

The official minutes of the Village of Waterville Board of Trustees regular board meeting held on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Minutes to be approved at the next board meeting on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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, Lori DeAgrella

- Meeting was called to order at 7pm
  
- Approve the minutes of the November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Board meeting  
**Motion – B. Bogan                      2<sup>nd</sup> – L. Stern                      Carried**
  
- Approve Purchase Order(s)  
**Motion – L. Stern                      2<sup>nd</sup> – B. Bogan                      Carried**
  
- Approve Audit of Expense Abstracts for 12/11/23 GEN ABS and TA ABS  
**Motion – R. Perry                      2<sup>nd</sup> – B. Bogan                      Carried**
  
- Public Participation
  - Village resident, Lori DeAgrella, asked that Board if anything could be done about the look of the smoke shops in the Village. She felt the appearance of the stores was inappropriate in the Village. The Board responded that the Village cannot prevent businesses from opening inside the Village. The Village can only utilize the codes enforcement officer to make sure all businesses are complying with Village and State codes. Ms. DeAgrella also asked whether there was anything the Village could do to encourage new businesses to start-up inside the Village. The Board said they would consider her suggestions and encouraged Ms. DeAgrella to attend future board meetings.
  - Village resident, John Mariani, provided the Board information on the court case between Conifer Associates, who own the Schoolhouse Apartments, and NYS DOT regarding the sink hole on the Conifer property. Mr. Mariani obtained a copy of the court’s decision which found NYS DOT not liable for the repairs of the sinkhole. The decision was rendered on June 4, 2021. The Board informed Mr. Mariani that a letter had recently been sent to the owners of the apartment complex asking what steps they were going to take to fix the sinkhole. Mayor Ostrander and DPW Superintendent stated that since the 2019 flood which caused the sink hole, they have reached out to all the local elected officials, including County, State, and Federal officials, seeking help in finding a resolution to fix the sink hole. Although several officials have visited the site, the Village has not been given any resolutions or ideas on how to get the sink hole fixed. Mr. Mariani asked if the Village would be able to undertake fixing the sink hole, but Mayor Ostrander stated that the Village cannot use taxpayer funds to pay for repairs on private property.

## Department Head's Reports

- DPW Superintendent J. Bechy
  - An email was sent to all Board members on August 29<sup>th</sup> stating that the bids for paving of the Wastewater Treatment Plant had come in and only one company had bid on the project. Parks Paving bid \$81,310 which was under the budgeted cost. The bid was approved via email but a formal approval is still required.  
**Motion to approve bid from Parks Paving for \$81,310 – B. Bogan**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> – L. Stern                      Carried**
  - A letter of appeal was sent to FEMA for their denial regarding the scope of work change for the reservoir project. The original FEMA approved project was for \$808,800.30 which covered the cost of the disaster related repairs to the reservoir. The Village requested a scope of work change to \$2,441,199.70 which would allow the Village to bring the reservoirs up to current codes and standards. The scope of work change was denied on October 10, 2023.
  - A Request for Proposals was sent out last month for a 2024 diesel fuel contract. The contract would lock the Village into a set price for one year. Two bids were received, one from Buel Fuel and one from Broedel Fuel. The bid from Buel Fuel was \$2.94/gallon for summer mix and \$3.14/gallon for winter mix. The bid from Broedel Fuel was \$2.96/gallon for summer mix and \$3.29/gallon for winter mix.  
**Motion to accept bid from Buel Fuel – R. Perry    2<sup>nd</sup> – B. Bogan                      Carried**
  - There will be an Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission meeting at the Village of Waterville Municipal Hall on December 21, 2023 at 4:30pm. This meeting is open to the public.
  - Presented monthly DPW reports for October and November.
- Fire Chief J. Waufle
  - The Bauer cascade system has been delivered to Jerome and is scheduled for installation at the fire house on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Truck 424 did not pass inspection due to brake issues. The truck is scheduled to go in for brake repairs and re-inspection.
  - Truck 421 will have an LED rotator, back-up alarm, and side bar light installed.
  - There were 21 calls for the month of November.
  - Three applications were received to join the Fire Dept. The three applicants were Wayne Andrews (Junior Firefighter), Cameron Kicinski, and Alicia Murling. Only Wayne Andrews' application was presented to the Board, but FC Waufle will be submitting the other two applications to the Mayor.  
**Motion to approve applications pending submittal of completed applications – B. Bogan**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> – R. Perry                      Carried**
- CEO W. Brown
  - Presented monthly Codes report.

- Treasurer/Clerk G. Barnes
  - The new Village website is now live.
  - The Village was approved for two State grants. One is for a CDBG Community Survey in the amount of \$38,500. The survey will be conducted to assess the housing conditions of the Village. The survey will assist the Village in obtaining future CDBG housing grants. The other grant is through the Department of State for the Village to complete a Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan. The amount of the grant is \$71,100.
  
- Trustees Old/New Business
  - Trustee B. Bogan
    - Formally acknowledged the great job the DPW crew did with the holiday decorations.
  - Trustee L. Stern
    - At the last Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission meeting, it was proposed that the monthly meetings rotate each month between Waterville and Westmoreland. All meetings are held the third Thursday of the month. December’s meeting will be held at the Waterville Municipal Hall. January’s meeting will take place in the Town of Westmoreland. Kristin Campbell from Oneida County is looking to get a Community Engagement person from FEMA on the OCWS Commission.
    - A Town of Sangerfield plow driver asked if the Village could do something about people parking on the streets overnight. Overnight parking makes plowing the streets more difficult for the plow drivers. The Village does have an ordinance prohibiting overnight parking on Village streets and Village owned parking lots.
  
- Adjournment, next meeting will be the January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 7pm.  
**Motion to Adjourn – B. Bogan      2<sup>nd</sup> – R. Perry      Carried**  
**Time Adjourned – 8:18pm**

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Signature

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Date