

The official minutes of the Village of Waterville Board of Trustees regular board meeting held on April 24th, 2023. Minutes to be approved at the next board meeting on Monday, May 9th, 2023.

In attendance: Mayor - G. Ostrander, Treasurer/Clerk - G. Barnes, DPW Superintendent – J. Bechy, Village Attorney – W. Getman, CEO – W. Brown, Fire Chief – J. Waufle, Trustees: R. Perry, A. Briggs, B. Bogan, L. Stern

Public in attendance: Patty Louise, Ken Boone, John Mariani

- 7 PM Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

- Approve the minutes of the April 3rd, 2023 Board meeting
Motion – R. Perry 2nd – B. Bogan Carried

- Approve Audit of Expense Abstracts GEN ABS , T0 ABS, Special Grants ABS dated 4/24/23
Motion – B. Bogan 2nd – A. Briggs Carried

- Open Public Hearing on proposed Garbage rate increase
Motion to open hearing – B. Bogan 2nd – L. Stern Carried
 - Public Hearing opened at 7:04pm
 - No public comment on proposed increase

- Close Public Hearing
Motion to close hearing – B. Bogan 2nd – A. Briggs Carried
 - Public Hearing closed at 7:07 pm

- **Motion to approve the rate hike of \$80/unit/quarter – R. Perry 2nd – L. Stern Carried**

- Public Participation
 - John Mariani asked if the Village would be replacing the trees the State cut down on the terrace of his property. DPW Bechy said the State would likely not be replacing the trees. Mr. Mariani also asked whether there was any update on when the sinkhole at Schoolhouse Apartments was going to be fixed. Mayor Ostrander stated that the State and property owners are still in litigation. Trustee Bogan asked Village Attorney Getman if he could find out the status of the litigation so the Village could provide updates to the community.

- Department Head’s Reports
 - DPW Superintendent J. Bechy – Nothing to report

 - Fire Chief J. Waufle
 - Fire Department met for their annual meeting to elect new officers. The officers elected are:
Fire Chief – Jarrod Waufle
1st Assistant Chief – Ken Boone
2nd Assistant Chief – Sean Baldwin
1st Captain – Dan Friebel
2nd Captain – Brian Cossette
1st Lieutenant – Griffin Barth
2nd Lieutenant – Aaron Moon

- **Motion to accept elected officers – B. Bogan 2nd – R. Perry Carried**
 - Total calls for March – 15 Total calls for April so far – 11

- Trucks will be going in for their annual maintenance. The Heavy Rescue maintenance was not budgeted in the current budget or for the new fiscal year. A budget adjustment will need to be done once the new fiscal year starts.
- The Fire Dept. will be detailing trucks in May.
- Fire Chief Waufle was invited by the Waterville Central School to be on the Safety Committee. This was in response to the bomb threat that happened at the school at the beginning of April.
- Waterville Fire Dept. officers have been meeting with the officers from Oriskany Falls and Deansboro to discuss the sharing of manpower and resources.

- Codes Enforcement Officer W. Brown
 - Submitted monthly codes report to the Board.

- Treasurer/Clerk G. Barnes
 - Informed the Board that the new Utility and Property Tax Accounting and Billing software would be going live on April 28th. Utility users will now be able to have their invoices emailed to them rather than mailed. This could cut down on postage costs. The new Online Payment Portal will also be live. This will allow utility users and Village residents to set up an account to pay their utility bill and/or property tax bill online, and also have access to their bills to view and/or print.
 - Tr/Cl Barnes asked the Board to consider going to monthly utility billing instead of quarterly billing. The Board stated they would like to get feedback from the community before making a decision about monthly billing. The Board would also like to see how many people take advantage of emailing of invoices. VA Getman stated that the Village would also have to change the Village Law that states utility billing is done quarterly. This would require a Public Referendum.
 - Tr/Cl Barnes asked if the Board would be interested in having a Village wide garage sale. This could bring people into the Village that have never been to Waterville. The Board agreed and an early June date will be considered.

- Village Attorney William Getman
 - Attended a pre-trial conference with Mayor Ostrander and DPW Bechy. During the conference, Hubbard's attorney turned down the Village's offer to settle and a decision was made to go to trial. Later that day, Hubbard reached out to Mr. Getman and accepted the Village's terms. A final agreement is needed but requires the Board's approval to proceed.
**Motion to allow VA Getman to proceed with final agreement – B. Bogan
 2nd – R. Perry Carried**
 - Village resident, Ellie Allen, is considering deeding to the Village to roadway that goes between the Waterville Public Library and the Village Parking Lot near the Firemen's Pavilion. She will either deed the roadway to the Village or provide an easement for the roadway. The Village will need to get the property surveyed before an agreement can be finalized.
Motion to approve funding for the surveyor – B. Bogan 2nd – R. Perry Carried

- Trustee's Reports/Old Business
 - Brian Bogan
 - Complimented the DPW crew for the work on Babbott Park playground
 - Asked DPW Bechy to look at a bench in the park. A resident stated that it was in bad shape.
 - Asked DPW Bechy when the cameras for the park will be installed. DPW Bechy stated that he has been working with the vendor but they are currently trying to figure out how to get internet and power to the park for the cameras.
 - There are five concerts scheduled for the summer concerts.
 - Waterville First had Patty Louise speak at their last meeting. She discussed how she helped the Village of Clinton obtain the N.Y.S. Downtown Initiative Revitalization Grant. She explained to

the Board how the process works and what is expected out of the Village and the Community.

Next Waterville First meeting is May 18th.

- Amanda Briggs - Nothing to report
- Larry Stern – Nothing to report
- Rob Perry – Nothing to report

- Mayor's Report
 - Trustee Stern and Mayor Ostrander attended the monthly Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission meeting. In terms of creek work, the Village is ahead of other municipalities. Money for work is still an issue.
 - A meeting will be set-up between VA Getman and Mayor Ostrander with Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corp to discuss the possibility of a financial agreement.
 - Mayor Ostrander would like to schedule a Babbott Park ceremony.
 - Received an offer to purchase the Village owner property which borders the State land and private land. This property is land locked and the Village cannot do anything with it. It was originally purchased to protect a feeder stream to the number two reservoir which is no longer used. The Board would like to advertise the property to see if the Village can receive a better offer.

- Adjournment, next meeting May 8th, 2023 at 7pm.
 - **Motion to adjourn – A. Briggs** **2nd – R. Perry** **Carried**
 - Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Signature

Date