

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 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 Schweigert, Deputy Village Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren, and Thomas Seaman, attorney. Deputy Mayor Conley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were a few residents in attendance, as well.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020, meeting, including the correction changing \$3 million to \$300 million. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to approve WWTP Upgrade Project payment request No. 18 in the amount of \$2,500 from Wind-Sun as approved by Wendel Engineering. 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. 9-19/20 in the amount of General: \$24,370.66; Water: \$32,525.77; and Sewer: \$39,203.25; Capital Improvement: \$18,060.81; for a Total of: \$114,160.49. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to approve payrolls no. 17 and 18 for weeks ending January 18 and February 1, 2020. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The Treasurer's report was submitted and accepted for January 2020. Clerk Schweigert asked at this time for authorization by the Board to repay the Sewer Fund from the Capital Improvement Fund as the funds are now in place to do so from the long-term financing for the WWTP Upgrades Project.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to authorize the repayment of the loan extended to the Capital Improvement Fund from the Sewer Fund in February 2019 as authorized by the Board of Trustees. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The Public Works report was submitted and accepted for January 2020. At this time Mr. Bobbitt advised the Board of an issue on Francis Street caused by flooding. The street is buckling in one spot. Discussed. Concerns were expressed that the flooding is coming from private property and if the Village should repair what they can. Attorney Seaman advised, and Mayor Westcott agreed, that Mr. Bobbitt should explore what the Village's repair options are. In the meantime, Mr. Seaman will see if the Village has any easements in the area. It's possible the Village and the homeowners could come to some agreement to make all of the necessary repairs to eliminate the flooding in the future.

The Village and Town Police reports were submitted and accepted for January 2020, with Chief Swick reading the highlights.

The fire report was submitted and accepted for January 2020.

The Village Historian's annual report for 2019 was submitted and accepted.

Water and sewer billing for the period ending with the February 1, 2020, billing cycle was as follows: Water: \$ 61,305.79; Sewer: \$58,260.89; Total: \$119,566.68. At this time Clerk Schweigert requested that the Board consider forgiving the sewer plants February 2020 water bill and stop billing the sewer fund for water use. The upgrades have caused the water use to skyrocket with new equipment and processing, and the sewer fund is strained at present paying back the loan for the upgrades. The bill used to be a minimum, or less than \$400 a year. The current bills will now probably be a few thousand dollars a year. Discussed. Attorney will look into why the sewer fund gets billed.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to forgive the Feb. 1, 2020, sewer plant water bill. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Village elections will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. The following resolution was offered by Trustee Blumrick, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy,

RESOLVED, that the forthcoming General Village Election will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. noon until 9:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, Middleport, New York. The following candidates were nominated for the office and term set forth before each name:

POSITIVE ACTION PARTY

Trustee: Two-year term
Dennis J. McAvoy
10 Church Street
Middleport, NY 14105

THE RENEWAL PARTY

Trustee: Two-year term
Dorothy J. Barr
33 Park Avenue
Middleport, NY 14105

PEOPLE'S CHOICE PARTY

Trustee: Two-year term
Thomas C. Conley
61 State Street
Middleport, NY 14105

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be published in the official newspaper of the Village of Middleport as soon as possible, but no later than March 7, 2020.

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

There was no correspondence to read.

Deputy Mayor Conley advised that he had recently heard from several residents about being unhappy with remediation results on their properties. Discussed. Residents should be told to contact the NYS DEC or the company contracted to do the work if they have problems.

Trustee McAvoy said he is still working on the canal bank issue. Mayor Westcott advised his two phone calls have not been returned by the Canal Authority.

Trustee Blumrick asked about the status of selling 29 Main St. Discussed. Clerk Schweigert will resend the email from 2019 that contained information on steps the Board must take as advised by our attorney, Brian Seaman.

Resident Josh Stevenson, 17 Mechanic Street, asked if he could get relief on his water/sewer bill as he had a leak while away from his house for two weeks. Mayor Westcott said the Board will take it under consideration and contact him with their decision.

Trustee Barr asked if there is anything in the works for a resource officer at the school. Chief Swick advised that a proposal has been given to the School Board, and it is to be discussed in the near future at a meeting.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to move into Executive Session for consultation with the Village's attorney. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Executive Session opened at 8:07 p.m.

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

General Session was reconvened at 9:08 p.m.

Board discussed a request received from the owners of 27 State Street for relief on their February 2020 water/sewer bill due to a leak that was found.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to adjust the sewer portion of the February 2020 water/sewer bill for 27 State Street to a minimum charge of \$36.78 due to a leak at the property. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The Board returned to the topic of Mr. Stephenson's request for relief on his February 2020 water sewer bill.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to adjust the sewer portion of the February 2020 water/sewer bill for 17 Mechanic Street to a minimum charge of \$36.78 due to a leak at the residence. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Discussed when to hold 2020-2021 budget meetings.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to hold a budget meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Carried, with all present voting aye.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Schweigert
Clerk-Treasurer