

The regular monthly meeting of the Avoca Village Board of Trustees was held January 12, 2023 at the Town/Village Hall 3 Chase Street Avoca, NY. Mayor Eric Tyner called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the following Village Trustees present:

Trustee Brian Mattoon Trustee Andrew Hubbard
Trustee Lannie J Gay Trustee Carl Dockstader

Also present were Leann Wightman, Elizabeth Oklevitch, Chris MacDougal, Randy Hammond, Mitchell Slayton, Bob Rathburn, Bill Brennan, Minnie Brennan, and Tony Comstock

The Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Trustee Mattoon, seconded by Trustee Dockstader to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2022 regular meeting, with the following corrections: None

5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent

Motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Gay, to accept the following Departmental Reports:

Fire: Dec

Treasurer: Dec

Fire Cancer Benefit Report: Dec

Ambulance: Dec

St. Dept.: Dec

Water Tests: Dec

Cemetery: Dec

Fuel Consumption: Dec

Zoning: None

Bank Statements: Dec

Budget Worksheets: Year to date

Fire & Ambulance Year End Reports

5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent

Visitors: Nothing at this time

Departmental Reports:

Street & Water Department: Tony Comstock:

- Additional sidewalk forms will be ordered
- Mayor Tyner is asking that the outside of the Village Garage being cleaned up and for repairs to be made to the old shed. The demolition of the two houses on the corner of Grant Street and N Maple Ave have made the Garage more visible to the public. Tony stated they have been working on the inside of the shed and will be painting the outside in the spring.
- Tony stated they have been working on the area between the fuel pumps and the fire storage building. They added some fill but the water is still running towards the building. The area needs to be dug up and leveled, but the gas line runs through the area so they cannot dig it up. It would help if the building had gutters so the water could be directed away from the building.
- Tony stated he fixed the internet connection and upgraded the router.

Fire & Ambulance Departments: Chris MacDougal:

- Fire Truck Bids will be opened February 9, 2023 at 7:15pm
- Chris stated the repair work on the bathrooms can continue starting next week.
- Bob Rathburn stated he has not received the quotes for the dormers and doors yet.
- The siren is back up and working
- Mayor Tyner stated he had called the City of Hornell to discuss the letter we received concerning contracting ambulance service. He is waiting for a call back. The issue is tabled until more information can be gathered.
- Election results are as follows:
 - President: Tom Jackson, Chief: Chris MacDougal, 1st Assistant Chief: Bob Rathburn, 2nd Assistant Chief: Mitchell Slayton, 3rd Assistant Chief: Randy Hammond, 1st Captain: Bob Bossie, 2nd Captain: James Lambert
- Air Packs: Chris stated he had been contacted by the Atlanta Fire Chief, Mark Fisher concerning a joint grant for air packs. The Fire Department would like to join this grant. Chris would like confirmation that they can use the fire reserve to contribute their portion of the 5% match. The cost of the grant writer will be 625.00.

- Motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Mattoon to allow a grant to be written for 22 air packs and breathing apparatus under a multi-jurisdictional grant with the Atlanta Fire Department. The 5% matching funds may be used from the fire equipment reserve and the 625.00 grant writer fee will come out of the current fire department budget. 5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent
- Update on separation to a Fire District:
 - Attorney Oklevitvh stated Mayor Tyner had sent a draft of the Tentative Agreement. She provided the Board Members with a copy of the agreement with her notes. She also noted this is not a binding agreement without having public hearings.
 - The document contains a lot of information so this issue will be tables until next month to give the Board members and Fire Committee members time to look it over.

Discussion concerning damage to Culvert Railing on East Ave Extension:

- The railing on the bridge was hit and damaged. The resource officer at Avoca School was able to find the incident on their surveillance video. Mayor Tyner asked if the Board members would like him to contact the person or Law Enforcement. The Board Members feel a police report should be completed. Mr. Comstock will contact Law Enforcement.
- Mayor Tyner has contacted Haines Equipment to build the new railing. There is a question concerning the liability of installing it. Safety cones have been placed around the area. Mayor Tyner will be applying for the Culvert/BridgeNY grant again this year and the repair can be included.

Gazebo & Village Park Property:

- Mayor Tyner has ordered the 4X4 sign for the gazebo area. This will give the public information on the replacement of the gazebo
- He is working to use the reclaimed wood from the old gazebo to make a few benches for the park area.
- The Planning Board will be discussing the naming of the park area.

Bathrooms & Septic for Pavilion at Memorial Park

- Phase II specs are completed and available. This project is on hold until the spring

Planning Board:

- Mayor Tyner reported Acting Chairman Marc Hopkins would like to step aside and just become a regular Planning Board member again. Mr. Hopkins will be speaking with Mayor Tyner to suggest a replacement. Note: Next meeting is January 23, 2023

Motion by Trustee Gay, seconded by Trustee Dockstader to approve the payment of all expenditures presented to the Board of Trustees from the General Fund in the amount of 18,919.65, the Water Fund in the amount of 2,242.93, and Grant Fund in the amount of 0.00.

The Clerk/Treasurer is further authorized to pay any bills concerning village utilities and postage without prior Board approval to avoid any late fees or lapse in the offices ability to mail correspondence to vendors or taxpayers.

5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent

Village Election:

- 2 Trustee Positions will be on the ballot.
- 1/3/23 first day to sign independent nominating petitions
- 2/14/23 last day to file independent nominating petitions
- Election will be held March 21, 2023 from 12:00 to 9:00

2023 Summer Rec Program:

- Mayor Tyner had sent Avoca School Superintendent Saxton an email concerning the program and how the school ran it last year. He responded that the program had less than 20 kids and it was held for 6 weeks (4 – ½ days per week).
- If the Village wants to take the program back over we can use the building and busses (if drivers are available) and run it anyway we would like. The Village could have field trips and swimming lessons,

but the school will not guarantee bus drivers. Mr. Saxton stated if the Village does not want to run the program the school will have a program similar to what they did in 2022.

- The Village Board does not feel confident running the program with no field trips, but would be willing to provide funding to the school. Mayor Tyner will speak with Mr. Saxton about this.
- Motion by Trustee Dockstader, seconded by Trustee Mattoon to opt out of the Village organizing and running a summer rec program at Avoca School during 2023. 5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent

The Mayor is researching Grants for the following areas:

- Community Revitalization Grant: Parks, Gazebo, Memorial Park, sidewalk to Hees Park off River Street and fence, possibly old fashion lights for the walkway.
- Culvert & Bridge NY grant is open again. Motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Gay to allow Mayor Tyner to write and file a grant application for the culvert replacement on East Ave Extension. 5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent

Client Work experience Program through the Department of Social Services:

- Motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Gay to allow Mayor Tyner to sign the paperwork for the Village of Avoca to be part of the above named program with the same guidelines and stipulations as in 2022. 5 In Favor, 0 opposed, 0 Absent

Mayor Tyner asked if the Village Board wanted to start a nonprofit organization to handle area events. Trustee Mattoon responded the Village cannot hold fundraisers and things should be left as they are. Trustee Hubbard stated there is no reason to change things. Trustee Gay and Trustee Mattoon agree and feel we should move on with the agenda.

Board of Trustee discussions:

Mayor Eric Tyner:

- Discussed how many fire department officers must sign oaths of office with the Village. This issue will be tabled for more information

Trustee Brian Mattoon:

- Nothing at this time

Trustee Carl Dockstader:

- Nothing at this time

Trustee Lannie J Gay:

- Nothing at this time

Trustee Andrew Hubbard:

- Nothing at this time

Further Items and Topics:

Attorney Elizabeth Oklevitch:

- This will be her last meeting in person as she will be moving the beginning of February and getting married. The Board Members all thanked her for her hard work since 2018.

Clerk/Treasurer Leann Wightman:

- Nothing at this time

Visitors: Comments on the current meeting items:

- Nothing at this time

Motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Mattoon to close the regular session at 8:15pm and enter into an executive Session to discuss the specifics of employment for a Member of the Fire Department. Mayor Tyner asked Attorney Oklevitch and Clerk Wightman to attend the session. 5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent

Motion by Trustee Mattoon, seconded by Trustee Gay to close the Executive Session at 8:31pm and return to regular session. 5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent

Motion by Trustee Gay seconded by Trustee Mattoon to allow Randy Hammond to be 3rd assistant chief for the Avoca Fire Department as long as he has no access to finances. He can only be 3rd Assistant Chief and cannot be promoted. 5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent

Motion by Trustee Dockstader, seconded by Trustee Gay to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm.
5 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Absent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leann Wightman
Village Clerk/ Treasurer