

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Delhi was held **Monday, March 18, 2024** at 6:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

The meeting started at 6:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Guests: Jim Smart, Honor Students from Delaware Academy (Risdon Reed, Victoria Verspoor, Ellie Lees and Kara Fitch) and Cindie Smart
Bill Brown

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to open the public hearing at 6:04 PM on proposed Local Law #1 "Tax Cap Override". Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Chris Clark – looking for board approval of change in pipe requirements.

Clark's is putting water in off Phoebe Lane to their new building that requires a 3" feed to service their building. Clark's is proposing plastic pipe fused together with no joints instead of ductile iron which currently has a supply problem and would be more susceptible to corrosion. Jay Decker, Water Superintendent thought the plastic piping is a good solution and agrees with the applicant.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to allow Clark to install HDPE plastic piping on their new building on Phoebe Lane. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Michael Tweed – ADU – report to board –

Michael Tweed gave a presentation of "Village of Delhi ADU Recommendations:" that have been compiled by the Zoning Review Board. Michael had a seven page handout he gave to each of the Village Board members.

Michael indicated that short-term rentals will be addressed next by the committee.

Michael indicated that once he starts his PHD program, he will need to step down as the chair of the Zoning Review Board – he would stay on the committee.

There was mention that there should be an informal workshop to get input from the residents of the village.

Mayor Gearhart thanked Michael Tweed for his service as chair of the Zoning Review Board.

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

Bill Brown reported that the equipment under the fluoride grant has been secured.

Bill also indicated that reimbursement for the fluoride grant was requested today (3/18/2024).

Bill indicated the telemetry equipment will be installed and programmed tomorrow (3/19/2024).

Bill is also working on the updated grant submission for the water project.

Mayor Gearhart indicated that people should approach their state reps re: SUNY aid, etc.

National Honor Society students (Risdon Reed, Victoria Verspoor, Ellie Lees and Kara Fitch) presented their plan to the Village Board "Run For Hunger 5K" with 4 page handout given to board members

Trustee Fitch made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:29 PM on proposed Local Law #1 of 2024 "Tax Cap Override". Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Andy Cahill from Meadow was present to report on meters. Andy indicated the savings on our electric accounts would be \$4,267.89, which would be a 5% savings on the supply, delivery and demand charges.

Andy Cahill indicated there would be a public presentations for residential customers to see about their

potential savings on their electric bills. They can bring their electric bill to either of the meetings-

- 1) Bushell on April 3, 2024 6 – 7 pm; or 2) Delaware County Chamber April 4, 2024 6 – 7 pm

Village residents can attend the information session or they can sign up for discounting on their electric bills.

Andy Cahill indicated that she had emailed the subscription agreement to Pam Ferguson for the Village of Delhi – this is an 11 page document for the Village to sign and return to her.

Mayor Gearhart wanted to extend a thank you to Cindi Cobbe for the wall clock she donated that is in our boardroom

Courtney E. Heinel – Move to Executive Session – Courtney is sick and this will be moved to the April 15, 2024 meeting.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024 Sewer budget meeting, minutes of the February 26, 2024 regular board meeting and February 26, 2024 General budget meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to approve Abstract #010 dated March 18, 2024 in the amount of \$171,580.53 (General fund \$17,710.03, Water fund \$48,646.16, Sewer fund \$83,051.69, and Trust and Agency fund \$22,172.65). Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to accept the Police Report dated February 2024, Street Report dated March 2024, Water Report dated 3/12/2024, Sewer Report dated March 13, 2024, Code Enforcement report dated 2/17/2024 – 3/12/2024, Treasurer Report for February 2024, and Clerk Report dated March 18, 2024. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

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

Camera @ Hoyt Park – Trustee Fitch had obtained a quote from DTC for 3 additional cameras @ Hoyt Park at a cost of \$1,381.47 with a monitoring cost of \$14.99 per month.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to approve DTC quote of \$1,381.47 for the 3 cameras in Hoyt Park. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Trustee Fitch also indicated that Sargent Davis submitted a grant to DCJS.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to hire Kathryn Mitchell effective 4/5/2024 at step 2 at a rate of \$28.57 contingent upon approval of the approval of the transfer of her competitive civil service status by the Delaware County Personnel Office. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to hire Richard Bell effective 3/19/2024 at a rate of \$21.50 per hour contingent upon the satisfactory completion of background investigation, fingerprint submission and any other screening processes required by department policy and NYS law. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Trustee Fitch mentioned that the resolution for 25 Stay Alive from Courtney should be done so that we can schedule a public hearing.

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

Street Garage – estimate #921 from Oneonta Garage Doors, LLC for \$8,250

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to approve estimate #921 from Oneonta Garage, LLC in the amount of \$8,250. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Sewer WWTP – quote #314202401 from Steel Sales Inc. for \$4,869.50

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to approve quote #314202401 from Steel Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$4,869.50. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously. It was mentioned that purchase was authorized, on an emergency basis, by Deputy Mayor Fitch on 3/7/2024 on the wet well grinder, reducer & couplings.

Approve Sewer Specialty Work –

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to authorize Sewer Specialty work for up to 20,000 feet of work per quote issued 2/6/2024 by Sewer Specialty Services and included with Jay's Water report this month. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Sidewalk Grinding – It was mentioned by previous Mayors have walked the village with a vendor to identify sidewalks that were in need of grinding for safety reasons and get a quote to be able to prioritize work based on our budget remaining.

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

Kayaks – Mayor Gearhart indicated the paperwork has been submitted for Economic Development and O'Connor funding and we are waiting to secure funding before we move forward. The cost would be \$28,000 for an 8 unit cage of kayaks.

Fireworks were mentioned as we need to get these scheduled for July 2024 but we need to be sure The donation has been secured before we schedule with American Fireworks for 7/5/2024 and rainedate of 7/12/2024.

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

Trustee Sturdevant indicated the form has been signed by Clark and Graydon Dutcher to move forward on the berm work.

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

Bishop update – use of property (Canon Park) – table to 4/15/2024 meeting when Courtney is here to discuss.

Trustee Tweed indicated the little library donated by the Rotary has been installed in Cannon Park.

Furnace at Village Hall – A. Treiffersen was to get us a quote for work still needed to be done on the furnace to enable us to get certificate of compliance from our Code Enforcement Officer. Mayor Gearhart indicated that we need to request a boiler inspection to be sure we are compliant.

Guidelines for Banner Display – Trustee Tweed felt we should include the link to NYS recommendations for banner to incorporate into our Banner Guidelines. This item will be tabled and Trustee Tweed will email updated Guideline to Clerk's office so that we can approve this at the 4/15/2024 meeting.

Flagpole – need to replace pole, flag and add lighting now that steps have been replaced.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to spend up to \$1,200 for the flagpole, flag and lighting. Mayor and Clerk will handle the purchase. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

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

Tax Foreclosures – our village attorney has drafted letters to all property owners who are delinquent on village taxes that will be mailed out.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to schedule public hearing 4/15/2024 at 6:00 PM for the proposed 2024 – 2025 Village of Delhi budget. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Approval is requested to prepay for new propane tanks – Depot Street and Street Garage once they have been installed.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to pay Center State Propane \$10,142.24 for the new propane tanks at Depot Street and Street Garage once they have been installed. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

EV charging station – the new 4 port EV charging station will be installed Wednesday (3/20/2024).

Shade Tree Updates – Trustee Lamont has a name of an individual that may be willing to join this commission. It was mentioned that we should have 5 members including Daren Evans. The board suggested that we could put an article on our website to solicit individuals that might be interested in serving on the Shade Tree commission.

The Shade Tree report needs to be updated.

The Village board indicated that the Clerk's office needs to advertise for bids for delinquent lawns with bids being returned by 4/8/2024 at noon.

NEW BUSINESS

Climate Smart Communities – Trustee Tweed indicated the next meeting is Wednesday 3/20/2024 where there will be an evaluation of the risk climate.

Ashley is working on the requirement checklist for Climate Smart Communities.

Mayor Gearhart said the NYSERDA intern is working diligently on our goals.

Mayor Gearhart also mentioned that he has been looking into solar panels on 20 acres at the WWTP.

Restore NY Funding – Mayor Gearhart referenced an email he received from Peter Kleeman with possible legal solution for neglected village properties.

Trustee Lamont indicated that perhaps Josh Morgan, Code Enforcement Officer, could do an inventory of neglected properties in the village.

Mayor Gearhart indicated that he felt we could experiment with 2 properties in the village (1 on Delaware Avenue and 1 on Main Street) to see how this process might work and funding that might be available.

NYCOM effort to raise AIM funding (info) and other NYS budget news. – Mayor Gearhart indicated the state has some water/sewer funding that would be similar to CHIPS.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gearhart and Chief Mills have both spoken to Judge Burkert who indicates that Village of Delhi hasn't received revenue since June 2022 when they change to electronic reporting and the Village is owed that back revenue. Judge Burkert has discussed with the Office of the State Comptrollers and we should see this back payment shortly.

Delaware County Council of Mayors last meeting was 3/13/2024 – next meeting is 4/9/2024.

Mayor Gearhart indicated the Mayors are trying to cooperate and work together with their Supervisor counterparts to resolve issues with the county.

The board mentioned that we need to approve LL #1 of 2024 for the "Tax Cap Override".

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to approve LL #1 of 2024 "Tax Cap Override". Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

"Local Law No. 1 of the year 2024 - Village of Delhi, County of Delaware - A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Village of Delhi to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2024 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Delhi, County of Delaware, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2024 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State. “

There was some talk of perhaps having SUNY students do some construction work with Village of Delhi. Trustee Sturdevant has contact for Justin Foster, Advisor of TRI-At and Mayor Gearhart is an alum of TRI-At. It was felt we could try to do something for Community Service Day.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Cairns
Village Treasurer