

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF RICHMONDVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 17, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Richmondville was called to order at 6:29 p.m. by Mayor Kevin Neary. Present were board members Natasha Foote and Vivian Thurber. Also present were Superintendent of Power and Light Jeff Van Deusen, Clerk-Treasurer Joe Pizzo, Code Enforcement Officer Don Clarke, Phil Butler, and Attorney Marvin Parshall, Jr.. Trustees Dave Hotzler, Milan Jackson, Superintendent of Public Works Jim Swartout, and Fire Chief Dennis Cole were excused.

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

In the interest of time, Mayor Neary allowed Code Enforcement Officer Don Clarke to present his report because he had another meeting to attend. Code Enforcement Officer Clarke reported that he has done a lot of training on the new building code. He said the test was difficult but he hopes he passed it. The new code becomes effective October 3, 2016. The new building will have three apartments upstairs. The number of building permits done has increased from last year. The new code books come out in June and they are free. He and Mayor Neary discussed a fee schedule. A fee schedule was passed out to the Board and Mayor Neary mentioned that that schedule was from another municipality. The old Village codes did not have fees for garages, signs, solar and geothermal. Jefferson adopted the same schedule as Summit. There were recommendations on changing the fees. Code Enforcement Officer Clarke mentioned that the original schedule was outdated and we are not making money from these outdated fees. Trustee Thurber asked what he meant by that and Code Enforcement Officer Clarke said that we are not covering expenses. Mayor Neary asked the Board to review the recommendations outside the meeting. Trustee Thurber suggested they be reviewed at this meeting so the schedule was then reviewed. Trustee Thurber feels that there needs to be a fee for demolition.

Trustee Foote moved to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's report, seconded by Trustee Thurber; carried unanimously.

Privilege of the Floor

No privilege of the floor.

Old Business

Trustee Thurber wanted to mention that the proposal given by SCHOPEG at the last board meeting was expensive. Mayor Neary wanted to mention that Resolution #3-16 was supposed to be done for the March 15th board meeting. Trustee Thurber feels that a flat amount should be determined per month. Trustee Foote feels that this issue was never discussed. Mayor Neary said that from April 1st on, a change can be made to their fee schedule. Trustee Thurber feels that the \$25 per month stipend could get out of hand. Clerk Treasurer Pizzo pointed out that activity for the planning board can become very slow for months and they would still be getting paid, so it could go both ways. Trustee Thurber feels that childcare should not be an issue. Trustee Foote is only comfortable going to October then revisit the schedule. Mayor Neary suggested to start June 1st, the beginning of the fiscal year, and give them a monthly stipend. Attorney Marvin Parshall, Jr. feels that the per-meeting stipends will serve as incentive to attend meetings.

Trustee Thurber moved adoption of Resolution #3-16 retroactively paying the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals chairpersons \$50.00 per meeting; members \$25,00 per meeting to June 1, 2016 then paying them monthly at the same rate, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

George McFarland of Innovative Computer Concepts was contacted by phone to discuss with the Board the new electric billing software and new server issue. Mr. McFarland explained that the server is beginning to fail and that it is time to get a new one. The cost per year for a hosted solution would be very expensive. It would be less costly to get a new server. The savings over a few years would amount to 15-25 thousand dollars. Hosted solutions is an up and coming field but would prove very costly. The present billing software is not supported which can present a problem. We are still 2 ½ months away from getting everything going so it will be better to act as soon as possible. If the server crashes, it may not be possible to re-create the electric billing data. If the Village keys in the data, it can save a lot of money. Mr. McFarland felt it would be a good idea to keep the old database and new database open at the same time for a couple of months. Mayor Neary said the billing system would streamline the meter reading process. Mayor Neary mentioned that we are looking at Lamont Engineering to get a grant for electric meters. He also mentioned that the new billing system is a la carte and we have to option to start slow and add on at later dates. Mr. McFarland feels that in 5 years or so, the cost of hosted solutions may go down, but it is not definite. He feels that the Village should not wait any longer to get the server and software. Mayor Neary asked George for a proposal to approve. Mayor Neary mentioned that the Village staff was involved and was very impressed with the presentation of the software. Mayor Neary said the Village had to hold a special meeting to approve the proposal.

Trustee Thurber moved to approve purchase of the server at a cap of \$10,000 and the software at a cap of \$16,000, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes

Trustee Foote moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting as presented, seconded by Trustee Thurber; carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Trustee Thurber moved adoption of Resolution #16-16 establishing building permits and related fees for systems, components, installations, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Trustee Foote moved adoption of Resolution #17-16 authorizing 2016-2017 Adopted Budget amendment, seconded by Trustee Thurber; carried unanimously.

Department Reports

Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen reported that work is ongoing at Furnaceville Road and several poles along route 7. There were few Dig Safely New York locations, no repaired yard or street lights and approximately 6 meter turn-on/offers and readings. Pink slips will be issued on Monday May 23rd with disconnects scheduled for May 31st. Superintendent of Power and Light Van Deusen feels that the Village should hire more experienced summer help to meet OSHA requirements. Mayor Neary mentioned that Bohlman Sheedy came to the Village and we spoke about a rate increase and the last time the Village did a rate increase it cost about \$25,000 to do the study. Mayor Neary called Lynda Smith about the bonding of the bucket truck and she has not returned his call. Mayor Neary feels that the Village may not have the money for a bucket truck, new employee, and new meters. We would have to carefully look at a

way to pay for all of this with a BAN or a Bond, which is typically for a longer term. Mayor Neary said he talked to MEUA about a part-time employee. Bret Ryder can be declared a lineman under Civil Service. The school Bret attends does not certify, it only says that he has completed it. The cost to the Village is \$6,000 to hire high school kids for the summer. Mayor Neary is concerned about how the Village is going to get all the money for everything that is being asked for. Mayor Neary said that the Village has worked with 2 linemen and an apprentice in the past.

Trustee Foote moved to accept the Superintendent of Power & Light's report, seconded by Trustee Thurber; carried unanimously.

Superintendent of Public Works Jim Swartout was excused but prepared a report for submission to the Board. Mayor Neary briefly went over the report.

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

In the interest of time, Mayor Neary asked Clerk Treasurer Pizzo to give a quick synopsis of his report. Clerk Treasurer Pizzo mentioned that electric billing and revenue is down significantly from the last 2 years which is good news for the consumers but the village has taken in much less revenue.

Trustee Foote moved to accept the Clerk Treasurer's report, seconded by Trustee Thurber; carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Denise Smith reported that Merrin Gural is coming back as the head lifeguard. All of the lifeguards want a raise. Merrin is at \$10 per hour and she ran the pool. James Gravina wants \$9.50 per hour. Hannah Dibble has been lifeguarding for at least 4 years. Denise called Harrison Weiss and she has not heard from him. Merrin is the only one with a Water Safety Instructor certificate. Sophie Shaw asked for \$10 per hour. Denise would prefer Harrison over Sophie. Last year there were 5 lifeguards and we need backup for August. Merrin and Hannah will not be available for most of August. James also runs the swim team. Trustee Thurber feels that Merrin should go to \$11.00 per hour. Denise is going to offer Sophie \$8.50 if she calls back; Harrison-\$8.50; James-\$9.00; Hannah-\$9.00. Mayor Neary said that at the June meeting, Clerk Treasurer Pizzo must do a resolution hiring lifeguards and summer employees. Denise mentioned that we pay the Arts & Crafts leader \$8.50 and the assistant \$8.00. Soccer sign-ups are still going on. Jimmy Hotaling said he would paint lines at the college for \$75.00. Denise said she and Mayor Neary are picking up flowers and planting them on Sunday.

Trustee Thurber moved to accept the Youth Committee Report as presented, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Trustee Thurber moved to accept minutes from the April 14, 2016 Planning Board meeting, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Trustee Thurber moved to accept minutes from the April 26, 2016 Planning Board Public Hearing, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Trustee Foote moved to accept minutes from the May 9, 2016 RUS Committee meeting,

Seconded by Trustee Thurber; carried unanimously.

Trustee Foote moved to accept minutes from the April 25, 2016 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, seconded by Trustee Thurber; carried unanimously.

Mayor Neary mentioned that in the future, the Zoning Board of appeals and Planning Board must sign the minutes and a letter of transmittal must go to the Code Enforcement Officer. Trustee Thurber has concerns about parking on the street because of the variance for the Richmondville apartments. Phil Butler said people have to get used to walking further because they can't park on the street. Mayor Neary explained what the RUS Committee is and what it does.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Neary reported that he went to the Planning Board meeting on May 12th and met with Don Clarke regarding fees. He, Clerk Treasurer Pizzo and Superintendent of Public Works Swartout met with George McFarland regarding the server. Mayor Neary also met with Lamont's on May 12th to discuss the consolidated grant program. Carl Warner wanted a grant for Main Street and Mayor Neary asked if money was available for that and for the electric meters. Mayor Neary mentioned that no grants can be applied for unless they come before the Board. The billing system is also included in the grant. The RUS Committee will help support the grant application. Mayor Neary has been in touch with New York State Gas and Electric to discuss bringing an extended gas line from Lancaster Development to Richmondville. They won't do it unless they have big customers, like the school. Our cost for energy is low. The firehouse is very efficient and is saving us money. A proposal would have to be brought to the Village. Housing Visions out of Syracuse is interested in building apartments on the Loder Property. Attorney Marvin Parshall, Jr. said that the Planning Board has the authority to grant a variance. Site developments are done through the Board. Mayor Neary also reported that the Village is concerned with electric delinquencies. He feels we need to be more aggressive on this. The Village has the right to ask for a deposit double to what the average monthly winter bill is by Public Service law. We have a system of pink-slipping, knocking on doors, pulling meters, and sending to collections. Move-in/move-outs are the problem with payment of deposits. Trustee Thurber thinks we should pass resolutions for resolutions to make the collection process tougher, but Attorney Marvin Parshall, Jr. feels if we do this indiscriminantly, we could get in trouble. Mayor Neary feels we shouldn't have to tell people there is a credit card charge. A discussion followed regarding when to sign the bills. Clerk Treasurer Pizzo said they should be signed before the meeting. Time constraints are a concern with the Board.

Audit of Bills

Trustee Thurber moved to approve payment of General, Water, Sewer, and Electric Abstracts #12, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Trustee Thurber moved to enter into executive session at 8:36 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of an individual, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Trustee Foote moved to return to regular session at 8:53 pm, seconded by Trustee Thurber; carried unanimously.

Hilda Shields entered the meeting at 8:53 pm. She is concerned about paying sales tax(\$50) that she is not making any money on. She has a not for profit business. Mayor Neary said that the Village will look into it. She wanted to know why the Village isn't contributing to the ambulance squad.

Adjournment

Trustee Thurber moved to adjourn at 9:03 pm, seconded by Trustee Foote; carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Pizzo
Clerk-Treasurer