

# July 18, 2016

Body:

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 18, 2016, in the Village Hall. Mayor Westcott opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Trustee Blumrick, Trustee Hinkson, Trustee McAvoy, Coordinator Bobbitt, Clerk-Treasurer Schweigert, Police Officer Robert Holmes, and Brian Seaman, attorney. Deputy Mayor Conley and Police Chief Swick were absent. Bryan Bobbitt 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 June 20, 2016, meeting. Carried, with all present voting aye. A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Hinkson, to approve payment of claims Abstract No. 02-16/17 in the amount of: General: \$36,083.06; Water: \$827.89; Sewer: \$3,869.33; Capital: \$43,205.85, for a total of \$83,986.13. Carried, with all present voting aye. Clerk Schweigert advised that a Capital Improvement Fund has been created for the upgrade plans for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A bank account has been set up, which needs to be funded. She asked that the General Fund loan the Capital Improvement Fund \$50,000 to pay current and future bills prior to any grants or loans being awarded. Board approval is necessary for this loan so it can be repaid. Also, it may not be paid back in this budget year, which also requires Board knowledge and approval. A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Hinkson, to approve payrolls 3 and 4 for weeks ending June 25 and July 9, 2016. Carried, with all present voting aye. A motion was made by Trustee Hinkson, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to approve a loan of \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund. The loan will be repaid by funds secured through grants or borrowing. Carried, with all present voting aye. The Treasurer's report was unavailable for June 2016. Clerk Schweigert reported that the Annual Update Document has already been submitted to the New York State Office of the State Comptroller. Mayor Westcott appointed Trustee McAvoy to review the document. The Public Works report was submitted and accepted for June 2016. The Village and Town Police reports were submitted and accepted for June 2016. Police Officer Robert Holmes was present to answer questions in Chief Swick's absence. The fire report was submitted and accepted for June 2016. Trustee McAvoy thanked the Public Works Dept for their assistance with the Fire Department's 25-week club dinner on July 16. The Code Enforcement report was submitted and accepted for June 2016. Trustee Hinkson asked about the wood stacked up in the front yard at 24 Vernon Street. Resident used wood like that last year to heat the house. Will probably be doing the same again this year. Correspondence was read: Received a request to join in the "Think Different" campaign by Dutchess County. We are too far away to participate. Received a thank you from the Clute Phillips Ladies' Auxiliary, thank us for being a poppy donation site Received a thank you from the Gasport Beautification Committee for the DPW's help in putting up banners Received formal notification that the Time Warner Cable merger is now complete and the company's new name is Charter The Village was selected for Tax Cap Compliance review this year and received an email that we are in compliance with the cap limit Received a notice from the Niagara County Health Department that they will be launching an education door-to-door campaign regarding lead, smoking, and several other topics. They will meet with Mayor Westcott to advise when they will be starting this campaign. Trustee McAvoy was concerned that senior citizens may not understand the purpose of the visits. Mr. Belson advised he received an inquiry regarding the installation of a

communications tower in the Village's right of way. He advised them that this is not an allowed use of the right of way as it would not meet the fall zone and the power companies do not want them. He has not heard back from the company. Update on Recreation Program and Swim Program was given. Both programs are underway and have been received with enthusiasm, as usual. The Health Care Consortium is holding meetings with union representatives and will be having a meeting July 21, 2016, to set up the planning committee. This committee must be headed by a union representative and will be tasked with creating the plans the consortium will be offering. Trustee Hinkson advised the Board on the latest regarding remediation on South Vernon Street. Discussed remediation at various sites in the Village. At this time, Mayor Westcott suggested the Animal Control Code updates be discussed. Trustee Blumrick had some concerns regarding the number of dogs, cats, and rabbits that will be allowed at each household. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed updates. Village resident Tina Townsend, 34 State Street, read a prepared statement regarding the upgrades. Resident Kim Pasnik, 26 State Street, suggested that noise and cleanliness laws be enforced before changing the code. Mr. Belson advised that revisions to the law will help him enforce it better. Attorney Seaman advised that the following is what he feels has been suggested revisions to the proposed updates: A grandfather provision for the number of dogs, so no one has to get rid of any, and the number of farm animals is also grandfathered in, with a phase out plan Change the number of dogs, cats, and rabbits allowed to be a combination of the three with a total of, perhaps, 5 Include a provision for a variance, for example if someone is looking to purchase a home in the village but would be discouraged from doing so if they owned more than 2 or 3 dogs The Board feels these are reasonable compromises to the draft proposal. Mr. Seaman will add this language and present another draft at the August 15 meeting. Mr. Bobbitt advised that he has been notified that new signals and gates will soon be installed at all railroad crossing in the Village. He has some concerns regarding the South Vernon Street crossing, which he will contact Falls Road about. He is concerned that the road may be heaving a bit and also that the sidewalk was never repaired following the last work done at the crossing. Later in the meeting village resident Neil Keirn joined the audience o/b/o Falls Road Railroad and updated the Board and fielded questions regarding the crossing repairs. He will let Mr. Bobbitt know who to contact regarding his concerns. Railroad crossing information will be added to the Village's Facebook page. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, August 15, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. There being no other business, a motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Hinkson to adjourn. Carried, with all present voting aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Rebecca A. Schweigert Clerk-Treasurer