

VILLAGE OF JORDAN
June 12th, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Platten, Trustees Stapleton, Chilson, and Simko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Gustafson

POLICE OFFICER in ATTENDANCE: Ennulat

STAFF: Superintendent Byrnes, Fred DiRisio

AUDIENCE: Patrick Karpinski, Jack Horner, Ken Bush

Mayor Platten led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm.

Minutes from May 22nd were not available.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Historian Jack Horner addressed the Board with good news regarding a historical marker that was received honoring Sheldon Peck; American folk artist, abolitionist, and social activist. Mr. Peck was even a conductor on the Underground Railroad. The unveiling event will be September 23rd with the time TBA. The roadside marker will be placed on the site of Sheldon Peck's home on 5 South Skaneateles Street. Lynn Gannet Fail was the spearhead for securing this marker, thank-you Lynn!

Mr. Peck (8/26/1797 – 03/19/1868) resided within the village between the years of 1828 and 1836. His original house has since been replaced. Sheldon Peck's descendants will be attending the ceremony as will the Director and Board Members of the "Sheldon Peck Homestead Museum". Scholars of Sheldon Peck have also expressed interest in attending from New Hampshire and New Jersey. Current plans include a tour of the museum, the Canal Park, the remnants of the canal, and a display of paintings in the library done by Mr. Sheldon. Mr. Horner would like to "show off Jordan and its historic values" to the guests.

Mr. Horner would like to have local businesses place "Welcome Peck Family" signs on their establishments. He is seeking additional celebration ideas and suggestions of restaurants. He also inquired if the event could be placed on the website along with information of Sheldon Peck. The clerk has already forwarded the information on to the reporter, an article will be written closer to the date of the event.

The current land owner had been asked, was in agreement and is pleased about the marker. Discussion was had as to the placement of the marker and the appropriate method for fastening. Trustee Stapleton suggested it would like to help neaten up the surrounding area if possible.

Mr. Horner invited the Board to stop by and visit in the historian's office which is open from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He is assisted by Jan and Myrna. The office is getting very cramped as it started with one filing cabinet and now houses twenty-five. The Town was able to secure acid-free files for the historian's office and now the three of them are busy converting over the files. Recent donations include: a time clock, a sign and a DeLorean Prize. Mr. Horner stated although they were definitely a working office, receiving approximately ten inquiries per month, he would love to show off their treasures to the Board.

Additional information on Sheldon Peck is available at the Village Office.

Patrick Karpinski of 6 Lock Tender's Drive addressed the Board with a question regarding the issue of village tax. He wondered if the override of the tax cap would be a continued practice of the Board. The Board's response was, "That is not our plan. Please know that deciding to override the tax cap was not an easy decision to make." Mr. Karpinski wondered why the village had to increase taxes when other municipalities did not. Mayor Platten stated the tax base was not here. And continued to explain not only had the village had stayed within the tax cap during the years there was a rebate incentive offered to residents so everyone could receive the state checks, but the village had also not increased taxes by any significant amount over the prior years. Both of these facts took their toll on the fund balance. Mr. Karpinski then asked if anyone had submitted a petition to dissolve the village. Response: No. There had been some discussion raised a few years ago. but when the facts showed there would be little to no savings and the services would be cut drastically, the topic was put to rest. It was also shared that the village assessment had been reduced this year by approximately \$85,000 due to a house that had been demolished and another that suffered from fire. The Mayor shared the village was seeking grants for the capital improvements projects and was being as fiscally responsible as they could be.

Mr. Karpinski thanked the Board for their time and the Board thanked Mr. Karpinski for his concern and for taking time to come into a meeting to speak with them.

Ken Bush addressed the Board with his annual recap of Memorial Day. He stated the village “Shined like a gem!” and thanked the village DPW and park laborers. He noted the teamwork by everyone was like “clockwork” in spite of the weather. Some special thanks also were extended to the police department and to the fire department, as well as the Mayor, the Board and of course to the volunteers of the parade committee who assisted him. Mr. Bush happily noted that was once again, thanks to donations from the Community Council, the FD, businesses and generous residents, no tax dollars were expended on the parade band expenses. One noted improvement was no vendor peddlers on the streets, this helped insure the focus of the day was on honoring our veterans. He also noted the participation and fine job done by the Boy Scouts, the library & museum and the Baptist church.

New this year was a ribbon which was presented to the float that best depicted the spirit of the day. The float that won was Vintage for Veterans, a CNY group of pinup and vintage enthusiasts who honor veterans, as well as active servicemen, through community work, volunteering and fundraising for veterans’ funds. Mr. Bush stated the group was very touched to receive the very first annual award. The Mayor offered a hearty “Thanks Kenneth!!!” and Board sincerely thanked Mr. Bush for his time and effort as parade committee chairman and a job well done.

REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds:

-Mayor Platten was pleased with the turnout from Board members from all three village boards. Discussion was had regarding the potential savings the solar panels could provide. There were some differences in understanding regarding the cost per kilowatt and whether it included delivery. It will be a question requiring a firm answer at the next meeting. A question posed was: if a business/resident bought into the program, would the agreement be transferrable if there was a sale of the property. The current plan is to be municipally inclusive to start, as an attempt to secure the tax base. The Board was in agreement and would like to move forward with the project. There are 42 municipalities in this group that all may have to be in agreement. The deadline is July 14th.

LED streetlighting was discussed and its potential savings. The cost to convert the lamps is approximately \$399 per lamp. As Governor Cuomo is upset with President Trump for pulling out of the Paris Agreement, he has set aside monies for use within the State. Mayor Platten stated he would like to try and secure some of those dollars to make the streetlighting conversion. The actual costs are known for National Grid but not for NYSEG that services our area. NYSEG has until September 1st to have their costs known to the public. The Mayor would like to look into grants for LED lighting. The savings is estimated to be significant enough to make a favorable impact on electrical lighting costs. Trustee Stapleton wished to offer a motion to move forward on the project but Trustee Chilson expressed concern over the actual costs the village may have to incur, especially after Mr. Karpinski’s earlier visit. The Mayor stated that is why we will be seeking grants and trying to secure greater cost savings to the village to prevent large tax increases. It was noted most grants have some degree of required financial matching from the community. Mayor Platten asked for a volunteer to take to lead on collecting information on these projects and Trustee Simko stepped up.

Water & Sewer:

-The May monthly report was reviewed and discussed.

-Discussion revolved around the possibility of being chosen for a grant the Fred DiRisio had applied for last year. Based on common knowledge, our plant is in good shape which means it may be too good shape for qualifying for the grant.

Public Safety:

-The Chief’s report was passed out to the Board for their review. They were asked to read through at their leisure and make a list of questions. The Chief will be in at another meeting to address the questions.

-Hydrant painting was briefly discussed. The plan is to be proactive and catch them prior to the rust. Cleaning, sand blasting and good quality paint (used a 20-year paint on ours) will be the schedule.

-Trustee Stapleton informed the Board of the recent meeting he and Trustee Gustafson attended on the proposed unification of the two villages’ fire departments. The first meeting was well attended and amicable. The thought is the County will proceed with their proposal to move towards consolidated departments and the group, organized by Councilwoman Dygert, would like to have their plan formulated

ahead.

Streets and Drainage:

-The March monthly report was reviewed and discussed. The Army Corp of Engineers came through for the annual inspection and the village scored an "A" rating.

-The problems on North Main Street resulting from the recent paving of Route 317 were discussed along with the attempts to get the sidewalk flooding issue corrected. Trustees gave permission for letters to be written to DOT and the Senator DeFranciso.

General:

-Codification is underway.

-Board members were asked to please check their calendars for availability for the upcoming Mayors Association Meetings, especially in August.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-Trustee Stapleton inquired whether the village could mow yards on "zombie" properties. The village does mow the front yards and levies to the taxes of the problematic properties but only when there is no one else responsible for the property.

NEW BUSINESS:

-The Weedsport Winter Wanders Inc. have submitted a request to use the towpath through the village as a snowmobile trail once again. As always, they will be responsible for installing signage along the trail, applying stone dust on the sidewalk crossings at the start of the season and removing it at the close of the season. They will continue to maintain and groom the trail during the season. It was noted the club has done a wonderful job in the past.

Trustee Simko felt the travel speed was too fast. It was noted the DEC patrols here a few times a year and there are speed limit signs posted along the path. The offenders in the past were not the Winter Wanders but rather other individuals making use of the path and choosing not to heed the speed limit and/or choosing not to stay on the path. It was felt, the problem(s) would be far worse without the presence of the Wanders Club.

***Motion** offered by Trustee Stapleton and seconded by Trustee Chilson, to grant permission to the snowmobile club to use the Erie Canal towpath through the village during the 2017-18 winter season. All present voting in favor, motion carried.

-Clinton Terrace Stabilization Project. The bid opening was June 7th at 2:00pm, with two bids submitted for consideration. Both bids were substantially higher than expected by the engineer and far more than the village was able to secure in grants and had entered in the budget. The submitted bids were \$179,468 by LaFleur and \$231,000 by Slato Hill.

***Motion** offered by Trustee Chilson, and seconded by Trustee Simko, to reject all submitted bids for the project based on submitted costs and the lack of available funding resources. All present voting in favor, motion carried.

The project will need serious re-evaluation and rescoping before attempting to go out to bid again. The next meeting with the engineer will be on Wednesday at 9:00am and the Board was encouraged to attend if at all possible.

-The bill for the replacement flags purchased early in May just arrived. Without accruing the monies from the previous budget, from which it was to be secured from, into the current to cover this bill, the budget would not allow any future replacement flag purchases for 2018.

***Motion** offered by Trustee Chilson and seconded by Trustee Stapleton, to approve accruing \$751.00 into the new 2017 -2018 budgets for flag purchases, to cover the cost of the late arriving invoice. All present voting in favor, motion carried.

-The village office is in need of an eight-port router for efficient equipment use. The current is an older model and does not sport enough connections.

***Motion** offered by Trustee Chilson and seconded by Trustee Simko, to authorize the purchase of a new router with at least eight connective ports.

All present voting in favor, motion carried.

***Motion** to pay the bills and file the correspondence offered by Trustee Chilson and seconded by Trustee Stapleton. All present voting in favor. Motion Carried

***Motion** to adjourn offered by Trustee Chilson and seconded by Trustee Simko.
All present voting in favor. Motion Carried at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Meixner, Clerk-Treasurer