VILLAGE OF VALATIE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2015

FINAL

PRESENT AUDIENCE

Mayor Argyle 8 members of the audience

Trustee Frank Bevens 1 reporter

Trustee Phil Bickerton

Trustee Anglo Nero

Trustee David Williams

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Walt Simmonsmeier, Building Inspector

Sheriff Deputy Louis Bray

Assistant Fire Chief Rustin Dolan

Mayor Argyle opened the meeting at 7:04 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment**

Darren Grout, Gunther Fishgold and James Manning from Tierra Farms presented some information to the Board asking for input regarding having a Farmer’s Market in the Village of Valatie. They believe the residents in Valatie would be very receptive to having their own market and they are offering their experience in agriculture and farmers markets in helping the Village start a new market that would not interfere with area markets. A fee would be charged to each vendor for a space to display their wares and each vendor would need to provide insurance to the Village and have the Village as a carrier. The market would be held on either a Thursday or Friday evening or Sunday mornings. An application will be forwarded to the Town Board for input.

Resolution # 89 was made by Trustee Bickerton to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2014 meeting. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 90 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the payment of claims 2015.08-340-379 for a total amount of $37,184.15. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Old Business**

Building Department-

Pamela Joern, attorney for Gunther Fishgold, had some concerns regarding structural soundness of the US Hotel on Main Street. She stated that the engineer’s inspection is limited to the basement area of the building and that there are 22 code violations including insufficient support beams and electrical system issues. She referred to Local Law #2 which relates to Main Street main floor store fronts. She commented that the law is not “triggered” until code violations/corrections exceed 50% of the assessed value of the building and inquired whether the building inspector received anything from the LDC stating that the corrections actually do exceed 50% of the assessed value of the building. She also inquired whether the Village was going to pay for her clients engineer regarding the American Legion Building that her client recently purchased.

Attorney Fitzsimmons tried to address all of the issues Ms. Joern brought before the Board and stated that some of Ms. Joerns’ assumptions were incorrect. He stated that the Village of Valatie is one of the most code compliant municipalities. He also stated that there are no changes in occupancy for the US Hotel because they are only renovations and commented that a determination can be acquired from the State regarding this.

Mayor Argyle commented that the Board has been diligently trying to deal with this building but it can’t be sold until all the liabilities are settled which the Village would have to pay for.

Walt Simmonsmeier stated that he sends a letter to all applicants on what needs to be done on any building out of courtesy. When there is a change of use there are certain requirements that need to be met. He commented that he will be meeting with a State inspector to discuss all issues.

Trustee Williams also commented that there are certain parameters that need to be met and the Mayor has been working hard on this. Mr. Fishgold agreed that the Mayor is working hard on this and this was a product of the previous administration but he was bothered by the engineers report.

Mayor Argyle commented that she wants Walt to find any violations and the Board needs to support him and listen to the advice of the Village attorney.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**-

The Board read the report from Paul Warner regarding the Village going back to wet sludge because the cost for dry sludge is too great now. Also Delaware Engineering will meet on January 16th to review the contract for the screen project.

**Fire Department**-

Assistant Chief Dolan reported that there were 13 calls in December and reminded residents to please make sure their house numbers are visible and that hydrants are shoveled out. There will be a spaghetti dinner on March 7 from 4-7 pm at the fire house.

**Theater**-

Doors have been ordered and a contractor has been hired to fix interior walls.

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

No report

**Clerk’s Office**-

The new water billing program has been ordered and it will take some time to transfer all information from the old program to the new one. Asking for some help to review all the information for any errors/corrections that need to be made so this can be a smooth transition.

Resolution #91 was made by Trustee Bevens to adopt election day as Wednesday, March 18, 2015 due to the St. Patrick’s Day holiday with polls open from 12 noon to 9:00 pm at the Martin H. Glynn building. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 92 was made by Trustee Williams to appoint election inspectors. Election inspectors will be Marcia Anderson, Frank Genovese, Maryann Perez, Camille McComb and Marilyn Ryan. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #93 was made by Trustee Bevens to adopt voter registration day on March 7, 2015 from 12 noon to 5:00 pm. Election inspectors attending will be Camille McComb and Marcia Anderson. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Senior Center**-

There is a greenish tint on the television and a new one will be purchased through grant money.

**Parks-** no report

**Landscapes**- Sidewalks are not getting shoveled. A notice was put in the newsletter stating that this needs to be done within 24 hours after a storm or a fine will be imposed.

**New Business**-

Applications to use MHG-

Resolution #94 was made by Trustee Bevens to amend the Rotary Club application, seconded by Trustee Bickerton, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #95 was made by Trustee Williams to allow AARP/IRS tax agents to prepare taxes in the MHG meeting room starting February 3- April 15th from 1pm-5 pm on Tuesdays and 9am-1pm on Thursdays and to use guest Wi-Fi. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 96 was made by Trustee Bickerton to allow the Town of Kinderhook Volleyball to use the gym, seconded by Trustee Williams, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 97 was made by Trustee Bevens to allow the Girl Scouts to use the building on February 15th from 6-8 pm, seconded by Trustee Bickerton, all in favor, motion carried.

It was noted that the building has been left open a couple of times and needs to be addressed with those using the building.

There has been no response as of yet from The Ichabod Crane School Board regarding the placement of the portrait of Governor Glynn.

Mayor Argyle recognized the retirement of Register Star Reporter Barbara Reina and “thanked” her for her work in reporting the Village Board meetings.

Resolution # 98 was made by Trustee Bevens to move into executive session at 8:27 pm to discuss Energy Onix and V.E.R.A. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #99 was made by Trustee Bicketon to come out of executive session at 9:27 pm, seconded by Trustee Williams, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #100 was made by Trustee Bickerton to hire attorney Mathew Cabrell from Guterman, Shallo and Alford to work on Energy Onix. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution #101 was made by Trustee Bevens to set a shutoff date of January 26th to turn off water to delinquent accounts. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons explained the foreclosure procedure on delinquent taxes which need to be sent to Columbia County.

With no further business before the Board, Resolution # 102 was made by Trustee Bevens to adjourn the meeting at 9:43pm, seconded by Trustee Williams, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk/Treasurer