

THE RUSHVILLE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING/WORK SESSION

July 12, 2021

DATE: 7/12/21

TIME: 6:00pm

PLACE: The Rushville Village Hall

PRESENT: Mayor Dave LeClair, Trustee Doug Rigby, Trustee Karen Gorton, Trustee Mark Fargo, Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman, Clerk Jeannie Kesel, Deputy Clerk Joanne Burley, Code Officer Tim Pagel, DPW Art Rilands, Reading Center Director Dodie Baker

Approximately 15 people attended the meeting (sign in sheet available at the Village Office)

The Mayor, David LeClair called the work session to order at 6:05pm. Greg Hotaling and Derek Anderson from MRB Group presented the findings from the MRB Engineering Study relating to water rates. Derek said that if water rates remain at current levels, the Water Fund Balance in 2026 will only be \$78,000. This study reviewed the Village's Budget and examined expenditures. The effective uniform rate for 2019 is \$7.76/1000 gallons. The cost of getting water out of the water plant is \$6.05/1000 gallons. Ideally, it is important to maintain a fund balance that can handle capital projects and 1 year of expenditures. Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman asked why the school is higher than Middlesex. Derek said it could be viewed as a wholesale customer and their rate could be proposed as a wholesale rate (the same as Middlesex). Derek suggested in the long run a uniform simple rate for the Village users would be more appropriate. The Mayor suggested a future workshop on water rates and sewer rates. His position is the rate that is agreed upon with the Town of Middlesex will go back to 1/1/19.

The Mayor called the Board Meeting to order at 7:03 pm

RE: Salute to the Flag:

The Mayor asked everyone to rise and join in the Pledge to the Flag.

RE: Approval of Minutes:

The Mayor asked the Trustees if they had any corrections to the 6/17/21 Corrected board minutes from the May 10, 2021 meeting. Trustee Karen Gorton made a motion to approved the Corrected minutes. Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman made a 2nd to the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

The Mayor asked the Trustees if they had any corrections to the board minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting. Trustee Mark Fargo had a couple of minor changes. Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman made a motion to approve the June 14, 2021 minutes as amended. Trustee Doug Rigby made a 2nd to the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

RE: Employee Assistance Program (EAP):

- Maureen Negron, Vice President of Client Services from ESI Employee Assistance Group sent a power point presentation on an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Currently they serve Ontario and Yates counties through a shared service plan. The Board discussed the benefits of the program. The cost is \$17/per person per year. Maureen said the Village can start anytime and the rate will be prorated. This will require a budget transfer to cover this benefit. Trustee Mark Fargo made a motion to offer this Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to all full-time employees, elected officials and Active 1 fire fighters at \$17/person.

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Trustee Karen Gorton made a second. Trustee Mark Fargo amended the motion to include part time employees and Active 2 fire fighters. The motion was unanimously carried.

RE: Mayor's Report:

Mayor Dave LeClair gave his Mayor's report as follows:

- The Village won a \$38,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to study possible upgrades to the water plant aimed at potential filtration of Hazardous Algae Blooms (HABS) in the Village's water supply. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be sent out soon for bidding the study. It has to be posted for 40 days.
- The American Rescue Act of 2021 – according to figures reported by the Treasury, there is approximately \$774,248,894 of funding to be allocated to communities in New York. The Village will receive \$68,000. The funding is based on population. Payments are made in a 50/50 split, with the initial funding coming in the next few weeks and the second installment paid in 2022. There are four eligible uses for this funding – 1) Village infrastructure improvements 2) Recovering lost Village revenues 3) Recovering Village expenses caused by COVID 19 response 4) Support of local business, households, non-profits and other entities that suffered a financial hardship. Jeannie Kesel has successfully completed the application requirements for funding under this plan. The Village has received confirmation the application was approved.
- Comprehensive Plan – Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman previously spoke with Jason Haremza, Senior Planner, Genesee Regional Finger Lakes Planning Council about obtaining a quote for Comprehensive Plan Services. I spoke with Jason and he will be getting back to us. By next board meeting the board needs to make a decision on the Comprehensive Plan.
- Blue Sky Tower – appears to be off the table, they are moving on. The Mayor had a meeting with Steve Burgess, property owner at 4310 Townline Road, about granting an access easement onto his property for the purpose of a cell tower installation. Mr. Burgess is concerned about his property value being diminished. Mr. Burgess is willing to give the Village an access and water main easement that it needs to get to the water plant.
- The Mayor sent a letter to NYS DOT asking that the crosswalks be painted on Main Street. They were very quick to respond and the Mayor was very appreciative. He will follow up with a letter thanking them.
- The Mayor asked the Board how they felt about possibly keeping chickens and bees in the Village. Most communities now allow these uses under zoning. A model law for chickens was included in your packets. The Board was in favor to move forward with a local law. This will be presented at a future meeting.
- Jim Liebel insurance - The Village has secured the required insurance policy on the property. The letter I sent Jim Liebel was included in your packets. Mr. Liebel never provided the required insurance as stipulated in the mortgage agreement. The premium amount will be added to his monthly mortgage invoice.

RE: Deputy Mayor's Report

- Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman attended the Yates County Supervisor's meeting on behalf of the Mayor.
- Yates County Planning Board update-

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- They discussed Benton creating a new water district
- The water infrastructure study was very informative

RE: Public Works Supervisor:

Streets:

- Art said he is going back to Fineline. Some grass is not growing. He will talk with MRB.
- Ontario County is going to pave Green Street and a little bit of Bassett Street. It is penciled in for the first or second week in August. The work will take 1 day.
- The Village used Middlesex's boom mower to mow some street shoulders. Cleaning the catch basins as needed.

Water:

- Lead and copper testing will need to be done this month. The Village has to test 6 certain houses every 3 years. Due to all of the rain, our production is still low. PFOS testing was done last month, no problems.

Cemetery:

- We started washing some head stones that are covered in moss with the new sewer jetter. It's doing a pretty good job. So, the plan is to continue working on them as time allows. The grass is still growing fast.

Sewer:

- Phase 2 work is not completed yet. The contractor is still having a lot of trouble with ground water. They should have the pipe work done this week. Then they have testing and restoration work to finish. Art thinks the sewer flows are down some. Hopefully, the new pipe work is helping.
- There will be some extra costs – extra inspection, unforeseen ground water issues. There is \$70,000 in contingency of which \$21,000 has been used.
- Mike is checking the septic tanks. This will take all summer.

Park:

- The baseball infield is growing up with weeds. The part where the ball players did all the work. Art asked the board if they wanted him to try and maintains it? He suggested he could spray to kill the grass and weeds in this area.

RE: Fire Report:

- The Fire Chief, Paul Moberg could not attend the meeting. Mayor Dave LeClair presented this month's report
- The fire truck is still here. The Mayor would like it out of storage by the end of the year.
- There are a couple of more fire fighters that will be sworn in.

RE: Reading Center Director:

- The library's new rotating Audio collection will be on the shelves by Friday, July 16th.
- The Library has a Workforce teen working this summer. Her name is Evelyn. She is doing an awesome job. She will work with us 12 hours a week for about 6 weeks during July and August.

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- Our 2021 “Summer Fun” Children’s Program, “Tails and Tales” has started. It’s so nice to have children and their families in the library and outside having fun! It takes place every Tuesday in July from 10-11:30am. Kids can still sign-up and join in the fun! Thank you, Village Office, for providing space for us when it’s raining.
- The last day of Summer fun is July 27th. We will do a story walk on the Moody Trail, do bird watching and have a family bag lunch picnic at the trail entrance (on North Main Street).
- We also have the “Summer Fun: Children’s program Garden on the Moody Trail again this year.
- My vacation is July 30th through August 9th. Krystine Leo will keep the library open during that time, except August 6th and 7th. Dodie asked if the library could be closed for these 2 days.

RE: Code Enforcement officer:

- Tim is working with the home owner at 8 Douglas Drive on the new house plans.
- Working on Zoning Law for conflicts
- 1 new house is being built on Douglas Drive
- Working with Wells Fargo regarding maintenance of 4 Bryant Square. Wells Fargo is attempting to secure the house.
- Obtaining required training through webinars

RE: New Business:

A motion was made by Trustee Mark Fargo to approve Nate Burkholder as a new fire fighter of the Rushville Hose Company. A second was made by Trustee Doug Rigby. The motion was unanimously carried.

WWTP:

A motion was made by Deputy Chandra Gilman and seconded by Trustee Doug Rigby to approve Change Order GC-01 for \$21,400.00. The motion was unanimously carried.

Re Bills:

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman and seconded by Trustee Doug Rigby to authorize payment of the Genesee Valley Construction Invoice in the amount of \$75,192.50. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Doug Rigby and seconded by Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman to authorize payment of the General bills in the amount of \$17,681.15. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman and seconded by Trustee Karen Gorton to authorize payment of the Cemetery bills in the amount of \$606.84. The motion was unanimously carried.

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A motion was made by Trustee Doug Rigby and seconded by Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman to authorize payment of the Water bills in the amount of \$9,573.70. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman and seconded by Trustee Mark Fargo to authorize the payment of the Sewer bills in the amount of \$4,477.55. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman and seconded by Trustee Doug Rigby to authorize the payment of the Capital Project bills which includes the Genesee Valley Construction bill in the amount of \$79,492.73. The motion was unanimously carried.

Public Comments:

- Terry Button, Yates County Legislature - Yates County has approved county capital projects for 2025, approved 10 reappointments to the Workforce Development Board for 3-year terms. The solar projects on the Potter Landfill and the Torrey Landfill will have to be split as NYSEG has not been able to approve them because they could not get the power they produce into the grid. The Public Health Nurse said June 2nd was the last positive reported COVID case. Hazardous Waste Day is August 28th at the Benton Highway Department. You have to sign up the week before. Social Services has opened up for in person visits for unemployment benefits. Terry talked about the Yates County Tourism Advisory Agency. It gets its funding from the Occupancy Tax. The County would like to release the funds to Villages and Towns for fun community events. You apply in August and the funds will be released in February 2022. Terry will email the information to Jeannie.

A motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Mayor Chandra Gilman. A 2nd was received from Trustee Doug Rigby. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Kesel, Clerk/Treasurer

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