

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 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 Barr, Coordinator Bobbitt, Police Chief Swick, Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren, Fire Chief Czaja, and Dan Seaman, attorney.

Trustee Blumrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were a few residents in attendance, as well.

The fire report was submitted and accepted for the month of January 2021.

Mayor Westcott opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. and stated that the Board would take any questions or comments regarding the Middleport Police Reform Committee report from the audience.

Paul Nayman, 78 N Hartland St, asked why his calls to the Middleport Police Department go to Niagara County dispatch. He also questioned that on one occasion dispatch sent a NYS Trooper which took well over an hour to respond and the second incident they dispatched a Niagara County Sheriff which took almost an hour and a half to arrive. As a Village taxpayer he would like to see more of a police presence within the Village limits from the Middleport Police Department.

Edward Murphy, 1 Pebble Court, would like the Board to review the Town Police contracts to make sure that the service the Middleport Police Department is providing is being adequately compensated. He would like to see more training for Domestic Violence for the police officers as well and noted that it should be added to the report. Mr. Murphy questioned the salaries of the officers as being too low for the positions that they hold within the community. He would like to see the Civil Service qualifications for Chief of Police broadened so that the Village gets the best possible candidates when that position is available. Lastly, he requested that the Monthly Village and Town Police Report be posted on the website for everyone to see.

As no one else asked to speak, Mayor Westcott advised that the Board will move on with the meeting but keep the Public Hearing open in case anyone else joins the meeting who may want to speak.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to approve the minutes of the, January 19, 2021, meeting. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to approve payment of claims submitted on Abstract No. 9-20/21 in the amount of General: \$56,070.08; Water: \$14,559.68; and Sewer: \$13,127.60; Capital Improvement: \$1,998.40; for a Total of: \$85,755.76. This figure also includes Payrolls No. 17 and 18 for weeks ending January 16, 2021, and January 30, 2021. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to authorize the following budget transfer:

TO	FROM	AMOUNT
F8310.4	F8340.4	\$ 524.41
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$524.41</b>
Carried, with all present voting aye		

The Treasurer's report and the General Fund Cash Flow Forecast was submitted and accepted for January 2021.

The Public Works report was submitted and accepted for January 2021.

The Village and Town Police reports were submitted and accepted for January 2021, with Chief Swick reading the highlights.

The February 1, 2021, water and sewer billing were as follows: Water: \$ 65,345.69; Sewer: \$64,821.73; for a total of \$130,167.42.

### **Correspondence**

Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren read an email from Mike Weber regarding the Niagara County by The Numbers Mural Project. The Board has decided not to participate in this project.

Deputy Mayor Conley commented on the NYS Canal Corporation email regarding the Earthen Embankment Integrity Program. He asked if the Village could contact them about the deteriorating canal walls within the Village. We will draft a letter and send it out.

At this time, 7:40 p.m., Mayor Westcott closed the Public Hearing.

### **Old Business**

The following resolution was offered by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy:

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Middleport was required to develop a plan for operations in the event of a declared public health emergency involving a communicable disease, and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Cuomo signed the "Pandemic Operations Plan" legislation into law (Chapter 168 of the Laws of 2020) on Monday, September 7, 2020, which requires all public employers to develop a plan and have it completed by April 1, 2021, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Village Board approves of the Village of Middleport Emergency Operations Plan as presented to them.

On a roll call vote, the following were cast: Deputy Mayor Conley - aye; Trustee Barr - aye; Trustee McAvoy - aye; Trustee Blumrick - aye; Mayor Westcott - aye. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absent: none. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren asked the attorney if she could send out a letter on behalf of Computel Consultants to Attorney Jeffrey Rosenbloom, representing NYSEG and RG&E. The letter is in regards to the Gross Utilities Tax Receipts payment audit that Computel Consultants is conducting on behalf of municipalities.

There was discussion about what price the Board will set for an additional refuse cart and the yearly disposal service fee associated with that extra cart. The Board decided to wait until the March meeting to set those fees.

### **New Business**

Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren gave the Board a proposal from General Code to convert the Village's Code into an electronic format so that it can be accessed in their eCode360 platform. This will enable the community to view and search the entire Code in one place.

Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren also gave the Board a proposal from C&H PC to host and design a new Village website. The Board will review other websites they have designed and make their decision at the next meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren asked the Board to consider offering the residents Modern's porter/hardship service. The Board discussed this with Attorney Seaman. Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren will follow up with the residents to make sure they understand the program.

Coordinator Bobbitt discussed the need for a Shared Service Agreement with the Royalton Hartland Central School District. Attorney Seaman will draw one up.

Trustee Blumrick updated the Board on his review of our Village Codes compared to other municipalities. He used General Code's eCode360 Library for his research. He would like to see the Village Codes updated to include Yard/Garage Sales and to review the Village Code regarding Unregistered Vehicles and Fences.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of consultation with the Village's Attorney. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Executive Session opened at 7:58 p.m.

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

General Session reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

A Resolution was offered by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to incur the loss of uncollectable sewer charges from Water/Sewer Acct No. 437. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 7 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Lisa M. VanBuren*

*Clerk-Treasurer*