

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF RICHMONDVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 15, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Richmondville was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Kevin Neary. Present were Trustees David Hotzler and Natasha Foote. Trustee Milan Jackson was excused. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Joe Pizzo, Superintendent of Public Works Jim Swartout, Phil Butler, Vicki Swartout, Harold Loder, Matthew Loder, Dennis Handey, Lee Peterson, Fire Chief Dennis Cole Superintendent of Power and Light Jeff Van Deusen and Michele Schaefer. Code Enforcement Officer Don Clarke was absent. Attorney Marvin Parshall, Jr. previously indicated he would be late.

Clerk-Treasurer Pizzo announced that the meeting was being taped.

Mayor Neary granted Superintendent of Power and Light's Jeff Van Deusen to present his report in the interest of time as he had another meeting to attend. Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen reported the following: Work has begun on Furnaceville Road. The poles are set and they are getting ready to run new wire. Eaton Power Systems has recommended that RPL removes the voltage regulator that is not working properly from service in the station and send it out to Syracuse for repairs. This will require RPL to purchase a new regulator while the other is being repaired. There is an approximate price tag of about \$15,000 to have the work done. The spring MEUA workshop is being held on the 23rd and 24th of March. Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen said he would not be able to go and that Tim Smith will attend in his absence. There have been no call outs so far this month and no outages. DeNooyer Chevrolet in Albany Chevrolet has confirmed that the new pickup truck should be delivered to their yard any day now. Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen asked the Board if the pickup truck purchase BAN would also include a 2016 model tractor purchase. Altec Supply has placed the new bucket truck "in line" now to be built. Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen had an appraisal done by American Ariel on the 2004 Ford F-750 bucket truck. They appraised it between low 20k to low 30k. He has had numerous conversations with Dan Crandel from the Schoharie County highway Department about purchasing the truck. They are in agreement to purchase the truck for \$30,000 once the Village has taken delivery of the new truck which would be sometime late August/early September. Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen also mentioned that with Steven Bender no longer employed by the Village of Richmondville, a valuable "right hand" was lost. He asked the Board what their stand was in refilling the position. Also, Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen wanted to discuss further with the Board the possibility of hiring another "Qualified Lineman" for the department. RPL is presently operating out of compliance with OSHA regulations whenever there is any work required to be done in the energized primary area. Another option is to consider contracting out some work. Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen had a discussion with Ken Kearney from ACS regarding meter testing. ACS is now doing meter testing. RPL is presently working in between rain/snow on the lighting replacement project inside the village barn. Old light fixtures are being replaced by new LED light fixtures. This project is being funded by IEEP. Mayor Neary said we brought down a person from IEEP to explain about the program and how it works towards funding various projects. They will reimburse us for energy star products. Mayor Neary feels we can purchase the switch at the substation for \$15,000 and use the depreciation account. Also, the bucket truck costing \$180,000 would need a 5 year BAN for approximately \$37,000 per year and the pickup truck costing \$37,500 a BAN for approximately \$8,000 per year. Mayor Neary continued that we are bringing in Bowman Sheedy to train us on

Quickbooks in the electric budget and also to describe the billing and accounting process. Mayor Neary mentioned that he, Clerk-Treasurer Pizzo, and Superintendent of Public Works Jim Swartout spoke with the Villages of Philadelphia and Teresa in regards to the electric billing system. They use Continental Solutions. Mayor Neary also mentioned that last meeting someone brought up the issue of solar power. He mentioned that municipalities are not obligated to buy back power. Individuals can put in solar power "behind the meter"(for their own use). Trustee Foote asked for a time period on the \$15,000 regulator switch. Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen feels it should be done ASAP. Trustee Foote was also concerned about the coverage in the electric department if Superintendent Van Deusen wasn't around and Tim Smith is going to the workshop. Trustee Foote made a motion to approve Resolution #02-16, appointing Vivian Thurber as Village Trustee, seconded by Trustee Hotzler and carried unanimously. Mayor Neary welcomed Trustee Thurber aboard.

Privilege of the Floor

Mayor Neary granted privilege of the floor to Matt Loder who brought Joanne Crum to the meeting in regards to the re-zoning of the Loder property. Ms. Crumm asked if there had been a SEQRA done. Mayor Neary said it should be done at a joint meeting. He explained that we asked for a Joint meeting between the Village Board and the Planning Board. Ms. Crumm said that she does not see in the regs that there has to be a joint meeting. Ms. Crumm asked about a timeline on the Dollar General issue. Trustee Thurber asked what a SEQRA was and Ms. Crumm explained that it was mainly an environmental review. Trustee Thurber feels this issue should be resolved soon because a lot of people waiting and Mayor Neary agreed. Trustee Thurber made a motion to approve a Special Board Meeting for March 28th at 6:30. Trustee Hotzler seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. Mayor Neary asked Clerk-Treasurer Pizzo to reach out to members of the Village Planning Board to make sure they have representation at the meeting.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Foote moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2016 regular board meeting as presented, seconded by Trustee Hotzler; carried unanimously.

Trustee Foote moved to accept the minutes of the December 28, 2015, January 28, 2016, and February 11, 2016 Village Planning Board meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Trustee Thurber; carried unanimously.

Trustee Thurber moved to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2016 Youth Committee meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Trustee Foote moved to approve Resolution #02-16 Appointing Vivian Thurber as Village Trustee; seconded by Trustee Hotzler; carried unanimously.

Department Reports

Fire Chief Dennis Cole reported three Fire Department members signed up for the Firefighter 1 course. They need to complete 116 hours. They are starting the asbestos abatement project on March 21st which will take about a week. Fire Chief Dennis Cole met with Mayor Neary and

Clerk-Treasurer Pizzo regarding the Fire Protection Contract which has never been signed and is now in Jeff Haslun's hands for review. It was supposed to be signed in January. Mayor Neary said that the restoration of the firehouse will be nice when complete may be a long process. New lighting and ceiling fans are also being installed.

Trustee Foote moved to accept the Fire Chief's report as presented, seconded by Trustee Hotzler; carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Joe Pizzo reported the following: electric billing for the month of February totaled \$132,769.63 which was significantly down from February 2015, which reported a total of \$205,064.83. This difference is mainly due to the much milder winter this year. Clerk-Treasurer Pizzo continued that April is water billing month. It is also the last quarter before delinquent amounts are added to Village taxes. A letter will be mailed to landlords notifying them of any unpaid balance remaining on their accounts. April 15th begins disconnection of services. To date there are approximately 84 electric customers with arrears totaling \$36,506.07. That total will likely decrease as April 15th draws closer. Quarterly Sales Tax for Richmondville Power and Light is due on March 21st in the amount of \$6,476.56. The return was filed on March 10th and payment was sent electronically along with the return. The staff will meet with Linda Smith and Bill Freytag of Bowman, Sheedy on March 21st at 9:00 am at the Village Office. The DWSRF Water Project payment 15 of 20 in the amount of \$17,738.00 is scheduled to be wired out by the Bank of Richmondville on March 25th. The monthly SCVOA meeting, which is hosted by the Village of Cobleskill, will be held at Chieftans on Wednesday, March 23rd at 6pm. The RSVP date is March 18th. The speaker will be Marion Terenzio, PhD., President of SUNY Cobleskill. The discussion will be "College & Community for a Thriving Region." The deadline to hold a Public Hearing for the Tentative Budget is April 15th. The deadline to adopt a Final Budget is May 2nd. Also, today is Election Day so please go out and vote.

Trustee Hotzler moved to accept the Clerk-Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Superintendent of Public Works Swartout reported on streets, water, and sewer: Leaf and brush pickup has begun. The sand/salt pile is in good shape for next year. Annual training has been done at the county, it included Right to Know, Bloodborne Pathogens and Workplace Violence. The asbestos removal at the firehouse is moving ahead and the Village is getting pricing for the new flooring. DPW had some road and ditch repairs from the rains this month. Superintendent of Public Works Swartout met with Ryan-Biggs for the route 7 culvert project, and still is waiting for information but received confirmation of construction this year. Also work was done on the budget this month. The water plant is running fine and the reservoirs are open and overflowing. There are broken water pipes in the system, one on Roberts Street and another on Main Street Both properties are vacant at the present time. There has been contact made with Lamont's concerning the replacement of the pipe on West Main and the control panel. Lamont is forwarding plans to State DOH for approval. County DOH has done some testing at the well for radioactive presence. This is a routine sample taken every so many years. The sewer plant is running fine. A sewer lateral had to be replaced under Snyder Lane this month. The second Wastewater workshop took place this month and areas that needed the most attention were covered at the meeting. Mayor Neary mentioned that the summer projects may cause a bit of inconvenience because there will not be a lot of parking space available. Trustee Foote thanked Superintendent of Public Works Swartout for the corned beef dinner at the firehouse on St. Patrick's Day. Swartout said that there were over 200 dinners served.

Trustee Foote moved to accept the Superintendent of Public Works' report, seconded by Trustee Hotzler; carried unanimously.

Trustee Foote moved to advertise the 1986 Ford F7, seconded by Trustee Hotzler; carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Neary reported that the Village is looking at a billing system for the electric department. Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen is looking to purchase a lot of things but there is not enough money in the budget for all of it. Mayor Neary feels that the priority is the billing system. He feels that we need to fund it through IEEP. Mayor Neary, Clerk-Treasurer Pizzo, Superintendent of Public Works Jim Swartout, and Electric Clerk Rebecca Bombardier had a conference call with the Village of Philadelphia to hear first-hand how the billing system works. Our present system is very old and needs to be replaced. Clerk Treasurer asked if we should go on an on-site visit. Mayor Neary responded that it is done via webinars. Mayor Neary continued that he sat down with Judy Pangman this week to ask about a mainstream grant for the person who is interested in purchasing the Village Cupboard. Mayor Neary also reached out to Shane Nickel in regards to a microbusiness grant. He also reported that he met with the person who wants to build a redemption center on West Main. Mayor Neary also heard the presentation on the Richmondville Apartments proposal which was the old Glove Factory on River Street. Eleven units are planned to be put in. He is also working on re-licensing of Gilboa. Under law, the Board of Supervisors renegotiate their contract. If they change the assessed valuation on the power project in Gilboa, that will affect how much sales tax revenue the Village of Richmondville gets- five percent of sales tax goes back to the Village of Richmondville. Trustee Thurber asked if the Village is looking for a system to collect bills. Mayor Neary feels the Village needs to advertise more the fact that the electric bills can be paid online. He also feels that the Village should be more aggressive in collecting fees. Trustee Thurber mentioned that she has looked into the bridge on High Street which was originally promised to be done in 2013.

Trustee Hotzler moved to accept the Mayor's report as presented, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

New Business

Presentation of 2016-2017 Tentative Budget- Mayor Neary presented the 2016-2017 Tentative Budget. A discussion took place. Mayor Neary mentioned that a Fire Department Building Reserve Account needs to be opened at the Bank of Richmondville. Clerk- Treasurer Pizzo will do that. Mayor Neary also mentioned that this is a tentative budget and it can be changed until it becomes adopted and that the Trustees don't have to wait for a formal meeting to ask questions.

Audit of Bills

Trustee Hotzler moved to approve payment of General, Water, Sewer, and Electric Abstracts #10 seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Adjournment

Trustee Foote moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm, seconded by Trustee Hotzler; carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Pizzo
Clerk-Treasurer