

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OCT. 19, 2015

7 PM

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Mayor Neville opened the meeting at 7 pm.

Present were: Mayor Neville, Trustees Conger, Morey, Holl and Evener, Police OIC Tim Williams, DPW Supervisor Chad Shurtleff, Electric Dept. Supervisor Steve Teeter, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Andersen, Don Barber-Executive Director of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium, Karen McMahon, Skip Schell, Shawna Schell, Lee Shurtleff, Tom Milbyer, Jeff Dende, Seth Walpole, Rich Uhl, Brendon Hays, Kayla Esparza, Phil Esparza, Sandra Redfield, Aryeal Jackson-Groton Independent, Tyrone Heppard-Cortland Standard

Trustee Morey made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21st meeting, seconded by Trustee Conger, carried.

Trustee Holl made a motion to approve the claims presented for review, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried. The claims paid are covered by the following list of abstracts of audited vouchers:

GENERAL (A5)	\$95,396.81	JOINT REC (J5)	\$267.02
WATER (F5)	7,675.58	COM DEV (PI 15-10)	1,191.96
SEWER (G5)	14,220.62	COM DEV (Housing Rehab Grnt)	10,230.05
ELECTRIC (E5)	72,410.14	COM DEV (Microentprse Grnt)	7,102.35

Electric – Supervisor Teeter reported that the annual inspections of the bucket and digger-derrick trucks has been performed. There were a few small cosmetic issues but nothing major wrong with the units. The Dept has been installing 40 LED street lights that were recently delivered. The initial installations will be at intersections. The Dept is tree trimming as time will allow. Eric VanBenschoten assisted the Dept in taking down a huge tree on Clark Street. Admin. Rankin noted that the Dept will be handing out LED light bulbs with the October billing, as part of the Village’s energy conservation program. A newsletter with customer rights and rates will be mailed with the November billing.

Public Works – Supervisor Shurtleff reviewed the annual paving program. Five streets were milled and paved, which (in most cases) milled off one and a half inches of pavement and was replaced with two and a half inches of pavement. Some sewer manhole covers were raised to blend in with the pavement. 1,033 tons of blacktop used in all. We were aided with four trucks from the Town of Groton and three trucks from the Town of Dryden. 80 feet of curbing was also installed in Roosevelt Ave., which should greatly improve some drainage issues there. Driveway approaches were also redone to fit in with the new paving. 130 feet of sidewalk will be replaced on Spring St. in front to the quonset hut. The Dept provided materials for the recent student volunteer day that was sponsored by the High School. They painted fence and picnic tables at the park. No parking signs on Linderman Ave. have been replaced.

Joint Recreation – Trustee Conger reported that the fall programs ran smoothly and will be ending soon. There was a cross country meet on Saturday at the Elementary School with 75 runners participating. Basketball and wrestling will begin soon. Committee is starting to make plans for the Cabin Fever Festival. The School District will no longer run background checks on volunteer coaches, we will contract with a firm to perform this service.

Youth Services – Trustee Conger reported on the “Achieving Youth Results” forum. Our youth are surveyed every two years on their thoughts. There will be another meeting on Nov. 4th at 7 pm.

Police – Lt. Williams reported that there have been 1,247 calls to date, which is about 6 weeks ahead of last year. All Mode Communications was in to address the phone rollover issue. The laptop in the Impala no longer functions, Tim is looking into replacement cost. Fall firearms training will be held on Nov. 4, 5 and 10. The Dept has come up with a Facebook page. Officer Davenport is assisting with it’s development.

Don Barber, Executive Director of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium came before the Board. He wanted to introduce the board members to the consortium and report on its progress. There are currently 18 members and there will be another one coming on in January. Smaller municipalities now of the advantage of not being community rated. The main duty of the consortium is to collect premiums and pay claims. Excellus acts as a third party administrator for the plan. At present, we have 2,300 contracts with 5,300 covered lives. Don reviewed sheet provided with various statistical information. 93% of all the money taken in goes toward to payment of claims. In comparison, Excellus, which is not-for-profit, their percentage is 85%. This is why the consortium’s rate increase for 2016 will be 3%, next to 9 to 12% for other insurance carriers. The unencumbered fund balance at the beginning of 2015 was \$8.7 million. Don noted that Admin. Rankin and Trustee Conger have been very active in the consortium since the beginning. Admin. Rankin thanked Mr. Barber for his efforts in getting the consortium off the ground and its continued success.

Code Enforcement – Mike Andersen reported that he has 59 building inspections to perform and he has 34 to go before year end. He has 340 apartments and rooms to inspect and they have to, via Village local law, be inspected every year. 45 building permits year to date were issued with a value of \$539,000. 36 roofing and window permits were also issued. Mike reviewed the seven day warning he has to give for grass and trash.

Public Comments:

Skip Schell – Thanked the Village Board for the meeting last month. There seems to be a lot more police presence. Reviewed an incident with a tenant of one of his neighbors moving out in the middle of the night.

Rich Uhl – Asked why he got served a copy of the local law adopted last month by the Sheriff’s Dept. Admin. Rankin noted that those personally served the local law took effect immediately. He asked if all property owners whose zoning was changed got served. Admin. Rankin stated that only Mr. Uhl got served.

Seth Walpole – stated that he had heard a lot of good things about the Police Dept lately.

Trustee Holl asked Mike Andersen about the comment at the last meeting about 14 rooms with no kitchen facilities. Mike responded that code only requires a bathroom for every four rooms, there is no kitchen requirement.

Karen McMahon stated she is interested in when Neighborhood Watch will start. She has noticed more foot traffic and some bikes on Linderman Ave. She likes the increased police presence on Main St. She also appreciated the open forum at last month’s meeting.

Trustee Conger moved for the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, THAT the Village Office, 143 Cortland St., be designated as the one polling place for the general village election to be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Admin. Rankin reported that there has been some leaks in the lower roof at the Municipal Building. The water grows a mold while it sits on the roof and it plugs the drain. It has been suggested that another drain be put into the roof. Admin. Rankin will contact the contractor who installed the roof see what can be done.

Admin. Rankin reported that the Light Board does not feel that the flashing speed signs purchased through IEEP constitute energy conservation. They have asked that the IEEP funds be refurbished by the General Fund. Admin. Rankin stated we would have to see how the budget stands on when we would make this reimbursement. It may need to be spread out over two years.

It was noted that the Tompkins County Government Efficiency Plan that was submitted to the State in response to the “Tax Freeze” was not accepted by the State.

Lee Shurtleff noted that the paid driver has certainly helped. The Fire Dept. is considering adding a third full-time paramedic. This will be possible due to increase contribution by the Town ambulance contract. The Dept. is working on a application for renewal as a training agency. Ambulance call volume is 700 plus.

Trustee Conger made a motion to move into executive session to discuss a personnel matter in the Administration Dept. and a matter of pending litigation, seconded by Trustee Morey, carried.

Trustee Conger made a motion to move out of executive session, seconded by Trustee Holl, carried. There were no votes taken or resolutions adopted during the session.

The meeting was closed at 8:42 pm.

CHARLES V. RANKIN
Village Clerk