

Village of Avoca Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. The mayor announced the audio recording of the meeting and called Attorney Russell.

Present: Mayor Tyner, Trustees Rodbourn, Rowe Smalt, Gay and Hubbard, Minnie and Bill Brennan, Dan Hubbard, Street Sup. Comstock and Clerk Haar, Attorney Russell by phone.

The mayor asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2024 meeting. Trustee Rodbourn asked that the minutes not reflect that he is assigned the specific duty of estimates for the windows and doors for the municipal building. He will be working with the town supervisor for the repairs though. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2024 meeting 1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Gay 3 in favor 2 abstained due to absence at the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the departmental reports 1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Hubbard All

Visitor Comments: Dan Hubbard spoke about the town tax bills versus actual budget message and the new tax rate versus the old tax rate. He discussed what he discovered about the 2025 town budget and taxes.

STREET DEPT:

- Gazebo-on hold until Spring
- Memorial Park- the threshold needs to be fixed still
- Tree Planting- trees are planted in Memorial Park. 3 trees will be planted in Hees Park and 1 on Charlesworth
- Alexander Street Drainage- most of the work is done. There are 2 more short sections to complete it.
- Sidewalk- all work is done until spring
- Drain at 4 corners- Sup Comstock has a contact to get ahold of to do the work.
- Public Posting Signage- 6X6 posts are needed to put real stone on the posts for aesthetics. The estimate to do so is \$800. Mayor Tyner asked if the board would like to pay for the increased price from the Hees Park Expansion. The decision was made to table the approval until estimates were given.
- Hees Park- After the meeting with IDA, it was decided that the walkway to Hees Park could be worked on. There was discussion of design ideas.
- Handicap signage- Sup Comstock wasn't sure of the measurement to use for the posts to mount the signs. It was mentioned that perhaps they could be mounted on the building to help with snowplowing. It will be looked into.
- Gazebo Parking Lot- curbs being moved in the spring.
- Ford F550 – harness is on it and the truck is ready to go.
- Auction for 2015 truck sale – The bidding started on Tuesday 1/7 at 6PM and goes until next Tuesday 1/14 at 6PM. Mayor Tyner asked if the board would authorize the mayor to work with tony on price. Attorney Russell said a minimum bid should be set.
A motion was made to set the minimum bid at \$20,000 with the mayor and street superintendent to accept bids for the village. 1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt All
- Equipment – any discussion for equipment will take place during budget time
- Sidewalk Grinding- The machine cost \$1500/month to rent. It was tabled until other estimates are done.
- Fuel Sheets-new sheets will be in next month's report

- Stump Removal- by the historical Society, there are stumps to be removed between the sidewalk and street. The property is village owned, but the historical society owns the building. The HS would like to pay for the removal of the stumps. Sup Comstock said he could dig the stumps out. Mayor Tyner asked if the board would like to donate the land to the historical society. The mayor will invite the president of the historical society, Steve Sutfin, to the next meeting to discuss.
- Fire Dept. electric meter- it is fixed after being hit by the boom of the backhoe.
- Fire Hydrant flags- Sup. Comstock wants to upgrade to new posts on the water hydrants from the wooden stakes they use currently. The new posts are metal and would save time and last longer. A motion was made to purchase 5' posts without flags for approximately 70 hydrants at \$1200
1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Gay 4-0 Trustee Rowe Smalt abstaining
- New plow for street tractor- Sup Comstock would like to purchase a new plow. It would be hydraulic and able to do a more thorough job throughout the village. The estimate he has is for \$60000. He was asked to get 3 quotes. The old plow would be scrapped. The new plow would be divided 25% water, 25% cemetery and 50% streets.
- Chase Street Electric Poles-Sup. Comstock said the poles were damaged and need new poles and light. Trustee Hubbard will contact his NYSEG contact.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT- nothing to report

TOWN- Mayor Tyner searched to see if the building comes up as a historical site and he wasn't able to find anything in Avoca on the historic sites registry.

PARKS:

Memorial Park-project for next year-possible concession stand upgrade. The mayor discussed the recent application for a bounce house at the park next season. After talking with our insurance company, it has been decided it's not allowed for pavilion rentals. When the sports boosters did it this past year, they carried their own insurance. The applicant will be told.

Hees Park- The new flagpole will be installed in the back corner to the right of the scoreboard in the spring Gazebo Park- some lights and outlets aren't working. The mayor ids meeting with the contractor to address it.

EXPENDITURES- A motion was made to accept the expenditures for December
1st Trustee Gay 2nd Trustee Rodbourn All

LEGAL- The tax overpayment for 48 South Maple has been sent to the county and fixed.

NYCLASS- Mayor Tyner reviewed the interest earned on the accounts.

LEVEE RECERTIFICATION- no information

SOLAR FARM- Trustee Rodbourn is also on the Town Planning Board. He did a brief recap of the proposed Solar Farm on Tim and Cindy Hubbard's 24 acre property.

After the information was given, Attorney Russell said the village doesn't have a solar law in their regulations. The town's solar law would be used. She suggested the village have a special use application be done since the land is residential and agricultural. Our zoning officer will be contacted. A moratorium was discussed however, the project would not be included as it has already been applied for. The board declined the moratorium but wants the zoning officer to address the needs for the variance application

and follow the town solar law. Dan Hubbard, from the public, spoke about the impact it has on his property.

BUDGET WORKSHOPS- Mayor Tyner asked to set dates for the budget workshops in March. DATES ARE:
Thursday, March 13th @6PM before the regular meeting
Wednesday, March 5th @6PM and
Wednesday, March 19th @6PM

Guthrie Health has asked for permission to have their Mobile Maternity Unit parked in Gazebo Parking Lot. They will provide their own power. It would be 2-5 days in one week.

A motion was made to allow the Mobile Maternity Unit from Guthrie with no bathrooms or electric as long as no other events are taking place the same time 1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Rodbourn All

2025 Community Services Agreement is not here yet to review.

GRANTS:

Clean Energy- waiting on funds to be available

Culvert Designs are on the shared drive. Designs were discussed:

One lane with a sidewalk, not disturbing the dike is about \$40,000 over the original grant

Two lanes with a sidewalk and would have the dike work is about \$200,000 over original grant

The fact that the two lanes would benefit the school was discussed. Mayor Tyner will reach out to see if the school might want to help fund the cost over the original grant amount for that design. CPL, the engineers for the project will be holding a meeting for the public. Mayor Tyner asked if the informational meeting could be held before our meeting.

A motion was made for Mayor Tyner to schedule the informational meeting with CPL

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt All

Payments for the engineering were paid and we are waiting for the state to reimburse. It is all done electronically. At the end of the fiscal year the general fund will pay back the \$5500 interest to the water department.

Windmill- The mayor called Christine Olsen about any funding. The mayor has not found anything on the historic registry.

Main Street – speaking with Claudia Tenney's office about new grants.

Merging -The study for the grant is about \$50,000. Both the town and the village have to approve doing it. It is a matching grant. The board feels they don't have the money in the budget to do the study.

Playground-waiting until spring

Water Well - There are 13 firms that received the RFPs that are due January 27th. The mayor asked for someone to go over the RFPs that come in. Trustee Hubbard offered. It will be in February and interviews will follow with 3 or 4 firms. The information will be on the shared drive. There is another grant available for the water repairs that is 100% covered. The mayor is also looking into that grant.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS:

Mayor Tyner- Avoca Central School water service charge was addressed

Website documents are being added. A calendar will be added as well.

Does the board want to switch energy providers or stay with NYSEG- board decided not to

change our provider. Mayor Tyner asked Trustee Rowe Smalt to investigate.

Zoning Officer Peck gave an application to residents for dog fencing/kennel on Mattice St.

Trustee Hubbard- He will work with Trustee Gay to get fuel meters calibrated.

He would like to look at budgeting money for Main St sidewalks next year.

Trustee Gay-nothing

Trustee Rowe Smalt- nothing

Trustee Rodbourn- nothing

Clerk Haar- She explained why the health insurance and health savings cards were paid out of water. It was because of our 25% of employee's salary is out of water.

CHIPS paperwork has been sent in, just waiting for reimbursement from NYS.

She asked for newsletter items for the March 1, 2025 newsletter.

We have a bill for the town property tax that just came in. Mayor Tyner will sign the voucher and the rest of the board can sign it next month.

She asked for permission to look into records retention grant. The board said yes and Mayor Tyner will help find a grant. And help write the grant. The board would also like to see the Policy or write a new one.

She would like the water system audited as to who is charged for what services and which meters are working correctly. A day will be set up with Sup. Comstock will work on it.

VISITOR COMMENTS: Dan Hubbard wanted to know what the agreement was with the Masons. He wondered if there is insurance for their use and who maintains the stairs, etc. He is against the Masonic Temple symbol being on the municipal building. He also asked if the village ever looked into extending the water system to Wallace. The mayor said it would be very cost prohibitive and it would be a town, not village issue.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting 1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Rodbourn All
The meeting was adjourned at 9:25

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Haar
Clerk/Treasurer