

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 20, 2024

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 20, 2024, in the Village Hall. Deputy Mayor Blumrick opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Also present were Trustee LePard, Trustee Holly-Eberhard, Coordinator Bobbitt, Police Chief Swick, Assistant Fire Chief Czaja, Clerk-Treasurer VanBuren, and Tom Seaman, attorney. Mayor Dodge and Trustee Barr were absent.

Trustee LePard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were several residents in attendance, as well.

Deputy Mayor Blumrick opened the Public Hearing regarding the Local Law Modifying the Village’s Investment Policy at 7:05 p.m.

Trustee LePard offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

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Village code, Chapter 24 Investment Policy, Section 24-7 Designation of depositories shall be repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following: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

Deputy Mayor Blumrick closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

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

AYES:	Trustee LePard Trustee Holly-Eberhard Deputy Mayor Blumrick
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Mayor Dodge Trustee Barr

The Local Law was declared adopted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Keirn asked what the Village’s code was for installing an 8-foot privacy fence around a business. He said he was representing Don Heschke, President of Sigma Motor Inc., who wants to install fencing around his new building. He was advised to have Mr. Heschke follow up with Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Belson.

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A motion was made by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, and seconded by Trustee LePard, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2024, Board meeting. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Trustee Barr entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Trustee LePard, and seconded by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, to authorize a budget transfer in the Sewer Fund from G1990.4 to G8110.4 for \$350.00. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to authorize the following budget transfers in the General Fund for a total of \$7,924.00 as presented.

TO	FROM	AMOUNT
A1210.4	A1620.4	\$ 250.00
A1320.4	A1620.4	610.00
A1325.2	A1325.4	130.00
A1420.4	A5142.4	1,600.00
A1640.2	A1640.4	2,000.00
A1640.2	A5110.4	1,700.00
A1910.4	A1325.4	134.00
A3120.4	A3120.13	1,000.00
A3120.4	A1990.4	500.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,924.00</b>
<b>CARRIED, with all present voting aye.</b>		

A motion was made by Trustee LePard, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to approve payment of claims submitted on Abstract No. 12-23/24 in the amount of: General: \$118,099.89; Water: \$16,298.36; Sewer: \$13,442.38; and the Canal Dock Project: \$2,616.85; for a Total of: \$150,457.48. This figure includes Payrolls No. 24 and 25. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, and seconded by Trustee LePard, to approve Payroll Nos. 24 and 25 for periods ending April 20, 2024, and May 4, 2024. Carried, with all present voting aye.

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

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

Mayor Dodge entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

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

The fire report was submitted and accepted for April 2024.

Fred Srock, President of the Middleport Fire Department, presented a letter to the Board advising them that they have a new junior firefighter, Jeffrey J. Waters.

No refuse/recycle collection on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, due to the Memorial Day holiday. Regular pickup will be on Thursday, May 30, 2024.

Water and Sewer Billing for the quarter billed on May 1, 2024:

Water:	\$ 55,896.03
Meter Rental:	2,222.50
Sewer:	56,938.29
<u>Sewer Debt Service Charge:</u>	<u>8,125.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 123,181.82</b>

This cycle billing is for 8,319,000 gallons.

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A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to authorize Niagara County Real Property Department to relevel all unpaid water/sewer accounts onto the 2024-2025 Village tax bills. The amount of unpaid water/sewer bills as of April 30, 2024, was \$32,103.58 and this amount will be added onto the 2024 -2025 tax roll. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee LePard, to approve the potential vacation carryover hours for the following employees: 48 ½ hours of vacation carryover for Clerk VanBuren, 64 hours of vacation carryover for Chief Swick, 36 hours of vacation carryover for Sgt. Johnson, 20 hours of vacation carryover for Officer Mandaville, 40 hours of vacation carryover for Officer Wolcott, and 15 hours of vacation carryover for Coordinator Bobbitt. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The Tax warrant to be signed by Mayor Dodge in the amount of \$778,720.89 (tax levy of \$746,617.42 plus unpaid water and sewer of \$31,803.58 and miscellaneous charges of \$300.00).

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to authorize Coordinator Bobbitt to have the Ford F150 transmission replaced at Howell Motors for \$6,520.00 as they were the lower of the two quotes, he was able to obtain. Carried, with all present voting aye.

### ***CORRESPONDENCE***

An email was read from Rebecca Schweigert regarding the Erie Canal Bicentennial celebration next year. She is on the planning committee for the City of Lockport and was tasked with reaching out to other municipalities along the canal to see if they were planning anything or would like to take part in it. The Middleport Beautification Committee will look into this.

Chief Swick's resignation letter was read at this time. He has served in the Middleport Police Department for 46 years. He was an officer for 9 years and has been the Police Chief for the past 37 years. The Board accepted his resignation and acknowledged what an integral part of the Village and community he has been. He will definitely be missed.

### ***OLD BUSINESS***

Canal Dock Improvement project was discussed. The Board could apply for a Canalway grant through the Consolidated Funding application. Wendel submitted a grant writing proposal for the Board's consideration.

Attorney Seaman advised the Board that he will have a Local Law drafted for the June meeting to address the water shut-off, water turn-on, and applicable fees.

Mayor Dodge requested that the ongoing negotiation with the Town of Royalton for the renewal of the Police contract be reviewed in executive session.

The Board discussed the summer swim program, and whether or not to charge a fee for the program.

A motion was made by Trustee LePard, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, to authorize the collection of fees for the 2024 Summer Swim Program. There will be a \$20.00 fee collected per child to help offset the costs of the program. The cost for one to three children is \$20.00 for each child. If a family has four or more children, they will **only** pay \$60.00 as the Board opted to cap the maximum out of pocket expense for families participating in the program. The cost to participate in the swim fit program is \$40.00 per person. Carried, with all present voting aye.

Clerk VanBuren received a phone call from a resident on Church Street stating that a neighbor is feeding stray/feral cats. Discussion ensued on this topic again. Bill Arnold asked if the Village had been in contact with Feral Cat Focus to assist with the problem. Mayor Dodge said that the Village had talked to them in the past, but that they

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are a TNVR (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return) organization. Many Village residents would like to rid these cats from their neighborhoods so this may not be the best option for us to consider. Attorney Seaman is going to draft a Local Law making it illegal for Village residents to feed feral/stray cats. The SPCA had previously advised that if their food source could be eliminated, they will leave the area to seek food elsewhere.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board reviewed the NYMIR 2024-2025 Insurance Proposal and the Amwins Fusion Cyber Liability Insurance Proposal.

Clerk VanBuren asked the Board to authorize Tronconi Segarra & Associates to file the Village's Annual Financial Report again this year.

The Board was presented with Wendel's 2024 Grant Writing Proposal for the NYS Canal Corporation's Canalway Grant.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee Barr, to authorize Mayor Dodge to enter into an agreement with NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal) for the Village's 2024-2025 General Insurance Policy for the coverage as stated in the proposal effective 6/1/2024 thru 6/1/2025 with the following change. The Village is going to increase the deductible on property from \$1,000.00 to \$2,500.00 which will result in a \$1,484.00 overall reduction to the policy renewal. Attorney Seaman reviewed the insurance proposal prior to the meeting with no objections. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, to authorize Mayor Dodge to enter into an agreement with Amwins Fusion for the Village's 2024-2025 Cyber Liability Coverage as described in the proposal dated 5/9/2024. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee LePard, to authorize Mayor Dodge to formally enter into an agreement with Tronconi Segarra & Associates to file the Village's Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Carried, with all present voting aye.

A motion was made by Trustee Holly-Eberhard, and seconded by Trustee LePard, to authorize Mayor Dodge to enter into an agreement with Wendel to provide grant writing services by preparing and submitting a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) on behalf of the Village to the NYS Canal Corporation's Canalway Grants Program. This grant would be beneficial in completing the Canal Dock Project. Carried, with all present voting aye.

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

Executive Session opened at 8:22 p.m.

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

General Session reconvened at 9:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Blumrick, and seconded by Trustee LePard, to authorize Mayor Dodge to enter into a contract with the Town of Royalton for the renewal of the police contract with a 4% increase for 2024-2025, 3% increase for 2025-2026, and 3% increase for 2026-2027. Carried, with all present voting aye.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 7 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Lisa M. VanBuren*  
*Clerk-Treasurer*