

Minutes

Board of Trustees

Village of Monticello

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

4:30pm

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by Mayor Jenkins.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Roll Call**

Mayor Jenkins-Present

Trustee Bennett-Present at 4:38pm

Trustee Rue-Present

Trustee Solomon-Present

Trustee Weyer-Present

Also Present: David Sager, Village Manager  
Michael Davidoff, Special Council  
Richard S. Baum, Deputy Special Council/Zoning & Planning Council  
Phil Klemen, Water & Sewer Superintendent

**Zoning Review Board Members:**

Howard Perlman, ZBA Chairman

Glenn Smith, Village Engineer

Helen Buddrock, Sullivan Renaissance

Freida Eishenberg, SCDPEM Commissioner

**Motion to accept the agenda**

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

Mayor Jenkins-abstain

Trustee Bennett-absent

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Weyer-yea

Trustee Solomon-yea

**Resolution authorizing the Village Manager to move forward with the USDA proposal for funding of Water System Delivery Improvements**

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

Trustee Solomon asked exactly what is this?

Mayor Jenkins stated that he thought that they were just coming to discuss the Water System Improvement, not to make any votes or take any votes on anything.

The Village Manager, David Sager, stated that as he had made the Board aware in his report in the meeting on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, that on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, he was meeting with George Popp from USDA in regards to the Village's Funding status for a project of this magnitude and that the entire Board was invited.

Mr. Sager stated that Mr. Popp made him aware that because the Village is one of the poorest Counties in NYS and that we currently qualify for the lowest interest rate available which is 1%, but there are time limits involved with meeting this 1% interest rate. The Village has to file an application to USDA by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 in order to lock in this interest rate; there will be some grant money available, but at this time, there is no definite amount, but most of the monies would have to be bonded, but we are on time constraints and we have to move quickly.

Per Mr. Sager, this resolution that is currently before you, authorizes me to move forward with Mr. Popp and USDA on this project if that is the desire of the Board.

Mayor Jenkins stated that he understands the importance of the interest rate, but because we are one of the poorest Counties in NYS, they will give us the lowest interest rate anyway. Everyone knows that the government is going to "throw" money to us, because of our economic situation up here. I just feel like its' being thrown down my throat. This is my first seeing of this paperwork and now I have to vote on it. I just feel like the whole thing is being rushed.

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

Mayor Jenkins-abstain

Trustee Bennett-absent

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Weyer-yea

Trustee Solomon-yea

**Discussion-Proposal of Barton & Loguidice to handle the application process for the Water System Delivery Improvements Project in the amount of \$26,700.00**

Mayor Jenkins asked why isn't this going out to bid. I do not have anything against Barton & Loguidice and I know that they do good work, but right now, I am being accused by the DA of wrong doing and I may be facing jail time for making decisions while I was the Manager, so I do not see what the difference is. I feel that it should go out to bid and at least get quotes. For once this Village needs to give someone else a chance to make some money and not keep feeding the same people. You mean to tell me that if we did an RFP, there wouldn't be anyone interested? I know people that are willing to do stuff like this for less than half of what is in front of us. Again, I understand that there are time constraints and we have to move quickly, but again, I feel that this is also being shoved down my throat. I am unaware of a lot of this

stuff, I thought we were just coming here to discuss this stuff, not make decisions and vote. It's too much too fast. Has any of the other Board members looked or reviewed this information?

Mr. Sager stated with all due respect Mayor Jenkins, I understand your position in this matter, but I made the entire Board aware of my meeting with George Popp, USDA, that was taking place on Friday in my office and I invited the entire Board and the Treasurer was also present. After I met with him I automatically reached out to the Board and made everyone aware of all of the information that was discussed at that meeting. In that meeting we discussed the need for professional services and I felt that being that the Village is very familiar with Barton & Loguidice and their work, it would only make sense for them to handle this process also as they have handled all of the other major projects in the Village over the past few years. I think with the results that we get from their assistance, it's worth it.

Trustee Rue commented that this is Professional Services which is different. The Manager has the right to engage in a Professional Services Agreement, if it is something for the benefit of the Village and this is. That is not the same thing.

Mayor Jenkins stated that he disagrees. There is no difference. When I was the Manager, I made decisions that I felt was for the good of the Village and now I may be getting sent up the river for those decisions. So what's the difference and why can't we give others a chance to make some money or show us what they can do? I know that these guys are not the only ticket out there. I looked at the application and the Treasurer has already done the majority of the work, so there's really nothing for them to do.

Anthony Eagan from Barton & Loguidice stated that there is a lot more to the application and process other than what has already been done by the Treasurer. There will be reports and other documentation that is prudent to the funding of this project and I'm not sure Mrs. Li is familiar with a lot of this information. Mrs. Li is very skilled and knowledgeable, but I do not know if she is familiar with the information that will be needed for this project. We have had a stable working relationship and have secured large amounts of funding for the Village on other projects and are looking to do the same with this one.

Mayor Jenkins stated as I said before and I don't mean to be redundant, but Sullivan County is poor, the State is going to throw us the money anyway, whether we deal with your company or not. It's not because of you guys, it's because the State cannot let this County go lacking and they know because of our dynamics here that they can't depend on the tax payers to fund this stuff, so they will step in regardless.

Michael Davidoff interjected and stated that the Manager has the right to hire a firm or whomever to conduct Professional Services up to a certain amount, that's part of his duties.

Whether we agree or disagree with the process, is neither yea nor nay, but the Manager does have that right under the Code. Is this something that has to be voted on today? I understand what the Mayor is saying, I get the first resolution, but what's the rush with this? It can't wait until the next Board meeting to give the Board time to review it and at least look it over? What's the rush, I'm quite sure it can wait until the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Resolution authorizing the Mayor or Village Manager to sign all the necessary documents to go forward with the USDA for the Water System Delivery Improvements Project**

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

Mayor Jenkins-abstain

Trustee Bennett-yea

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Weyer-yea

Trustee Solomon-yea

**Problem at Water Department**

Phil Klemen, Water/Sewer Superintendent was present and stated that there is a problem at the Water Plant. The filters are backing up and we have been manually turning them, which is extremely dangerous. The system itself is more than 25 years old and the filters are probably the same age and they usually work hand in hand. If one goes, it's quite possible that they are all already gone or on the verge. This is a very dangerous situation that takes a lot of manpower throughout the day. It will take at least 6 weeks to get them made and shipped here and they run about \$5,000.00 a piece and there are at least 5, right now I know that two are definitely gone because those are the ones we are manually turning. Something has to be done, I do not want to keep putting the workers in harm's way, but these filters have to be turned in order for the plant to run properly.

Trustee Solomon stated that this is the first I am hearing of this and I don't think alone in that statement. How bad is it, I know that the system is antiquated and well passed its age, but can we make it another six weeks, what are we looking at as far as time is concerned. Do we have the money, was it budgeted for, if not, where can we get the money from to pay for these? I don't think it's fair to want us to make a decision without the proper information.

Mr. Sager stated Phil came to me yesterday and made me aware of this issue and it is fairly new. I told him to come to this meeting and make the Board aware of the extenuating issues and the cost. I am not sure how long we have or if we can wait, I am thinking that maybe we can at this time replace the ones that are bad now and then do the other one's at a later date. As far as the money aspect, we have to sit down and talk with Liliu, but I wanted him to come and make the Board aware of the situation. We do have to do something because of the Board of Health and stuff and I know that we are under time constraints again, but this is a 25+ year old system, so at some point it's going to give, but my hope is that we can kind of piece-mill it together because I don't think we are prepared to handle all 5 or however many there are, but

maybe 1 or 2 at a time. I will get with Phil and the Treasurer and we will assess the situation and have some concrete answers for the Board. I don't know, maybe this can be part of the project with USDA.

Phil interjected I don't think we can wait that long. This is a very urgent situation. Manually turning these filters is a very dangerous situation. I just don't want to see anyone get hurt. I will get with Dave and Lilu and get it figured out.

### **Zoning Committee Meeting**

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Trustee Solomon with a second by Trustee Bennett to close the meeting at 6:30pm. Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

Mayor Jenkins-abstain

Trustee Bennett-yea

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Weyer-yea

Trustee Solomon-yea

Submitted by:



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Janine Gandy, Village Clerk