

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Delhi was held **Monday, May 15, 2023** at 6:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor: Jeffrey Gearhart  
Trustees: Jeremy Fitch, Janet Tweed and Barbara Sturdevant

Absent: Ian Lamont, Trustee

Guests: Rick Sanguinito (Delta), Cynthia Cobbe, FFA students & advisors – Ellie Tarrants, Anna Clark, Mark Kline and Michelle Somers, Ed Cytalo, Bill Brown, Jean Yager, and Elizabeth DeFalco, The Reporter.

Privilege of the floor was granted to:

Rachel Condry – who was present to encourage the Village Board to issue a proclamation declaring the month of June as Pride month.

Delta Engineering – heat at Village Hall – presentation given by Rick Sanguinito to go over the options available to the Village of Delhi in replacing the boiler at Village Hall.

Rick indicated to the Village Board that as part of their analysis on the building, they tested for asbestos and found the building very clean for a building of this age. They also tested the lead paint and found heavy levels of lead.

Rick gave four options available from simply replacing the boiler to hydronic with propane, ranging in price from \$56,000 to \$870,000. Rick indicated the village needs to look at their plans with Village Hall to assess the best choice for replacing the current boiler at village hall. Rick also indicated there may be rebates available through our utilities.

FFA presentation – was given by President Ellie Tarrant and input from Secretary of the FFA -Anna Clark. Advisors – Ms. Michelle Sommers and Mr. Mark Kline were also present for this presentation.

Ellie indicated they have 1,200 taps – they begin tapping the trees in February. The members of FFA learn much from the tapping of the trees, producing the many products as well as selling and marketing their products. The money they raise goes to cover their costs of things they do as a club.

Someone asked how many members FFA currently has – to which Ellie indicated approximately 45 – 50 members with 10 – 15 very active members. Ellie thanked the Village for continuing to allow FFA to tap trees on Village owned property. The vacuum system they have has allowed them to produce approximately 175 gallons of maple syrup this year - last year's production was only about 60 gallons. The current price of maple syrup they sell is \$50 per gallon and they sell their maple products, mostly by word of mouth.

Bill Brown was present and reported on the following items: Andes Road Sewer Extension, Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA Funding), and NYSDOH Fluoride Grant.

Bill mentioned that the fluoride bids are due to the Village by 5/17/2023 by 2:00 PM, at which time, Delaware Engineering will come to Village Hall and we will open the bids. Bill Brown will then review the bids so that the Village can award the bid and move forward with this project.

Bill Brown has a meeting tomorrow (5/16/2023) at 9:00 AM at Village Hall with Jay Decker and Mayor Gearhart.

Village of Delhi Historian, Gabrielle Pierce gave a presentation with handouts for “Village of Delhi Historian Activities for Past Year+” and “Delhi Village Hall History”. Gabrielle also brought copies of “Delaware County and The Three Courthouses” written by John E. Raitt and published under the auspices of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors 1991”

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2023 regular board meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to approve Abstract #015 dated May 15, 2023 in the amount of \$131,644.86, which include the addition of voucher #335 for Red Door (Sewer) in the amount of \$1,636.25), voucher #698 for Tom Little (General) in the amount of \$93.01 and voucher #699 for Delta (General) in the amount of \$5,400, (General fund \$24,211.46, Water fund \$10,669.51, Sewer fund \$72,985.83, Joint Activities fund \$344.82 and Trust & Agency fund \$23,433.24). Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to accept the Bingo Inspection Report dated 4/19/2023, Police Report dated March 2023, Street Report dated May 2023, Water Report dated 5/10/2023, Sewer Report dated April 10, 2023, Code Enforcement Officer’s Report dated April 1 – May 10, 2023, Treasurers Report for April 2023, and Clerk’s Report dated May 15, 2023. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Trustee Fitch reported for the Police Committee.

Body Cams – Axon quote was included with Chief Mills report this month.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to move forward with the Axon quote #Q-480311-45049.747 JE issued 5/3/2023 in the amount of \$17,044.58 for body cams. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Archive Social quote – There was some discussion about whether this would include the Clerk’s office, etc. This item was tabled and will come back to the June 2023 meeting.

Speed limit in the Village of Delhi – It was discussed that we should advertise to have a workshop on June 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM to discuss the speed limit and get input from village residents. We would then schedule a public hearing during our June 2023 board meeting at 6:30 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to schedule and advertise a workshop regarding the speed limit change in the Village of Delhi June 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM and schedule and advertise the public hearing on June 19, 2023 at 6:30 PM, to coincide with the next monthly board meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

The public hearing for the speed limit would be for a Local Law # 2 of 2023 and the local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State

Trustee Tweed wanted to thank Matt Dreyfus for all his efforts in make village streets safer for our residents and for his concern with the issue of speed in our village.

Noise ordinance – policy. Trustee Fitch and Trustee Tweed indicated the police department was going to purchase a decibel meter for approximately \$150 and establish a policy to see if this fixes the

problem. If this solves the problem, we can update the code. There was mention of the college has done a meeting with the students to try to discuss the noise issue in the village but this meeting hasn't been well attended by the students at all. Mayor Gearhart indicated that someone should talk to Tom Little. Trustee Sturdevant indicated she would reach out to Mary at SUNY-Delhi.

Mayor Gearhart reported for the Public Works Committee.

Mayor indicated that there is an issue with water quality on Park Place. If the village could run a pipe to Delaware Avenue to complete the loop, the quality would likely be improved. Bill Brown indicated we would need a 6" line and it would likely cost something in the neighborhood of \$50,000 – \$100,000.

Mayor Gearhart also wanted to commend Daren and the employees for the crosswalks in the village. They are going to paint the light poles on Main Street as well. Things are looking nice.

Trustee Tweed reported for the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Phase 2 Cannon Memorial Park – Trustee Tweed reported there will be a useful path and the planter box is almost done, which will include the bicentennial plaque. We need lights in the park – Trustee Tweed had a quote of \$1,460.64 from Kirby Built.

Mayor Gearhart also indicated he met with Supervisor Tuthill and the village will help with sidewalks at the pool under Joint Services. The Town will buy the materials but our village employees have the experience to do the sidewalks.

Trustee Tweed wanted to thank all of the students and individuals by name that helped with this Project – Ben Decker of BH Decker for excavation and slab on grade preparation, Rick Roberts for his connections for stone, gathering stone and tireless hours building the planters, Butch Taylor, Owner of Northeast Bluestone in Walton for his donation of bluestone, Belinda Watts for design concepts and team collaboration. The SUNY Delhi students provided design inspirations and hard work toward making this plan a reality – Devin Hunt, Michael Fontanetta, Frank Barilla, Harrison Graizzaro, Kyle Quinn, Michael Tullo, Dom DeBonis, Dylan Weiss, Kyle Hewett, Joe Cristiano, Jack Macaluso and Zach Bayon. SUNY Delhi Facilities team provided stone pickup, deliveries and auxiliary support. Village of Delhi Street Department provided support for hauling off extra dirt, removing yard waste, storage and delivery of the memorial pavers and grass seed.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to install 2 solar lights at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 including materials. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Sheldon Park – Jessi Raber – pavilion in front of community garden – laying pad – Daren to get quote for materials.

Daren Evans, Jessi Raber and Mayor Gearhart met at Sheldon Park about filling the boxes at Sheldon Park but the boxes have been moved and the Village equipment cannot access to assist in filling the garden boxes.

There was a question about whether the Catskill Mountain Trails were open as some of the signage hasn't been put back up. The work on Village of Delhi property has been completely but information is that Delaware Academy work has not yet been completed. Trustee Tweed agreed to follow up with Catskill Mountain Club.

There were some supplies being requested from Eileen Kline for tennis and pickleball programs.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to allow purchase of training balls to be purchased for the tennis program under the current 22-23 recreation budget at a cost of \$54.99 and pickleball supplies be purchased under the 23-24 recreation budget at a cost of \$215.95 as per quote. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Fair on the Square – request dated May 11, 2023 – Trustee Tweed indicated this will be the 50<sup>th</sup> year of Fair on the Square. It was mentioned that Larry Govendo will be working on the bandstand.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to approve the Fair on the Square Committee request of 5/11/2023 to use the bandstand, closing of Church and Court Street, use of the Village buntings on the bandstand, use of the Village Hall garage for storage of their tables, chairs and benches for the month of July 2023. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Trustee Fitch also indicated that with the help of Jay Decker, Fair on the Square committee has founds two trailers to purchase to assist in transporting and storing their tables, chairs, etc. for use at Fair on the Square event.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to allow the purchase of two trailers at a cost of \$2,506 each from CNY Farm Supply at a total cost of \$5,012 to be purchased by the Village of Delhi for use by Fair on the Square committee. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Michael Tweed was present at the Village Board meeting and indicated that he will be meeting with Mayor Gearhart regarding the sidewalk committee.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to appoint the following recreation directors:

Eileen Kline – Tennis Director

Savannah Wake – Volley Director

Christopher Maney & Daniel Maney – Little League Director & Assistant

Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

It was added that the Village of Delhi is still looking for a Basketball Director.

There was a flyer for the Delhi Bridge Run 2023 and it was mentioned it will be June 3, 2023 with a 9:00 AM start.

Trustee Sturdevant reported for the Joint Services, Recreation Committee.

Trustee Sturdevant indicated they met with Town regarding Woolerton Street bridge. There is work that needs to be done to the Woolerton Street bridge and the town wanted the Village and Town to sign documents together. The Village will not sign – the Town of Delhi is responsible for the Woolerton Street bridge. The Town and Village Joint Services have talked about updating the Flood Commission.

It was also mentioned that the Joint Town and Village Comprehensive Plan needs to be updated and include community members on this committee.

Mayor Gearhart mentioned that he spoke to Bill Cairns during the Shared Services meeting about a joint Town and Village Hall. The Legion was mentioned as a possibility but this would be in the flood plain.

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

Mayor Gearhart spoke about the beavers being a problem in the Village of Delhi. Jay Decker got in touch with NYS DEC about our beaver problem – they indicated “not our problem” and will not assist the village. Property owners can contact DEC for a permit and Mayor Gearhart will get a letter to Deputy-Clerk, Jean Yager for her to place on the Village website and Facebook notifying residents of this problem.

Eastman Associates – Village Hall front steps. Since this quote is for \$63,000 this project will need to be put out for bid.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed that we put the front step project and boiler project out to bid. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

It was noted that the specs will need to be updated and the legal should be placed with bids being due back to the Village Clerk by 6/16/2023 for both of this bids.

Mayor Gearhart wanted to thank Tom Little, Village Code Enforcement Officer, for his 15 years of services and accepted his resignation reluctantly.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to allow the Clerk to advertise for the Code Enforcement position. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Trustee Sturdevant reported for the Finance Committee.

Village of Delhi – Delinquent Property Tax Procedure – It was noted by Mayor Gearhart that there is a procedure in place and we have submitted any delinquent taxes to our Village attorney for him to handle.

Schedule ARPA meeting – Trustee Sturdevant indicated she would like to have an ARPA meeting to discuss final details to allow us to complete the ARPA reporting. It was decided to have this ARPA meeting 5/31/2023 at 6:00 PM. The Village Clerk will advertise this meeting with our official newspaper.

NBT Mang – 6/1/2023 renewal pricing - \$80,940.04 –

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to authorize the Clerk to issue payment of \$80,940.04 for the 6/1/2023 renewal to NBT Mang under the 23-24 budget. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to approve raises for non-union employees for fiscal year 2023 – 2024 as follows:

Clerk - \$28.14/hr	Deputy Clerk - \$25.16/hr
Code Enforcement Officer - \$25.69/hr	Police Chief - \$36.81/hr

Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Mayor Gearhart informed the board that he will create a letter to Village residents that the MEGA CCA program will not be available this year to village residents as the rates would be higher than with NYSEG. The Mayor’s letter will be mailed with the Annual Water report in May 2023.

Information from New York State – “Minimum Standards for Sexual Harassment Prevention Policies” and “Complaint Form for Reporting Sexual Harassment” were provide to the Village Board members. This will be reviewed and accepted at our June 2023 meeting.

Trustee Sturdevant attended a meeting at Delaware Academy and had a brochure “Renewing Rural – 2022-2023 Legislative Priorities put out by RSA (Rural Schools Association of New York State) from that meeting.

Mayor Gearhart wanted to thank SUNY Delhi for hosting the Community Service Day on April 22, 2023 and thank all those that came out to help with washing windows and sweeping sidewalks on Main Street.

Mayor Gearhart indicated the Delaware County Mayors are looking to meeting in July 2023.

Someone brought up Hotel Occupancy Tax – Mayor Gearhart indicated that our Village attorney is working on a policy.

Village Clerk confirmed with board members that board packets to them by Thursday at noon was fine for the monthly board meeting on Monday.

Discussion was had about paperwork from NYS DOT regarding surplus sale 09-III-852. This was handled and approved by the Village Board 3/15/2021 under Resolution #3 of 2021. This approval 3/15/2021 grants authorization for someone to execute the agreements and related documents.

Trustee Tweed had information she shared with the Village board to switch email from DTC to google suites. We have 30 hours of time with ISD and the cost is \$2,295. We would work with Chris Ranc at ISD and Josh at DTC.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to move email from Delhi Telephone at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to enter executive session for the purpose of discussion regarding the Teamster contract. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and executive session started at 9:55 PM.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to exit executive session. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and the board went back to open session at 10:52 PM.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Cairns  
Clerk-Treasurer