

VILLAGE OF AVOCA
Public Hearing and Meeting
JULY 11, 2024

The mayor led the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

Present: Mayor Tyner, Trustees Hubbard, Gay, Rowe Smalt and Rodbourn, Bill and Minnie Brennan, Emily Bottoni, Bonnie Hunt, Rebekah Abbott and Attorney Russell by phone

At 6:45 PM the **Public Hearing on VOA Local Law 2024-2 – Establishment of Handicap Parking** was opened.

Mr. Brennan asked who the local law would pertain to. The mayor explained that it is designated for public parking areas such as the municipal building, library, street parking, etc.

A motion was made to close public comment

1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt All in favor 5-0

Board discussed other possibilities of handicap parking areas in the village such as by the corner of North Main and River Street.

A motion was made to end the public hearing

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Gay All in favor 5-0

At 7:00 PM the regular Monthly Board Meeting was called to order and the mayor made an announcement on the Audio Record of the Meeting

A Motion was made to approve the **VOA Local Law 2024-2–Establishment of Handicap Parking**

1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Hubbard All in favor 5-0

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2024 Board Meeting

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Gay All in favor 5-0

A motion was made to approve the monthly Departmental Reports

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Gay All in favor 5-0

Public Comments:

Bonnie Hunt asked if we had received the grant to fix the sidewalks. The mayor said we did not receive the grant we applied for, but he is applying for another federal grant. Ms. Hunt also wondered if anyone had contacted the people that own the storefronts to see if they could be sold. Trustee Rowe Smalt agreed because it is a safety hazard. Atty. Russell said ultimately it is personal property and the village can only issue citations for the safety reasons.

Ms. Hunt also brought up the new mural and the mayor stated it was being done by Genesee Valley Agency, not the village

Emily Bottoni wanted the board to know that she reached out to the art department at the school about the Village sign at the end of South Main. Trustee Rodbourn had reached out to someone about the sign and they said it was erected in 1989 or 1990 by private citizens.

There was discussion about Gazebo Park and more landscaping to be done.

Bill Brennan noticed that after the storm last week, there were many trees that pose a problem if we have high winds. He wondered if there was any regulations for the height of trees in the village. The mayor will check with the zoning officer.

A NYClass Financial Information Presentation was presented via phone by Kathy Saville. She gave a bio of her experiences and then explained the advantages of using the investment cooperative. It is highly regulated by the government. The rates are compounded daily and there are no fees to take the money out at any time. A board resolution would need to be done. Many questions were asked and answered. The board will discuss and get back to Kathy after the next board meeting.

Community Fund-Raising- The mayor said that he and Trustee Hubbard will be going over the accounts to see what needs to be transferred. There will be more information at next month's meeting.

Discussion on Summer Youth Program

The amended Lease and Field Use Agreement was draw up by Attorney Russell and was accepted by the AYS. It will be signed and notarized by both parties.

The potential purchase of **21 River Street for Hess Park Expansion Project** was discussed. The sellers would like the back taxes paid, the shed moved and leveled and \$1000 each. This would make the price more than the board originally agreed to offer-\$4000. The mayor will ask the county if it could be negotiated before it goes to the tax auction next year.

Department Heads / Other Municipalities:

Street & Water Departments – Tony Comstock

The Ford F550 will most likely be here in the spring. At that time we will decide on the processing of 2015 Ford **EV UTV** has a lock in the rear end. Tony will be calling Martin's to find out the reason. Trustee Rodbourn asked if our storage area is approved by the insurance company. Toney said it is in a low voltage plug and not plugged in overnight.

Gazebo Park water installation was discussed. Tony looked at decorative handles that look like and old pump and they were very expensive. It was decided to use the old pump and make it work for now.

River Street Sidewalk is an ongoing process.

Memorial Park – Street Department will pressure wash. The Smith Street Parking poles are set out

2024-2025 Employee Pay Period Hour Record Tony will submit each Pay Period

2024 Paving – CHIPS- Morgan, Frank, Carrington and S. Maple to Chase will be done this year.

Sidewalks Genesee Valley Agency requested that the sidewalk be fixed. The mayor said the sidewalk in front of the Village Hall needs to be fixed. It was mentioned that the property owner could pay for the materials to fix the sidewalk. Trustee Rowe Smalt mentioned that the fire department used

To perform drill and clean things. She thought it might be an answer for the things we wanted cleaned. Tony said the drain for the 4 corners is being delivered to fix it.

Memorial Park and Hees Park- Motion lights are needed for underneath the pavilions. Trustee Rowe Smalt asked about trimming the trees in Gazebo Park. The street department doesn't have the ability to do it, so they should hire it done. Tony would also like to take the chained linked fence down behind the park. There was discussion about planting more shrubs to use as a border.

Billboard for signage in the village: Trustee Rodbourn and Tony recommended putting 2 posts with chain link fencing in between like Cohocton and Bath has. The mayor had thought it would be 2 posts that have fake stone on the bottom with a cover on top to keep the signs dry Tony is concerned it won't be visible in the parking lot like if it was at the 4 corners. There were ideas of locations, but no decision was made. The mayor asked everyone to come back next month with ideas.

Tony told the board he would like to get a bid for a new mower. He was told he could get \$2000 for trade in and the cost of the new mower was quoted as \$11,600 making the total \$9600. It wouldn't be until next year.

Fire District

The Real Property transfer was signed on June 30, but the deed hasn't been recorded yet.

The utilities transfers have been done.

Town

The mayor spoke and emailed the town supervisor. The town is using our new internet until Ed Flaitz comes to fix theirs. Trustee Rodbourn spoke with a mason about the building. A quote is being done.

A motion was made to approve the **Expenditures from the General, Water and Grant Funds**

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Rodbourn All in favor 5-0

Cemetery Fee Schedule Trustee Rowe Smalt gave recommendations which are on the Shared Drive. She's concerned with the foundations not being stable enough. The street department does the foundations when the headstones are put in. If anything happens to them after, the street department fixes it for free. She feels \$75 is not enough. Trustee Hubbard gave cost estimates:

½ lot \$600,

Full lot \$1200,

Grave opening casket \$600

Grave opening cremation \$400,

OT on the days not at work would be 2&1/2 hours cost,

3X3X18 foundation \$600 with anything over that at \$1/square inch

The Policy 34 for cemeteries needs to be reviewed and changed. A public notice would be posted and these prices would go into effect January 1, 2025.

One Day Event Use Form The draft for the form is not to replace the park pavilion form. Trustee Rowe Smalt said that she was not at the June meeting when it was decided to waive the fee for the Historical Society. She doesn't agree with it because she is unsure how we would pick and choose when to waive the fee. She thinks everyone should pay or there needs to be set criteria to waive. Attorney Russell said that if we do waive for certain groups, it needs to be consistent. The Event Form was agreed upon with a change of the waiver. There was discussion about food permits.

NYMIR Insurance Renewal – MFA Requirements are in place. To get onto the Shared Drive there will be a 2 factor id in place. Ed Flaitz will send an invoice.

Cultural and Recreation Account – The money in the savings account (from banners, benches, plaques, Christmas in the Park and Agfest) is not Village money. It will be transferred to Community Organization. Trustee Rowe Smalt said the money that was put in the reserve account for banner repairs should be put in the general fund to pay for the repairs the street department does. The program was set up so the banners were charged each year to keep them fixed. After 3 years people could purchase again or be done after the money was spent. This was tabled until August.

Levee Recertification –no update.

Treasurer's Report - The mayor went over his outline of items for the budget summary. He wanted to know which form the board would like to see at the meetings. He suggested the money that was allocated for the clerk salary increase be used to pay Carol Golden and Richard Blafield. The board members agreed. The mayor went through the Line-Item Transfers.

Two motions were made: to move \$5250 from the general fund to water fund to make up for Art Blanchard's share of benefits and to move \$14204 to replenish Line A7140.4

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Rowe Smalt All in favor 5-0

Outline for Best Practices-Richard Blafield recommends all Trustees take class on Municipal Finance

Grants Update

Bridge and Culvert NY Grant- There was one change that needed to be made to PSP Modification from NYS DOT. The Mayor showed the map of the change. At this time, the timeline is still set for spring 2025.

Clean Energy Grant Update- There is \$2700.01 still to be used from the first 2 grant receipts. Trees are an option on the right of way in the street. There was discussion about placement. Trustee Hubbard will check about grant criteria and where it can be put. Shrubs in Gazebo Park was mentioned.

A motion was made to plant shrubs in a strategic area.

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Hubbard All in favor 5-0

Windmill Historical Projects – The project is still in the Mitigation Phase

FY2025 Application – We did not receive the grant.

Merging of Municipalities – No Grant Posting

Playground at Hees Park- The mayor is looking for grant opportunities.

1. Board Discussions / Agendas / Reports on Assignments

Mayor Tyner

The office furniture donation from Aaron Mullen for the clerk's area was appreciated. The mayor will write a letter of appreciation.

Block Party Update- August 3-the mayor received a letter from Karen Tadder stating that she is not asking for street closure.

NYSEG – Poles – River Street and South Main Street- no information

Phones / Internet Change Update- the internet was changed over, but the phones for the street department and office have not been filed. We have received invoices for two months. The mayor and clerk will reach out to the sales rep.

Pending: Policy #4 – Fundraising Donations / Parks / Rec. Account Transfer- pending

Avoca Sign on South Main Street was discussed. There was no clear answer as to who donated and put the sign in. It will be investigated. The community group has mentioned updating it.

AED Purchase for Office- the mayor asked about installing an AED for the office. He will mention it to the town for a Shared Service. The board is in favor of installing on in the municipal building.

The Mayor mentioned the new email addresses, @villageofavoca.org. for the clerk, mayor and street superintendent.

Trustee Hubbard He would like to have a porta-potty at Memorial Park for people who are there outside the times it is rented. It is also needed for the summer soccer program. The board discussed opening one bathroom for public use if a camera was in use. Having the bathroom open will cost more money in maintenance. Trustee Rowe Smalt is very much against leaving the bathroom open. The mayor will look into a time lock for one door, cameras, and motion lights.

A motion was made to put a porta-potty at Memorial Park for the summer. After more discussion, the porta-potty was approved temporarily until the security matters are solved.

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Hubbard 3 in favor 2 against

Trustee Gay-nothing

Trustee Rowe-Smalt asked about the statement Trustee Rodbourn made about a right of way for Hees Park. Attorney Russell is doing research on it. Carl Anderson will be asked about it because he drew up some of the paperwork. The document with the deed says the Village owns it and a letter says the Village owns it. Present owner and village can form an agreement. It could be “squatter rights”. Trustee Rowe Smalt also asked about the trees at Hees Park. DOT is the governing entity for the trees. Mayor Tyner will ask about it.

Trustee Rodbourn – He would like to have the key for the concession stand for the soccer program. Trustee Rowe Smalt also brought up getting the concession stand approved by the Department of Health.

Village Clerk / Treasurer Haar- The clerk asked for any information for the newsletter. At this time cemetery rates, banners and Halloween are topics.

Visitor comments: Mrs. Hunt would like the sidewalks on South Main addressed.

Minnie Brennan asked why we were looking to use outside banks when we have local banks that are struggling to stay afloat. The mayor will ask our banks to see if they will match what NYShare is offering.

Bill Brennan said he thought it was a very productive meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:20pm 1st Trustee Rodbourn 2nd Trustee Gay 5-0 All in favor

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Haar
Clerk/Treasurer