

Village of Avoca Board Meeting
March 13, 2025 Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 6:40PM, following the Culvert Project Informational meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mayor Tyner announced the recording of the meeting. He also called Attorney Russell to join the meeting via phone.

PRESENT: Mayor Tyner, Trustees Rowe Smalt, Gay, Hubbard and Rodbourn, Randy Smalt, Bill and Minnie Brennan, Tim, Cindy and Alex Hubbard, Chris McDougal, Rebekah Abbott, Bruce English, Dave Hubbard, Sup. Comstock, and Clerk Haar. The public hearing for the handicap law will start at 7PM.

Mayor Tyner asked Attorney Russel about Trustee Rodbourn being on both the school board and the village board and about voting on the school's request for money for the summer program. Attorney Russell said he should recuse himself from both board voting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes form the February 14th meeting.

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Rodbourn Trustee Hubbard abstained 4-0

A motion was made to accept the Departmental Reports 1st Trustee Gay 2nd Trustee Hubbard All

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none at this time

PLANNING BOARD: Training will be available for new member

Criteria was set for the Fire Fighter Exemptions:

Minimum years of service – 4 years

Percentage of exemption – 10%

Lifetime after 20 years of Service

Benefits for an unmarried spouse of a firefighter that died in the line of duty – YES

A Local Law will be drawn up to address the exemption.

TOWN: Nothing yet on building or other issues. The invoice for Ed Flaitz Computer Services was paid without the amount for the Town switch.

A motion was made to adjourn the regular meeting and go into the Public Hearing for the Handicap Parking Local Law.

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Gay

There was discussion about the changes of direction for the law. A motion was made to close the Public hearing

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt All

A motion was made for approval of the modification of the Handicap Parking Local Law

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Hubbard All

Attorney Russell suggested the board set a date for the public hearing for the Fire Fighters Exemption Local Law 2025-2

A motion was made to hold the public hearing before the Village Board Meeting on April 10 at 7PM.

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Rodbourn

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dave Hubbard wanted to know if the fire fighter law would apply to town taxes. Attorney Russell said people have to own the property with their name on the deed to get the exemption. Mayor Tyner said the Town of Avoca has adopted an exemption law already.

STREET DEPARTMENT:

The new mower will be bought this year and the leaf box will be purchased next fiscal year.

Gazebo Park- The water will be started tomorrow. The curbing was moved. Sup. Comstock said to review and let him know if the board is happy with it. Landscaping will be done after the water is completed and the lights are to be fixed this week.

Memorial Park- The bathroom threshold is done. Smith Street Parking will be addressed with the town to see if they can help grade and roll the millings.

Trees- One last tree is to be planted. Sup. Comstock would like the frost out of the ground first

Sidewalks- The board needs to prioritize which sidewalks need to be fixed first. There was discussion about renting the grinder for a month. Money will be allocated for June of 2025 Mayor Tyner asked if sup. Comstock needed to get three quotes. He said only the place in Bath has the equipment. Attorney Russell said this meets the "Sole Source" guidelines. A motion was made for Mayor Tyner and Sup. Comstock to meet and get the quote and agreement for the grinder 1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Hubbard All

Drain at four corners- Sup. Comstock will look into getting the drop boxes needed.

Public Sign- The price with the stonework is more than twice the cost of the whole sign. Trustee Rodbourn thinks it should not be done at all or not done with the stonework. Sup. Comstock doesn't think the sign will achieve what the board wants addressed (people putting lawn signs throughout the village). There was more discussion about the issue. The board decided to table the sign discussion for a later date.

Hees Park- Mayor Tyner said there is \$3000 left to use on a bridge for the walkway to Hees Park. Trustee Rodbourn has been working on this and wanted to know what the budget was and what design to use. Sup. Comstock thinks the street department can build a wooden bridge to be more cost effective. The flagpole is being delivered to Trustee Hubbard's shop to be installed at the park soon. The dedication has been set for Memorial Day weekend.

Handicap Signs- The street department just needs to finish the sign in the pavements downtown. They will borrow Hammondsport's equipment to do it.

Stump Removal at Historic Society building- will be done soon

Fire Hydrant Markers- They are all installed.

Water Meters left to convert- Sup. Comstock has placed door tags and called to try to schedule the changes. He is hoping to do manual reads on the ones that are not changed over yet. Mayor Tyner discussed the budget workshop and what Sup. Comstock thinks of future needs.

May 3rd is the youth baseball/softball opening day. The park can't be rented.

A motion was made to approve expenditures 1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Gay All

WATER- Mayor Tyner spoke about the requested water relief of 3 residents. He calculated the relief and questioned our current policy. There was discussion about reviewing the policy. A motion was made to give relief to the following:

Larry Stanley/16302 gallons 1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Row Smalt All

Jineen Gay 7398 gallons 1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Hubbard Trustee Gay abstained 4-0

Chris and Candace McDougal 16076 gallons 1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Gay All

NYClass Investments- Mayor Tyner would like to move money. A motion was made to move a maximum of reserves (\$15,000) to NYClass from our General and Water Funds

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt Trustee Rodbourn abstained 4-0

Peddler Law- Chuck Cagle gave the Village of Alfred's local law and applications to the mayor. Mayor Tyner will create a new Peddler Law folder on the shared drive for the trustees to refer to. He has drawn up an application to use now. He wanted to know who will enforce the applications that are given. At present, it is the clerk's responsibility. There was no decision.

There was a motion made to have a **public hearing for the Proposed Budget** on April 10 at 6:30 with the regular village board meeting to immediately follow. 1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt All

Summer School Program Funding Request- Avoca School has requested \$15,000 to fund the summer program. Trustee Rowe Smalt shared her feelings that the school should be budgeting out of their taxes. Trustee Hubbard doesn't feel the village has enough money if they want to improve the parks. Attorney Russell advised that there is either a motion to give the money or not. If not, no action needs to be taken place. Mayor Tyner will let the school know that the village has decided not to give the money.

Mayor Tyner asked if anyone felt the need for Attorney Russell to stay on with the meeting. There was not. She will be available for a call if needed. She left the meeting.

Water Engineering RFPs- Three bids were chosen. Trustee Hubbard, Sup. Comstock and Mayor Tyner met with the three companies separately. The cost for CPL was 22,000.00, the cost for Hunt Engineering was 38,400.00 and LPG engineering the cost was 21,000.00. It was decided that thought the cost was more for Hunt Engineering, the estimate included more and their presentation was best. A motion was made to accept the bid of Hunt engineering 1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Gay All

Solar Farm- The village received the \$7500 escrow money and it was put in the account. They have also received the first invoice. It was circulated around the table for review.

Ring Camera- Mayor Tyner purchased the \$53 subscription that holds the recordings for 180 days.

Masonic Lodge Agreement- The last agreement was updated in 2017. Trustee Rowe Smalt said she would help to communicate with the Masonic Lodge.

Clean Energy Grant- Michael Brown is no longer the contact person for the grant. There will be a new contact soon.

Culvert Grant- The design option was discussed. Mayor Tyner explained the design of one lane with a walkway versus the original plan of two lanes with a walkway. Fire Chief McDougal asked about access in emergencies during the construction. Mayor Tyner will discuss this with the engineering firm.

A motion was made to accept the design of one lane with a walkway lane. 1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Hubbard All

Main Street Sidewalks- no update

Playground- No update

Retention Grant- Hunt Engineering said they know of a grant that might be available. Mayor Tyner will ask.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Mayor Tyner- There have been issues about trucks parking on South Main for deliveries. A guardrail is one option to stop the traffic interference. Trustee Hubbard offered to talk to the staff at Crosby's about the issue.

Trustee Hubbard- He will work with Trustee Gay to get the calibration of the fuel pumps figured out.

Trustee Gay- Nothing

Trustee Rowe Smalt- She asked if a taxpayer wants to put a board member up for review, what the procedure is. Mayor Tyner will ask Attorney Russell and get back to the board. She also wanted to know why the windmill books are still on the window ledge of the conference room. She would like the Christmas in the Park supplies moved from Mayor Tyner's office. Trustee Hubbard offered to take them to the supply room at Memoria Park.

Trustee Rodbourn- He asked about startup money for a police officer for the village. The answer from his source was that it would cost approximately \$130,000. He has asked the town if they are interested and hasn't gotten an answer. Mayor Tyner and Trustee Rodbourn know of other sources from law enforcement agencies. They will look into it further.

Clerk Haar asked Sup. Comstock if there was supposed to be a speed limit sign on the North end of the village. He said there was one and it was ruined. There will be a new one put up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Dave Hubbard asked about what procedures are being done following solicitors when they are in the village. Mayor Tyner explained that the peddler's law is being reviewed. The current law will be put on the website. Bill Brennan wanted to know who gets the high alarm usage for the water. He said that should help with the water relief problem.

Rebekah Abbott wanted to know what Main Street sidewalk plan is. Mayor Tyner said that the two attempts for grants have failed. He is still trying to find funds to help get the sidewalks done.

Chris McDougal asked about the Altus solicitors. They had come to his house and were disrespectful. He asked why law enforcement doesn't help. Trustee Rodbourn said the state police doesn't and the DA's office doesn't allow prosecuting local laws for municipalities.

Tim Hibbard wanted to know what day the planning board meeting was - Monday, March 24.

Dave Hubbard asked more questions about the clerk being responsible for the peddler permits. He wanted to know if he could get information about the licenses and vehicles. The board all agreed that the clerk did not need to give the information about personal vehicles.

Bill Brennan asked how long the Peddler's Permit is for. Mayor Tyner said he thought it was for a year. The local law is going to be reviewed.

Bruce English asked about South Main assessments/property values changing due to the solar farm going in.

A motion was made to go into executive session to discuss an employment issue

1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Hubbard All

A motion was made to come out of executive session 1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Gay All

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting 1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Gay the meeting was adjourned at 9:06PM

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Haar