

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Delhi was held **Monday, February 26, 2024** 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, Ian Lamont, Janet Tweed and Barbara Sturdevant

Guests: Matt Dreyfus, Cindie Smart, Jim Smart, Nathen Goedel, Bill Brown, Cindi Cobbe, Elizabeth DeFalco, The Reporter and Sarah Keehr, Delhi Campus Interfaith Club (DCIC)

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ed Chytalo – where he presented the Village of Dehli with a photograph of our Village Square for placement at Village Hall. He wanted to thank the village board for all they do.

Matt Dreyfus wanted to also thank the board members for their efforts to reduce the speed limits in Our village to make it safer for our residents.

Jim Smart – indicated that NYS DOT doesn't understand the noise and dust on Main Street because of the speed.

Nathan Goedel – Kite flying event in April – Nathan indicated he is looking for sponsors for the kites – they are DIY and can be decorated by the kids. The event is planned at the American Legion April 6, 2024 from 11 AM – 2 PM with a raindate of April 13, 2024 from 11 AM – 2 PM. Nathan's goal is to get kids and families outside and away from their screens. Nathan wants to build this into a community events. Nathan indicated he could use help from individuals for ideas and planning for the future as well as volunteers and a financial individual for finance piece of this event. Mayor Gearhart indicated to Nathan that the next group to speak is a community service group that might be able to offer him some volunteer help.

DCIS – Madison Miller and Sean McCumisker – Community Service – Alex spoke on the Delhi Campus Interfaith Club (DCIC), which is a community service club on campus. The group also works with Heart of the Catskills. DCIS has a fundraiser on 3/2/2024 "Taste of Italy", which is a dinner on 3/2/2024 at Delaware Academy from 3 – 7 PM. This fundraiser will raise funds for their service trip with Habitat for Humanity.

Andy Cahill – Meadow Solar Electric Supply – spoke on the fact that Delaware River Solar / Meadow Solar could potentially offer discount of 5% of the Village's NYSEG bills. Andy will get us a proposal for discussion at the March 2024 board meeting.

The board asked if there would be discounting available for Village residents as they had previously under the MEGA program. Andy indicated she works with Transition Catskil and indicated that most can save 10% from their NYSEG billing.

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

Bill Brown recommend Village Board authorize payment of invoice from Koeseter Associates dated 1/26/2024 for delivered equipment in the amount of \$4,500.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to authorize payment of Koester Associates bill for \$4,500. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024 regular board meeting, budget meeting of February 12, 2024 and budget meeting of February 13, 2024. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 30, 2024. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed. Trustee Lamont abstained from vote as he was not present at the meeting. All other board members approved and motion passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to approve Abstract #009 dated February 26, 2024 in the amount of \$203,581.05 (General fund \$68,294.27, Water fund \$15,865.92, Sewer fund \$89,571.21, Joint Activity fund \$7,500 and Trust and Agency fund \$22,349.65). Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to accept the Bingo Inspection Report dated 1/31/2024, Police Report dated January 2024, Street Report dated February 2024, Water Report dated 2/26/2024, Sewer Report dated February 20, 2024, Code Enforcement report dated 12/13/2023 – 2/16/2024, Treasurer Report for January 2024, and Clerk Report dated February 26, 2024. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Trustee Fitch reported for the **Police Committee**.

Camera @ Hoyt Park – this item is tabled and Trustee Fitch will get a quote from DTC for the March board meeting.

Trustee Fitch indicated we are still looking for a full-time police officer.

Trustee Fitch also indicated that Captain Small received ARPA funds from Delaware County to finish the bathroom.

Trustee Lamont reported for the **Public Works Committee**.

CAP fees – Trustee Sturdevant advised the board after conversation with the Treasurer, we have \$93,438.03 of debt that was paid from the Water fund that has not been replenished from CAP fund from 22/23 fiscal year. We would also have all the debt paid in the currently budget 23/24 fiscal year to be current.

The board directed the Treasurer to finish transferring debt repayment from CAP account to Water fund this year.

Milton CAT quote for CAT 2024 908 loader – a quote was received from Milton CAT to replace the 2023 CAT 908 loader with a CAT 2024 CAT 908 loader at a cost of \$13,228.00.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to move forward with ordering the 2024 CAT 908 loader per quote of 2/13/2024 at a cost of \$13,228.00. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Jay Decker got quote from Ti Sales for 1 ½” and 2” Neptune meters along with his recommendations to upgrade large meters in the village 2 – 3 per year as we are losing revenue because all the flows are not being captured and billed on some of these accounts. Mayor Gearhart will talk further with

Jay about these meters.

Jay Decker also made a request to the Village board to attend the New York Rural Water Associations training 5/ 20 – 5/24/2024 at a cost of \$370 for his registration.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to approve sending Jay to the New York Rural Water training 5/20 – 5/24/2024 and cover his registration and lodging for this training. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Trustee Tweed reported for the **Parks & Recreation Committee**.

Kayaks – Mayor Gearhart indicated that the paperwork has been completed with Lindsay from the Economic Development office for grant funding from multiple sources leaving the Village of Delhi responsible for no more than \$2,000 and leaving Town of Delhi responsible for no more than \$2,000.

Recreation Directors – Village of Delhi has received an application from Laura Gioffe for the position of Recreation for \$2,000 per year.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to hire Laura Gioffe as Recreation Director effective 3/1/2024 for \$500 payment in May 2024 in the 23/24 fiscal year.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to authorize Mayor to sign PERM 33c application for NYS DOT for the Delhi Chamber / St. Patrick's Day parade. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Timeline for applications and approval for Ukraine Vigil for use of bandstand – there was some discussion and it was decided that the Bandstand Guidelines need to be updated. Trustee Tweed will get copy of guidelines from Clerk and work on updating.

Trustee Fitch indicated Fair on the Square (FOTS) will have their first meeting Thursday, 2/29/2024 6 PM at Village Hall.

Trustee Sturdevant reported for the **Joint Services Committee**.

There was a meeting recently with Grayden Dutcher and Jeff Russell – signed letter from Clark has been received from Clark allowing them to work on the 1st phase of removing the berm, which will take 26 houses out of the flood plain (Delaware Avenue, Elm Street and Page Avenue). The 1st phase would be funded through Soil & Water. The 2nd and 3rd phases of this project would be Steele Brook and Bridge Street area respectively.

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

Bishop update – use of property (Canon Park) – Bishop has complied with the court order and the building is structurally safe. Village needs to speak with our attorney and Code Enforcement to see what the next step for this property is.

Furnace at Village Hall – A. Treiffersen still needs to come back with a part for the furnace so the furnace can receive a certificate of compliance.

Guidelines for Banner Display – approve / update – this item was tabled again. Trustee Tweed has some links to NYS recommendations for banner to incorporate into our Banner Guidelines. Trustee

Tweed will work with the board to bring proposal back to the board in March 2024 for updates to these guidelines.

Sidewalk Clearance – 35 properties were sited this last storm event with 54 for the previous event.

After much discussion, the board felt we have notified residents of the codes and their responsibilities are after a storm. Code enforcement needs to site delinquent property owners and send our contractor to shovel these sidewalks and bill the property owners. It was also noted that we should bid this service each year for snow removal and lawn maintenance contractor.

Trustee Sturdevant reported for the **Finance Committee**.

Tax Foreclosures – Mayor Gearhart indicated this is with our village attorney. The court cases affecting this have been adjudicated and we can move forward with foreclosures in the village.

Trustee Sturdevant indicated that our ARPA funds have been spent as follows:

Metal roof @ Depot Street - \$19,050 – Balance towards the front steps \$47,068.61 (front door replacement already there) – furnace replacement - \$79,750. COVID Relief funds - \$115,868.

Trustee Sturdevant was also looking for a budget amendment

A200 – Cash \$115,868 DR

A202 COVID funds - \$115,868 CR

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to transfer \$115,868 from COVID funds (A202) to General fund (A200). Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

There was discussion by the village board to schedule a public hearing for proposed Local Law #1 of 2024 “Tax Cap Override”.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to schedule public hearing 3/18/2024 at 6:00 PM for LL#1 of 2024 “Tax Cap Override”. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to authorize the Mayor to sign the release for application #D-05 for the CDBG Home Ownership Program. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

EV charging station – Mayor Gearhart indicated the new EV charging station is to be installed mid March 2024.

Letter from DEP regarding Clark Properties dated 2/16/2024 was received from NYC Environmental Protection regarding their application for project #2023-CN-0375-SC.1.

NEW BUSINESS

Climate Smart Communities – Trustee Tweed indicated there is a meeting Wednesday (2/28/2024) at 4:30 PM at Village Hall

Bids for Village’s heating oil, kerosene and propane – Mayor Gearhart indicated that Buell Fuels & Center State Propane were low bidder for heating oil, kerosene and propane.

After some discussion by the village board, they agreed they would like the village to contact current customer(s) of Buell to see how their service has been. It was noted that perhaps the village should consider buying our own tanks so that if we bid in the future, we don't need to worry about changing out the tank(s).

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to award Buell Fuels & Center State Propane for the next year for the following products:

- Heating Oil - \$3.0136 per gallon
- Kerosene - \$3,6495 per gallon
- Propane - \$1.5945 per gallon

After we confirm service is okay with current customer(s). Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Nuisance Critter Removal – after some discussion, it was felt there needs to be some additional research on how to handle this issue in the village.

Shade Tree Commission – change resident requirement – there were 3 individuals that were interested in being on the shade tree commission (Dom Morales, Tom Ostrom and Don Stratham) but currently there is a residency requirement that would need to be changed in order to allow people out of the village to sit on this commission. Julia Ward and Seth LaPierre, who live in the village, were also mentioned as individuals who might be willing to serve on this commission.

Restore NY Funding – 2 page information provided to board members.

NYCOM effort to raise AIM funding (info) – Mayor Gearhart shared an email from NYCOM dated 2/16/2024 indicating they are continuing to lobby to get AIM funding increased.

Mayor's Report

Vehicle Use Policy – Mayor Gearhart will reach out to NYCOM to see about a policy that might suit Village of Delhi for our employees who attend trainings.

Delaware County Council of Mayors last meeting was 2/14/2024 – next meeting is 3/14/2024.

Mayor Gearhart indicated the Delaware County Council of Mayors are still pushing for shared Code Enforcement Officer for uniform assessments. The group is also interested in sharing a grant writer.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Cairns
Village Treasurer