

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LAURENS
August 6, 2024
REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Kelly Pinter, Trustee Jonathan Heelein, Trustee Starr Liddle, Trustee Lois VanAlstine, Water Superintendent Dale Bullock, Clerk Erica LaBuz

Absent: Trustee Frank Kovacs, Assistant Water Superintendent Jarrett Hotaling

Others: Marie Iannotti, Rod Klafehn, Peggy Liddle, Steve Pinter

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: The July minutes were accepted as presented.

Financial Reports: The June financial report was reviewed. Trustee VanAlstine made a motion to approve the June financial report. Seconded by Trustee Heelein. Approved 4-0. Trustee Heelein made a motion to approve Abstract #3. Seconded by Trustee VanAlstine. Approved 4-0.

Budget modifications totalling \$938.32: Insurance (A1910.4) – 17.97; Parks (A7110.4) – 348.35; Other Cultural and Recreational (A7989.4) – 572.00. Trustee Heelein made a motion to transfer \$938.32 from General Repairs and Maintenance (A5110.4) to the above referenced accounts. Seconded by Trustee VanAlstine. Approved 4-0.

Water Report – Dale Bullock: Water usage was 658,000 gallons. The caustic pump needed replacement. Assistant Superintendent Hotaling took the lead and had Bruce Wellman from Hartwick do the repair. Hydrants will be flushed in September. Superintendent Bullock informed the trustees that his operator’s license will expire in mid-July 2025. He will not renew his license. The generator will be placed on Auctions International.

Late Water Payments: There was a discussion about adding penalties for late water payments. Most municipalities charge a 10% late fee. Trustee Heelein made a motion to charge 10% for late payments. Trustee Liddle seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Committee Reports

Parks, Property & Sidewalks – Trustees Liddle and Kovacs

Invoices have been received for 50% of the budgeted amount. We are still waiting on the bills for the gravel. Mayor Pinter stated the sidewalks will be within the allocated budget. Invoices will be sent for the sidewalk aprons.

Community Engagement

Trunk or Treat will be on 10/26/2024. Handouts will be sent home.

Other Business

- Donations: Donations must be voted on by the village board. The donor must notify the village clerk of the donation. The village cannot solicit donations or ask directly for a donation.
- Communications – Written communication must be on letterhead.

- Donation from Oscar Oberkircher. Mayor Pinter held a roll call vote to accept a donation of \$500.00 from Oscar Oberkircher. Trustee Heelein – Yes; Trustee Liddle - Yes; Trustee VanAlstine – Yes; Mayor Pinter – No. The donation is accepted by a 3-1 vote.

Mayor's Report

No Report

New Business:

Auctions International is an on-line site that sells surplus items for municipalities. The fee is deducted from the final payment. Trustee Liddle made a motion to enter into an agreement with Auctions International. Seconded by Trustee Heelein. Approved 4-0

Correspondence: Received from Otsego Ready Mix regarding material price increases and NYS DODT regarding street master plans.

Public Comment:

Rod Klafehn said that the Laurens Fire Department will be involved with Trunk or Treat. He thanked the village for including the fire department in Community Day. It was a great opportunity for kids to sit in the fire trucks. The sidewalks look great. The fire house is a community center. It is now a polling place, warming station in the winter and cooling station in the summer. They will have a new generator installed.

Peggy Liddle said she is frustrated with the system. The village should have forecast the cost of the sidewalks. There was an opportunity because the Job Corps is now able to work until October. She contacted other board members in regards to holding a special meeting to allocate more funds to the sidewalk project. She is also concerned that she was being accused of requesting donations. Although she did not attend the July meeting, she heard that there was a lack of respect for board members and that is not how a meeting should be conducted.

Mayor Pinter replied that there is a budget process whereby the draft budget is presented in March. A public hearing is held in April. At those meetings there was an opportunity to request changes in the proposed budget. Trustee Kovacs made a motion to approve the proposed budget and Trustee Liddle seconded the motion. The budget is filed with the Office of the State Comptroller. If additional funds were requested, the funds would have to come from fund balance. It is not fiscally responsible to amend the budget significantly in the first month of the fiscal year. Mayor Pinter also stated that Trustee Liddle had presented some sidewalk replacement quotes that included a quote from Ms. Liddle's son. This is a violation of the Code of Ethics. The Streets, Sidewalk and Property Committee should have presented a budget amount for the sidewalk project. After the sidewalks are completed, we will submit the expenditures to the CHIPS program for reimbursement. Funds will then be available for next year.

Steven Pinter stated that the village is fortunate to have the mayor that we have. It is not sustainable to spend more than the budgeted amount. The sidewalk project has caused intense pressure and some unkind comments. We must be fiscally prudent.

Trustee Heelein said that this is a learning process. We are all here to serve the community and the mayor is on top of things. Better communication is needed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Erica LaBuz

Village Clerk