

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2024

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 15, 2024, in the Village Hall. Mayor Dodge opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Also present were Deputy Mayor Blumrick, Trustee Barr, Trustee LePard, Trustee Holly-Eberhard, Coordinator Bobbitt, Police Chief Swick, Fire Chief Ruppel, President Srock of the Middleport Fire Department, Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren, and Tom Seaman, attorney.

Trustee LePard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were a few residents in attendance, as well.

Mayor Dodge opened the Public Hearing regarding the 2024-2025 Budget at 7:01 p.m. The legal notice is below:

**LEGAL NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND
FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Middleport, New York, will hold a public hearing on the tentative budget for the next fiscal year, beginning June 1, 2024, and ending May 31, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. on the 15th day of April 2024, in the Trustees Room of the Village Office and that a detailed copy of the tentative budget is available for inspection by any interested person at the Village Clerk's Office during office hours.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the compensation proposed to be paid to each member of the Board of Trustees from all sources is as follows: The Mayor, \$7,800 per year, Deputy Mayor, \$4,500 per year, and each Trustee, \$4,300 per year.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that at said public hearing a contract with the Middleport Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Inc., for fire protection to be furnished to the Village of Middleport will be considered. The following are the general terms of said fire contract:

The Middleport Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, Inc., shall furnish fire protection for a one-year period for the total sum of \$106,000 (One Hundred Six Thousand Dollars). Such other incidental terms as may be necessary or proper in connection with such contract will also be considered.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that pursuant to Real Property Law Section 495, the exemption report that provides total assessed value on the final assessment roll for all exempt properties is on file with the tentative budget for 2024-2025.

All interested persons attending said hearing will be heard.

By order of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Middleport, New York.

Mayor Dodge closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee LePard, to approve the minutes of the March 18th, Board meeting, the March 27th, Budget meeting, and the April 1st, Annual Organizational meeting. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Barr, and seconded by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, to approve payment of claims submitted on Abstract No. 11-23/24 in the amount of: General Fund: \$99,601.69; Water Fund: \$35,945.66; and Sewer Fund: \$12,129.38; for a Total of \$147,676.73. This figure also includes payrolls 22 and 23. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to approve Payrolls No. 22 and 23 for periods ending March 23, 2024, and April 5, 2024. Carried, with all present voting aye.

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A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, to authorize the budget transfer in the General Fund from Account Code A5142.4 to Account Code A1210.4 for \$1,050.00. Mayor Dodge will be attending the NYCOM Annual Meeting in May at The Sagamore Resort. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to authorize the Village Historian to use some of the money she received as a donation from the sale of the Universalist Church to buy new cabinets in the Board room for storage and display purposes. The total cost of the cabinets is \$844.52. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee LePard, and seconded by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, to authorized three budget transfers in the Sewer Fund. The first budget transfer is from Account Code G8110.2 to Account Code G8110.4 for \$55.00, the second budget transfer is from Account Code G1990.4 to Account Code G8130.4 for \$3,000.00, and the last budget transfer is from Account G8130.2 to Account Code G8130.4 for \$5,000.00. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, to authorize the following budget transfers in the General Fund as outlined below:

TO	FROM	AMOUNT
A1320.4	A1420.4	\$1,230.00
A1450.4	A1990.4	42.00
A3120.17	A3120.13	5,100.00
A3120.4	A3120.13	2,000.00
A8560.4	A7110.4	120.00
TOTAL		\$8,492.00
Carried, with all present voting aye.		

A motion was made by Trustee Barr, and seconded by Trustee LePard, for authorization to remove Thomas Conley and add Deputy Mayor Wayne Blumrick as an official signatory at Tompkins Community Bank for the General, Water, Sewer, Health Insurance, and Payroll Accounts. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The Treasurer’s report and the General Fund Cash Flow Forecast was submitted and accepted for March 2024.

The Public Works report was submitted and accepted for March 2024.

The Village and Town Police reports were submitted and accepted for March 2024.

The fire report was submitted and accepted for March 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Dodge gave an update about the feral cat situation in the Village. He said that the Village’s hands are tied. There are not any agencies willing to come and remove feral cats. The most they will do is charge a fee to trap, neuter, and return to the Village so they cannot reproduce which is not a solution to the problem. Ultimately, we have to get the residents that are continuing to feed these cats to stop so that the food source is eliminated, and they will be forced to seek food elsewhere.

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CORRESPONDENCE

This year's Arbor Day Celebration will be on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. at the Hammond Parkway greenspace.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion about the Canal Dock Improvement Project. The Board still needs to determine a funding source upon completion of the work by the electrical contractor while awaiting monies for the LWRP grant. The project is on presently on hold.

Attorney Seaman reviewed the outdated language in the Village's Investment Policy.

Mayor Dodge has contacted Town of Royalton Supervisor Brown regarding the police contract between the Village and the Town. He anticipates an agreement to be in place fairly quickly.

Clerk VanBuren will arrange a meeting with the Town of Royalton, Town of Hartland, and the Village to discuss this year's summer swim program.

Deputy Mayor Blumrick introduced the following proposed Local Law:

LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF THE YEAR 2024
VILLAGE OF MIDDLEPORT
COUNTY OF NIAGARA, STATE OF NEW YORK

A Local Law Modifying the Village's Investment Policy

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Middleport as follows:

Village code, Chapter 24 Investment Policy, Section 24-7 Designation of depositories shall be repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

§ 24-7 Designation of Depositories.

The Village shall maintain a list of Banks and financial institutions designated for the deposit of monies, and establish the maximum amount which may be deposited at such Banks and financial institutions by Village Board resolution, which may be amended by the Village Board from time to time.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon the filing with the Secretary of State.

A motion was made by Trustee LePard, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to call for a Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law – A Local Modifying the Village's Investment Policy on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Carried, with all present voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Clute-Phillips Unit 938 American Legion Auxiliary – Walk-a-thon and basket raffle will be Saturday, May 4th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Clerk VanBuren asked Board members and Department Heads to please give her ideas for this year's newsletter.

The amount of unpaid water/sewer to relevy to the 2024-2025 Village tax bills is currently \$37,542.58. Residents have until Friday, April 19th, to pay.

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Deputy Mayor Blumrick offered the following resolution and moved it adoption:

WHEREAS the Village is required pursuant to NYS Village Law § 11-1118 to relevy any unpaid water/sewer rents onto the upcoming Village tax bill and

WHEREAS the County of Niagara now requires authorization to relevy any delinquent water/sewer bill greater than \$1,000,

NOW THEREFORE the Niagara County Real Property Department is authorized to relevy all delinquent water/sewer accounts, including those owing over \$1,000, onto 2024-2025 Village tax bills.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee LePard, and duly put to a vote on roll call:

AYES:	Daniel A. Dodge Dorothy J. Barr Wayne B. Blumrick Kellie L. LePard Renee' Holly-Eberhard
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NOES:	NONE
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ABSENT:	NONE
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The resolution was declared adopted.

A motion was made by Trustee Barr, and seconded by Trustee LePard, to authorize Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren to relevy any 2023-2024 unpaid additional garbage cart service fees (additional carts requested by Village residents) delinquent as of April 15, 2024, by placing a \$150 charge onto the residents 2024-2025 Village tax bills as a miscellaneous charge. There are presently two unpaid service fees which amounts to \$300.00 in miscellaneous charges. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, to authorize Mayor Dodge to execute the Fire Protection Contract with the Middleport Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 Inc., for the period of April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, in the amount of \$106,000.00. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to authorize Mayor Dodge to execute the contract with Seaman Norris LLP to provide legal services to the Village of Middleport for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year with a monthly retainer fee per the terms of the contract. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee LePard, to adopt the 2024-2025 Budget for \$2,267.405.28 with the tax rate as follows: **full value tax rate** will be set at \$8.55 per thousand, with the actual tax rate at \$13.77 per thousand due to the 62 percent equalization rate for both the Town of Royalton and the Town of Hartland. Carried, with all present voting aye.

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

Executive Session opened at 8:16 pm.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, to return to General Session. Carried, with all present voting aye.

General Session reconvened at 8:56 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 7 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. VanBuren
Clerk-Treasurer