

The official minutes of the Village of Waterville Board of Trustees regular board meeting held on January 22nd, 2024. Minutes to be approved at the next board meeting on Monday, February 26th, 2024.

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

Not in attendance: Trustee A. Briggs

Public in attendance: Patty Louise, John Mariani, Jim Morgan

- Meeting was called to order at 7pm

- Approve the minutes of the December 11th, 2024 Regular Board meeting
Motion – B. Bogan 2nd – L. Stern Carried

- Approve Purchase Order(s)
Motion – B. Bogan 2nd – L. Stern Carried

- Approve Audit of Expense Abstracts for 1/22/2024 GEN ABS, TA ABS, H0 ABS
Motion – B. Bogan 2nd – R. Perry Carried

- Approve 2024 Fire Contract with the Town of Sangerfield and Town of Marshall. Total Fire Department budget for fiscal year 2024-25 is \$126,070. There was a budget deficit for fiscal year 2023-24 resulting in a \$7466 credit applied to the budget. The total amount of the fire contract for the Town of Sangerfield was \$44,124 minus their portion of the credit which was \$2613, totaling \$41,511. The total amount of the fire contract for the Town of Marshall was \$18,911 minus their portion of the credit which was \$1120, totaling \$17,791.
Motion to approve contracts – L. Stern 2nd – R. Perry Carried

- Thoma Development Consultants provided the Village of Waterville with a proposal to assist the Village with the application process for New York State’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant. The DRI grant, if awarded, would provide 10 million dollars to approved projects for the Village of Waterville and local businesses. Waterville First tried to apply for the grant last year, but did not receive much feedback from the community. Trustee Bogan and Jim Morgan, who are members of Waterville First, hope having Thoma assist with the application process will increase the Village’s chances of being awarded the grant. This year, Trustee Bogan, would like to have a Steering Committee comprised of a few members from Waterville First, the Village, and other community members.
Concerns of the Board for hiring Thoma were:
 - Cost of hiring Thoma (\$15,000) with no guarantee of success
 - Lack of project ideas and community participation
 - Need to establish a footprint before involving Thoma

Trustee Bogan stated that Rich Cunningham from Thoma will be at the next Waterville First meeting on January 25 at 6:30pm to answer questions. Trustee Bogan invited all who attended the meeting, including the Village Board members, to attend the meeting to get a better understanding of the grant process, what services Thoma can provide and answer questions.

- Public Participation
 - Village resident, John Mariani, contacted Bryant Arms of the NYS Code Compliance Unit regarding the sink hole at the Schoolhouse Apartments. Mr. Bryant responded to Mr. Mariani’s email stating that the condition may violate Section 302.2 of the 2020 Property Maintenance Code of NYS. Section 302.2 Grading and Drainage states “Premises shall be graded and maintained to prevent the erosion of soil and to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water thereon, or within any structure located thereon.”
A copy of the email was provided to the Board members and to the Codes Enforcement Officer, W. Brown.
 - Patty Louise asked the Board whether any decision had been made about COCVAC’s request for monetary assistance. Mayor Ostrander stated that he and Village Attorney Getman met with members of COCVAC several months ago to discuss this issue. COCVAC was supposed to get back to the Village with some numbers, but they have not done that yet.

Department Head’s Reports

- Fire Chief J. Waufle
 - All fire trucks have been inspected
 - The new Cascade system has been installed
 - There will be an EMT class at the Fire House on Mondays until May
 - There were 254 calls in 2023
- DPW Superintendent J. Bechy
 - The 1.3 million Drinking Water Grant that the Village applied for was denied.
 - NYS is mandating municipalities to replace all lead and copper service lines. A survey of all lead and copper services within the Village water district will have to be completed by this fall. Of the 658 water services, there are still 170 services that are unknown as to the type of material used. The DPW crew will have to dig up curb boxes this summer to determine that type of service. Although there are grants available to help pay for the work, the Village is not eligible for these grants because the Village is not deemed to be a disadvantaged community.
 - The design of the Big Creek project finished last summer was successful in mitigating any flooding/erosion problems after the 2 ½” of rain the area received on December 18th.
 - NYS DEC and NYS Soil and Water met with DPW Superintendent Bechy at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to look at the section of Big Creek that continues to erode even though it’s been repaired several times. The Village sewer and water lines at the plant could be affected if the bank continues to erode. J. Bechy was originally told that rocks could not be used to stabilize that section of Big Creek, but after the DEC and S&W inspectors looked at that section, they agreed to design a bank stabilization that would use “big” rocks that are tiered in a slope.
 - J. Bechy has started a list of “dark spots” on Village streets that could use more street lighting.
 - A Request for Proposal was sent out for companies to bid on taking 7 Village trees down (bid includes cutting down the tree and removing the stump). Only one sealed bid was received which was opened at the Board meeting.

Time opened – 8:12pm

Bid received by Rick Turk

Bid Amount was \$22,425

Motion to approve bid – G. Ostrander 2nd – L. Stern Carried

- The Village received the Village parking lot /Firemen’s Pavilion survey done by Chapin Surveyors. A map was provided to all the Board members which showed that the Village owned all but a corner section of the Firemen's Pavillion.
- Kevin Bowen completed his Class D water license requirements. DPW Superintendent J. Bechy asked the Board to approve a \$.50/hour increase for Kevin Bowen for his license as done in past practice.

Motion – B. Bogan 2nd – R. Perry Carried

- The DPW crew fixed 3 recent water leaks on E. Bacon, Babbott Ave., and at the Village Garage
- Presented the December DPW report

- CEO W. Brown

- Presented monthly and the 2023 Annual Codes report.

- Trustees Old/New Business

- Trustee B. Bogan

- Waterville First will have their next meeting on January 25 at 6:30pm at the Waterville Historical Society
- The Democratic and Republican Caucuses will be held on January 29. The Republican Caucus will be held at 6:30pm at the Village Hall Community Room and the Democratic Caucus will be held at 7:00pm at the Village Hall Conference Room.

- Mayor’s Report

- Organizers from Mohawk Valley Hometown Heroes Banner Program contacted the Mayor about participating in their program. The Mayor asked the Board if the Village would like to participate.

Motion to participate – R. Perry 2nd – L. Stern Carried

- Adjournment, next meeting will be the February 26th, 2024 at 7pm.

Motion to Adjourn – B. Bogan 2nd – R. Perry Carried

Time Adjourned – 8:54pm

Signature

Date