VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2020

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lowville was called to order at 4:00 PM on February 19, 2020 by Mayor Joseph Beagle. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

The following board members were present:

Mayor Joseph Beagle *Trustee Edward Murphy*
Trustee Danny Salmon *Trustee Charles Truax*

Others present:
Joseph Russell *Paul Denise* *Pam Roes* *Randy Roggie*
Richard Defone *Henry Avallone* *Joe Austin* *Kevin Bamann*
Mickey Dietrich *Nick Altmire* *Matt Johnson* *Alaina Mallette*
Mike Leviker arrived @ 4:15 pm *Carol Leviker arrived @ 4:25 pm*
Tom and Dorothy Duflo arrived @ 4:57 pm

Orders of the Day:

- Public Hearing – Local Law Amendment – Temporary Permits.

  4:02 PM – Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Murphy to open Public Hearing for an amendment to the Local Law concerning Temporary Permits. All in favor.

  4:35 PM – Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Murphy to close the Public Hearing. All in favor.

- NYS Tug Hill Commission – Town/Village Comprehensive Plan:
  - Mickey Dietrich updated the Board on RACOG activities and gave information on the "River Area Visioning Economic Summit" to be held on April 23rd.
  - Matt Johnson and Alaina Mallette spoke of the process to update the joint Comprehensive Plan which was last completed in 2009. They recommended a committee made up of board members of Town and Village and representatives from Planning and Zoning Boards. They would expect that it would take approximately a year to complete the process. They offered to assist in producing a survey that could be distributed to property owners and in tallying results.

Approval of Minutes/Excuse Board Members:

Motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Salmon to approve the minutes of the January 15th, 2020 regular meeting. All in favor.

Motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Truax to excuse Trustee Widrick from the Board meeting. All in favor.

Approval of Vouchers:

Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Murphy to approve the vouchers as audited. All in favor.

A #009	$ 71,142.03
F #009	$ 30,541.16
G #009	$ 18,930.78
HA #009	$ 113,579.96

Unfinished Business:

a. **Five Street/Utility Reconstruction Project**:

- There is work being done at the E. State St. pump station. Highlander Construction is planning to begin work again during the first week of April, dependent upon weather.

b. **WWTP Upgrades**:

- Phase II:
  - Correspondence – Empire State Development – re: Offer notification of "Incentive Proposal" for the WWTP upgrade in the amount of $4,100,000.

    Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Salmon to accept and authorize the Mayor to sign the "Incentive Proposal" from ESD. All in favor.

c. **Village Water System:**

- Watson Water Agreements: - Attorney Russell reported that after meeting with the Watson Attorney and Supervisor it was agreed that the Real Property tax exemption and the water contracts are separate and distinct issues. There was also agreement that Watson is responsible for their own O&M and that the Village will assist the Town in the event of an emergency as long as it has sufficient manpower to do so and does not have an equal or greater emergency within the Village that requires attention. The one thing that the Village is being asked to consider, is an increase in the amount of in-kind services allowed, as it has not been adjusted for many years. Trustee Truax, as liaison, will bring this issue before the Municipal Board at the next meeting.
- Pretreatment Coagulation Implementation: – No Update.
- Groundwater Development Project:
  - Well Access Road / Landing Area: - Mr. Denise reported that two loggers have looked at the timber cut needed for the area of the wells and access road. Another logger is supposed to be coming to look at it next week.
- Water Supply Investigation:
  - Property Owner Proposal / 'Limited Occupancy Agreement and Purchase Option: - The Village committee met with the property owners and the owners have submitted another proposal. The plan is to have the geologist look at the area before any further negotiations occur.

d. **Outdoor Street Lighting LED Conversion Program:**

- A meeting was held in Carthage last month. Construction is scheduled to start in July. The municipalities are still waiting for the final agreements to come back from National Grid.

e. **Local Law Amendment – Temporary Permits:**

- The vote for this Local Law will occur at next month's meeting, as the County Planning Board will not review this proposed local law until their next meeting on the 20th.

f. **NYSEG – Ross Road:**

- No update.

g. **Local Law Amendment – Stowe St. No Parking:**

- Public Hearing for proposed local law was held on the January 15th meeting.

Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Murphy to enact local law amendment to include 'no parking on the north side of Stowe Street between South State St. and Cascade Ave.' Ayes – Trustee Murphy, Trustee Salmon, Trustee Truax. Abstained – Mayor Beagle. The motion is passed.

New Business:

a. Kraft Surcharges – December 2019-$0.00:

b. Draft Resolution – Requesting Amendments to NYS Criminal Justice Reforms:

- NYCOM provided template and has requested that municipalities pass the resolution and forward to State Representatives.

Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Murphy to approve of resolution requesting amendments to NY State's Criminal Justice Reforms. All in favor.

c. Independent Accountant's Reports:

- Agreed-Upon Procedures – Village Justice Court
- Agreed-Upon Procedures – Village of Lowville

Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Murphy to accept Independent Accountant's Agreed-Upon Procedures Reports for the Village Justice Court and the Village of Lowville. All in favor.

d. Disaster Recovery Plan:

Motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Salmon to approve updated Disaster Recovery Plan as presented. All in favor.

e. Budget Amendments – General Fund / Sewer Fund:

Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Salmon to approve budget amendments as presented. All in favor.

f. 2020 DRI Application:

- Mayor Beagle reported that there is interest in re-applying for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative program again this year and it would be expected that the Village's share of cost of consultants would be approximately $5,000.

Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Murphy to approve of application for 2020 DRI program and of Village's share of cost for consultant. All in favor.

g. Amendment – Junkyard Definition:

- An email was received from Ward Daily, Code Official, recommending that the Village Board amend the definition of a "**junkyard**" in the current zoning code. Atty. Russell will draft amendment for consideration at next month's board meeting.

h. March Board of Trustees Meeting Date:

- The normally scheduled March meeting date is in conflict with the Village Election. Monday March 23rd was selected as an alternate date for the Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Murphy to set March 23rd @ 4:00 pm as the next regular Board of Trustees meeting. All in favor.

i. Water / Sewer Rates:

- Per work sessions with GYMO reviewing financial information concerning water / sewer fund budgets as affected by projects and funding, it was recommended by the Municipal Board to increase sewer rates by 5% for the November 2020 billing and to increase water rates by 5% for the May 2021 billing.

Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Murphy to schedule a public hearing for the increase of Water / Sewer rates as listed above on March 23rd at 4:00 pm. All in favor.

Correspondence:

a. Lewis County Real Property Tax Services – re: Taxable Values for 2020 / Exemption Impact Report – 33.36 % Exempted property.

b. State of NY Unified Court System – re: Notification of award for the 2019 Justice Court Assistance Program in the amount of $8,378. Mayor Beagle explained that there would need to be additional funds from the Town and Village to complete the project.

c. The Bateman Draft House – re: 30-Day Advance Notice (Alcoholic Beverage License).

d. NYSEFC – re: Notification of approval of Change Order #6 (Five Streets Project).

e. Lowville Fire Dept. – re: Notification that Ed Kaldowski has resigned from active membership after 60 years of service and that Noah Watson has been voted in as a new department member. A letter of commendation and recognition will be sent to Mr. Kaldowski for his years of service. The family of Robert Ross will also be sent a letter in recognition of his many years of service.

Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Salmon to approve of new Fire Department member Noah Watson. All in favor.

f. Mary Interiano (Lewis Co. Opportunities) Victim Services – re: "Light Up the Night" event on April 29th. The group would like to release Chinese lanterns from the Fire Hall parking lot after their event. The Board had concerns regarding the fire/flames from the lanterns. Mayor Beagle will contact Ms. Interiano to see if they could come to the next meeting to discuss.

Officers & Committee Reports:

a. **Village Attorney:**

- On agenda.

b. **Mayor**:

- Mayor Beagle stated that he had a number of complaints regarding snow in crosswalks. He has discussed with Supt. Denise that the Village could take care of the crosswalks from the "Y" to Bostwick St. The Board was not opposed.

c. **Clerk/Treasurer**:

- None.

d. **Chief of Police**:

- Chief Roggie gave recognition to Fire Chief Joe Austin and Patrolman Ortlieb for their actions in making a great save at a structure fire at the Village Green Apartments.

e. **Superintendent**:

- None.

f. **Capital / Future Planning**

- Trustee Murphy reported that the committee will be doing research on parking meters.

g. **Personnel:**

- Executive Session.

h. **Finance:**

- Bank statement audits are up to date.

i. **Liaisons:**

- Fire Department:
  - None.
- Police Department:
  - None.
- Joint Planning Bd./ZBA:
  - None.
- Municipal Board:
  - Next Municipal Board meeting will be held on March 10th, at 6:00 pm.

- Town:
  - None.
- County:
  - None.
- Recreation:
  - None.

Public Comment:

- Dorothy Duflo asked for clarification of snow removal responsibility.

- Henry Avallone asked if the fire hydrant was cleaned out in front of the Village Green apartment fire? He stated that he cleans out snow from the hydrant in front of his house. He stated that there are a lot of senior citizens in the Village that are unable to clean their hydrants and asked about the Village doing the cleaning of hydrants.

- Mike Leviker stated that it was a good idea to clean the crosswalks off and also reported on a number of crosswalks and areas in need of snow removal. He stated that if he is elected, he will push for 5:00 pm meetings and for public comment to be at the beginning of the meeting instead of the end.

Executive Session:

Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Murphy to enter executive session to discuss specific personnel performances at 5:25 PM. All in favor.

Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Murphy to exit executive session at 5:44 PM. All in favor.

Adjournment:

5:44 PM - Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Truax to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Minutes submitted by: _____
PJR *Clerk/Treasurer*