**VILLAGE OF CAMILLUS**

**PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING**

**February 3, 2025**

Present: Mayor Richard Waterman Attorney: Robert J. Allan

Deputy Mayor Martin Rinaldo

Trustee Ann Eckert

Trustee Mark Eckert

Trustee James Lighton 4 people in attendance

Mayor Waterman opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The next Board meeting is March 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

**Camillus Fire Department**

Chief Fred Isgar stated the Camillus Fire Department has had 50 alarms since January 1, 2025. Engine 10 has been returned to service. There will be a Blood Drive held at the Camillus Fire Department on February 21, 2025, and the fire department will try to host one every quarter as a service to the community.

The Installation banquet went well. The construction at the fire house is about 80% complete. Treasurer Marty Plunkett was able to secure some additional funding from Lowe’s and they hope to have the work completed by the end of February. The By-Law committee will be meeting soon. Chief Isgar stated the fire department has received three applications which need to be reviewed and may be ready for the next Board meeting. Attorney Allan shared a letter from the Skaneateles Fire Department regarding a raffle they are holding and asked if the Camillus Fire Department could do something similar. A discussion was held regarding raffles with the biggest problem being the ability to get the tickets sold. Chief Isgar stated there was discussion about a St. Patrick’s Day fundraising dinner, but a date has not been determined.

**Code Enforcement**

Code Enforcement Officer Bill Reagan stated the Village had 5 permit applications, 3 building permits resulting in $520 in fees, 3 construction inspections, 4 commercial fire inspections, 2 complaints, 8 notices and letters went out, and 26 miscellaneous actions. Mr. Reagan attended a hazard mitigation planning meeting and prepared the annual report. Mr. Reagan introduced Fire Code Enforcement Officer John Raflowski. Mr. Reagan mentioned the possibility of the Board introducing a charge for fire inspections as the Village of Camillus is the only local municipality not charging for fire inspections. A lengthy discussion was had outlining the possibility of implementing a sliding fee based on square footage of a commercial building or a flat rate fee. Public assemblies are inspected annually, commercial properties are inspected every 2 years, and churches and libraries are usually exempt from the fee. The charge for fire inspections would result in approximately $3700 in revenue for the Village every two years.

Attorney Allan stated the Village would need to pass a resolution stating the property owner would be charged for a fire inspection and not the business owner renting the location and that any unpaid fees would be added to the next tax bill. Additional discussion was held regarding the possibility of phasing the fee on a lower fee scale in the first year. Mixed-use buildings would have the living space subtracted from the square footage and basements would not be included in the square footage. Most inspections are arranged with the tenants and tenants fix what they are required to fix, and property owners are sent the report, so they repair what they are responsible for. Trustee Lighton and Trustee Mark Eckert volunteered to form a committee to review and work on potential fire inspection charges to be presented at the September 2025 Village Board meeting. Mr. Reagan stated he will bring a tentative update for the building permit fee schedule to the next Board meeting. The current fee schedule has not been changed in many years.

Mr. Reagan stated there are new owners of the Elm Street Storage buildings at 9 Elm Street and they would like to make several changes which include adding an entrance from Main Street and building the fourth building. Mr. Reagan has sent the owners copies of Minutes and Resolutions about why everything is the way it currently is and has not heard back from them.

Upon motion of Trustee Mark Eckert, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved, the Board opened the Public Hearing to consider a local law to update the garbage/trash laws for the Village of Camillus at 5:39 p.m.

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Deputy Mayor Martin Rinaldo

Trustee Ann Eckert

Trustee Mark Eckert

Trustee James Lighton 4 people in attendance

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert and unanimously approved, the Board waived the reading of the public notice.

**VILLAGE OF CAMILLUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Camillus, Onondaga County, New York, will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. to consider a local law to update the garbage/trash laws for the Village of Camillus.

The Public Hearing will be held at the Village Hall, 37 Main Street, in the Village of Camillus, at the date and time stated above at which time all interested parties will be heard.

Information regarding the proposed local law is open to inspection at the Office of the Village Clerk, and communications, in writing, in relation thereto may be filed with the Board of Trustees either before or at the hearing.

January 6, 2025

RICHARD A. WATERMAN, Mayor

Village of Camillus

Mayor Waterman stated the DPW Supervisor requested a couple sentences from the current Trash and Recycling Rules be added back into the updated version being presented this evening. Attorney Allan stated he revised Local Law Chapter 61 to be consistent with the Trash and Recycling Rules from October 2022 with an update to the trash weight and mattress fee. The Board is unable to pass this Local Law tonight as the Board did not receive the proposed Local Law ten days prior to the meeting.

Attorney Allan went over the proposed Local Law in depth highlighting the changes including the change in the weight limit for trash cans that are not tipper cans to 35 pounds as well as definition edits.

Mayor Waterman asked if there were any questions.

Trustee Ann Eckert stated she would like to get a quote from Dependable to pick up the Village trash every week and recycling every other week. Mr. Reagan suggested calling Superior for comparison. Trustee Ann Eckert stated we keep taking away the reason we kept the Village instead of merging with the Town when we take away services and adding more taxes and fees. The DPW could still pick up the larger items. Mr. Reagan asked about grant money for tipper cans. A discussion was had about the difficulties with picking up trash on North St and Elderkin Ave and the elderly whom the DPW assists with their cans. If we had a disposal service, the trash and recycling would be picked up in 2 days instead of 3 days. Further discussion was had how this potential change would affect taxes. The Public Hearing was tabled until March 3, 2025

**Mayor’s Comments**

Mayor Waterman stated Engineer Bill Morse returned the FEMA report from Byrne Dairy for the third time as it is still not correct. Byrne Dairy’s engineer will need to come out and do a survey.

Mr. Morse has requested a quote from Casinella for the remaining construction work needed on Elm Street and Main Street.

Mayor Waterman stated he has attended several meetings about the Finger Lakes Railroad repairs that are to take place this year. The Mayor stated the president of the Finger Lakes Railroad stayed after a meeting to speak to the Mayor. The president agreed the Finger Lakes bridge into the Village needs work and committed to fixing it this year. The bridge is sound, but they will put ceramics on it. They will not paint the bridge. The president recommended getting a school group to paint the bridge and suggested black paint with the height of the bridge painted on there. The bridge was hit by a truck on December 10, 2024, and was shut down until it was determined the bridge had not been structurally damaged.

Mayor Waterman stated the Clerk has been working with Mr. Morse on the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan draft which is due tomorrow. The Board needs to approve the draft. Mr. Morse added mitigation actions including placing the gauging system back in service, widening the West Genesee bridge over Nine Mile Creek, and adding requirements on flooding sewer laterals by adding back flow preventers and vent caps for houses in flood plains to Village Code. Previous projects in the plan were updated by marking them as completed, ongoing, or discontinued.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Lighton and unanimously approved by the Board the Hazard Mitigation Plan draft was approved.

Mayor Waterman stated the Clerks have 3 properties which required sewer rent amendments which resulted in refunds and 2025 tax bill revisions. Property owners can receive refunds for up to three years. The Green Gate Inn at 2 Genesee Street has a sewer adjustment and refund pending.

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved by the Board the following refunds were approved: 52 Genesee Street – Sewer refund 2024 $6600.00 and corrected tax bill for 2025 with a corrected assessed value of $101.00 instead of $500,000.00; 71 Genesee Street 2023 Sewer refund $160.50, 2024 Sewer refund $975.00 and 2025 Sewer refund $975.00, and 2 Rolling Hills Rd 2023 Sewer refund $50.00, 2024 Sewer refund $300.00, and a corrected 2025 tax bill with no sewer rent charged. The Green Gate Inn at 2 Genesee Street will receive a refund of $106.00 for 2023, $600.00 for 2024 and $600.00 for 2025.

Mayor Waterman read a letter he sent to New York State Senator Chris Ryan requesting grant funding in the amount of $50,000.00 to complete the other half of our garage. Mayor Waterman met Senator Ryan at a function and was introduced to his grant writer, Ryan Kostusiak, and Mayor Waterman forwarded his request to Mr. Kostusiak. Mayor Waterman is also trying to secure funding to repair the municipal building and has asked Ryan McMahon to consider adding municipal grants because other municipals have also asked about grants. Mayor Waterman is also looking into whether the Village would qualify for the New York Forward program. Attorney Allan asked about USDA for funding. Mayor Waterman stated the Village would have to pay 75% of the loan whereas a DASANY grant is 100% funded or a Main Street grant is 75% funded and the Village would pay 25%.

Mayor Waterman updated the Board regarding the NYSERDA $10,000 grant. The Village has received 2 quotes for garage doors: Genson Overhead doors is $8990.00 and Overhead Doors is $9610.00, and we are still waiting for a third quote.

Mayor Waterman started a discussion regarding making updates to the Employee Policies/Handbook and asked the Board for input. NY State law states an employee must work 40 hours of straight time before they receive overtime so if an employee takes a day off without pay and comes in on Saturday, Saturday would be straight time. However, if the employee works 10 hours on 2 different days plus 2 8-hours days and takes a day off without pay then they would be paid 32 hours straight and 4 hours overtime. After 1 year of service, a full-time employee is eligible for 2 weeks of vacation, 5 years of service receives 3 weeks of vacation, 10 years of service receives 4 weeks of vacation, 20 years of service receives 5 weeks of vacation. Attorney Allan verified a part-time employee is not eligible for vacation. A discussion was had about requiring employees to use paid time off in 2-hour increments with supervisor approval. The Board will remove the restrictions on vacation and sick time minimum usage but still require supervisor approval. A new hire must work between 6 and 12 months before they receive 3 sick days and 2 personal days but must work 1 year before receiving vacation time. A discussion was had regarding comp time which is currently 1.5 their hourly rate over 40 hours. Comp time is paid for classes and meetings outside normal work hours. The Board will consider eliminating comp time for the DPW but keep comp time for the full-time clerk, who is salaried, at a compensatory rate of 1 hour for time worked outside the workday of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for meetings or class equaling one hour off during the week. The rate is currently 1.5 times. This is agreeable to the clerk. Employees will be given 4 days of personal time to be used in a minimum of 1-hour increments. The Village will stay with 11 holidays. The current bereavement policy was discussed and noted it was for all employees as the current policy does not distinguish part-time or full-time. Health insurance was discussed including Medicare Part B for employees with at least 25 years of full-time service and reached the age of 65. The Board thought they had approved an updated policy a few years ago. The clerk will research the Minutes to see if a previous policy was approved. Mayor Waterman and the Clerk thought a policy was presented but not approved.

**Approval of Vouchers**

Mayor Waterman asked if there were any questions regarding the vouchers.

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Lighton and unanimously approved by the Board approved, Abstract #3 was approved as follows:

General: $23,674.09

Sewer: $8,085.50

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Waterman asked if there were any questions regarding January 6, 2025, Minutes. There were none.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert and unanimously approved the minutes of January 6, 2025, were approved.

**Trustee Comments**

Trustee Ann Eckert stated the light at 4 First Street is still not working. The Clerk has reported it several times and Trustee Ann Eckert has called it in and now added caution tape to the pole to help National Grid locate the problem pole.

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Lighton and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Carrie Grooms

Clerk/Treasurer