**VILLAGE OF VALATIE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**January 10, 2023**

**Board Members Audience**

Mayor Frank Bevens Meg Todisco- Climate Smart TF

Trustee Matthew Carter Craig Hancock

Trustee Larry Eleby Jim Waterhouse from the Unity Lodge

Trustee Angelo Nero

Trustee Patrick Rodgers

Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons

Clerk Barbara Fischer

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

Jim Waterhouse, representing Unity Lodge #9, spoke about having a “Free Store” space where people who can’t afford to purchase food or clothing can come to a location in the Martin H. Glynn building to pick up these items. This program would be available during the day and the Masons form Unity Lodge #9 would “police it”. Items would be dropped off at the Unity Lodge and members would re-stock the “store”. They will donate any leftover items to other organizations. Town councilman Sean Casey offered to advertise this program on the Town of Kinderhook Facebook Page and it will be posted on the website.

**Resolution #66** was made by Trustee Nero to allow the Unity Lodge #9 of the Masons, to set up a “Free Store” in the MHG Building for use by any resident in the Town or Village. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #67** was made by Trustee Carter to approve the minutes of December 13, 2022 as presented. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution # 68** was made by Trustee Eleby to approve the abstract of bills 2022-2023, #8-328-368 for a total of $108,996.75 which includes a short- term principal payment for the EFC Sewer Note. The off abstract of bills total of $17,701.83 for a grand total of $126,698.58. Trustee Rodgers seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Climate Smart**- Climate Smart Task Force Coordinator, Meg Todisco, stated that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2023 but there may be a conflict with the Village ZBA meeting.

Columbia County passed Resolution # 492 “Encouraging the Conversion of old HVAC into Heat Pumps”. NYSERDA is canvassing the Capital District to find installers and see what they can do for residents in the conversion process. On January 3rd, an email was sent out asking Towns and Villages to sign on with the County on this endeavor.

A “Scoping Document”, regarding any heat pump or energy upgrades that get signed up and installed in the municipality, is needed to be approved by the Village of Valatie and submitted to NYSERDA by the Task Force as soon as possible.

**Resolution # 69** was made by Trustee Eleby in support of the resolution for the “Authorization for the Village of Valatie to Support the Village of Valatie Clean Heating, Cooling & Energy Efficiency Campaign” Trustee Carter seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #70** was made by Trustee Rodgers to approve the Mayor signing the Scoping Document for the Climate Smart Task Force so it can be submitted. The Village Board of Trustees backs this document. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Public Comment**- none

**Parks**- no report

**Fire Department Report**- (On file in clerk’s office)- This is a 2-month report.

-November 2022, there were 6 fire calls. The Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Mechanic Street on 11/4 at 6:53 am, where a garage and 2 vehicles were destroyed by the fire. Multiple outbuildings were protected from catching fire with the help of TASK Force departments from Kinderhook, Niverville, Chatham and Claverack. A list of fire alarm activations was given by the chief for the building inspector.

-December 2022, there were 8 fire calls. The fire department responded to a structure fire on New Street on 12/21 at 3:19 am for a house fire with multiple occupants trapped in the building. With the help of NYS Trooper’s Joseph Edinger, Nick Norton, Columbia County Sheriff’s Deputies Stephen Naegeli and Tyler Suchoski, and Valatie Fire Chief Joseph H. Loeffler, they were able to rescue the 3 occupants still trapped inside the burning home. There was some damage to the Thermal Imaging Camera but the chief is looking into whether the camera can be repaired or will need to be replaced. A list of fire alarm activations was given by the chief for the building inspector.

At the February Board of Trustees meeting, 5 commendation plaques will be given to the NYS Troopers, Sheriff’s Deputies and the Fire Chief for a job well done and in appreciation of the Board and Village residents.

**VERA**- (Randall Schmit was absent from meeting but submitted a report and will be on file in the Clerk’s Office) V.E.R.A. is presently in discussion with Valatie Now regarding the 2023 calendar of events for the village and there will be a rollout merger of the two organizations.

Also, the sign on Main Street is down because the posts rotted and it blew down in the wind. The sign is at the Highway garage right now.

**Theater**- Craig Hancock gave an end of year 2022 report for the Theater with a breakdown. There were a total of 30 events for the year. Utility costs were over $9,000 for the year. They are looking into LED lighting. Thanks to Trustees Carter and Rodgers for helping with funding prospects. Trustee Eleby will check into the upgrade for lights with National Grid. Meg stated that the Climate Smart Committee may be able to find grants as well for the Theater. Trustee Eleby will work with Craig on the lighting.

**WWTP**- Report is on file in the clerk’s office and will be attached to the minutes. All routines have been performed as scheduled and are within acceptable limits. The heater in the bar screen room at the WWTF had failed. Sheriff Electric ordered a replacement transformer to get it back up and running. A blown outdoor lamp post bulb for the disinfection tank will also be replaced. The fourth quarter water meter readings have been completed and meters that have stopped working have been tagged. Stuyvesant Mechanical repaired a water main break on December 13th. This was a shear break on the 8 inch cast iron main. A boil water advisory was issued for 10 affected services. The water advisory was lifted the following day as all samples came back negative.

The Water Department has been working with Weston and Sampson on the upcoming report of the water system upgrades. Testing of the “Barrow Well” with Smith Well Drilling has been completed and all quality samples have been sent to the lab.

**Building Department/ Code Enforcement Officer**- From January to December, 75 Building Permits were issued. The value of the work done under these permits was $1,191,577.00. Income from renewed permits was $9,887.00. A full report from the Building Inspector is attached to these minutes.

**Highway Department**- no report other than they took some trees down.

**Clerk**- The new water program is up and running and will be running in conjunction with the old program for a little longer to work out any kinks. The Veterans Banner Program is gearing up again for this year. Any family wanting to honor their Veteran who lived here in Valatie at some point and would like to purchase a Banner, please contact the Village Clerk. A Resolution is needed to adopt the polling place for the March 21, 2023 election.

**Resolution # 71** was made by Trustee Carter to adopt a Resolution to name the Martin H. Glynn Municipal Building as the polling place for the March 21, 2023 election of Mayor and Two Trustees. The election hours will be between 12:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**MHG Applications**- none

**Resolution #72** was made by Trustee Rodgers to enter into executive session to discuss matters before the Board at 7:16 pm. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #73** was made by Trustee Eleby to exit executive session at 7:30 pm with no decisions being made. Trustee Nero seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #74** was made by Trustee Eleby to adjourn the meeting at 7.39 pm. Trustee Carter seconded, all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk