

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Delhi was held **Thursday, December 1, 2022** at 5:30 p.m. at Delaware Academy Auditorium.

The meeting started at 5:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor: Sridhar Samudrala  
Trustees: Ian Lamont, Janet Tweed and Jeffrey Gearhart

Absent: Trustee Jeremy Fitch

Guests: Vicky Klukkert @ Daily Star, RW Brown, Harold Eustis, Ed Chytalo, Margaret Baldwin, Linda Champlin, Michael Tweed, Kurt Mable, Joanie Bedient, W. Outsen, David Truscott, Sean Leddy, Phil Zwick, Lou ?, Kyle Wood, Robin Hultenius, Susan Gearhart, Cynthia Cobbe, Helen Casey, Faiga Brussel, Duane & Barb Sturdevant, Valerie Nichols, Josh VanDusen, James Arrufat, William Johnson, Jessica Decker, Paul Decker, Gary Manning, PJ Harmer, B. Jones, C & B Mazarak, Linda Iwanow, Victor Iwanow, Mina Takahashi, Marco Breuer, L. Gioffe, Amy Anderson, Matt Dreyfus, Brian Groh, Sally & Roy Scrimshaw, Rick Ackerly, Gary Leahy, Jean Krzyston, Jason Miller, Leslee Efthimiou, Eric Efthimiou, Jacob Efthimiou, Kelly Reynolds, B.N. Samudrala, Maya Boukai, Eileen Kline, Brian Crabtree, Sissy Muther, Harold Reed, Ed McCarthy, Jonathan Crider, Doug Perrett, Jerry Pellegrino, Toni Jetter, Matt Krzyston, Celine DeCarlo, Bill & Liz Brosi, Ed Hilgers, Ryan & Laura Doenges, David Covell, Pamela Guy, Sharon Reichert-Morgan, Josh Morgan, Matt Marchese, Phuong Mokay, Raegan Reed, Anne Aikens, Krystina Palmatier, Pete Gioffe, and Mary Crisafulli @ Reporter

There was no one looking for Privilege of the floor this month.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2022 regular meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Gearhart and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2022 special meeting. Motion was seconded by Mayor Samudrala. Trustees Gearhart and Lamont abstained from vote as they were not present at this meeting. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to approve Abstract #007 dated December 1, 2022 in the amount of \$338,842.70 (General fund \$177,680.97, Water fund \$39,720.40, Sewer fund \$101,378.91, and Trust & Agency fund \$20,062.42) Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Gearhart to accept the Police Report dated October 2022, Street Report dated December 2022, Water Report dated 11/22/2022, Sewer Report dated November 22, 2022, Code Enforcement Officer's Report dated October 27 – November 22, 2022, Treasurers Report for October 2022, Clerk's Report dated 12/1/2022, and Historian Report dated November 2022. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Bill Brown was not present this evening as he had nothing to ask of the Village board.

Trustee Gearhart reported for the Police Committee.

Trustee Gearhart that the work at the police range is progressing on the pavilion construction that is being done with the \$20,000 ARPA funding we received from Delaware County. Village has met with the Overhead Door regarding the garage doors at the range and the work at the range should be complete within 2 weeks.

Trustee Tweed reported for the Sewer Committee.

Trustee Tweed indicated the auger/muffin monster has been installed. We have hired two new employees at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Trustee Lamont reported for Water/Street Committee.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to authorize reimbursement to an employee of the Village for medical expenses of \$800. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Trustee Lamont wanted to again commend Street and Water employees for leaf collection.

Trustee Lamont reported for the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Trustee Lamont indicated he had nothing to report on this month.

Mayor Samudrala indicated we received ARPA funding from Delaware County and the safety railing and fence @ Reservoir Park is complete.

Trustee Tweed reported for the Joint Services, Recreation Committee.

Trustee Tweed indicated she had nothing to report on this month.

Trustee Gearhart reported for the Codes, Building & Planning Committee.

Trustee Gearhart indicated the heating system at Village Hall has been repaired but needs to be replaced. Committee is working to secure information from Treifferson and Auchinachie to be able to put specs together to put this out to bid. The contractors are recommending we replace the boiler with a heat pump, which would also include air conditioning. Delta Engineering is putting together a plan to evaluate Village Hall.

Mayor Samudrala / Tweed reported for the Finance Committee.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to approve the Sewer budget modification as follows:

G9901.900 \$161,645.78 CR and G599 \$161,645.78 DR. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Trustee Tweed had spoken to the Village Board and would like to schedule a 6 month budget review meeting on 12/12/2022 at 6:00 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to direct the Clerk to advertise for a budget meeting 12/12/2022 at 6:00 PM. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Mayor Samudrala reported that the Fire Tower at Bramley Mountain is on schedule. He would like to commend the Street crews for the leaf and debris pick up. Mayor also wanted to commend the Water crew for both wells operating as well as the fluoride grant being approved and underway.

Trustee Lamont spoke of the Matt Dreyfus report – he felt this should go to the police committee to review and bring back recommendations back to the Village Board.

6:00 PM open public hearing for parking study – Michael Wieszchowski – GPI Engineering

Mayor Sridhar Samudrala went over his portion of the presentation regarding expenses up / revenue down and soliciting solutions from the Village residents.

Michael Wieszchowski, P.E., PTOC from GPI presented his slide show to the audience, which included the Mayor's slides as well as 13 additional slides highlighting the study done by GPI and proceeded to open the floor for questions from the audience.

#### QUESTIONS:

Matt Krzyston, representing the Greater Delhi Area Chamber, indicated he had submitted an email to the Village prior to this hearing outlining PILOT payments. He is ready to help the Village of Delhi but he rejects paid parking in the Village.

Raegan Reed, owner of the Cardio Club, local business indicated that putting meters in the Village makes our community less welcoming. She is not in favor of adding paid meters in the Village of Delhi. Raegan continued that if combining Town and Village could save taxpayers money, she would be in favor of that.

Robin Hultenius – inquired about a lighting district that previous Mayor, Richard Maxey, had previously looked into that would tax everyone. Mayor Samudrala indicated that he would look into that and sidewalk district as well. Robin also inquired about who would pay for monitoring parking lot?

Pete Gioffe – commented that the business owner would pay for monitoring parking for the village and the Village would make revenue. This would be another burden for businesses.

Ed McCarthy – indicated he didn't think there is a parking problem in the Village of Delhi; we have a financial problem – quality of life, increase Water rates, Is Alfred making money with their paid parking?

Barbara Jones – agreed that we do not have a parking problem. She indicated that Rich Maxey's lighting district is not a solution. Possibly becoming a City? She says no to paid parking.

Raegan Reed – asked if the Village and Town combine, who decides to merge? Mayor Samudrala indicated that he has been requesting a meeting with the Town for some time now.

Barb Sturdevant – indicated she has paperwork from years ago, from the 1990s; this is not the current discussion.

James Arrufat (80 Main Street) – indicated he felt paid parking is a bad idea; he felt that maybe adjusting the zoning on the side streets might open up some available parking.

Paul Decker – inquired how much did this study cost? Mayor Samudrala indicated it was approximately

\$21,000 for the study and \$5,000 - \$10,000 of additional costs.

Paul Decker – spoke that we don't need paid parking, enforce the current laws.

Chief Michael Mills – indicated enforcement is difficult with the current staffing.

Paul Decker – asked if parking enforcement had to be done by a police officer? To which, Chief Michael Mills indicated "NO".

Paul Decker – indicated that our current rental codes indicate property owner must provide sufficient parking per our codes? Are we enforcing our current codes?

Jerry Pellegrino – indicated projections are never right, he didn't feel we have a parking problem and the study is flawed.

Celine Decarlo – indicated we need to research, approval should only be giving if we can prove there is a parking problem. Mayor Samudrala indicated the Town and both Chambers should be involved.

Mayor Samudrala went on to say that Delaware County is using Village lights and sidewalks but don't pay taxes.

Bob Broder (139 Main Street) – indicated that no one is in support of paid parking; perhaps we should have had this meeting before we spent \$30,000 on this study.

Barb Sturdevant (Second Street) – indicated that paid parking would make her street the parking lot.

David Truscott – there has been discussion of parking; he doesn't feel the problem is that we don't have enough parking, it seems more of a financial issue, we are collecting money from ourselves. If the intent is to generate revenue – he would suggest conservation pricing with Water/Sewer, annexation of Sherwood, Elk Creek Development and perhaps encourage house construction on vacant lots or establish a Business Improvement District.

Mina Takahashi (139 Main Street) – believes the parking report is inaccurate on the map and the revenue is off. She also wanted to push back regarding Mayor Samudrala indicating that people do not attend the Village meeting as she felt that was disrespectful.

Trustee Ian Lamont – spoke on behalf of the village board. He indicated he has been a skeptic on paid parking. Ian mentioned that we have had many complaints around the Courthouse Square with many people moving to this area because of Covid. It was decided that use of ARPA funding for this parking study might be a good use of some of this funding. Ian indicated he is not in support of paid parking.

Raegan Reed – asked if residents are delinquent on their taxes, are we enforcing collection? She also asked is Air B&B pays taxes? Mayor Samudrala said tax for Air B&B would go to the County.

Mayor Samudrala indicated to the audience that we are looking for solutions, not problems.

Pete Gioffe – asked who will make the decision on paid parking? And what time frame? He will need to budget for Delaware National Bank. Mayor Samudrala indicated there would be not vote tonight on the paid parking.

Kristina Palmatier – indicated that the paid parking will affect the low-income residents and they cannot afford this. Paid parking is the wrong way to increase revenue.

Pete Gioffe – when will the Village board vote be? Give him a ballpark idea of when paid parking might be so that he can budget for this. Mayor Samudrala indicated that we should form a small committee (3 – 5 individuals) and it will be 6 months to a year before a decision is made about paid parking.

Chief Michael Mills – indicated to the audience that this public was not required, the Village really does care of hear from the Village residents.

Mayor Samudrala indicated that people should send him an email if you have additional questions.

Phil Zwick – polled the audience to see who was for an who was against the paid parking.

Anne Aikens – asked about the budget shortfall? Mayor Samudrala indicated the Village lost \$200,000 of SUNY Host community aid and \$150,000 of ARPA funding will be lost in the 2023 budget.

Letters and email were also received from the following:

11/28/2022 Ellen Lasoff  
11/28/2022 Lynn Dennis – 31 Elm Street  
11/28/2022 Andrea Sanders  
11/29/2022 Harold Eustis  
11/30/2022 Matthew Krzyston – The Greater Delhi Area Chamber  
11/30/2022 Roy Scrimshaw  
11/30/2022 Glenn Reynolds  
12/01/2022 James R. Thomson – County of Delaware Industrial Development Agency

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to close the public hearing. Motion was seconded by Trustee Gearhart. The public hearing for the parking study was closed at 7:40 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Cairns  
Clerk-Treasurer