**`VILLAGE OF CAMILLUS**

**PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING**

**March 17, 2025**

Present: Mayor Richard Waterman Attorney: Robert J. Allan (by phone)

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 April 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

**Camillus Fire Department**

Chief Fred Isgar stated it is difficult for the Chiefs to make the 5:00 meetings. Mayor Waterman stated the Chiefs could arrive at 6:00 p.m. The corned beef dinner was not a huge success and Chief Isgar thanked Trustee Ann Eckert for her help at the dinner. There are quite a few fire department members taking training classes. Chief Joe DiFabio stated the fire department has budgeted $8,000 for fitness and would like to initially spend $5,600 to purchase 3 pieces of fitness equipment through the state contract through Syracuse Fitness. Trustee Mark Eckert led a discussion on previous fitness equipment purchases and gym membership for the fire department and how past new leadership would sell the equipment. Chief DiFabio stated according to NFPA1500, the fire department must provide the facilities to exercise or the means for the members to utilize the facilities to exercise. Chief DiFabio stated when the next regime approaches the Board to sell this equipment as surplus, the Board should vote against it. Trustee Ann Eckert stated the equipment is sometimes disposed of without Board knowledge. Mayor Waterman asked what other fire departments do. Many other fire departments have their own fitness facilities. Trustee Mark Eckert asked how the fire department would ensure the equipment does not go missing. Chief Jim Hartford Sr stated all the equipment has serial numbers that the Board will have. Chief Isgar stated the Board could set their own rules that state the equipment cannot be sold until it has reached its end of life. There is no mandate that requires firefighters to use the equipment, but it must be offered.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Lighton and unanimously approved, the Board authorized the purchase of three pieces of gym equipment at a cost of $5600.00.

Mayor Waterman stated the Village had approximately $3000.00 remaining to spend from the $10,000.00 NYSERDA grant after the earmarked battery-operated equipment the DPW has received quotes for. Chief DiFabio stated he had received pricing of $6200 on a ventilation fan which is battery operated if the Village is able to get it approved as part of the grant. The fire department would share the cost not covered by the grant. Mayor Waterman stated he will ask NYSERDA if the ventilation fan would be covered as the Village owns the fire department.

Attorney Bob Allan stated he spoke to NYCOM regarding the Caretaker position. Chief DiFabio clarified that the Caretaker position is a Village employee assigned to the fire department but is not protected by the VFBL and is only covered by the Village worker’s compensation even when they respond to fire calls.

**Code Enforcement**

Mayor Waterman read a letter from Bob Allan to Jeanette Lukacs, 6 Elderkin, regarding the retaining wall which has fallen onto the sidewalk in front of her home. Ms. Lukacs called Mayor Waterman to discuss the letter. Attorney Allan stated he left a voicemail and will follow up with Ms. Lukacs as he has not heard back from her.

Mayor Waterman read a letter from Onondaga County Community Development regarding the Onondaga County Vacant Rental program. The intent is to repair and rehabilitate vacant rental units and other vacant spaces to increase the supply of critically needed apartments for low- and moderate-income renters in Onondaga County. Mayor Waterman read the requirements involved in receiving the funding to participate in this program. Code Enforcement Officer Bill Reagan stated the Village does not have any vacant apartment buildings.

Mayor Waterman stated Bill Reagan sent a letter in October 2024 to Doug Shepherd, Villager Apartments Property Manager and Attorney Allan sent a letter on March 3, 2025, to the property owners regarding the dumpster enclosure. The property owner responded back requesting an extension to address issues of the current corral and plan to leave the corral in the current location with modifications which include: closure of the pedestrian access facing Milton Ave, minimum 12” increase of the corral height per the Village Code, and increased opacity of the mesh on the operating doors. Mr. Reagan feels they need a deadline for the work to be completed and needs to include a notice for objects, such as furniture, being left outside the enclosure for more than 24 hours, which will incur a fine. Attorney Allan will call the property owner.

Mayor Waterman stated the orange car, 73 Main Street, has been a continuous problem all winter parking on Main Street for more than the 2 hours and overnight parking. Mr. Richard Kirk was planning to attend tonight’s meeting as he is the one most upset about her parking violations. Attorney Allan has composed a letter to the owner of the orange car but has not sent it as she has begun parking out back. She has received at least 2 tickets for parking violations. Attorney Allan will send the letter if the owner begins to violate again.

Mayor Waterman stated 61 Main Street would like to have a band at an event in June. Mayor Waterman read the Village Codes which states the Board can waive the permit requirement for community events such as the Villagewide Garage sale. Mr. Reagan stated this did not sound like a community event and asked Attorney Allan if the Village would need liability insurance. Attorney Allan said the owner should have a permit and he was concerned about the noise, decibel level and how it would affect nearby residences. Mayor Waterman will ask Shannon Martin to attend the next Board meeting.

Mayor Waterman discussed supplemental pay as outlined in the Village Employee policy. Years ago, the Village Board approved supplemental pay, and it was paid for by the Village, not insurance, and did not start until the employee had been here for at least five years. Discussion was had as to whether to continue the supplemental pay and whether to add coverage for employees who are employed one to five years. Discussion was had regarding the DPW employee out on worker’s comp. The Board stated the employee must use sick and personal pay for the first 7 days after which he would be covered by workers compensation. Trustee Ann Eckert stated the DPW does not have light duty for Village DPW employees. Further discussion was had regarding health care and retirement insurance for part-time and retired employees.

Mayor Waterman stated the chemical storage units need to be replaced. We received a quote from Uline and Grainger and Grainger is less at a total cost of $3305.28 for 3 units. Mayor Waterman heard back from County Purchasing and was told Grainger pricing is off the NY State contract. Attorney Allan would like something in writing from Grainger stating they are the NYS Bidder. Mayor Waterman will call Grainger tomorrow.

Upon motion of Trustee Lighton, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved by the Board to purchase 3 flammable safety cabinets from Grainger at a cost of $3305.28.

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved by the Board to amend the 2025 Budget for the purchase of 3 flammable safety cabinets as follows:

A1990.4 Contingent Account $1500.00

A1620.45 Repairs & Supplies $1500.00

The motion was duly approved.

Earth Day is April 26, 2025, but the Town Shop is going to clean up on April 18, 2025, which is also Good Friday. The Village will contribute $200, and the Town of Camillus will contribute $200 for food at Kiki’s. The Village will also order safety vests and gloves to be used by the participants.

**Engineer Report**

Engineer Bill Morse stated Casinella Excavating quoted $48,500 for each repair at these locations: 8 Elm, 40 Elm, and 44 Elm. Attorney Allan asked if the Village has documentation Casinella has the County bid. Mr. Morse will get the County bid documentation for the files. The Village has approximately $30,000 from 2024 Sewer tax remaining and $150,000 from 2025 Sewer tax anticipated.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert and unanimously approved by the Board to approve Casinella Excavating to repair the sewer at 8 Elm, 40 Elm, and 44 Elm Street at a total cost of $145,500.

There are no updates on Byrne Dairy.

Mayor Waterman stated he and the DPW Supervisor looked at all the roads and sidewalks in the Village and Mr. Morse and he worked to come up with the Five-Year Plan as outlined below for road improvements, drainage, sidewalks, and Nine Mile Creek Trail.

**VILLAGE OF CAMILLUS**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2025 CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITIY DEVELOPMENT**

**FIVE-YEAR PLAN**

**March 17, 2025**

Present: Mayor Richard Waterman Attorney: Robert J. Allan (by phone)

Deputy Mayor Martin Rinaldo

Trustee Ann Eckert

Trustee Mark Eckert

Trustee James Lighton 2 people in attendance

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Lighton and unanimously approved, the Board opened the Public Hearing for the Community Development application and Five-Year plan at 6:14 p.m. and waived the reading of the Notice of Public Hearing as follows:

**VILLAGE OF CAMILLUS**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2025 CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITIY DEVELOPMENT**

**FIVE-YEAR PLAN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Camillus, Onondaga County, New York, will conduct a Public Hearing on March 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. to consider the Village of Camillus 2025 Community Development funding request, pursuant to the Village of Camillus Five-year Plan.

The Village’s Community Development Grant request for the Five-Year Plan will be discussed, outlining the Village’s intent for five years of funding requests. A list of the potential projects that may be included in the Five-Year Plan is available for review at the Office of the Village Clerk during regular office hours. Comments will be received from the public to aid the Village in prioritizing the listed projects. Solicitation of suggestions for additional eligible projects to be included on the Village’s Five -Year Plan will also be heard.

March 3, 2025

RICHARD WATERMAN

Mayor, Village of Camillus

Mayor Waterman asked if everyone saw the Five-Year Plan for 2025. Trustee Ann Eckert asked about the possibility of having the retention pond by Maclaughlin Street cleaned. Discussion was had as to whether the retention pond was Village or Town property. Engineer Bill Morse asked about original documentation. Trustee Ann Eckert will check with the Town of Camillus.

Mayor Waterman asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the Community Development application and the Five-Year Plan. There were none.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Lighton and unanimously approved, the Board closed the Public Hearing at 6:18 p.m.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Ann Eckert and unanimously approved the Board moved to approve the Consolidated Five-Year Plan – 2025 as follows:

County of Onondaga Community Development Division

**Village of Camillus**

**Consolidated Five Year Plan – 2025**

**Road Improvements – Various Streets**

The end of Maple Drive past Timber Ridge Drive is a low volume road, but it does service the Connelly Acres senior housing project. The end of the road is very deteriorated. It is a turnaround for plows, and because it is in bad condition it gets further damaged during plowing operations and needs to be resurfaced. Maxwell Road, Meadow Lane, and MacLaughlin Street in the northeast corner of the village are starting to show significant deterioration and should be repaired before the sub-base is compromised.

**Union Street Drainage**

Because Union Street is built on the side of a hill, there are springs that make the road sub-base very wet and soft on the uphill side of the road during the spring, leading to rapid failure of the asphalt pavement.

There is an existing drainage pipe along this side of the road, but the pipe is deteriorated, and the drainage was not originally built with perforated pipe to intercept the springs. This project would replace the deteriorated drainage with new drainage featuring perforated pipe in a crushed stone envelope along the high side of the road to keep the road sub-base drier during the spring and reduce the rapid deterioration of the pavement.

**Sidewalk Trip Hazards – Various Streets**

The Village has repaired sidewalks in several areas in the Village in recent years with assistance from Community Development funding, but there are still scattered locations in the Village with trip hazards that should be repaired., including Kastor Ave, North Street, and Union Street.

**Nine Mile Creek Trail**

The Village has had discussions with Onondaga County to help create a connected walking trail along Nine Mile Creek from the Village of Marcellus to the Erie Canal Museum. There are two sections of the trail within the Village. One portion of the project would create a trail along the creek from Main Street to Newport Road. The project would be done in conjunction with the second phase of development of the Camillus Mills project. That phase is nearing completion so construction of this portion of the trail can start soon.

A second portion of the trail improvements would widen and resurface the existing trail from the end of Feeder Bank Road south to the Village Line. The City of Syracuse may be using a portion of the trail for access during a proposed water transmission main replacement project in the next few years, so this project will not commence until that project is completed or abandoned.

The voting was as follows:

Richard Waterman Mayor Voted – Yes

Martin Rinaldo Trustee Voted – Yes

Ann Eckert Trustee Voted – Yes

Mark Eckert Trustee Voted – Yes

James Lighton Trustee Voted - Yes

The motion was duly adopted.

A motion was offered by Trustee Rinaldo who moved for its adoption, seconded by Trustee Ann Eckert to authorize WM Engineering to prepare and submit the 2025 Funding Application for $50,000 to mill and pave as stated in the Five-Year Plan draft and approve the Consolidated Five-Year Plan - 2025. The voting was as follows:

Richard Waterman Mayor Voted – Yes

Martin Rinaldo Trustee Voted – Yes

Ann Eckert Trustee Voted – Yes

Mark Eckert Trustee Voted – Yes

James Lighton Trustee Voted - Yes

The motion was duly adopted.

**Mayor’s Comments**

Mayor Waterman discussed his meetings regarding the potential trail from Sim’s Store, on Devoe Rd, down Newport Rd through Camillus Mills, down the Towpath, build a bridge over Nine Mile, and to Martisco. Marcellus would like a trail from Martisco to Marcellus. Troy Waffner is pursuing funding and has received a commitment from Ryan McMahon for $150,000 and hopes to get $100,000 from CNY Community Foundation. Troy Waffner is trying to get an estimate to put the whole trail in. Mayor Waterman contacted John Benson, and they will meet Wednesday at 12:30 to view the current trail and provide an estimate to put the trail in. Trustee Mark Eckert asked what the purpose of the trail to Marcellus would be. Mayor Waterman stated many people would like to walk and bike the trail.

The Village would like to use the anticipated 2025 CHIPS funding of $54,905 and Community Development funding of $50,000 for milling and paving Leroy Street from Genesee Street to Union Free School and First Street from Bingham Place to Newport Road. We have not received confirmation the Village will receive $54,905 as we have in past years and will not know until the State budget is passed. Riccelli has quoted $65,731.20 and $2500 for crack seal crossroads and termination joints for a total of $68,231.20. The remaining $36,000 would be applied to the two TAPCO crossing signs which were approved for purchase at the last meeting. The remaining $16,000 could be rolled over to next year or spent this year on more roads. We are waiting for the official notice from CHIPS.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert and unanimously approved by the Board the quote from Riccelli was approved for milling and paving Leroy Street from Genesee Street to Union Free School and First Street from Bingham Place to Newport Road at a cost of $65,731.20 and $2500 for crack seal crossroads and termination joints for a total of $68,231.20. Riccelli is the County bidder.

Attorney Allan had requested more quotes for the TAPCO crosswalks. Mayor Waterman attempted to get additional quotes. Dan Hammer, County Purchasing, sent back a letter with a higher TAPCO quote and referenced the OMNIA contract stating this should meet our compliance requirements. Richard Kirk Jr had asked about getting a crosswalk in front of 72 Genesee Street.

Mayor Waterman stated we are currently waiting to meet with CNY Community Foundation regarding the $25,000 anticipated grant for the Munro Park sidewalk. Tyler Binns Photography donated his services and took aerial photos of the playground for the Mayor to draw in the planned sidewalk.

The Village needs to set an Arbor Day to continue being a Tree City. Mayor Waterman suggested several locations for new trees and asked the Board for their input and suggestions. A discussion was held regarding locations to plant trees.

The DPW is requesting a stretching machine to help prevent injuries. The Board discussed the idea of purchasing the equipment. Trustee Mark Eckert asked what compels the employee to use the machine? Further questions were whether the employees would stretch before they start work or would they be paid to stretch as part of their workday. At 10 minutes each, the DPW would be 30 minutes into the day before starting work. Attorney Allan asked if this would be part of their job description and if it is part of work then they would be covered by workers’ compensation.

A motion was put forth by Mayor Waterman to purchase a stretching machine from Amazon at a cost of $189 but there was not a second.

The motion was not approved.

A trash can appeared at 15/17 North Street which is overflowing. The DPW has knocked on neighbors’ doors to find the owner, but no one has claimed ownership. The can is not a tipper, too heavy and full of diapers. A discussion was had regarding the trash can. The DPW will be told to empty the can and bring the can to the Village Hall and see if someone calls to claim it.

Mayor Waterman has a meeting on April 23 to discuss the Comprehensive Plan.

**Approval of Vouchers**

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

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert and unanimously approved by the Board approved, Abstract #6 was approved as follows:

General: $43,015.91

Sewer: $24,690.54

Trust: $72.04

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Waterman asked if there were any questions regarding March 3, 2025, Minutes. There were none.

Upon motion of Trustee Lighton, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved the minutes of February 3, 2025, were approved.

**Trustee Comments**

Trustee Mark Eckert asked if the Board needs to approve of the fire department’s disposing of the weight equipment or are they able to dispose of as they see fit? Mayor Waterman stated it must be declared surplus. Attorney Allan stated the Board should get a list of inventories with photos to keep in a file and if equipment turns up missing, call the police department.

Trustee Rinaldo asked who dug the hole at the corner of Leroy and Genesee as it needs black top fill.

Trustee Ann Eckert stated the Village needs to put out a new newsletter with trash updates.

**Clerk Comments**

The Clerk stated annual trash bills will be mailed April 1, 2025.

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Carrie Grooms

Clerk/Treasurer