

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF RICHMONDVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 21, 2016

The special board meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Neary at 6:00 pm. Present were Trustees David Hotzler, Vivian Thurber, Milan Jackson, and Natasha Foote. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Joe Pizzo, Superintendent of Public Works Jim Swartout, Vicki Swartout, and Village Planning Board Co-Chairpersons Diana Spenello and Linda Carpenter.

Mayor Neary opened by saying the purpose of this meeting was to consider the Dollar General Site Plan recommendation and to provide an update on the status of the project. Mayor Neary gave the Board a map of the proposed multi-use trail location with estimated cost. The project cost was estimated at \$75,000 with the local share being \$37,500. The remaining 50% would be paid with a grant from Climate Smart Communities Grant funding. The board reviewed handouts from Mayor Neary on the Climate Smart Communities Grant. Mayor Neary mentioned that in order to have a crosswalk, the speed limit must be reduced to 30 miles per hour; resolutions to reduce the speed limit and to support the multi-use trail project have to be passed. Mayor Neary also mentioned that these resolutions and letters of support from Town Supervisor Dick Lape and School Superintendent Carl Mummenthey will go to Senator Seward and the County Highway Superintendent. Mayor Neary mentioned that he received a call from Senator Seward and asked him to look into possible grant funding for this project. Senator Seward said he would help us. Mayor Neary mentioned that IEEP would provide grant funding for lighting. Linda Carpenter suggested that Job Corps would extend its services out of Otsego County and assist with the project. Diana Spenello suggested the trail be crushed stone, but it would not be permanent. Mayor Neary spoke with Duncan Davey who works for Senator Seward. He asked Mr. Davey if he has had any success with these grants. Mr. Davey told Mayor Neary to tell the Board that Senator Seward has made it one of his priorities. Trustee Foote has been bothered to think that the Dollar General has so much money and is only contributing \$10,000. She feels that it is a "slap in the face" and it is very insulting. Trustee Foote feels that, in the end, the project will cost more than what was originally planned. Trustee Foote feels that the public has to have a firm understanding of the cost of the sidewalks and everything else that is involved and how it is going to impact their bottom line. She feels that the Dollar General has been very disingenuous from the get-go. Trustee Foote also feels that if the Dollar General originally said they would put \$30,000 in escrow, that would have sat better with her. Trustee Jackson feels that the Village should not take on the burden of the cost of this project. Trustee Thurber agreed and feels that the multi-use trail would be better than a sidewalk. Superintendent of Public Works Swartout said that a sidewalk would be difficult to have because every 3 years they have to do work on the water main which would be under the sidewalk. He feels we would be better off having a multi-use trail off of Route 7. Mayor Neary told Diana Spenello and Linda Carpenter that it was no reflection on their recommendation and they knew that. Diana Spenello said that the Village Planning Board struggled with the pedestrian access issue and the costs that would be involved. Trustee Thurber said she would like to avoid crushed stone because it would hinder the senior citizens with walkers from getting around. Mayor Neary asked if it was the Board's direction to have a conversation with the Loder's about the Village's proposal that they need to address the pedestrian issue in order to have the permit approved and that the Village has a solution. The Board agreed. Trustee Foote feels that the Dollar General has to put \$50,000 in escrow. Trustee Foote doesn't want to have to foot the bill for any of it, but at the very least, the Dollar General should put \$50,000 in escrow. Diana Spenello feels that the estimated cost of \$75,000 would be a huge "chunk of change" for the Dollar General. Trustee Jackson said that \$75,000 is really nothing not a lot to the Dollar General. Trustee Jackson mentioned that the Village can not start a precedent by bearing the financial burden every time a new

business comes into the Village-where does it end? Trustee Jackson feels that Dollar General should bear the burden. Mayor Neary asked if a motion was needed and Trustee Thurber said no.

Trustee Foote moved to approve Resolution #25-16 requesting a speed limit reduction within the Village of Richmondville, seconded by Trustee Jackson; carried unanimously.

Trustee Jackson moved to approve Resolution #26-16 supporting the Multi-Use Trail Project, seconded by Trustee Hotzler; carried unanimously.

In other business, Mayor Neary mentioned that the bucket truck is expected to be delivered on August 1st. He requested approval from the Board to sign the note for a ten year loan from the Bank of Richmondville for \$185,000.

Trustee Foote moved to approve Resolution #27-16 authorizing the Mayor and Clerk Treasurer to sign the note for the bucket truck, seconded by Trustee Jackson; carried unanimously.

Mayor Neary also mentioned that he thinks the server is coming in on June 22nd. Electric Clerk Rebecca Bombardier has been in contact with Continental Utility Solutions to add an inventory module for our new billing system. The Board will be kept up-to-date on the issue. Mayor Neary said that there is a person in the Village of Richmondville who calibrates electric meters; Superintendent of Power and Light Jeff Van Deusen and Superintendent of Public Works Swartout have been in touch with him.

Trustee Foote moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm, seconded by Trustee Jackson; carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Pizzo, Clerk/Treasurer