

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Delhi was held **Tuesday, December 17, 2024** at 6:00 pm at Village Hall.

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

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

Guests: Elizabeth DeFalco

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

Bill Brown was not present at our meeting and had nothing currently to report on.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024 regular meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant. Trustee Lamont abstained from vote as he was not present last month. All other board members were in favor, motion was passed.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to approve Abstract #007 dated December 17, 2024 in the amount of \$274,074.56 with an addition of \$35,532.50 for Country Club Nissan for a total of \$309,607.06. (General fund \$147,023.51, Water fund \$29,068.34, Sewer fund \$110,015.20, and Trust & Agency fund \$23,500.01). Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to accept the Police Report dated November 2024, Street Report dated December 2024, Water Report dated 12/12/2024, Sewer Report dated December 11, 2024, Code Enforcement Report 11/13/2024 – 12/10/2024, Treasurers report dated November 2024 and Clerk Report dated December 17, 2024. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Trustee Fitch reported for the **Police Committee**

Trustee Fitch reported that the Police Committee met with Jehed Diamond to review Village policy on noise ordinance. Trustee Tweed also indicated that she did a ride along with the police – she would encourage other members of the board to do a ride along as well.

SUCO Range use – Mayor Gearhart indicated that SUNY Oneonta has requested to use our range the end of December, which would close us out of being able to train at the range causing us to lose revenue with no payment or agreement for use of the range. Trustee Fitch indicated that we need more information to come up with a policy for outside agencies to use our range.

Mayor Gearhart reported for the **Public Works Committee**.

Friesland Campina – Mayor Gearhart indicated that the meeting scheduled for 11/22/2024 was cancelled because of the weather. Discussion was had that Saputo doesn't seem to have a problem paying fines levied by Village of Delhi. There was also discussion about the fact that Lamont and Delaware Engineering did the study for the Wastewater Treatment plant but no report was ever issued – this should be done shortly. The study for the WWTP was funded by Delaware County IDA. Trustee Lamont indicated that the issues are 1) plant replacement and 2) updating the industry agreements. There was discussion about possibly paying Rich Maxey under the consultant budget to follow up and get this moving to a conclusion. Mayor Gearhart will contact Rich Maxey to see if he is

agreeable to work on this. Mayor Gearhart has also indicated that Jason Merwin @ CWC is working on funding for upgrading treatment plants in the NYC watershed.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to approve BDP quote #0000129 in the amount \$1,588.74. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Snow being plowed into street from residences per Street Superintendent Daren Evans. Mayor Gearhart indicated perhaps we should create a fine to property owners – Trustee Lamont read from Village Code - §218 which indicates the penalty is subject to a fine not exceeding \$250 under §218-20 but also noted that §218-19 indicates “The Village shall publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the Village each October to effectuate and advise of the objects and purposes of this article. Such notice shall be presumptive evidence of knowledge of the objects and purposes of this article.”

Rasmussen request – There was discussion that Scott Rasmussen would like to purchase the guard rail from the Cherry Hill project at the current scrap metal price. It was felt by the board that we should check with NYCOM to see that this wouldn't be issue or conflict because Scott is an employee of the Village.

Trustee Sturdevant indicated there is nothing new to report for the **Joint Services Committee** this month.

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

Bishop building update – Mayor Gearhart indicated that the building is still being worked on. There are steps on the side of the building that need to be taken care of. Trustee Sturdevant remarked that the front of the building looks nice.

Discussion regarding Court Street – Trustee Fitch indicated that he really hates to spend the money on the study but how do we have answers for our residents without doing an actual study. The original quote for the study was priced at \$14,000 by vhs. Trustee Fitch indicated perhaps we should table until spring after the snow is gone. There was also conversation that perhaps we could revise the quote to be more focused in it's scope and reduce the cost to the village. Mayor Gearhart will follow up with vhs to get updated quote for Court Street study.

Discussion regarding parking setbacks from intersections – complaint from Greenslate – there was a question about whether Hughson Benson is a temporary occupant in the Greenslate property – Village of Delhi recognizes the issue – they are reluctant to change anything right now until we find it is a situation that needs to be dealt with.

Village Hall painting – Mayor Gearhart indicated that work should start in the spring as weather allows.

Village Hall signs - Mayor Gearhart indicated that the sign from Delaware Avenue has been looked at by Deb Fleming – there are 5 signs at the Village entries – 3 signs are Deb's and 2 signs another person created. Mayor Gearhart indicated that we need to redo the backer board on the Delaware Avenue signs and Daren can do that to fix this sign temporarily Trustee Tweed indicated perhaps this should be a shared service with grant funding possibly available.

Discussion was had by Trustee Tweed and Mayor Gearhart to use the Helfgott – Renfroe donation of \$1,000 toward the cost of the new signs.

Trustee Fitch indicated that we should get a quote for all 5 signs to be redone – look for funding. Mayor Gearhart was to talk to Deb Fleming about getting a quote from her for all 5 of the signs.

Trustee Sturdevant reported for the **Finance Committee**

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to approve destruction of records identified according to Schedule LGS-01. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont directing the Mayor to sign the Delaware County Planning Advisory Service Contract for 2025 and authorize the Clerk to remit payment of \$3,500. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant directing the Mayor to sign “Notification of Appointment of Registrar of Vital Statistics”. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to accept the donation of \$1,000 from Helfgott-Renfroe Foundation. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch. Trustee Lamont abstained from vote as his wife sits on the foundation. All other board members were in favor. Motion was passed. Note on the donation was “Thanks for care for roads & sidewalks & more!”.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Zoning Review Board – Trustee Lamont indicated he had emailed Dave Kopecek to get an update for the low impact business zone, ADU’s, short-term rentals and parking minimums. The village board received a report but they had questions. We need a report to the village board so that we can schedule a public workshop.

Village of Delhi Special Event Permit Application – Trustee Tweed sent this item to Chief Mills and hasn’t heard back from him – item tabled to January for Tweed to follow up with Chief.

IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System) – Pam is waiting for paperwork from FEMA.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Climate Smart Communities – Trustee Tweed indicated she had reached out to Ashley regarding grant and possible funding for another paid intern.

FYI - Christmas Luncheon – 12/20/2024 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Village Hall.

There was a questions raised about changing the historian membership to Association of Public Historians – Trustee Lamont looked online and it seems it is for locally appointed historians, not local government.

Trustee Sturdevant indicated that she and Trustee Tweed went to Binghamton some time ago to do a presentation for our Forward grant submission. The decision was to be made by that Friday and Village of Delhi has still not heard back from the committee.

Trustee Sturdevant also indicated that Village of Delhi has submitted for a \$500,000 grant with Appalachian Regional Commission. This funding would be for housing.

Cannabis sales tax was discussed and the split between Delaware County, Town of Delhi and Village of Delhi.

Delhi Community Connection Forum (formally Mayor's Task Force) meeting was at SUNY Delhi campus 12/12/2024 at 10 AM. There was talk of the cannabis dispensary – campus receives funding based on being a drug-free campus –

Mayor Gearhart indicated perhaps we should pro-actively explore problems in other communities with dispensaries. Mayor Gearhart indicated that housing continues to be a big issue for the college – they have no housing for their employees. Mayor Gearhart also met new Chief of UPD at this meeting.

### **Mayor's Report**

Delaware County Council of Mayors last meeting was 11/20/2024 – next meeting is 1/8/2024.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing employment history of a particular person and contract negotiations (PBA). Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and executive session started at 9:11 pm.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to exit executive session. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and the board went back to open session at 10:41 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Cairns  
Village Treasurer