

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, November 18, 2019, in the Village Hall. Mayor Westcott opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Deputy Mayor Conley, Trustee Blumrick, Trustee McAvoy, Coordinator Bobbitt, Police Chief Swick, Clerk-Treasurer Schweigert, and Tom Seaman, attorney. Deputy Mayor Conley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were a few residents in attendance, as well.

At this time Mayor Westcott appointed village resident Dorothy Barr to fill the Trustee seat left vacant in September 2019 by the resignation of Trustee Edwards Stamp. Ms. Barr was sworn in by Clerk Schweigert and took a seat at the Board table.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2019, meeting. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to approve payment of claims submitted on Bills submitted on Abstract 7-19/20 in the amount of: General: \$106,085.18; Water: \$10,644.78; Sewer: \$15,939.36; for a Total of \$132,669.32. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to approve payrolls no. 11 and 12 for weeks ending October 26 and November 9, 2019. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to authorize payment for New York State Retirement obligations on or before December 15, 2019, as follows: Employees' Retirement System amount is \$42,531.00 & Police Retirement System amount is \$54,266.00, for a total of \$96,797.00. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The Treasurer's report was submitted and accepted for October 2019.

The Public Works report was submitted and accepted for October 2019.

The Village and Town Police reports were submitted and accepted for October 2019, with Chief Swick reading the highlights.

The Fire Report was submitted and accepted for October 2019.

The water and sewer billing for quarter ending November 1, 2019: Water: \$56,036.68; Sewer: \$53,989.43; for a total of \$110,026.11.

Clerk Schweigert asked for permission to extend the due date without penalty for the November 2019 water/sewer billing from November 30 to December 4 because Village Hall will be closed on November 28 and 29 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Permission granted.

At this time Clerk Schweigert advised the Board that EFC has asked which repayment schedule the Village would like for the long-term financing for the WWTP Upgrade Project. Discussed pros and cons of Net Level Debt (same amount each month) or 50 Percent Rule (which is a payment that gradually gets higher over the life of the loan).

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to adopt the Net Level Debt repayment schedule for the current long-term financing for the WWTP Upgrades Project. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Correspondence was read:

Received a notice from Niagara County that they will be asking for updates to the Economic Development plan in early 2020. Board members advised to think of "wish list" items to submit to the County, things they would like to see happen in the Village if money became available for them.

Old business:

Mayor Westcott advised that the Town of Royalton is still exploring the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for the Volunteer Fire Departments in the town.

Remediation is mostly done for the year, with the school's project finishing this week.

New business:

Clerk Schweigert advised that a representative from the US Census Bureau dropped off information for anyone interested in joining an promotional committee for the area.

Mayor Westcott asked Mr. Bobbitt if National Grid has advised when the light pole will be replaced at 53 Main Street, following the motor vehicle accident that broke it. As they have not, we will email National Grid and ask for a timeframe for replacement.

At this time, Mayor Westcott advised the Board that two proclamations will be issued, one for the National Children's Grieve Awareness Day (11/21/2019) and one for School Choice Week (1/26-2/1/2020).

National Children's Grieve Awareness Day

WHEREAS, Rainbows for All Children has spent the past 36 years advocating for and working to meet the need for community and support that children require when they are grieving a lost or missing family member, and currently supports children 3-18 years of age in 32 states; and

WHEREAS, Children's Grief Awareness Day was created in 2008, and Children's Grief Awareness Day is observed every year on the third Thursday in November (the Thursday before the U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving). This time of year is a particularly appropriate time to support grieving children because the holiday season is an especially difficult time after a death; and

WHEREAS, Children's Grief Awareness Day seeks to bring attention to the fact that often support can make all the difference in the life of a grieving child. It provides an opportunity for all of us to raise awareness of the painful impact that the loss of a family member has in the life of a child, an opportunity to make sure that these children receive the support they need; and

WHEREAS, Children's Grief Awareness Day is a day during which individuals, communities,

and the United States to recognize the unique issues that children face when they grieve a lost or missing family member, to acknowledge and to support these youth; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper on Children's Grief Awareness Day and on every day to recognize the vast numbers of children (7 in 10 youth) dealing with grief and loss in the Village of Middleport; and

WHEREAS, Children's Grief Awareness Day is an opportunity to encourage citizens to support youth who are grieving throughout this holiday season and during other times of the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard J. Westcott, Mayor of the Village of Middleport, do hereby proclaim November 21, 2019 as Children's Grief Awareness Day in the Village of Middleport and encourage all citizens to recognize and support these at-risk youth in every way possible.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Village of Middleport, NY, to be affixed this 21st day of November 2019.

School Choice Week Proclamation

WHEREAS all children in the Village of Middleport, New York, should have access to the highest-quality education possible; and,

WHEREAS the Village of Middleport, New York, recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students in the Village of Middleport, New York, to be successful adults; and,

WHEREAS quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of the Village of Middleport, New York, and,

WHEREAS the Village of Middleport, New York, is home to a multitude of excellent education options from which parents can choose for their children; and,

WHEREAS, educational variety not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community; and,

WHEREAS our area has many high-quality teaching professionals who are committed to educating our children; and,

WHEREAS, School Choice Week is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective educational options;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Westcott, do hereby recognize January 26 - February 1, 2020, as the Village of Middleport, New York, SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK, and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.

Mayor Westcott reminded all present of the following:

- The Community Thanksgiving service will be 11/24/2019 at 2 pm at St. Stephen's
- The Village's Tree Lighting Service will be on 12/7/2019 at 6 pm with refreshments following at the Royalton Hartland Community Library
- The Middleport Fire Department's Breakfast with Santa will be on 12/15/2019 starting at 8 am

Mr. Bobbitt advised that Wendel is preparing a grant application for us for the DEC's Urban Community Tree Grant. If we receive the grant there will be no cost to the Village as long as we use Wendell's arborist. The overall cost would be \$18,000 to \$18,500. The grant is matching, so we'd be reimbursed for all expenses.

Trustee McAvoy, offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley:

Whereas, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has launched Round 15 of the Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program; and

Whereas, through this program municipalities can apply for funding to conduct a tree inventory and community forestry management plan; although there is no local match required, grant funds will be dispersed on a reimbursement basis to successful applicants; and

Whereas, as a community intent on better understanding and improving its urban forest, the Village of Middleport wishes to apply for funding to develop an inventory of street trees and street tree planting locations along public rights of way, as well as in village owned public assets such as parks or cemeteries; the project would also entail the creation of a community forestry management plan to establish a vision for the long-term community forest and a strategy of how to care for the community trees; and be it

Resolved, that the Village of Middleport hereby agrees to submit a grant application prior to the December 4 deadline for the DEC's Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program for funds to accomplish a tree inventory and community forest management plan, and be it further

Resolved, that the Village of Middleport agrees to supply information to Wendel, the grant writer, as needed in order to make the Village of Middleport's application score as high as possible.

The vote on the preceding resolution was as follows: Ayes: Conley, Barr, McAvoy, Blumrick, and Westcott; Nays: none; Abstentions: none; Absent: none. The resolution was unanimously passed.

Mayor Westcott advised the Board that Mr. Belson has contacted the owner of 5 Front Street advising that the building must be shored up and made safe or removed.. The backside is caving in. The Village may seek ownership of the property as the building is the oldest building in the Village.

Mr. Seaman advised the Board that an easement issue with Paul Nayman, at 78 N. Hartland Street, when it was granted for sewer access to 11 Maedl Lane. Mr. Nayman has requested that the width of the easement be reduced, as it is wider than it needs to be.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to amend the easement with Paul Nayman at 78 N. Hartland Street to make it smaller, conditioned on attorney approval. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Monday, December 16, 2019, at 7 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to adjourn. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Schweigert
Clerk-Treasure