VILLAGE OF VALATIE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

JUNE 14, 2016

Members Present Audience

Mayor Diane Argyle First Asst. Chief Rustin Dolan

Trustee Frank Bevens 7 Residents

Trustee Philip Bickerton 1 Reporter Columbia Paper

Trustee Angelo Nero

Trustee David Williams

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Mayor Argyle opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for the victims of the deadly shootings in Orlando, Florida.

**Public Comment-**Virginia Bennett, representing Gunther Fishgold from Tierra Farms, raised concerns on the condition of some properties along Main Street in the Village, especially the US Hotel building (LDC). Ms. Bennett stated that she sent a letter to the Village in 2014 but never received a response. One concern is if there are any current Tenancy Occupancy Certificates available for this building and she and her client Mr. Fishgold are concerned that there is no paperwork granting any tax exemption to this building. Mr. Fishgold commented that this is a business liability. The LDC raises everyone’s taxes but there are no annual reports filed with the assessor’s office. Mayor Argyle told Mr. Fishgold that the assessor does not work for the Village but she did speak to him regarding this matter and she was told that the LDC does not have to renew the exempt form each year. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that Valatie doesn’t take exemption authority over mandatory and permissive exemptions. He also stated that the assessor will be going over commercial property soon. Rob also explained that the LDC is a separate entity and the Village Board does not have any administration of the LDC. It was recommended that the building inspector do a follow up inspection of the LDC. Ms. Bennett stated that the LDC does not file reports with the NYS Budget Authorities Office. She asked that the Board state to the assessor that the Village is not happy with the LDC exemption.

Joe Staib asked how the LDC got a Certificate of Occupancy and Mayor Argyle stated that the certificate is for Tenancy not a regular C of O. Mayor Argyle also stated that there are not enough hours for the building inspector to get to everything. The Board is not paying for a full time inspector right now but it may be something they should look into. The Board may also want to look into hiring a separate Code Enforcement Officer.

Joe Staib asked the Board if they would consider selling the property next to his building so he could add onto his existing business Fuzzy Butz. He would like to extend out another 20 feet left of his current store but the power lines make it difficult to do so. The Board stated that as long as the property is not designated as a park this may be possible. You can’t sell park land without the approval of the State. The Board will research the ownership of this property.

**Fire Department report**-First Assistant Chief Rustin Dolan reported that there were 6 fire calls since the last Board meeting with 2 drills and one work detail. There will be a Chicken BBQ on June 16th from 4:00pm -6:30 pm (takeout only) and the department will be doing a “Boot Drive” on Saturday, July 23rd from 8:00am-2:00pm to help fund the purchase of a new Thermal Imaging Camera. There will also be an Open House on this date at the Fire House. (Report is on file in the Clerk’s Office).

Trustee Bevens stated that the floor in the Truck Ladder Bay of the fire house has a serious problem. The Village received a letter from the NYS Dormatory Authority granting the Village with $100,000 towards putting in a new floor. The Village would need to come up with another $100,000 for the total $200,000 that is needed to repair the floor and re-do the bathrooms and other rooms so they are ADA Compliant.

**Resolution #166** was made by Trustee Bickerton to have the Mayor look for more funding to get the rest of the money for the total project. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Theater-**Trustee Williams called the repairman for the Air Conditioner but has heard nothing back as of yet. The door to the theater has been replaced by Trustee Bickerton but another quote is needed to get a 10 x 20 ft. shed for behind the Theater.

**Resolution #167** was made by Trustee Nero to have the fence behind the theater replaced. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #168** was made by Trustee Nero to have the corner of the Theater building fixed according to the quote that was received. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Water/Sewer Department**- (Full report on file in Clerk’s Office)

The truck has broken down again and is getting repaired. The tractor is also in need of repair. A quote was received to get new software program that would download the readings into the new water/ sewer program the Village hopes to have up and running soon.

**Resolution #169** was made by Trustee Bevens to purchase the new software program at a cost of $3,295.00. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion. Trustee Nero voted against the motion, Trustee Williams voted in favor. The motion was carried.

**Community Day-**A date for a community day has not been determined yet but there is talk of having a movie shown during this time for the children. A company would be hired to show the movie at a cost of around $400-$600.

**V.E.R.A**.- Randall Schmitt reported that the Village Wide Tag Sale will be held on July 23rd. There will be an email going out as well as signup sheets at the Village Office as well s a notice on the Village website.

**Gazebo**-A film company has asked to use the Gazebo at the Memorial Park across form the MHG Building for a photo shoot for St. Peter’s Hospital.

**Resolution #170** was made by Trustee Bevens to allow a photo shoot take place at the Gazebo for St. Peter’s Hospital. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Clerk’s Office**- Shredding of papers which is sponsored by Columbia County will be finished on June 17th and will resume again sometime in the fall. Taxes are now online on the Village website for Title Agencies and/or Attorney’s Offices to view taxes for Client’s without having to call the Clerk’s Office. The Clerk will attend a free NYS Archives class in Coxsackie regarding Record Retention.

**Resolution #171** was made by Trustee Bickerton to purchase new trash baskets for Main Street. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Senior Housing Law**- Trustee Bickerton stated that attorney Rob Fitzsimmons held an excellent workshop with the Planning Board that he and Trustee Nero attended as well as the Chairman of the Zoning Board. They will meet again on August 3rd for a Special Planning Board meeting.

**Senior Center**- no report

**Highway Dept**.- Genesee and Oak Drive will be paved this year with CHIPS money and the Board is working on getting signs made for “No Dumping. The Porrecca property shrubbery issue is on hold for now. Three out of the four bushes were cut back to see if they will live. If they do they will be transplanted next year. The Village does not have any legal right to go on Mr. Porreccas’ property since he has started to trim the bushes.

Mayor Argyle gave a list of “Long Term Debt” to each Board member to review. She explained the cost savings of giving up the cell tower leases. She also explained that the Village can combine the General Fund with the Water Fund but the Sewer Fund must be kept separate. The cell sites are currently on the Water Tank so we could use the money for other projects that need to get done in the Village without having to borrow more money. The funding of the ladder truck is extended out to the year 2032 and she does not want to see the Village do more long term financing and keep borrowing more money. She explained that the cell sites are not guaranteed to always being there because technology is advancing so quickly. The Board members were hesitant in giving up the leases therefore the Mayor asked them to come up with other ideas to provide financing for all of the projects in the Village.

**Applications for MHG-**

1. Town of Kinderhook Volleyball use of the gym
2. Head Start/ Columbia Opportunities- The Town is concerned with the noise of children but the Village is ok with them using a room upstairs.

**Resolution #172** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the applications, seconded by Trustee Williams, all in favor, carried.

Emelia Teasdale asked if the Village was paying money to the Town for Recreation. Mayor Argyle stated yes at a cost of $500.

**Resolution #173** was made by Trustee Bickerton to enter into executive session at 8:59 pm. to discuss matters before the Board. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #** 174 was made by Trustee Bickerton to exit executive session with no decisions being made at 9:22 pm. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

With no further business before the Board,

**Resolution #175** was made by Trustee Bickerton to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 pm, seconded by Trustee Bevens, all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk/Treasurer