VILLAGE OF LOWVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes
July 15, 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 July 15, 2020 by Mayor Joseph Beagle.

Roll Call:

Meeting included the following board members:

Mayor Joseph Beagle *Trustee Danny Salmon* *Trustee Timothy Widrick*
Trustee Charles Truax by phone

Others:

Paul Denise *Pam Roes* *Atty. Joseph Russell* *Nick Altmire*
Ryan Churchill *Kevin Bamann* *Joseph Austin* *Richard Defone*
J. D. Ross *Henry Avallone* *Brittany Davis* *Scott Gilbert*

Orders of the Day:

- None.

Approval of Minutes/Excuse Board Members:

Motion by Trustee Widrick, seconded by Trustee Salmon to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2020 regular meeting. All in favor.

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

Approval of Vouchers:

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

A #002	$ 125,053.41
F #002	$ 45,265.51
G #002	$ 28,926.79
HA #002	$ 1,080,053.60

Unfinished Business:

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

- Kevin Bamann, GYMO, reported that Highlander is still working on Trinity Ave. and Park Ave. They should be shifting to Shady Ave. in the next few weeks. A pump station start-up test was conducted yesterday that went well.

b. **WWTP Upgrades**:

- Phase II:
  - No update.

c. **Village Water System:**

- Watson Water Agreements: - Atty. Russell reported that he did not have any updates from Atty. Meier.
- Groundwater Development Project: - Supt. Denise reported that the Village is doing some additional work in the area where the wells are to be developed. He expects it to be completed in another week or so.
  - Well Development Bids: - Layne Christensen Company - $234,980.00 / Frey Well Drilling Inc. - $117,598.40. Frey Well Drilling Inc.'s original bid did not include pricing for Addendum #1 and #2, therefore the adjusted bid price is $116,098.40. Atty. Russell stated that this minor non-compliance does not impact the bid award. A letter was received from NGI recommending bid award to Frey Well Drilling in the amount of $116,098.40 based upon results of bidding and testimony of references provided.

    Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Widrick to authorize the Mayor to sign the 'Notice of Award' to Frey Well Drilling Inc. in the amount of $116,098.40. All in favor.
  - **Resolution – 'Creation of Administration / Technical Force Account': -** Mayor Beagle reported that NYSEFC can reimburse the Village for force account work if proper paperwork is submitted, such as the work completed by Village employees on the road to the wells and the area around the wells.

    Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Widrick to approve of resolution to create a force account for Village employee time to be billed toward the 'Groundwater' project. Aye – Mayor Beagle, Trustee Salmon, Trustee Truax, Trustee Widrick. Nay – None. The motion is passed.
- Water Supply Investigation - (Property Owner Proposal): - No Update.

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

- Mayor Beagle reported that Mickey Dietrich said they are still trying to work out the increased costs that National Grid has included in the amended pricing proposal. There is not expected to be much change on National Grid's cost, but there may be some adjustments in NYPA construction cost.

e. **NYSEG – Ross Road:**

- Atty. Russell stated that he didn't have anything new to report, he had left another message with the NYSEG attorney. Trustee Salmon proposed that the Village take NYSEG to court. Atty. Russell stated that he would not recommend litigation. It would be extremely expensive, as NYSEG would drag it out as long as possible. After Board discussion, Atty. Russell was asked to draft a letter for the Mayor's signature to be forwarded to additional personnel at NYSEG. Atty. Russell will also look at the current franchise agreement to see if it is possible to remove franchise.

New Business:

a. Kraft Surcharges:

- May 2020 - $0.00

b. Updated – Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment:

- An updated Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment is required prior to August 12th, 2020 based on the amendments to NY State' anti-discrimination and anti-harassment laws.

Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Widrick to adopt updated 'Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment'. All in favor.

c. Housing Authority Member Appointment:

- Timothy Widrick – 3/31/2024.

Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Mayor Beagle to appoint Timothy Widrick as a member of the Lowville Housing Authority Board for term to 3/31/2024. All in favor with Trustee Widrick abstaining from the vote.

d. Tax Collection – 2020:

Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Salmon to accept Tax Collection report for 2020 as presented. All in favor.

Correspondence:

a. Lewis County Amateur Hockey Association – re: Skating Rink Refrigeration Project Update. There are plans to replace the concrete pavilion floor and install the new refrigeration lines for the skating rink before winter. Additional funds are needed for the start-up costs.

b. United Prevention (UP!) Coalition of Lewis County – re: Outdoor eating areas. They are in favor of the establishment of such areas but ask that the Village consider making outdoor dining areas to be alcohol free. Trustee Widrick stated that he is continuing his research on a permitting process for outdoor dining.

c. NYSEFC – re: Notification of approval of Change Order #8 for the Five Streets Project.

d. Invenergy – re: Number Three Wind Farm Update.

Officers & Committee Reports:

a. **Village Attorney:**

- Attorney Russell reported that the sale of the Water Street property is proceeding, with closing expected to be in the next couple of weeks.

b. **Mayor**:

- Mayor Beagle reported that he had received a couple of complaints about feral cats and skunks in the Village.

c. **Clerk/Treasurer**:

- None.

d. **Chief of Police**:

- Chief Roggie reported that he received prices on handheld radar and digital signs. He will look into the legalities of using cameras for issuing tickets.

e. **Superintendent**:

- Supt. Denise reported that the CHIPS paving will commence next week on the five streets (Elm St., Clinton St., Easton St., Collins St. & Lanpher St.). A section of Railroad Street that was done a couple of years ago and is failing, will also be done.
- Supt. Denise reported that the DPW crew has completed curb painting throughout the Village and has placed 'No Parking' signs on Church Street.
- The new F550 truck has been received and has been put in service.

f. **Capital / Future Planning**

- None.

g. **Personnel:**

- Executive Session.

h. **Finance:**

- Trustee Salmon reported that he will be working on bank statement audits tomorrow.

i. **Liaisons:**

- Fire Department:
  - None.
- Police Department:
  - None.
- Joint Planning Bd./ZBA:
  - Mayor Beagle reported that there is a proposed Solar Farm on Waters Road that the Village has been involved in because of Village water and sewer lines located on the property.
- Municipal Board:
  - The next Municipal Board meeting will be held on August 11th at 6:00 pm.
- Town:
  - None.
- County:
  - None.

- Recreation:
    - Mayor Beagle reported that there are still ongoing talks regarding the wooden playground and the possibility of the Ag Society / Recreation Commission taking over the lease.

Public Comment:

- Brittany Davis, coordinator of "Food Truck Fridays", reported on plans for spreading eleven food trucks around the Village at seven different areas on private parking lots on July 31st, August 28th and September 18th. Food Trucks involved in the event sign a contract, provide a copy of their NYSDOH permit and their liability insurance. Live music has been secured for these events, but she stated that they are unsure if they will proceed with this because of social distancing concerns. She asked for the Boards input and stated that she will keep in touch with the Board.

- J. D. Ross asked what the Village can do to take the franchise away from NYSEG?

- Trustee Truax stated the importance of wearing masks to protect the people around you.

- Scott Gilbert stated that he felt the closing of Shady Ave. for outdoor dining was a really great idea and event. It created a nice sense of community. He would love to see something like that come back again.

Executive Session:

Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Truax to enter executive session to discuss specific personnel performances at 5:10 PM. All in favor.

Motion by Trustee Salmon, seconded by Trustee Widrick to exit executive session at 5:35 PM. All in favor.

Action:
Motion by Trustee Widrick, seconded by Trustee Salmon to approve of pay rate to $19.23 per hr. for Seth Lapp effective 7/13/2020 as he successfully passed exam for water filtration plant operator licensing. All in favor.

Adjournment:

5:36 PM - Motion by Trustee Truax, seconded by Trustee Salmon to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Minutes submitted by: _____
PJR *Clerk/Treasurer*