

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Welch opened the public hearing with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:02pm to adopt Local Law #4-2020, Section 20-102; Water, Sewers, Sewage Disposal of the Village Code; to add a surcharge of \$10.00 per billing cycle for Capital Water Improvements, effective October 1, 2020.

Fire Chief Myers stated that he feels we have proven our need to put money in and rebuild the water infrastructure in the village.

Mayor Welch said she was speaking with the Town of Lewiston and Niagara County Water Department to figure out ways to improve the infrastructure and increasing the water pressure into the village. This fee will only be used for this purpose, and will only cost the residents an additional \$40.00 per year. We are also applying for grants to use towards the cost of rebuilding the infrastructure.

Trustee Gibson asked about how much this fee would generate annually.

Trustee Conde replied and said roughly \$47,000.

Superintendent Wills stated that he likes the idea because we need to start building our bank to replace these 100-year-old water lines. If we do not make a move now things are going to get worse and worse.

Mayor Welch added that we only get about 40 pounds of pressure into the village currently, and if we were to raise the pressure it could blow the lines.

Fire Chief Myers added that we would not be able to increase the pressure until all water lines are replaced; the other part of this is trying to get an additional water supply into the village. Plans have been discussed to bring in that second source through Ridge Road. We are running on borrowed time with what we have right now.

Superintendent Wills said if something were to happen to the water infrastructure our only other option would be to go up 5th Street, and that is not enough to feed water up to Center Street.

Trustee Conde commented that he is in support of this added fee, but wants to make sure that this money is placed into a separate account that Superintendent Wills could use for this purpose only; I would also like to review this in a year and vote on this again. In the past, I was involved in getting rid of the original \$5 charge because I could not track where that money was being placed.

Trustee Marasco added that she would think after the Brickyard Brewing Company Fire that residents would see the need for this fee to be added.

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Marasco and passed unanimously to close the public hearing at 6:14pm.

PRESENT

Mayor Welch, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Marasco, Trustee Conde, Law Counsel Leone, Katie Bednarz, representing Nussbaumer & Clarke, Superintendent Wills, Building Inspector Candella, Recreation Leader McDermott, Treasurer Myers, Clerk Fundis, Deputy Clerk Vazquez, Fire Chief Myers, Police Chief Previte, Fire Inspector Beebe

Trustee Eydt did not join the meeting until the discussion portion, and did not vote on any business.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Welch called the meeting to order at 6:14pm.

MINUTES A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed with three 'yes' votes to approve the June 15, 2020 Village Board Meeting minutes and July 6, 2020 Annual Organizational Meeting minutes. Trustee Marasco abstained.

A discussion ensued on the July 4, 2020 Fireworks that were held in the Village of Lewiston. Trustee Marasco commented on her concerns with the fireworks being held and the concern for residents and inability to properly police social distancing.

BILLS A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Marasco and passed unanimously to approve the bills as presented by Treasurer Myers in the following amounts:

General Fund: \$450,372.88

Trust & Agency: \$14,726.52

REPORTS **Police Chief Previte** reported on the July 4, 2020 fireworks, stating that he felt it went very well. We prepared for the worst, and did not have any complaints and felt we got a very manageable crowd. Previte added that they currently are hiring for two part time positions due to two police officers retiring. Previte stated that once hired, they would bring the new officers in to meet the board members.

Trustee Conde asked Chief Previte if the state was trying to get the police to have to self-insure. Previte said that this discussion has come up, but no bill has been introduced as far as he is aware of. The Chief's Association of New York State and Niagara County will be working to make sure that does not happen; if that is the case, I may approach the board for your help as well.

Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Candella stated that Tim Horton's project is delayed at this time due to a hold up on production of equipment, but they will get moving on this project again soon.

Recreation Director McDermott stated that for all recreation activities, the recreation department has signs posted, are enforcing social distancing guidelines, along with regular sanitizing and hand washing.

OLD BUSINESS

Pro-Flex Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan Service Agreement

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Pro-Flex to have the Clerk and/or Treasurer sign the Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan Services Agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Local Law #4-2020 – Capital Water Improvements

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Marasco and passed unanimously to adopt Local Law #4-2020, Section 20-102; Water, Sewers, Sewage Disposal of the Village Code; to add a surcharge of \$10.00 per billing cycle for Capital Water Improvements, effective October 1, 2020; to be revisited at the 2020-21 budget.

Lewiston #1 Fire Co Resignation Request

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Marasco and passed unanimously to approve the request made by the Lewiston #1 Fire Company to accept the resignation of Thomas Hanson.

Lewiston #1 Fire Co Request

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Marasco and passed unanimously to approve the request made by the Lewiston #1 Fire Company to drop Sabrina Minopoli from its rolls.

621 Center Street – Chicken Coop

A motion was made by Trustee Gibson seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the request made by David Giusiana as approved by the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, located at 621 Center Street, to build a chicken coop/shed on the property.

DISCUSSION**Lewiston Landing Boat Slip Deferred Payment Request**

A discussion ensued regarding the request made by slip holder, Tom Antonucci, to roll over his 2020 slip rental fee to the following year. Antonucci stated he is unable to use the slip at this time due to inaccessibility because of the placement of the Jet Boat dock.

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Gibson and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Tom Antonucci to roll over his boat slip rental fee for Lewiston Landing to the following season due to inaccessibility because of the Jet Boat dock placement.

REPORTS

Superintendent Wills stated that we have installed a couple thousand feet of sidewalk on Cayuga, Plain, Mohawk, Center and Tuscarora. We have completed Phase I of paving on Mohawk from 5th Street to 9th Street; we have also been cleaning after wind storms and dealing with water breaks.

Law Counsel Leone stated that he is working on the ongoing dispute with Sesac; they gave us copy of a contract signed many years ago by Mayor Richard Soluri. I will continue to work on this. I am also working on our contract dispute with Spectrum, I sent a very detailed letter to our representative outlining everything each party agreed upon to get this contract approved a couple of years ago. They stated this matter is currently in hands of their attorney. I am still trying to get this contract the way it was originally agreed upon.

BOARD REPORTS

Mayor Welch stated she has been working with the Department of Transportation on the plans for the new bike lane coming down Center Street, which will be included in the information submitted for the resurfacing of Center Street.

A resident has requested to relocate a light pole on South 3rd Street, at their own cost to allow for a driveway to be installed.

Neptune Ski Club has a small building on village property near the slip they rent. They do not pay for this building and it is on our property; we charge everyone else but are not charging them for using this space. It does not have to be a lot but we should charge something.

A discussion ensued regarding putting more handicap accessible parking spots on the south end of the waterfront, as well as talking with Engineer Marino on possibly working a kayak launch at that end of the dock in Phase 6 of the Lewiston Landing project.

Mayor Welch asked Law Counsel Leone to make another call about the village owned property at the street end on Onondaga Street and see if the neighboring property owner is still interested in purchasing this. He had mentioned that he wanted us to remove a line that we had put in for him and his plans for the property; the village will not be removing this line or absorbing the cost of it. We need him to make a decision and move forward with this soon, or we will be looking into opening up this property to other potential buyers.

Law Counsel Leone stated that he has spoken with him, and he is still very interested in purchasing the property but does not have plans to develop it immediately. I also discussed the price with him, which he was not entirely happy with.

Mayor Welch stated that she spoke with Zack Casale, owner of the building at the corner of South Sixth Street and Center Street, 555 Center Street. Currently there is a deck on the side of building on the village right away; Casale asked if he could purchase the remaining section of right away around his property, which would be developed into a larger deck and would clean up that area. This does not interfere with parking. I asked him to submit a plan for us to review.

A discussion ensued regarding the request brought to Mayor Welch's attention by Alan Hastings, owner of The Silo; Hastings would like to extend the property and build a deck on the hill where the grassy area is alongside of the property. The plan would be to add a step, and underneath it would construct a building with a walk-in cooler, which is needed for storage, as well as construct additional restrooms. Hastings would like to use the historic building that was there originally to build into this. The plan would also include separate entrances created to help with the long lines that accumulate. This new area would be open to the public, not limited to patrons of The Silo.

Law Counsel Leone and Mayor Welch discussed that if these changes were to be considered, the village would also work on renegotiating the lease agreement.

Trustee Eydt added that any issues with unpaid taxes to this property should be rolled into the lease, and that he would not approve additions to the structure that would block the view of the river.

Mayor Welch stated that Hastings will have plans drawn up for the village board to review if everyone entertains this idea. This is going to be an investment of over \$400,000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 remotely at <https://www.zoom.us/>.

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held at 6:00pm, followed by the Planning Board meeting at 6:30pm on Monday, August 10, 2020 remotely at <https://www.zoom.us/>.

The Village Board of Trustees Board meeting will be held at 6pm on Monday, August 17, 2020 remotely at <https://www.zoom.us/>.

ADJOURN A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Marasco and passed unanimously to adjourn the Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:13pm.

Shannon Fundis
Village Clerk