

**VILLAGE OF AVOCA  
MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024**

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag was said. The mayor requested a moment of silence in memory of the anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy.

**Present at the meeting:** Mayor Tyner, Trustees Hubbard and Rodbourn, Clerk Haar, Bill and Minnie Brennan and Attorney Russell by phone. Absent: Trustees Gay and Rowe Smalt

Trustee Rodbourn said he doesn't feel good about the Agfest expenses being paid by the Village. He thinks it looks like the village is fundraising. The mayor said he hasn't signed any Agfest abstracts. If Trustee Rodbourn doesn't sign the bills, the other trustees will have to sign after the meeting. Attorney Russell will check to see about the payments of the bills being signed by the absent trustees after the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the **Minutes from the August 8, 2024 Board Meeting**. Trustee Rodbourn was not present for that meeting so he abstained. Attorney Russell said three votes were needed to approve the minutes. This will be tabled until the October meeting.

**Visitors: General Comments-**

Mayor Tyner spoke for the Agfest committee. They would like to donate a Flagpole for Hees Park with a dedication to Carl Dockstader.

**1. Department Heads:**

**Street & Water Departments** – Tony Comstock- not present

Mayor Tyner gave a brief rundown of the department reports:

1. Street Department Vehicle – the new Ford F150 will be delivered when it is completed by Simmons Rockwell.
2. EV UTV – Rear differential lock was fixed
3. Gazebo Park – Water Installation, Landscaping and Perimeter – not done yet
4. River Street Sidewalk Update – NYSEG will move the poles and they don't anticipate any costs to move them
5. Memorial Park – Water Leak was checked by the mayor and the cleaner and they found no leak. A new bathroom threshold for the handicap bathroom entrance will be installed. There was discussion about the new kickboard with a possibility of a school club helping paint it. The shelves have not been put together yet for the storage room.
6. 2024 Paving Update – The paving with the CHIPS money was done and it came under the money allotted.
7. Chase Street Sidewalk – After GVA was given the quote, they decided they didn't want to pay for it. The street department will fix the three blocks that are in disrepair, not all that lead up to Main Street. Trustee Rodbourn brought up that there are other sidewalks in the village that need repair.
8. Alexander Street Drainage – Property owner cancelled request because the post office is assisting with the delivery of the mail to the porch. The street department will still be fixing the ditch.
9. Drains at Four Corners – the materials are here, just waiting for the installation by the street department.

10. Pricing on Trees –DOT said pine trees can be removed at Hees Park. The remaining balance of the trees is approximately \$3200. Tony was going to get prices for the trees, but hasn't yet.
11. Public Posting Sign – The mayor described sign ideas he has. Tony said that the street department can do the ideas he has. Pictures will go on the Shared Drive for the board to see.
12. Hydrant Quote – we are waiting for the quote for Insurance to reimburse.
13. Ditch Area leading to Hees Park – The work
14. Gas and Diesel Pump Inspection – The calibration was off according to the report from Steuben County. The location of the manuals is unknown, but Trustee Hubbard said he can "Google" it and get the manual.
15. Lights at Memorial Park – The suggestion is to place motion lights under the pavilion.
16. Handicap Sign – has been placed
17. Time Sheet Discussion – Tracking of Hours – Street, Water, Cemetery- the only ones missing are the first two pay periods for the year.
18. Water Meters Change Over- 20 meters to be done and there has only been one response to have the meter changed. For some reason this quarter there have been many complaints about the water reads being higher than normal. The clerk will keep track of people's high reads.
19. New Sensors – The street department are using the sensors as needed.
20. Closing Parking Lot Entrance at North Main Street –the mayor brought up closing the Main Street entrance to the parking lot. Trustee Rodbourn is opposed. There was discussion about other options. More discussion will take place in October.
21. Village Compost Area, Brush Pick-Up Schedule, and Commercial Dumping – The mayor brought up the commercial dumping taking place at the village compost area. There was discussion on how to control the people dumping and what to charge if commercial dumping is taking place. Another issue is the leveling of the material after it is dumped. More discussion will follow in the October meeting.

**a. Fire District**

1. Update – All items completed

**b. Town**

1. Desk and Books- no information
2. Building Inspection – The mayor has the pictures of the problems with the building and they were shared on the Shared Drive. He was told Supervisor Wightman is waiting for a quote for the work.
3. AED Purchase for Office – The AED is at the building and a date will be set for training for all employees of the village.

**2. Discussion on Summer Youth Program**

The season is over and we are just waiting for the shelving to be completed for storage.

3. **Potential Purchase of 21 River Street for Hess Park Expansion Project** – The back taxes were paid by someone who was owed money from the current owners of the property in return, this party will take ownership of the land. The new potential owner has been told the village is only willing to purchase the property for \$4000.

**4. Memorial Park**

- a. Cameras- because wifi won't work in the park, there is the suggestion of cameras that are similar to hunting cameras. No action is being taken yet.

- b. Time Locks – This will be tabled until budget time to see if there is money to pay for the time locks next year.
- c. Concession Area – this is another area where the budget allows next year
- d. Smith Street Parking Area – Grade off and use millings, Trustee Gay had mentioned to the mayor that maybe the Town could grade off the millings for the Village. Trustee Rodbourn asked about adding parking in the field to the far side of the kickboard.

**5. Review and Approval of Expenditures from the General, Water and Grant Funds**

A motion was made to approve the expenditures that have at least three signatures on them.

1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Hubbard 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Rodbourn All

Attorney Russell felt it would be fine for the absent board members to sign the vouchers after the meeting when they are feeling better.

**6. New Member to Planning Board** – A motion was made to approve Karen Tadder as a member of the planning/zoning board of appeals board

1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Hubbard 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Rodbourn All

**7. NY Class Update** – The mayor and Clerk signed forms for the (2) Accounts \$10,000 general/\$10,000 water to start the investment accounts. Today it showed a gain of \$11.00. The mayor suggested that after a few months it is reviewed to see if we want to add more money to the account.

**8. NYMIR / Cyber Updates** – MFA and Insurance- Ed Flaitz (IT person) said that only the mayor and the clerk have to do two factor identification because they are the only ones that can share data on the Google Drive. He will set it up with us.

**9. Cemetery Fee Schedule** – Draft of Policy #34 – Cemetery and Fees this is being tabled until next month

**10. Cultural and Recreation Account** – Transfer to Community Organization

- a. Return of Funds to Organizations- TABLED until next month

- 1. CITP (\$3,619.01), Banner Project(\$3,536.34), AgFest (\$5,896.44)

**11. Open Meeting Discussion about group text messages between board members.**

Trustee Rodbourn feels it should be allowed. Mayor Tyner feels that one group message can be sent to the board members and they can respond on a separate text message to only the mayor. There was discussion about it all. Attorney Russell feels the State Comptroller's office does not want it to happen. No action was taken.

**12. Levee Recertification** – The mayor discussed the culvert project and how it could be effected by the levee. DEC wants the village to incorporate a gate in the culvert project so that sand bags won't have to be used in a flood situation. CPL's engineer and Janet Thigpen from Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board will meet to discuss. The mayor said that CPL suggested that the board reach out to the school to see if they would like to share costs since it would affect the school if there was flooding. No decisions were made. Tabled until next month.

**13. Update on Village Fiscal Records** – up to date and fine.

**14. Grants**

- 1. Clean Energy Grant Update – Tree Placement - This discussion was tabled until next month when the whole board is present. Trustee Rodbourn asked what kind of trees would be planted and the mayor said they would be hardwoods.

2. Windmill Historical Projects – Project in Mitigation Phase- no updates
3. Main Street Sidewalks – The mayor has a meeting next week at Congressman Langworthy's Office to discuss other grant opportunities.
4. Update on Grant - Merging of Municipalities – No Grant Posting
5. Playground Grant –Application request was submitted and the information is on the Shared Drive.

#### **15. Board Discussions / Agendas / Reports on Assignments**

- a. Mayor Tyner
  1. Phones Update – Issues with Spectrum were a nightmare, but the phone in the office will be hooked up this week.
  2. House Movement – The new house being built on Smith Street needs access through Carrington Street to be delivered. The delivery will go through a residence yard and then a field to the southeast side of Memorial Park. The village wants to make sure the water lines are safe and has addressed a damage and liability waiver with the home manufacturer.
  3. Avoca Sign – Update- no update
  4. ESCO Follow-Up – Contract Ends in December and the mayor is looking to see about other companies offering better rates.
  5. Approve Update on Pavilion Rental Form – A motion was made to add Gazebo Park to the Pavilion rental form 1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Hubbard All
  6. Posting Board – Design for Board – There was discussion about the design of the board, but no decision was made.
- b. Trustee Hubbard – He feels the board should put the gates in to the culvert project for the long term fear of a flood. The mayor thinks there might be CHIPS money available to help with the cost.
- c. Trustee Gay - absent
- d. Trustee Rowe-Smalt - absent
- e. Trustee Rodbourn –He asked about the building repairs and whether there was a quote yet. The mayor said he hasn't heard anything.
- f. Village Clerk / Treasurer Haar – She mentioned the tax and water payments are coming in. Cemetery sales are also up

16. **Visitors:** Bill Brennan said he agrees with the ideas for the trees in the village.

A motion was made to close the Regular Meeting

1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Hubbard All

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Haar  
Village clerk/Treasurer