 An email was received to use the pavilion at Callan Park for a birthday party on September 13th. The Board denied this application due to the condition of the pavilion and because of COVID-19. The clerk will notify the applicant.

**Other business**-

Margo Potrzeba contacted the Village to see if the Board would mind if her family placed a plaque in front of the tree at the Senior Center that was placed in honor her father on his 90th birthday. The plaque would commemorate his 100th birthday. All Board members were fine with the plaque.

Regina Rose donated $100.00 toward Pachaquack Park. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that that was ok. Trustee Williams suggested the donation be allocated for upkeep of Pachaquack Park. All Board members were in agreement.

Fine Lines Pavement Marking gave a quote for painting the lines on Main Street once the State is completed hopefully in August.

Trustee Williams stated that we still need to address trees on Main Street. Mayor Argyle said that we need to work on pruning trees and all the sidewalks need to be replaced.

**Resolution # 11** was made by Trustee Williams to contact a company to trim the trees on Main Street. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, carried.

Mayor Argyle stated that the State will be replacing the manhole in front of Emelia Teasdales’ house. The tree in front of their house needs to be removed.

Mayor Argyle stated that Heims Fuel gave the Village an offer of $1.95 for fuel for the fire house and the Village.

With no further business to discuss,

**Resolution # 12** was made by Trustee Bevens to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Fischer

Village Clerk