

# THE RUSHVILLE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

## August 8, 2022

DATE: 8/8/22

TIME: 7:00pm

PLACE: The Rushville Village Hall

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

Approximately 12 people attended the meeting (sign in sheet available at the Village Office)

The Mayor called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 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 board minutes from the July 11, 2022 meeting. Trustee Mark Fargo made a motion to approve the July 11, 2022 minutes as submitted. Trustee Doug Rigby made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

**RE: Guests:**

- Jeff Boorsman from MRB Group presented the results from the Harmful Algae Blooms (HABS) \$38,000 Planning Grant (CDBG). This study looked at the harmful algae blooms in Canandaigua Lake. It affects the raw water at the water treatment plant. MRB looked at ways to address blue/green algae and found two potential options. First a chemical addition which uses bulk chemicals which are injected and goes through a UV reactor and that destroys the toxins. Second a carbon activated filter system which absorbs toxins as they pass through the filters. Both options are capable of accomplishing the goal to destroy these toxins. The carbon filter system is the simplest of the 2 options. Art said that the carbon filter would help with taste and odor. The technical chemical option requires storing bulk chemicals and is a little bit more involved to tweak the process to get it to work perfectly right and it has a slightly higher capital cost. The granulated active carbon is a simple and tried technology. It takes up a little more room. The water passes through the filters and pulls the toxins out of the water. The only downside is the carbon will have to be replaced at some point. Because there are not a large number of algae blooms the carbon filter should last 10-20 years. After looking at both options, even with having to replace the carbon, this still was the most cost-effective solution. The total capital cost is \$1.3 M. We could apply for cofunding through ESC and DOH - \$1M grant and CDGB - \$200K grant. If we can secure these grants then it would bring down the out of pocket cost to the Village to around \$132K. The plan would be to focus next year on applying for grants and preparing the Village for this project without having to foot a large portion of the project cost. Trustee Mark Fargo asked if both methods would achieve the same result. Jeff said yes. Trustee Mark Fargo asked what else could be filtered out with the carbon. Jeff said the carbon filters focus mainly on filtering out the harmful toxins. Trustee Mark Fargo also asked Jeff what would the extra space be needed for. Jeff said both options would need additions and were factored into the cost of each project. Also, both options include a

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- backup water source from the Town of Gorham to be piped into your clear well just in case there is an issue with your pumps or raw water intake. The Village would be able to buy water from Gorham and it would be piped into the Village's clear well. From there, the Village would pump to our distribution system. Trustee Mark Fargo asked if the grants take into account the economic status of the Village – Jeff said yes. Trustee Mark Fargo asked Jeff if MRB would be doing the grant writing. Jeff said yes, if the Village hires MRB. Art Rilands said the DOH would like the Village to have an alternate water supply. The Village is all by itself. If there was a major catastrophe at the water plant, there would be no way to get water. Jeff said that is why the project adds on the additional supply from Gorham. Trustee Mark Fargo asked Jeff the life span of each of these options – estimated 20 years. The Mayor asked Jeff what the timeline would be for this project. Next year to obtain grants and design then start construction late 2023 or early 2024. The Village would have to do a new income survey. Art Rilands asked what the additional cost of the project might be at the time construction begins. Jeff said 10% to 15% high would be reasonable. Jeff said that the project has already been submitted to UPI (Utilization Plan) in the last round and is on the list for scoring. Hopefully we will know soon where the Village lands on this list, usually takes two months. The Mayor suggested a few more meetings before the Village Board can make a decision on whether to move forward with this project. Trustee Mark Fargo asked what was the temperature of the lake and asked if 60 degrees is where the blue green algae might start to cause issues. Art said water temperature is at 50 degrees at 55 feet deep.
- Chuck Bastain from Bernard P. Donnegan, Inc. presented an updated copy of the sewer rate study. He reviewed the actual revenue/expenses from 2018 through current year and the fund balance at the end of each year. Expenses are more than income and is bringing down the fund balance some, but still remains at a healthy level. Starting with the October 2022 billing, the sewer rate is increasing to \$140/quarter. It's important to keep an eye on the revenue and expenses in comparison to the adopted budget. Chuck suggested that a reserve account might be a good idea for long term planning. This would allow the Village to put aside money for larger expenses down the road.
  - Chuck presented some assumptions going forward. The bond payment will remain constant for the next 26 years. He made certain projections for other expenses. These can be adjusted as things change. He projected a \$10/quarter increase each year going forward. The goal is to monitor revenues and expenses and not to spend down too much of the fund balance.

## **RE: Mayor's Report:**

- The Sewer Use Law needs to be updated. MRB might be able to help. Jeff submitted a proposal of \$15K to update the sewer law. The Mayor said that MRB agreed to split the cost between 2 budget years. He suggested this be brought up for a vote next meeting.
- DPW position interviews – We (Karen, Art Jeannie and myself) have completed the interview process. There were four candidates that we interviewed for the Maintenance Assistant position and one for the Supervisor position. 3 of the 5 appear to be qualified and presented themselves well during the interview including one for Supervisor. Art is planning on giving 2 of them a 2<sup>nd</sup> interview on a Saturday and having a closer look by touring the village water and sewer plants, and related work duties. We are hoping to bring Doug Rigby into this process to get his feedback. Jeannie is scheduling this.

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- Energy Supply – There are two paths for our delivery of energy. The first would be a fixed rate from Constellation Energy for a fixed amount of time. The 2<sup>nd</sup> option would be to have EGS – Advanced Energy Solutions, an energy management company, to manage our account. They would most likely obtain and recommend various short term variable rates. We had a ZOOM meeting with Jeff Spierman, Executive Vice President, and he feels we could save money with this option. We feel at this point a fixed rate might be a better option. However, if the Board feels different, I would recommend an Energy Committee be formed of 2 Trustees to continue research or to make a motion to use EGS. Jeannie presented the fixed rate as of August 2<sup>nd</sup> from Constellation - \$.06490 for 47 months. Trustee Mark Fargo said energy costs are going up and it would be to the village’s best interest to go with the longest fixed rate term. The Board agreed. Jeannie will call Constellation Energy tomorrow to get the current rate and lock it in for 47 months. The new contract will start December 2022.

A motion to lock in a fixed rate for 47 months with Constellation Energy was made by Trustee Mark Fargo and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Karen Gorton. The motion was unanimously carried.

- Party-in-the-Park - This event will be on August 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm and will include food, family entertainment and music. If you are interested in helping to make this a successful day, please see me. Dodie and the Library circle of friends will be providing some additional kids activities.
- Diane Shields, Village Cleaner – Dianne currently works 3 hours a week at the rate of \$13.20 per hour (minimum wage). She has requested an increase in pay and mentioned that other employers pay more than minimum wage. Considering that all fast-food workers make a minimum of \$15 per hour, and starting pay is more than that almost everywhere, her request is reasonable and would have little impact on the budget. I recommend an increase of \$2 per hour to bring her to a reasonable standard. This would be a total of \$6 per week or \$312 annually.

A motion to increase Diane Shield’s from \$13.20 per hour to \$15.20 per hours was made by Trustee Mark Fargo and seconded by Trustee Karen Gorton. The motion was unanimously carried.

## RE: Deputy Mayor’s Report:

- No Report

## RE: Watershed Commission Report – Trustee Mark Fargo:

- No Report

## RE: Public Works Supervisor:

### Streets:

- Stone and oiling will be done on North Main street from Gorham Road to Village line this week. We have cleaned and patched the gutters on North Main Street.

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- I've ordered the storm pipe for Union Street, not in yet. Some fittings are back ordered.
- I've started the process of ordering Mike's pickup. Paperwork gets more complicated every time.
- We put another catch basin in on Douglas Drive last week. Also, filled the hole by 1 Douglas Drive.

## **Sewer:**

- Still checking tanks. Flows are still down. We need to clean the top pipes in the beds.

## **Walking Trail:**

- Cleaned up a downed tree on the trail.

## **Water:**

- I've tried to get the meter pits for work on Rte. 364, but they are back ordered. One place told me 30 weeks. Another place told me maybe this week.
- On Rte. 364 we are going to put in 2 master meters – there are five residents the get village water. Two on one side and three on the other side of the water main. I'm going to put two meter pits in and call them master meters. The Board is going to have to decide if the Village is going to charge these residents and how you will charge for every gallon that goes through the master meters (which is located near the Village's water main). So, if there is a leak before the residents' meters are you going to want the residents to pay for that water because that water is unaccounted for. Trustee Mark Fargo asked what the time lag would be from when the Village would detect a water leak. Art said that the meters are read quarterly unless the water comes to the surface and someone lets us know. Art said that in any case it is lost water and the Village has to decide if the Village is going to make someone pay for the water and how. Trustee Karen Gorton asked how the homeowner would know of a leak. Art said this past time it showed up in a resident's front yard. Trustee Karen Gorton said it would be a good idea to put in the master meter. The Mayor suggested the only fair way would be to divide the cost equally between the amongst residents affected. He said that this type of a leak could be a public safety issue. Trustee Karen Gorton asked the cost of these meters. Art said \$1,000 each and 2 meters are needed. She felt the purchase of these meters is well worth it. Art said that the master meter is only half the problem. If the residents refuse to pay what is the next step. The Mayor suggested the Village would come up with a timeline/deadline, by next quarter, to pay the water usage or shut the water off via a letter from the Village.
- The Village is making lots of water. The school is watering playing fields. The school told Art that if they have dormant grass; the field cannot be used to play sports. Art has been after the school not to water their fields all day long. This has been an issue in years past. It is a waste of water resources. He said every article you read indicates it is best to water early morning and late afternoon. You don't want to water at night or overnight because there is a possibility of bacteria problems.
- Middlesex had a couple of water main breaks last week.
- Starting next week, Art has to start testing for the Blue Green Algae. That will be once a month.
- The auto dialer is back from repair and is installed.

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### **Cemetery:**

- Not doing much mowing now, just the weeds are growing.

### **RE: Fire Report:**

- No Report

### **RE: Reading Center Director:**

- The library has a Workforce teen with us this summer. She worked July and August. Hannah was a wonderful help with the Youth Summer Program and throughout the library.
- We had a person, Stephanie, that needed 10 hours of community service. She is finished with that and did a wonderful job. She will continue to volunteer for us at the library. If you are at the Party in the Park on August 27<sup>th</sup> you might meet her at the library tent.
- As of this meeting, the library charter will be done and sent to Brian at STLS, to be reviewed and mailed to NYS. We are all very excited!
- Our "Oceans of Possibilities" Summer Fun Program was a success! We had 22 kids and their families. We did a field trip to the "Salty Dog", sale-water fish aquarium store in Canandaigua. We had a blast. We had a wonderful month in July with the kids and their families.
- We have issued a few new library cards this summer. People have started to come back!
- New backpacks and school supplies are being accepted at the library through August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Backpack and school supply GIVEAWAY is Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. To be held outside at the library. For Marcus Whitman School District children 9-1 while supplies last.
- Outside on the library lawn on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-2 and Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-Noon, there will be a yard sale to benefit autism programs.
- A homemade art sale and book sale will be on the lawn of the library on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> from 1pm - ? The book sale proceeds will be donated to the library.
- Some volunteers of the library lost their home to a fire on July 31<sup>st</sup>. I have a money donation box in the library for them, Scott and Candy Wood. If you prefer there is a GoFundMe page in their names.
- My vacation is August 12-22<sup>nd</sup>. Dawn will be covering my hours during that time.

### **RE: Code Enforcement Officer:**

- Issue Permits
- Obtain required training through webinars
- Respond to complaints
- Inspection of projects in progress
- Look at properties that need some maintenance work done. Compose letters regarding violations.
- I will be meeting with a gentleman from California on August 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding building a new house on Lots 10 and 12
- Work on clean-up details
- Working with contractor on the Foster house

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### RE: Clerk:

- Jeannie said that a Public Hearing on the Village of Rushville's current Community Development block Grant (CDBG) for water systems improvements with CDBG funding of \$38,000 needs to be held at the September 12, 2022 Board Meeting.

A motion to schedule the Public Hearing on September 12, 2022 was made by Trustee Mark Fargo and seconded by Trustee Karen Gorton. The motion was unanimously carried.

- The Certificate of Establishment of a New Library was presented for all of the board members' signatures.

### RE: Bills:

A motion was made by Trustee Mark Fargo and seconded by Trustee Doug Rigby to authorize payment of the General bills in the amount of \$17,721.51. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Doug Rigby and seconded by Trustee Karen Gorton to authorize payment of the Cemetery in the amount of \$1,135.27. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Mark Fargo and seconded by Trustee Doug Rigby to authorize payment of the Water bills in the amount of \$5,067.75. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Doug Rigby and seconded by Trustee Karen Gorton to authorize the payment of the Sewer bills in the amount of \$16,356.80. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Doug Rigby and seconded by Trustee Mark Fargo to authorize payment of the Library bills in the amount of \$486.56. The motion was unanimously carried.

### RE: Public Comments:

- Dorothy Bergmini from 32 South Main Street was inquiring if the Village was going to continue with sidewalks by her house. The Village stopped the sidewalk at the corner of Chapel and Main Street. The Mayor said that there has been a lot of discussion on sidewalks. Recently, Dave Bradshaw from Douglas Drive circulated a petition for sidewalks on Douglas Drive. The Mayor said that they have done some cost estimates which are really high right now. Maybe in due time these costs will come down. Dorothy asked why the sidewalks stopped there. The Mayor said it was due to the cost. Art said that the Village had decided to put the sidewalks on the east side to Ruben Drive. The Mayor assured her that sidewalks are really important and it is on the Village's radar. The Village is trying to

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- figure out how to pay for sidewalks without raising taxes. Dorothy said that her insurance company is looking at.
- Rainey Jones from 30 South Main Street wanted to know if the Village was in talks to bring businesses into the Village. She wanted to know if there were any incentives. The Mayor said that the Village is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan. The Village is looking into a Downtown Revitalization Grant. What the Mayor has found out that these grants have giant copays. Rainey wanted to know how to voice her opinion. The Mayor suggested she attend an upcoming Steering Committee Meeting where she could share her ideas on this matter.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Mark Fargo. A 2<sup>nd</sup> was received from Trustee Doug Rigby. The motion was unanimously passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Kesel, Clerk/Treasurer

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