

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS HELD AT VILLAGE HALL ON AUGUST 16, 2007, AT 7:30 P.M.**

Present - Mayor Saraceni, Trustees Presley, Augello, Stebbins, A. Saraceni, Mott and Weaver.

Also Present - Tom LeRoy, Police Agent; Claude Sykes, Superintendent of DPW; Village Attorneys Ron Carr and David Jones; Jerry Elliott from the Public Access Channel; Karen Gates, Tom Taylor, Don Cronk, Carl Pelcher and Lee Snyder.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Motion #180 –**

Moved by Trustee Saraceni seconded by Trustee Weaver that the minutes of the meeting held August 2, 2007, be approved, and the Village Clerk dispense with the reading of said minutes.

**CARRIED.**

**Presentation by a representative from Crissey Architectural Group regarding the Former Harrington Fire Station Property.**

Lee Snyder from Crissey Architectural Group submitted two sketches for the area where the former Harrington Fire Station stood. The sketches had areas of green space in the center sitting area and pocket areas for parking. The sketches showed a crisscross design so the public could get to the different areas. It was also noted that the parking spaces were 10' x 20', with the handicap spots having an 8' unloading area and the alleys lanes are between 22' and 25' depending on where they are located. One of the sketches showed a two story structure along the side of the retaining wall by Key Bank. The structure would retain parking on the bottom and residential living space on the second floor. One of the sketches shows 120 parking spaces and the other shows 114 parking spaces and there is not a direct drive through from Oswego Street to East Genesee Street.

The Village Board thanked Peter Crissey and his students for work they did preparing this suggested design for that area.

**Citizen's Comments.**

There were no comments.

**Mayor's Comments were as follows:**

- Requested that an Executive Session for 3 personnel issues and 1 possible real property acquisition be added to the agenda.
- Requested that a Discussion/Action in regards to power usage on Paper Mill Island, be added to the agenda under New Business.
- Requested that a Discussion/Possible Action regarding the State's culvert work across Route 48, by Evans Chevrolet, be added to the agenda under New Business.
- Requested that a Discussion/Possible Action in regards to alcohol consumption within the State's right of way at Sammy Malone's, be added to the agenda.

- Noted discussion by the Citizens Advisory Committee. The meeting took place at the Canton Street Well facility, with Charles McAuliffe giving the tour. He also noted the following issues discussed, after the tour of the well site; signage for the Village Parks and it was noted that new signs were just installed, cameras in the parks, an increase in foot patrol in the downtown area, crosswalks and this issue has been addressed, sidewalks at the railroad crosswalk on E. Oneida Street, and speeding on Virginia Street. The Mayor stated that he once lived on that street and speeding has always been an issue. He realizes stop signs cannot be used to control traffic, but a solution must be found for the safety of the residents. Trustee Mott suggested speed bumps like those used in the state of Virginia, but it was mentioned that would not work with the snow plowing. Claude Sykes stated that the Village could have an engineer come in and do a traffic calming study for that area.
- Noted that another issue that was brought up was a program that the Village of Phoenix has for their boaters. They have a volunteer kid's organization called "Bridge House Rats" that do errands for the boaters on the canal. He suggested inviting the director to explain their program to the Village Board. The next Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will be held at the DPW Facility at 1963 West Genesee Street Road on August 30, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. He noted that he is getting great feedback from these Citizens Advisory Committee meetings.
- Noted that a free movie night will be held on Paper Mill Island on September 7, 2007, at 7:45 p.m. The movie will be the Wizard of OZ. He noted that flyers will be written up and distributed throughout the Village. He also noted that there will be no alcohol on Paper Mill Island and children under age 16 will need to be with an adult. He stated that the sponsor funds and payments for bills for the event will go through the Chamber of Commerce and the Village.

#### **Trustees' Comments.**

Trustee Weaver noted that Claude Sykes took her and Trustee Augello on a tour of all of the Village's facilities and it was very interesting.

Mayor Saraceni stated that there was an additional comment he wanted to make. He mentioned that on August 6, 2007, there was a major fire in a retail/apartment building in the downtown four corners area. He noted that he received a copy of 2 letters from Ron Ryan, Onondaga County Fire Investigator, commending the outstanding police work in the quick apprehending of the individual allegedly responsible for this fire event. In one of the letters he stated that there was no question in his mind, as the result of occupants slumber state, that in one of the apartments they would not have survived this fire event if hadn't it been for the heroic efforts of Deputy Beiling from the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department and Baldwinsville Police Officer Cerankowski leading those occupants to safety through environmental conditions that even trained firefighters would find hazardous with self contained breathing apparatus. His letter also stated that the motto, "to serve and protect" is a gross understatement of the activities he observed of these officers, this also included New York State Trooper Lumpkin, who performed representing their various agencies in such an adverse and deadly environment. We, as public servants and the community at large owe these individuals our sincere gratitude for their outstanding performance and professionalism. Mayor Saraceni commended the Police Department and Fire Departments that were involved in saving that block that could have easily been lost with a fire that intense. He stated that he would like to have a ceremony for those involved at the first meeting in September.

Trustee Mott stated that the ARB's September meeting will be held September 11, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., since the first Monday of September is Labor Day.

Trustee Saraceni stated that he attended a meeting with the Economic Development Agency regarding the Visitor Center. The Economic Development Agency and Baldwinsville Chamber of Commerce are looking forward to working on some ideas for the Visitor Center. He noted that they have a member that works with a construction company and they will do the repairs to the kiosk sign for less than the \$1,200.00 cost that was mentioned at the last Village Board Meeting. He also commended those emergency people who were involved with the fire at 7 – 9 West Genesee Street.

Trustee Presley requested 2 Executive Sessions for labor contracts and a personnel matter. He asked Mayor Saraceni if he had another comment to make regarding the Carp Tournament Sponsorship.

Mayor Saraceni stated that it was brought to his attention on June 19, 2007, that there are residents in this Village that had an issue or concern with his sponsorship and participation in the Carp Tournament that was held May 16-19, 2007. Mayor Saraceni read a prepared statement which noted that he had accepted a sponsorship fee of \$450.00 from Hills, Farnham, and Hills, the Village insurance agent, and it appeared that Trustee Presley and some of his constituents had concerns with him accepting the sponsorship fee. He noted that he participated in the tournament as a way to promote tourism, upon hearing these concerns he paid the sponsorship fee to the Greater Baldwinsville Economic Development Agency. He noted that there was no request from Hills, Farnham, and Hills for any favors. Mayor Saraceni stated that he was asked to mention this issue at the Village Board Meeting, and he was asked to apologize for his actions. He read comments printed in the New York State Ethics Commission regarding gifts. He noted that from what he read he did not violate any Code of Ethics and does not need to apologize. He also noted that he has consulted two attorneys and two judges and they have also said that he did not violate any Codes of Ethics.

Trustee Presley stated that he feels that there was a violation of the New York State Public Officer Law and the New York State Ethics Law. The fact is the Mayor accepted a gift whose value was more than \$75.00 and that the gift was from Hills, Farnham and Hills, which was appointed by the Mayor and Village Board to be the Village's insurance agent.

Mayor Saraceni and Trustee Presley discussed their opinions regarding the interpretation of the Code of Ethics.

### **Department Heads.**

Claude Sykes noted that the paving project on Downer Street was completed on Wednesday. The work in the former Harrington Fire House property should be completed tomorrow.

### **Pending Business.**

*Discussion in regards to Village Owned Facilities/Business District Study.*

### **Former Harrington Fire Station**

Mayor Saraceni thanked Claude Sykes for giving his update under his comments.

### **Lock Street Property**

Mayor Saraceni stated that EDR could not make it tonight. He would like to recommend meeting with EDR at a special meeting. The Village Board discussed a date for the special work session and decided to meet with EDR on August 30, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., before the Citizens Advisory Meeting that starts at 6:30 p.m., with both meetings being held at the DPW Facility, 1963 West Genesee Street Road.

### **Cold Storage Facility**

Claude Sykes stated that he had received an e-mail from John Camp from C & S Engineering asking if the Village wants a survey of the whole property at 1963 West Genesee Road in anticipation of putting up a salt shed. A survey will not be needed for the cold storage facility, but the Village will need to locate the water lines and underground electric.

The Village Board recommended that a survey not be done at this time, since it is not needed for the cold storage facility.

***Discussion in regards to updating the Village Code.***

Trustee Mott stated that he would like a meeting to be set up with legal council and the Mayor to discuss the intent of the changes and answer any questions. A meeting date will be set at a later date.

***Discussion/Action regarding the South Shore East Trail.***

Claude Sykes stated that he met with DEC last Thursday. He noted that DEC does not have any problems giving the Village a stream disturbing permit, since it is a Class C stream. They did make a recommendation that the Village file a joint application with DEC Army Corps of Engineering, because that creek is navigable at least one day a year. He noted that they asked Dave Harding to write to SHPO regarding a request to remove the stone arch culvert.

Claude Sykes also stated that the Canal Corporation has been reviewing the electrical layout for the South Shore West Trail and they feel that Ram-Tech, the Village Electric Engineers, is over kill and they would like to see it cut back. Ram-Tech recommended 800 amp service. The Canal Corporation's engineers feel the project could be done with 480 volt cable entry coming down in the area and could save \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 by making the change. Claude Sykes stated that Ram-Tech stated that if they have to redesign the layout they want an additional \$5,700.00. Mayor Saraceni stated they should have done a better job coming up with a needs analysis and he will contact them.

***Discussion in regards to succession and transition of leadership among village employees.***

Trustee Stebbins noted that the Committee to fill Claude Sykes's position had their final meeting last Monday and has made a recommendation and this is one of the issues to be discussed in executive session tonight.

***Discussion in regards to Village sidewalks repairs and improvements.***

Mayor Saraceni stated that he would have a complete outline of the sidewalk replacement program to the Village Board Members before the next Regular Village Board Meeting. The outline will include a letter to the residents, the method in which the Village will analyze the sidewalks, and a possible time frame. The Village Board suggested contacting the City of Syracuse, since they are doing the same as the Village is proposing to do. He noted he has been in contact with the New York State Department of Transportation engineer regarding the Route 48 sidewalk project. He has reviewed the plan that came from C & S Engineers and the State wants to make sure that it is ADA compliant and the landscaping in the area. He noted that he has called Senator DeFrancisco's Office and spoken to Art Levy, who works with the engineer and he assured him that the project will be moved forward.

***Discussion/Action in regards to the village website.***

Trustee Augello noted that things have been added to the website and that the calendar and news page has been updated.

**New Business.**

***Discussion/Action in regards to accepting a letter of resignation from Jeremy Brand as Janitor P.T. for Village Hall with the effective date of August 17, 2007.***

**Motion #181 -**

Moved by Trustee Presley seconded by Trustee Mott that the letter of resignation from Jeremy Brand as Janitor P.T. for Village Hall be accepted, with the effective date of August 17, 2007.

**CARRIED.**

*Discussion/Action in regards to the appointment of Timothy Bressette of 322 Snowdale Drive, Syracuse, NY, as Janitor P.T. for Village Hall with the effective date of August 17, 2007, at the rate of \$9.40/hr.*

**Motion # 182-**

Moved by Trustee Stebbins seconded by Trustee Saraceni that Timothy Bressette of 322 Snowdale Drive, Syracuse, NY, as Janitor P.T. for Village Hall, be approved, with the effective date of August 17, 2007, at the rate of \$9.40/hr.

**CARRIED.**

*Discussion/Action in regards to declaring a 1996 Oldsmobile as surplus equipment (VIN #1G3AJ55MOT6372742) and sent to municipal auction at the New York State Fairgrounds.*

**Motion #183 -**

Moved by Trustee Presley seconded by Trustee Weaver that a 1996 Oldsmobile be declared as surplus equipment (VIN #1G3AJ55MOT6372742) and sent to municipal auction at the New York State Fairgrounds.

Claude Sykes stated that the auction will take place on October 25, 2007.

**CARRIED.**

*Discussion/Action in regards to giving the Supt. of Public Works permission to prepare bid documents for the procurement of River Street Walkway Lighting with the bids being received September 4, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at Village Hall.*

**Motion #184 -**

Moved by Trustee Stebbins seconded by Trustee Saraceni that the Supt. of Public Works be given permission to prepare bid documents for the procurement of River Street Walkway Lighting with the bids being received September 4, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

**CARRIED.**

*Discussion/Action concerning the approval of the waiver of State Aide Funds for the Youth Recreation in the amount of \$1,115.00 to both the Towns of Lysander and Van Buren for the year 2008, and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the documents for same.*

**Motion #185 -**

Moved by Trustee Saraceni seconded by Trustee Presley that the waiver of State Aide Funds for the Youth Recreation in the amount of \$1,115.00 to both the Towns of Lysander and Van Buren for the year 2008, be approved and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the documents for same.

**CARRIED.**

*Discussion/Action regarding giving the Mayor authorization to execute the application for New York State Division for Youth Funds. The Village should receive a total of \$8,864.00 for youth services, which includes \$6,886.00 that is being waived from the Towns of Lysander and Van Buren to the Village.*

**Motion #186 -**

Moved by Trustee Stebbins seconded by Trustee Saraceni that the Mayor be given authorization to execute the application for New York State Division for Youth Funds. The Village should receive a total of \$8,864.00 for youth services, which includes \$6,886.00 that is being waived from the Towns of Lysander and Van Buren to the Village.

The Village uses the funds for the DARE Program.

**CARRIED.**

***Discussion/Action regarding electric power usage on Paper Mill Island.***

Mayor Saraceni stated that the current promoter put an ice machine on Paper Mill Island to use for his concerts through the month of August and has left it plugged in using the power off Paper Mill Island. The Village Board discussed the issue of village taxpayers paying for the cost of the power when the promoter has not paid the rental fee for Paper Mill Island. It was noted that others who have rented Paper Mill Island do not leave their equipment there week to week, they bring it in as needed. The Village Board stated that the promoter has to unplug and remove any and all of his equipment when he does not have use of the Paper Mill Island Facility. It was noted that the Village pays the power of the Budweiser Sign on Paper Mill Island and for the power for the Pepsi machines, but it was also noted that the Village received \$250,000.00 each from Anheuser-Busch and Pepsi Bottling and have contracts with them.

***Discussion/Action in regards to the State's culvert work under Route 48.***

Mayor Saraceni stated that he received a phone call from Andy Dryden, who had spoken to the State Engineer that was working on the replacement of the culvert under Route 48, by Evans Chevrolet. The State Engineer told Andy Dryden that the State's fix for the problem is to replace the 10' culvert pipe with a 7' culvert pipe. The Village Board discussed that with the 10' culvert pipe in the area, Evans Chevrolet has flood twice in the last 4 years and the Village has residents that back up to that creek. They have concerns what will happen if the State replaces it with 7' culvert. Claude Sykes suggested that the Village's Engineers look at the State's reports and make their own recommendation. The Mayor stated that he would contact C & S Engineering.

Mayor Saraceni stated that Tom Taylor from Sammy Malone's was present tonight and he had questions regarding alcohol consumption on the sidewalk in front of his business. The Village Attorney stated that he would be surprised if that sidewalk in front of his business was not in the State's right-a-way. If they're in the State's right-a-way they are public sidewalks and the Village would have the jurisdiction of those sidewalks. The Village Board denied Mr. Taylor's request for a waiver of the Open Container Law at the last meeting for that sidewalk area.

**Motion #187 -**

Moved by Trustee Mott seconded by Trustee Saraceni that the board members retire into executive session at 9:15 p.m. for a personnel labor relations issue, department contract issue, and a personnel issue.

**CARRIED.**

**Motion #188 -**

Moved by Trustee Presley seconded by Trustee Stebbins that the board members return at 10:33 p.m. from executive session.

**CARRIED.**

**Motion #189 -**

Moved by Trustee Stebbins seconded by Trustee Saraceni that the bills be paid from their proper accounts, after audit. General # 284 (Cks #21555 - #21625)-\$41,315.46; Water # 284 (Cks #21687- 21695)-\$8,287.36; Sewer #284 (Cks #21626 - #21634)-\$688.62.

**CARRIED.**

**Motion #190-**

Moved by Trustee Presley seconded by Trustee Mott that the meeting be adjourned at 10:34 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting to be held on September 6, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., at Village Hall.

**CARRIED.**