

Happy New Year!!!

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, January 11th, 2023

6:00 pm

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor George Nikolados.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Mayor Nikolados-Present

Trustee Rue-Present

Trustee Banks-Present

Trustee Massey-Present

Trustee Jenkins-Present

Also Present:

James Snowden-Village Manager

Michael Sussman-Special Counsel

Motion to accept the agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks to accept the agenda with two (2) add-ons:

1. Addition of Town of Thompson Tax Payment
2. Restore New York Grant Support

Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Approval of minutes from the December 7th, 2022 Meeting

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Massey with corrections. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Mayors Report

Mayor Nikolados wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year

Resolution authorizing the payment of Village Bills in the amount of \$1,025,963.14

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue. Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

Mayor Nikolados-yea

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Banks-yea

Trustee Massey-nay

Trustee Jenkins-nay

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Resolution authorizing payment to Cargill Inc.-Salt Division in the amount of \$55,964.35 for a total of 684.52 tons of Salt for the Village streets per State Bid from app#A.5142.468(Snow Removal-Salt). Current account balance after expense is \$64,035.65

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to Sullivan County Paving in the amount of \$56,329.29 from CHIPS Monies app#A.5110.229(Street Maint.-CHIPS) for the paving of Gibson Street & Saddle Lane

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to Amthor Welding Service Inc. in the amount of \$1,357.15 from app#A.1640.421(Central Garage-Repair/Maint.) for Welding the Chain of Highway Truck #5. Current account balance after expense is \$46,882.23

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to Cooper Arias, LLP for the final payment of the Village's 2019 Fiscal Year Audit in the amount of \$12,950.00 from app#A.1320.407(Auditor-Annual Audit). Current account balance after expense is \$22,050.00

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to Barton & Loguidice for work completed on the Water Project in the amount of \$402,804.80 from app#F.8320.484 (Source of Supply-Engineers)

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue with a question.

Trustee Rue asked how this will be getting paid.

Mr. Lasher, the Village Treasurer responded that the Village has the monies already in the Water Account, it's just that the line it will be coming out is negative, but there is plenty of money in the water account to cover this bill and the future ones.

Michael Sussman stated that your Treasurer is correct these expenses will be covered by your water fund as it was explained to me by James. You have to first put forth the funds in good faith.

Roy Richardson from Barton & Loguidice explained that yes, exactly what Mr. Sussman said, the government switched things up on us, you now have to spend the money first and then they

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will reimburse you through grants, all of these changes took place during COVID and are now being implemented. Trust me, it's taken everyone for a loop, but it's the government and if you want the funds from them, this is the way we have to do it now.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

Mayor Nikolados-yea

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Banks-yea

Trustee Massey-yea

Trustee Jenkins-nay

Resolution authorizing payment to Barton & Loguidice for the CBS Registration Assistance in the amount of \$2,050.00 from app#F.8320.484(Engineering-Professional Services) for the Water Project. Current account balance after expense is \$7,103.50

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks.

Roy Richardson from Barton & Loguidice explained that this is also part of the grant and again, you will be reimbursed, but you have to first show the expense and there are certain qualifications that have to be met and we meet them, so we have to do this registration along with others that will be coming.

Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing the Village Manager to sign the Annual Renewal of the Peak Power Systems Generator Contract for the Sewer Department

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to Town & County Bridge and Rail(State Bid) in the amount of \$13,487.53 for the purchase of Guardrails for Rock Ridge Avenue from CHIPS Monies app# A.5110.229(Street Maint.-CHIPS)

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to Amchar Wholesale Inc. in the amount of \$2,904.20 for required service ammunition. Funds for this purpose were budgeted and allocated from the 2021-2022 Police Budget app#A.3120.104 (Police-Uniform). Balance after payment is \$7,559.68 in the 21/22 Budget

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

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Resolution authorizing payment to Lexipol LLC in the amount of \$10,350.56 for the Annual Subscription of the Police Dept Policy Manual, Supplemental Manuals and Daily Training Bulletins from app#A.3120.445(Police-Training). Current account balance is \$12,500.00

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to Busy Bee Septic and Excavating LLC in the amount of \$6,100.00 for an Emergency Repair at the Racetrack Pump Station from app#G.8130.421(Treatment/Disposal-Repair/Maintenance). Current account balance is \$13,698.66

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks.

Mayor Nikolados asked if this work that could have been completed in house, then why did we pay this company.

Mr. Snowden, the Village Manager, stated that our truck was broken and getting repaired and this was an emergency.

Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing the Village Manager to sign the 2023 Service Agreement with Partners in Safety for the Village of Monticello

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks.

Trustee Jenkins asked, do we know how many test are administered per year?

Mr. Sussman stated that it is usually done on a random basis and there is no exact amount of people that get tested per month.

Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing the Mayor or Village Manager to sign the contract with PFK O'Connor Davies Accountants and Advisors for a Forensic Audit of the Village Books in the amount of \$275.00 per hour not to exceed \$40,000.00 for the 2019 fiscal year to current focusing on payroll and benefit issues, with the Board having the ability to direct the auditors to various other matters or departments as they deem necessary via Special Counsel

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks who had a question.

Trustee Banks asked we couldn't find anyone else for a cheaper rate? \$275.00 an hour is a grip.

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Mr. Sussman stated that I have worked with this group before and they come highly recommended by myself and others. Their normal rate is \$600.00/hour, but due to my relationship with them and I explained the current state of the Village, we are getting a discounted rate of \$275.00/hour, which is the rate of the adjuncts and assistants, but the top guys will be the one's actually performing and doing the forensic audit themselves. I think for the expertise and performance that we will get from these gentlemen, \$275.00/ hour is a great price.

Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to Eagle Associates Cazenovia LLC in the amount of \$38,559.82 for the Salt Shed as per the Contract from CHIPS Monies app# A.5110.229(Street Maint.-CHIPS)

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to the Town of Thompson for the Village Tax parcels in the amount of \$19,973.65 from aap#A.1950.400(Taxes/Assessments and Adjustments) for the Village Taxes as attached in "Schedule A"

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Mayor Nikolados made the Board aware that the Sullivan County Land Bank reached out to him regarding a Letter of Support for the Restore NY Grant that they are applying for in regards to a few properties on Broadway.

Trustee Jenkins stated that he understands the need for the support, but being that these are Village properties, we should have the say so or go after the grant ourselves.

Attorney Sussman responded that it's better if it goes this way, the Village is not in any financial shape, nor does the Village have the manpower or resources to take on something like this. Let the County do it and we will get the benefit.

Letter of Support for the Restore NY Grant

A motion was made by Trustee Jenkins with a second by Trustee Rue. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Moment of Silence for Village residents Thomas Mack & Roselyn Sharoff

Mayor Nikolados gave his condolences to both families on behalf of the Village of Monticello

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Mr. Sussman made the Board aware that he had been in conversation with Tom Cawley, the County Attorney and he made him aware that the resolution had expired in regards to the County doing the Village Foreclosure. He wanted to know if the Village was still interested in working with the County and if so, a resolution needs to be passed tonight, so he could reach back out to Mr. Cawley.

Resolution authorizing an IMA with the County of Sullivan for the Village's Foreclosure Process

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Mr. Sussman also made the Board aware that the Village has to come up with a way to keep up with all of the LLC's in the Village. He stated that it is extremely frustrating and embarrassing to go to Court thinking that you have a full case load of 30 or more cases and only 2 or 3 offenders show up. To make matters worse, it's the same people showing up all the time and we don't want to look like we are being prejudice or biased in any way. There has to be a way to get a physical person that is listed or the contact for these properties. I know the State has a website or log, but we need something here because again, it's very frustrating. If you all would allow me to get with the Clerk and maybe together we could get a handle on all of this.

Mayor Nikolados stated that we did have a line on the rental permits that required the name and contact information of an actual, physical person for all of these properties and LLC's, is that being done? That was something implemented when BJ was here. I know it's very frustrating because the LLC's change day by day. You have my permission and I'm sure that of the Boards to do whatever you need to come up with a solution to this because it's a waste of time to go to Court and no one show up. However we can help you, let us know.

Managers' Report

Ted Stroebele

Mr. Snowden stated that the TSC is getting renovated. He stated that he spoke to Mr. York in regards to the boxing ring in the basement and it needs to come out. The insurance company called him and made him aware that they will not insure it because it is unsafe and falling apart. Also it's too big for the room and the ceiling is too low for it to be in there.

Trustee Banks commented that he doesn't think it a good idea to remove it as there is really no recreation in the Village and that gives people something to do. Can we have people sign waivers or something saying that they are using the ring at their own risk with no liability to the Village.

Mr. Snowden responded that it's a bad idea period, Mr. York only has 2 participants in his boxing program and it's not even worth the time, heat and electricity that the Village is putting

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out. He stated that Mr. York is free to utilize the room for other exercise things like weight training classes, exercising and things of that sort, but that ring must come out immediately. He stated that he will be writing Mr. York a letter stating the same.

Corner of Broadway and St. John Street Parking Lot

Mr. Snowden stated that due to the Village now having a \$100,000.00 deductible, renewing the contract for that lot is not feasible, plus, the Village does not even use it. Tractor trailer trucks park there overnight, along with the residents that live in the apartments on Broadway. The doctors' offices use it for their employee and patient parking during the day. The owner will not allow the Village to pave it, nor put parking lines on it, so all we are holding is the insurance on it and it's not worth it. It's literally an accident waiting to happen. When speaking with the owner a few days also, he stated that he wants it insured at \$10,000,000.00 and if the Village does not want to renew the contract, he'll fence it up. Mr. Snowden said he told him that he will discuss it with the Board and let him know.

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue to deny the renewal of the Contract for the parking lot on the corner of St. John Street and Broadway. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Union Negotiation

Mr. Snowden made the Board aware that they are offering 0% for the 2022 year, and 2% for 2023 and 2% for 2024, either take it or leave it, because we can't offer anything more than that to the Collective Bargaining Units.

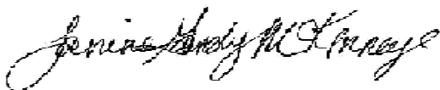
Executive Session

Mr. Sussman made the Board aware that the PERB Hearing will be Tuesday, January 31st at 9:00am in Albany, all those that have been contacted, MUST attend.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk