

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LAURENS
December 5, 2023
REGULAR MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

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

Absent: Trustee Tom Halstead, Assistant Water Superintendent Jarrett Hotaling

Others: Monica Kovacs, Steve Pinter, Ed Winslow, Laurens Town Board Member

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: Trustee Heelein made a motion to approve the November minutes. Seconded by Trustee Kovacs. Approved 4-0.

Financial Reports: The October financial report was reviewed. Trustee Liddle made a motion to approve the financial report and Abstract #7. Seconded by Trustee Kovacs. Approved 4-0.

Water Report – Dale Bullock: Water usage for the month was 414,000 gallons which is very low. The average usage for the month was 13,800 gallons. The meter may be getting slower. Jarrett is looking into this. Water was turned on at 842 County Highway 11. There are new owners at this property. The generator for the pumphouse has been installed. The new generator is a 3 Phase 120/208 WYE while the old generator was a 3 Phase 120/24 Delta. The old generator is at Drogens Electric Supply. It will need to be declared surplus to be sold. There are auction websites such as Auctions International that can be used. It is very dirty from being outdoors and will need to be cleaned. Mice chewed on the wiring. Mouse traps are needed at the pumphouse to protect the wiring.

Committee Reports

Parks, Property & Sidewalks – Trustees Liddle and Halstead

Community Engagement

Laurens Together is hosting a village holiday event on December 16 at 5:00 PM. There will be caroling, wagon rides, and the tree lighting at the gazebo. Santa in the Park will be held for grades 1-3 on December 20th. The village website is updated with community events.

Old Business

Water Rates - Mayor Pinter handed out a spreadsheet analysis of rate increases in \$0.25 increments. There will be further discussion on water rates. A new process for pool fills may be implemented. One customer did not pay even though several invoices were sent. An application, previous authorization and prepayment may be required.

108 Main Street – A letter had been sent to the property owner regarding the violations of property maintenance. The owner does not live locally. He is in communication with Mayor Pinter and is researching how he can address the situation. The mayor is requiring him to have a dumpster on site by 12/15/23. The owner is checking into contractors who can do the work. Mayor Pinter contacted the county code enforcement officer for assistance. There may be a public hearing in January.

Public Comment

Ed Winslow informed the trustees that the owners of 52 Brook Street plugged a culvert so that water would not run through their property. The water runs across the post office parking lot into the Lutheran church parking lot and other properties. He requests that the culvert be opened. The highway superintendent can check to see if he can open the culvert. Replacing the culvert will need to be placed in the 2024-25 fiscal year budget. Mayor Pinter will contact Highway Superintendent Wayne Shulgay. The property has recently been sold.

Mayor's Report – Kelly Pinter

Mayor Pinter handed out a map of village roads. It highlights the roads that the county is responsible for and the village roads that the Town of Laurens plows. The town maintains 0.4 miles of road in the winter and bills the

village for road salt. The town supervisor and board complain that the accounting procedures for this short stretch of road is difficult for them. Mayor Pinter said that she has been willing to meet with the town supervisor. She first communicated this at the February 2023 town board meeting before she became the village mayor. Town official complain that village residents don't pay the highway maintenance fee. Mayor Pinter calculated that the cost of snow removal on village streets is \$2,085.64. The village appreciates the plowing that the town does. However, town officials make the mayor feel like the village is burdening them. Mayor Pinter reached out to Supervisor Buccheri but Mr. Buccheri never followed up. Instead, the mayor is bullied at town board meetings that she attends as a tax payer in the town not as the village mayor. Mayor Pinter reached out to the fire department and the American Legion to build relationships. She has not been able to develop a relationship with the town. The village is dependent upon the town for plowing 0.4 miles of road and is willing to compensate the town for the service. The village mayor does not dictate tax law and can't help that the village does not pay highway tax. Mr. Winslow responded that the town's concern is that village residents use town roads but do not pay highway taxes. Several trustees responded that this is not a valid point. The streets are public streets that can be used by anyone regardless of where they live. Many users of town roads are not residents of the Town of Laurens and do not pay the Laurens highway tax. Mr. Winslow stated that he appreciates that the mayor is making an effort to communicate with the town. They are open to renegotiating the snow removal agreement.

Adjournment: Trustee Liddle made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Kovacs. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Erica LaBuz
Village Clerk