

**VILLAGE OF AVOCA**  
**MEETING**  
**August 8, 2024**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM and the audience was notified of the recording of the meeting.  
The Pledge Allegiance to the Flag was said.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Tyner, Trustees Rowe Smalt, Hubbard and Gay, Bill and Minnie Brennan, Emily Bottoni, and Brian Patterson from the Baptist Church. Trustee Rodbourn was absent.

A motion was made to approve the **Minutes from the July 11, 2024 Board Meeting.**  
1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Rowe Smalt 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Hubbard 4-0 All

A motion was made to approve the **Monthly Departmental Reports.**  
1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Hubbard 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Rowe Smalt 4-0 All

Trustee Rowe Smalt asked about the Engie part of the NYSEG bill and wondered if we could seek other bids. The mayor will look into quoting other energy providers.

**Visitors: General Comments:**

Mr. Patterson spoke about the Baptist Church sign. He was informed there were issues with people not being able to see down the street due to the sign that has been in existence for several years, possibly into the 1990's. The mayor asked Attorney Russell if it's been there that long, could it be grandfathered in. Attorney Russell said it depends on when it was installed and what zoning was in place at that time. The mayor asked Mr. Patterson for contact information and he will speak with the zoning officer.

Agfest: The mayor recused himself for the discussion as mayor because he is the chairman of the event. He said the committee will file an application for use for the day and pay the \$75 fee. An insurance policy was purchased for the day. The fire department will be having a chicken bbq and the street department will have the new EV UTV on display. The committee is thinking about donating a flagpole to Hees Park with the money raised from the event. The committee is requesting to close Grant Street for the Historic Society tractor rides.

A motion was made to close the street for the event.

1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Rowe Smalt 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Gay 3-0 All

The mayor gave an update on the Avoca Youth Sports lease. An amended lease was sent to Jennifer Galvan, but has not been returned. The mayor told them the storage unit needed to be cleaned out for Agfest. Emily Bottoni asked if the AYS soccer program can start parking in the new parking area at Memorial Park. The people are parking at the end of the airstrip. The mayor will check on it.

**Update on River Street Property:** The mayor said the owners are not willing to change their counter offer. The county has not answered the question of buying it before it goes on the tax sale. He advised that the board wait until next year to try to purchase the property.

**Fire District:** The fire district meeting is canceled for this month. Two of the commissioners are going to pick up the new pumper truck in Minnesota. The quarterly water relief was discussed.

A motion was made to give relief for the quarter for \$1392.00.

1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Gay 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Rowe Smalt 4-0 All

**Town of Avoca:** An AED was purchased for the municipal building and another for the town highway department. The town will split the cost of the municipal building AED and pay in full for the one for the highway barn. The mayor will ask the town supervisor when the desks will be moved out of the mayor/supervisor's office and when the books will be moved out of the conference room.

**Memorial Park:** A timed lock for the bathroom doors will be about \$700. There was discussion about budgeting next year for the time lock. The outlets are done at the concession stand. The cameras that were brought up in last month's meeting for Memorial Park need wifi to work. More information about other options will be looked into. For now the board wanted to put up signs that say there are security cameras in use to try to deter any problems. Attorney Russell advised that there would be no legal issues if that was done.

A motion was made to **accept and pay the expenditures.**

1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Hubbard 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Gay 4-0 All

**NYClass Investments:** The mayor put the information on the Shared Drive about his conversations with different agencies about NYClass for the trustees to review. He said the agencies (Steuben County, OSC, NYCOM) had any issues with the firm and investing municipal money.

Trustee Rowe Smalt asked about possibly investing money to help purchase the new mower next year. A motion was made for the mayor to start the paperwork for NYClass and to use \$10,000 from general fund and \$10,000 from water to start.

1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Rowe Smalt 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Hubbard 4-0 All

### **Shared Drive MFA**

The multi-factor authentication directions are on the shared drive. The mayor will set it up and have Ed Flaitz make sure things are working properly.

### **ROW on River Street:**

The mayor spoke with Karl Anderson who originally worked on the property agreement. Mr. Anderson suggested we speak with SCIDA because they own the railroad, though it's leased by the railroad itself. He said not to call the railroad, to leave it alone and let the street department continue to maintain it. The mayor said nothing "official" should be done. Taking down the chain link fence was brought up. Attorney said if anything was taken down we would have to defend ourselves to the letter of the law.

The grinding down the streets it will cost \$7500 and the paving is estimated to be \$107,000. There was discussion about the millings being left on the side of the road. There is enough money to do Smith Street. Emily Bottoni asked if the street department could look at some of the limbs on trees to trim especially on Steuben Street. The mayor will look into the legalities of what can be trimmed.

**Cemetery Fee Schedule:** The document is not ready yet. The mayor found policies on line to use as a reference for our policy. Trustee Rowe Smalt doesn't feel the dollar amount over a certain size is enough. After 400 square inches it is \$1 each inch after. She thinks it should be \$1.25/inch over 400 square inches. More discussion followed. The mayor will create the policy and further discussion will be at the next meeting.

### **Street Department:**

The new Ford F150 is set but not delivered yet.

EV UTV – It is not pugged in overnight to follow insurance requirements

Gazebo Park the water needs to be put in.

River Street Sidewalks-an ongoing project

Mayor Tyner spoke with NYSEG about the poles on River Street and is waiting for a call back.

Memorial Park-the street crew will power wash everything before Agfest.

Smith Street Parking-Supervisor Comstock doesn't feel it's necessary to do the parking because the season is so short. The board would like the project to be done next spring. Discussion followed about possibly doing shared services with the town highway department and use the millings.

Soccer Kickboards at Memorial Park-They are up and they will be painted. There is a possibility the school's art department will help with a design on them.

Paving- The paving will take place the first and second weeks of September.

Genesee Valley Insurance Sidewalks- The sidewalk policy was sent to them and they would like a quote to do the work on the sidewalks on Chase Street. The mayor would like to do the sidewalks in front of the municipal building too.

15 Alexander Street- Mrs. Snavelly is having trouble getting her mail because the ditch is too steep. The street department will fill the ditch and make the PO Box easier to access.

Hour sheets for street department will be addressed if questions come up.

New Ferris Mower for the street department- The quote for the mower was \$11016.00. The old mower should bring about \$2,000-\$3000 in trade. There was discussion about starting a 10 year rotation on the two mowers - one each five year cycle. Trustee Rowe Smalt thinks we have spent enough money on the Street Department this year and would like to hold off until next year for the new mower. She thinks that if we invest our money and make enough interest, it will help cover any higher cost for the new mower. The mayor and Trustee Gay are in favor of purchasing a new mower. Trustee Hubbard is torn and wondered why the new mower wasn't brought up during the budget process. A motion was made to replace the old mower with a new mower

1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Gay, no 2<sup>nd</sup> so the motion goes no further.

Fire Hydrant Repair from car accident- A claim will be submitted to our insurance company. The hydrant was damaged beyond repair so the street department installed an extra hydrant we had in storage.

### **Megan Hubbard – Community Fund Raiser Entity**

Megan Hubbard spoke with the attorney the committee has. The paperwork is in process and they are waiting for board members to commit to being on the committee. The mayor told her that Karen Tadder might be interested in being on the board. This year Agfest will continue to do as they have in the past through the village. Hopefully everything will be set for Christmas in the Park to be under their new committee.

Custodial account amounts were approved by Agfest and Christmas in the Park committee heads. Trustee Rowe Smalt would like to keep the banner project separate and have it run through the village accounts because it is not a fund raiser and maintenance is done by the street department. The remaining balance is \$3034 and will be incorporated into the general fund.

Trustee Rowe Smalt suggested that the new committee would have a treasurer. She also asked if the storage unit at Memorial Park could be shared by all not for profits. At this time AYS is using most of the space. The board agrees that all committees should be able to use it and it would help to get things out of the retention room at the municipal building.

**One Day Event Use Form:** Trustee Hubbard wants Articles of Corporation removed. He doesn't feel it's necessary. The mayor said it's not mandatory so he'd like to keep it.

A motion was made to accept the form as is

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Gay 3-1 Trustee Hubbard opposes

There was discussion that Gazebo Park should be added to the form

A motion was made to add Gazebo Park to the form

1st Trustee Hubbard 2nd Trustee Gay 4-0 All

A motion was made to set the **date and time for Halloween** for October 31 from 6PM to 8PM

1st Trustee Gay 2nd Trustee Hubbard 4-0 All

**Levee Recertification:** no update but there is another meeting in September that the mayor will attend.

#### **Fiscal Updates:**

NYCOM offers webinars for \$45.00. The mayor will look into the classes offered and let the board know. Trustee Hubbard said the village pays him enough in his salary that he can pay for the webinar himself.

A motion was made to pay the invoice for Richard Blafeld for \$600.500 over the original \$2000 approved to pay him

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Hubbard 4-0 All

#### **Budget Summary:**

Mayor Tyner explained the budget summary and asked the board if they approve the form. All agreed it was easier to understand. The mayor asked the board to take \$60,000 out of the water savings to the general fund to pay invoices that come in for the culvert Project. There was more discussion about waiting to make the transfer and it was decided to wait until there are invoices to pay.

#### **Grants:**

Clean Energy Grant Update- There is \$2700.01 left to spend on trees for the village. Discussion about where to place the trees. Trustee Hubbard mentioned that he would like the trees strategically placed at Memorial Park to help shade areas. The mayor asked that the board think about it over the month and report back in September. Supervisor Comstock will get pricing for the trees also.

Windmill Historical Projects – no update

Main Street Sidewalks –Mayor Tyner is looking for other funds with Nick Langworthy's Office.

Merging of Municipalities – No Grant Posting

Playground Grant at Hess Park – The mayor has submitted application request. He showed the board ideas for the Hees Park playground. Costs range from \$17000-\$25000 with 100% reimbursement.

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

Mayor Tyner:

\* A letter of appreciation was sent to Aaron Mullen for the donation of furniture for the office.

\* The last invoice was paid to Spectrotel and the Spectrum phone line is hooked up

\* Policy #4 – Fundraising Donations- The policy is in draft form and will be discussed further when complete.

\* Mayor Tyner filled out a survey for the state about housing for Afghanistan refugees.

\* Mayor Tyner also reported that the CD for the Cemetery mausoleums was renewed.

\* A request was made to replace the sidewalk at 34 East Avenue. The owner's insurance company requested it so the street department will replace it.

\* Avoca Signage – A suggestion was made to have it on Main Street by the electronic sign. Trustee Rowe Smalt would like it in the original place discussed, in the village parking area near Gazebo Park. She would like something that is structurally and esthetically pleasing.

A motion was made to build the sign by the old Agway Building and to be esthetically pleasing

1st Trustee Rowe Smalt 2nd Trustee Hubbard 4-0 All

Mayor Tyner suggested the project be given to the planning board so that it coincides with the comprehensive plan.

Trustee Hubbard: Nothing

Trustee Gay: Reported that a person from Steuben County weights and measures will be calibrating the fuel pumps at the street department.

Trustee Rowe-Smalt: She asked about the fire department cleaning the streets and sidewalks when they were doing their water tests. She thought they could use the new truck to test the new hydrant that is being put in. She also asked if the board would like to honor Carl Dockstader in some way. It was decided they would figure out a way to do it.

Village Clerk / Treasurer Haar: She asked for newsletter Items. The board suggested the new fire truck, the new UTV, Veterans appreciation, off street parking and Christmas in the park.

Visitors Comments: Minnie Brennan said she hopes people attend the Veteran Appreciation event at the Steuben County Fair on Tuesday.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:37PM

1<sup>st</sup> Trustee Gay 2<sup>nd</sup> Trustee Rowe Smalt