

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 16, 2017, in the Village Hall. Mayor Westcott opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Deputy Mayor Conley, Trustee Blumrick, Trustee McAvoy, Trustee Edwards, Coordinator Bobbitt, Police Chief Swick, Clerk-Treasurer Schweigert, and Brian Seaman, attorney. Clerk Schweigert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A village resident was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2017, meeting. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to authorize a \$100 donation to the Middleport Fire Co., No. 1, Inc. for the annual Halloween party for local children. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to approve WWTP Upgrade Project payment no. 6 request as approved by Wendel Engineering in the amount of \$15,542 from CIR Electrical Construction Corp. (This amount is included in total in item 7.) Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Edwards, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to approve WWTP Upgrade Project payment no. 6 request as approved by Wendel Engineering in the amount of \$255,889.14 from Wind-Sun Construction, Inc. (This amount is included in total in item 7.) Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to approve payment of claims submitted on Abstract No. 05-17/18 as follows: General - \$64,373.33; Water - \$14,573.58; Sewer - \$9,799.37 Capital Improvement: \$310,969.48; for a total of \$399,715.76. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Edwards, to approve payrolls 9 and 10 for weeks ending September 16 and September 30, 2017. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The Treasurer's report was submitted and accepted for September 2017.

The Public Works report was submitted and accepted for September 2017. The Village and Town Police reports were submitted and accepted for September 2017, with Chief Swick reading the highlights.

Notice will be sent to the paper that the overnight parking ban will be enforced starting Sunday, November 5, 2017, through Sunday, April 1, 2018.

Correspondence was read:

- Received a donation from the Inner Harbor Yacht Club for their stay Columbus Day weekend. A thank was sent to them.
- Received a notice from the Niagara County Fire Coordinator's office regarding some surplus equipment that is available for purchase.
- Received a notice from NYCOM requesting letters of protest be sent to the governor regarding the state mandate regarding volunteer firefighter cancer disability benefit legislation. Trustee McAvoy voiced his concern about not offering this benefit to volunteer firefighters. Mayor Westcott advised that NYCOM and the Village are not opposed to the benefit itself, it is a great idea; the opposition is to another unfunded mandate by New York State and will be very costly, especially for small municipalities. NYCOM and the Village's position is that the state should pay for this benefit if they are mandating it. Mayor Westcott proposed that the Village Board send a letter in opposition as requested. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to authorize Mayor Westcott to send a letter to Governor Cuomo in opposition to the mandated firefighter disability benefits for firefighters who get cancer because this is not a program funded by New York State and likely will be very costly to the Village. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Deputy Mayor Conley asked about the water shut off advisement on the Village's Facebook page as he was approached about it by a resident. Mr. Bobbitt explained that the Niagara County Water Department planned to retrieve a chunk of concrete that fell into the line during installation on Telegraph Road. They will be shutting off water for a few hours in order to do this. A notice was posted so residents knew about the shutoff and that the water flow should not be interrupted as the service will switch to access from the Town of Hartland.

Discussed the possibility that a "No Passing on Shoulder" sign would help prevent accidents at the intersection of Rochester Road and Carmen Road/Griswold Street as several accidents a year occur there. As it is outside the village's jurisdiction, discussed who would be the proper municipality to contact. Clerk Schweigert will send a letter to the Supervisor of the Town of Royalton suggesting this possible solution to the problem.

Mayor Westcott advised the Board the Wilmott Fund Trustees will be holding a meeting in the Board Room on Saturday, October 21, 2017. He also advised that NYS Senator Mike Norris will be holding a meet and greet with residents in the Board Room on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017. The Board okayed using the Board Room for these meetings.

Mayor Westcott received a request for a sponsorship for the traveling baseball league. Will pass as very few village residents are involved in the league, so it could be perceived as a gift of public funds, which is illegal.

Town of Royalton Dog Control Officer Scott Wymyczak addressed the Board. He advised that there has been an increase of unlicensed dogs in the Village since the new animal control regulations went into effect. At present, only Chief Swick and the Middleport Police Department are authorized to issue tickets for unlicensed dogs within the Village limits. If the Board authorizes it, he will be willing to issue tickets, as well. Discussed.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee Edwards, authorizing the Town of Royalton's Dog Control Officer to write tickets for unlicensed dogs within the Village limits, including the portion that falls in the Town of Hartland.

On a roll call vote of ayes: Deputy Mayor Conley, Trustees Edwards, McAvoy, and Blumrick, and Mayor Westcott; nays: none; abstentions: none; absent: none, the motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Seaman updated the Board on the research he was tasked with at last month's meeting regarding the agreement with the Lutheran Church to seal and paint the parking lot shared by the Scout House and the Church. Based on the 2012 agreement signed by both parties, the terms carry through to allow the sealing and painting of the parking lot. It is too late for this year, but it will be done in 2018.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to authorize the Public Works Department to seal and paint the shared parking lot by the Scout House and the Lutheran Church pursuant to the terms of the agreement dated August 15, 2012. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Mr. Bobbitt will contact the church and make arrangements with them for this.

Clerk Schweigert advised the Board about the Retirement training session she attended on October 11. NYS is finally updating their website since 1987 and exciting changes are happening. One of the items is that, with the new requirement that all employees will be reported, elected officials may have to keep a calendar for reporting purposes regardless if they are in the system or not. Several people advised the Retirement reps that this will not be done willingly by elected officials and should be removed as a requirement. Updates will be forthcoming as received.

Clerk Schweigert advised that there will be a meeting regarding the Health Care Consortium on October 19. She has invited Trustee Edwards to attend with her as eventually an elected official will need to be a part of this consortium. Trustee Hinkson attended some of the meetings in the past.

The final Royalton Bicentennial event will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017. The Clerk's Office is selling tickets in case any Board members plan to attend.

Chief Swick advised the Board that he'd been notified by the NYS Office of the State Comptroller that we are due for a reimbursement for fines. The OSC determined that the fines were being reported correctly after all.

Chief Swick presented the Board with a letter of resignation from Police Officer Part-time Joshua Newman, with his last day of work being September 25, 2017. Resignation accepted.

Discussed the annual Tree Lighting event and the Avenue of Trees. Board agreed this event will occur again, and the trees will be installed at the Commons as this has become very popular. Tree Lighting will be December 2. Clerk Schweigert suggested the idea that a fundraising event be started in conjunction with the Tree Lighting. She will contact local not for profits to suggest a Soup Event that each could take turns sponsoring on the day of the Tree Lighting. It is too late for this year, but maybe next year. Board agreed that letters may be sent suggesting this event.

Clerk Schweigert advised the Board that Niagara County Water District will be raising their rates by 15 cents per thousand beginning January 1, 2018. Calculations show that this could cost us at least \$7,200 more per year. As we plan to address another rate raise next year once the final costs for the Wastewater Treatment Plant project are determined, she feels we can probably cover this cost increase for at least a year without issue.

Clerk Schweigert offered to attend the training Niagara County Economic Development Department is planning to hold regarding broadband internet. Board agreed to send her.

Mr. Bobbitt advised the Board that Wendel has approached him asking for a contract extension in the amount of \$17,000 for their representative to be onsite during the WWTP project. Discussion ensued. Determined that a meeting will be held with Mayor Westcott, Mr. Bobbitt, Mr. Seaman, and a rep from Wendel to resolve this.

Mr. Bobbitt advised the Board that he would like them to consider hiring summer laborer Sarah Bottorff as a full-time, permanent laborer. Her work has been excellent, and she will make a good addition to the Public Works Department. Discussed. Clerk Schweigert advised that a laborer position may have to be created as the last laborer position may no longer be registered with Civil Service.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to create a full-time, permanent laborer's position effective November 1, 2017, if there is not one already registered with Civil Service. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Edwards, to appoint Sarah Bottorff to the position of full-time, permanent laborer effective November 1, 2017, at the hourly wage set in the union contract. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Chief Swick requested permission to request a mini-bid for a replacement for the 2009 Trailblazer as we budgeted for this. Current bids range from \$25,000 to \$29,000. He is interested in either an Interceptor or an Explorer. Permission granted.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, November 20, 2017.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Executive session was opened at 8:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, return to General Session. Carried, with all present voting aye.

General Session reconvened at 8:25 pm.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to adjourn. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Schweigert
Clerk-Treasurer