

THE RUSHVILLE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

DATE: 2/6/17

TIME: 7:00

PLACE: The Rushville Village Hall

PRESENT: Mayor: John Sawers

Trustees: Holly Krossber, Kimberly Payne, Dave Masters, Mark Fargo

Code Enforcement Officer- Reggie O'Hearn

Clerk: Joanne Burley

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 40 people attended meeting. Sign in sheet is available in Village office

Re: Board Meeting – Salute to the Flag:

At 7:00 p.m. the Mayor opened the regular board meeting by having everyone rise to salute the flag.

Mayor Sawers thanked everyone for coming. He stated the following: We appreciate you taking the time to attend our meeting and welcome your comments. If you would like to share your thoughts with the board, please state your name and address and please limit your comments to 2 minutes please. This will keep the comment period to a reasonable length and still allow everyone who wishes an opportunity to speak.

Re: Communications, Petitions & Guests:

The Mayor introduced Diana Smith and Connie Sowards from MRB Group. Diana was the Mayor of the Village of Seneca Falls and Connie was the Administrator of the Village of Seneca Falls. They have gone through the Dissolution of the Village of Seneca Falls. If anyone has any comments or questions, please feel free to ask them. He asked them if they would like to give us an opening statement.

- Diana said they have been with MRB group since the dissolution of the Village of Seneca Falls. About 5 years. Since then they have had many groups reach out to them for information on dissolution. When the Village contacted them they were more than happy to come down to answer questions. They are neither for nor against dissolution. It happened in their community. They had a study into shared services and dissolution was the result. Their community still has many different opinions from their community. Five years later people are still talking about it.
- Is the main reason for dissolution for lowering taxes and if so what is the % they would be lowered?
 - o Yes, this is one of the reasons for dissolution. It is hard to compare communities. Our Village was very different because of our structure. The town will get incentive from the State, but this is reviewed each year by the State.
 - The incentive money that is received by the towns has to be used to reduce taxes, correct? I read an article in the Finger Lakes Times by Holly Krossber and she is not saying that? She is saying that it can be used to improve buildings, etc.
 - o This is what we understand. That is the thought process. But if the Town had to make improvements they could defend the use of this money for many things as everything can affect the tax rate. Because everything that is done in a Town will affect the Tax Rate.

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- Is there anyone watching how the towns use this money?
 - o We have not seen this yet. We are actually quite interested in seeing the state conducting a forensic review of the dissolutions that have occurred as to whether there has been a savings. It's not a simple discussion. Every Village is different. Until you dig deep you can't tell how it will look.

- Is there anything else that weighted heavy on your plan?
 - o Recreation department provided by the village and that was taken on by the town.
 - o Any planning process that takes place for the dissolution is on the Village. You have to start with predictions. The village would offer a plan but then it is up to the town to accept the plan, but they do not have to do everything in the plan. Once again it is out of the hands of the village at that point.

- Who made the decision as to what services that were kept?
 - o Statue says the village is responsible to create a plan. Once the village ceases to exist it is up to the town whether they keep the services. It is entirely speculative. Other dissolutions have shown that the plan may indicate certain services should be kept, but it is out of the villages' hands at the point of dissolution. Once the Town reviews the plan they have to budget for services and decide what they want to do. Bottom line you can assume, but assumptions may not be true. It is a risk either way. The towns have the final say.

- There has been a lot of dissention about this and do you have any advice how to curb this dissention without pitting people against one another.
 - o That is a tough one. When you mess with people's checkbook it is a hard to stay neutral. Everyone has different opinions. It is the nature of the process. Also, this issue tends to put people in conversations you find out that your best neighbor may have a different opinion. It doesn't mean people don't care about one another. I look around this room and there is an incredible heritage here. One of the questions is there a way to guarantee this would stay and that is very hard to do. People have to decide what is important to you as a Village.

- What happens if the 2 towns disagree? They have to come to an agreement

- Without the emotion factor what are the pros & cons of Dissolution. Also, did it give the people more or less freedom? And what happened to the jobs of the people that work in the village. Would they be guaranteed a position?
 - o One of the things that can change after 2 years is the codes. The have to keep the existing codes for 2 years and then it can change.

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- Jobs can transfer to towns, but it does not always happen. Depends on the needs of the towns. It also depends on what account the positions are paid from. Town and Village run completely different and their employees can't do multiple jobs. For instance the Sewer job is done by a different person than the Water plant job. They can't share that job. So sometimes it becomes more costly for the town as they have to have separate people for each job, where the Village has 1 person doing both jobs.
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- The village residents are not going to be in control of our water. So the Town will control water. If I was a taxpayer in the town I wouldn't want to do it. So we are still going to pay our sewer and water and will still pay a town tax.
 - The Village no longer exists. The towns would have to draw District lines around the people who benefit from this service.
- Our sewer needs upgrade. Is it correct that we would not be able to get a grant to improve this system.
 - Towns are eligible for grants also. If there is debt to improve a service that only services the village residents, yes, the users would be the ones paying for that service.
- If we dissolved would the town have to start over to obtain a grant?
 - Best to ask the specific questions of the engineering group.
- We have an existing water debt. What would happen to that?
 - Your rates should stay the same unless the town incurs more costs. It would be hard to determine this. It is completely up to the town that takes it over.
- Who would be responsible for any retirement expenses, worker comp?
 - That would be the responsibility of the Village residents. A district would have to be formed. This would be true with any service. ie: street lights. Districts have to be formed for any service and paid by the Village residents.
- You would strongly suggest that the board hire you to do a plan.
 - It is entirely up to the board. If the board decides to do a study before the vote you would have to do another study after the vote. This can be costly. The state will reimburse up to 90% if you dissolve. If you don't they would only reimburse you 50%.
 - Dissolution is good for some Villages and not for some Villages. Everyone is different. It is difficult to go through this conversation. We would rather give you information so you don't go through the pitfalls that we encountered.

Re: Approval of Minutes:

The Mayor asked the Trustees if they had a chance to review the minutes from the January meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Dave Masters made a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Trustee Holly Krossber 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

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Re: Reports of Committees:

Re: Public Works Supervisor – Art Rilands

Streets:

Art reported they are still servicing some of the equipment. They have done some pothole repairs. This will be ongoing through the winter.

Village Barn:

Art reported that each dept. for the Village needs updated Safety Data Sheets, water, sewer, barn and there has to be a master copy for the Village Office. An SDS sheet is required for every kind of chemical we have. If the chemical can hurt you we have to have a SDS sheet. 1 form he did had 21 pages. The forms are obtained from the vendors online.

Sewer:

Mike has done some sewer main inspection with the camera, had no luck finding any infiltration spots.

Water:

The Dept. of Labor came back to check the water plant again, they are still not certain if the ventilation system is large enough in the DE room. They did do an annual training done.

Fire

Art did a report for Dec. & Jan. Dec. had 10 incidents and Jan they reported 11 incidents . There was a house fire at 4 Rubin Dr. This is still being investigated.

Re: Reading Center Director – Dodie Baker

Dodie reported she had not had her Volunteer luncheon yet. She would be doing it sometime this month.

The Anna Dewdney Story time was held Jan. 28th and it went very well. Every reader had a person to read to them. After the story time they offered juice and doughnut holes.

She announced she would be doing another story time in the Spring.

Thanks for your support.

Any questions for Dodie. No response.

Re: Code Enforcement officer, Reggie O’Hearn:

9 Chapel Street is still in continued violation. He has had no contact. We need to set up a public hearing on these violations. The Mayor suggested we do it next month. Possibly before the next board meeting.

58 S. Main St. had a property maintenance violation.

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30 S. Main St. had a Property maintenance violation.

He had a property Maintenance violation of interior bed bugs at bldg. 8 Apt E. They are in the process of being treated.

The Mayor asked about the house fire at Rubin Dr. He is in communication with Keuka Housing.

The Police have an ongoing investigation so he has nothing to report. Reggie only has a preliminary report so far.

Re: Old Business:

Medication Drop Box:

The Medication Drop box has been installed in the lobby of the Village Office.

Petrea will be getting the information out that it is available for use. Please pass the word that it is available for use. It has been there a couple of weeks.

Question was asked if you have to put the pills in a plastic bag. She was told you can put the bottle with the pills in it. You don't have to empty the bottles.

Sewer Project:

We are starting our Sewer Project scheduled meetings for SECQ and EAF. A special board meeting is being set up for February 20th at 5:30.

The Mayor asked for approval for dollars to be spent on this project to get started. The amount is about \$7,200. This will be reimbursable. If we get this started before we get the grant we will get money back sooner. A motion was made by Dave Master and a 2nd by Holly Krossber for the Mayor to be able to sign the agreement to start this process. The motion passed unanimously. Trustee Kim Payne asked to repeat the time of the meeting, Feb.20th at 5:30. Resident asked if it was for the board only. The mayor said the public is welcome to come. No conversation from the public but they are welcome to come and listen and see what we are going to do.

Martin Building:

Trustee Holly Krossber was asked to update the board on the Martin Building. Trustee Krossber reported that 3 letters had been sent to the Wrestlers and they have not responded. They sent a letter in October with some proposals and we agreed to one of their proposals: They wanted to remove everything they had put into the building. On Nov. 10th a letter was sent to them stating that was fine. There was another one was sent on December 13th asking their attorney to let us know their intentions by December 31st. The final one was sent on January 16th asking them to remove their items within 20 days. There has been no response to any of these letters and it has been almost 90 days. There is a rumor around that they have not been allowed to retrieve their belongings, which is not true. On Nov. 10th at 4:45 p.m. the letter was emailed to the wrestlers' Attorney and it was mailed as well. On Monday, November 14th is when the petition for dissolution was signed by Jon Bagley.

Holly would like to make a motion for our Attorney to send one more letter. Mark asked if there would be a deadline. Trustee Mark Fargo asked if the letter would say the items would be removed or destroyed or maybe they could be donated to Salvation Army. Trustee Holly Krossber said she thought the letter would state if they did not get their items out by a certain date they would be considered abandoned.

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I also wanted to let you know that Jessica Smith that is here in the room and has been asking lots of questions and who comes to most of our meetings, she is not a Village resident, she does not live in the Town of Potter nor does she live in the Town of Gorham. She is with the Wrestlers. She is Jon Bagley's right hand lady in this dissolution. I have evidence to prove this. I have a copy of an email she has sent to people promoting the dissolution of our Village. She has been to the Ontario County and Yates County Board of Elections getting packets for people to get registered to vote so they can then sign a petition for dissolution. Why someone who does not live in the Village would be pushing to Dissolve this Village is what I would like to know. Jessica Smith spoke up and said she wants the village dissolved because she was not happy with the transition. It all started with the problems out back. A resident commented, "It started when someone got voted out!" The Mayor said we would move on. Trustee Holly Krossber said she just felt everyone should know who is involved in this.

Re: New Business:

No new Business.

The Mayor announced we will now approve the bills.

Re Bills:

A motion was made by Trustee Kimberly Payne and seconded by Trustee Dave Masters to authorize payment of the General Bills in the amount of \$11,697.49. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Dave Masters and seconded by Trustee Kimberly Payne to approve the Cemetery bills in the amount of \$290.21. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Holly Krossber and seconded by Trustee Kimberly Payne to authorize payment of the water bills in the amount of \$6108.50. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Kimberly Payne and seconded by Trustee Dave Masters to authorize the payment of the Sewer bills in the amount of \$3262.45. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Holly Krossber to adjourn the meeting . A second was made by Trustee Dave Masters. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

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