

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 17, 2018, 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. Trustee Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Chief Fred Srock and a resident were also in attendance, as well as Frank Rotella from Rotella Grant Management and Joe Crimi from the NYS Power Authority.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to approve the minutes of the August 20, and August 31, 2018, meetings. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Edwards, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to approve payment of claims submitted on Abstract No. 04-18/19 in the amounts of: General: \$42,800.89; Water: \$442.37; Sewer: \$7,759.18; Capital Improvement: \$4,780.30; for a total of \$55,782.74. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Trustee Edwards noted that there seems to be an error in calculations for the sidewalk reimbursement claims included in this month's bills. Discussed.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to amend the payments to correct the calculation error and amend the abstract to reflect the change. Payment not to exceed \$900. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Edwards, to approve payrolls no. 7 and 8 for weeks ending August 18 and September 1, 2018. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The Treasurer's report was submitted and accepted for August 2018.

The Public Works report was submitted and accepted for August 2018.

The Village and Town Police reports were submitted and accepted for August 2018 with Chief Swick reading the highlights.

The fire report was submitted and accepted for August 2018.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to set trick-or-treating hours in the Village from 5 pm to 7 pm on October 31, 2018. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Fire Chief Srock noted that the Middleport Fire Department will be holding their annual Halloween party for children 12 years and younger at 7 pm that same evening.

Correspondence was read:

- Mayor Westcott received a proposal from Alta Planning & Design, a design firm working with the Empire State Trail to install improvements along the Erie Canal at Margaret Droman Park. Middleport has been targeted for these upgrades. Discussion ensued. Mr. Seaman expressed a need to see a plan and asked that we be advised who will be responsible for the necessary SEQR. The Board would like to have Middleport be included in this plan. Alta will be contacted regarding this.

At this time Bernie Rotella made a presentation on behalf of Rotella Grant Management. His company is willing to offer grant services to the Village on a per grant basis, the cost of which depends on the grant, or on a retainer of \$1,800 per month. Board will advise when they decide how they want to handle the offer.

Joe Crimi then presented the Board with an update on the possibility of purchasing the streetlights in the Village. He advised that NYPA will make an offer to the power companies by the end of the year on behalf of all of the Niagara County municipalities who join in this shared services project. The cost will be lower for everyone involved due to the large number of lights included. Middleport has already submitted and received everything it needs to be included in this plan other than submitting a signed agreement. Mr. Seaman will review the agreement and advise the Board on it. If approved, the Board will submit the agreement as soon as possible to NYPA to be included in the shared services plan.

Mayor Westcott advised the Board that he had participated in the mandated county shared services plan vote on September 14, 2018. He voted yes to the plan. A majority of municipalities were not present so that may impact whether or not the plan can be filed with the state. County Manager Rick Updegrave is looking into that. Middleport has been an active participant in the creation of this mandated plan.

Mayor Westcott was contacted by a resident, asking that the Board designate the week of September 16 - 22, 2018, as Mitochondrial Awareness Week. Mayor Westcott offered the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, mitochondria are part of every cell in the body that contains genetic material; and

WHEREAS, mitochondria are responsible for processing oxygen and converting substances from the foods we eat into energy for essential cell functions; and

WHEREAS, Mitochondrial Disease, the body's inability to turn food into the energy to sustain life, can cause a wide range of health issues including seizures, low blood counts, blindness, deafness, dementia, heart failure, progressive muscle weakness; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of Mitochondrial Disease can appear at any age, and can significantly compromise levels of affected individuals; and

WHEREAS, while no cure exists, early diagnosis and treatment can help reduce symptoms, and delay or prevent the progression of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation is “to promote research and education for the diagnosis, treatment and cure of mitochondrial disorders and to provide support to affected individuals and families,”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard J. Westcott, Mayor of the Village of Middleport, do hereby declare September 16 through September 22, 2018, Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week in the Village of Middleport, New York.

Mr. Bobbitt advised that DPW employee Justin Adams will be off on sick leave for several more months as he must complete 3 months of physical therapy before surgery will be considered. Surgery will then put him out another 2 or so months. Mr. Bobbitt is concerned that we are moving into winter months and are short-handed for plowing. Discussed best way to handle this. May consider a temporary or seasonal replacement. Clerk Schweigert asked to contact Civil Service on how to handle this.

Discussed ongoing issue of dilapidated buildings in the Village. If the Village takes action on any of them, it must be prepared to demolish the building or buildings at its own expense, which could be cost prohibitive. Mr. Seaman cautioned that just because a building is unsightly, it may not meet the definition of dangerous for demolition purposes.

Mayor Westcott gave a remediation update.

At this time Chief Swick submitted a letter of resignation from Police Officer Brent Russell effective COB September 28, 2018. Officer Russell has accepted a position with the Lockport Police Department.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Conley, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to accept Officer Russell’s resignation with regret. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Chief Swick advised that Office Jesse Williams is in the process of moving to the Village so that he may be considered to fill the open full-time slot.

Chief Swick also advised that he would like to hire Gasport resident and Roy Hart alumnus Bryan Warren as a part-time police officer. Mr. Warren is currently in the police academy and needs to be employed by October 1 to be able to participate in the range portion of his training.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Trustee Edwards, to hire Bryan Warren as a police officer part-time commencing September 30, 2018, at a rate of \$15/hour. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Clerk Schweigert asked to have the 2018-19 budgeted amended to reflect an increase in the expenditure line A3120.2 of \$8,740 for police equipment to be funded by a grant that the Middleport Police Department was awarded. The revenue line A2770 (miscellaneous) will also be amended in the amount of \$8,740.

A motion was made by Trustee Edwards, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to increase the expenditure line A3120.2 in the amount of \$8,740 for police equipment in the 2018-19 budget. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee McAvoy, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Conley, to amend the revenue line A2770 (miscellaneous) in the amount of \$8,740 in the 2018-19 budget due to a grant the Middleport Police Department received. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Chief Swick requested permission to request a mini-bid from NYS Procurement for the purchase of a vehicle to replace the 2017 Ford Explorer as included in the 2018-19 budget.

A motion was made by Trustee Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee McAvoy, to authorize Chief Swick to request a mini-bid from NYS Procurement Department for a 2019 police vehicle. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Discussed first payment on the WWTP Upgrades project. As the 2018-19 budget included a payment of \$70,000 but EFC has set the first payment at \$22,500, the Board determined they will pay the lower amount and use the difference towards the purchase of a new radio read system for the water/sewer billing.

A motion was made Trustee Edwards, and seconded by Trustee Blumrick, to authorize the first short term principal payment in the amount of \$22,500 due on October 27, 2018, to NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018, at the Village Hall.

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

Executive session opened at 9:02 p.m.

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

General session reconvened at 9:12 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Schweigert
Clerk-Treasurer