**VILLAGE OF CAMILLUS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**July 21, 2025**

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

Deputy Mayor Martin Rinaldo

Trustee Ann Eckert

Trustee Mark Eckert

Trustee James Lighton 10 people in attendance

Prior to the start of the meeting, Jed Locquiao, 7 Elderkin, stated he received a letter from Code Enforcement Officer Bill Reagan regarding their overgrown lawn. The owner stated he felt bad cutting the wildflowers in his front yard as he let them grow for the bees and butterflies but he has cut them down as ordered. Mr. Reagan stated the rules of the Village do not allow overgrown wildflowers and weeds. Mr. Locquiao referenced a proposed law which, if passed, will protect the rights of individuals to cultivate native plant gardens NYS Senate Bill 2025-A2122A.

Mayor Richard Waterman opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The next Board meeting is August 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

**Camillus Fire Department**

Engineer Bill Morse stated the fire department is ready to go out to bid with their Vehicle Exhaust Removal System. The bid opening will be held September 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the Village Hall at 37 Main Street Camillus, NY 13031. The bid will be awarded at the Board Meeting on September 15, 2025.

Chief DiFabio stated the fire department is holding training at the former TK Tavern with Warners/Memphis fire department tonight.

Fun Day this past Saturday had a tremendous showing with about 15-20 members helping serve food. Everyone seemed to be having a good time. Mayor Waterman echoed Chief DiFabio’s positive review of the event and member participation. Building improvements are continuing at the fire house.

Chief DiFabio stated the fire department has requested quotes to have the Chiefs vehicles striped and decaled in some fashion to make them more noticeable as requested by the Board.

Chief DiFabio stated the fire department will begin preventive maintenance on the larger fleet with their budgeted funds. Trustee Rinaldo asked about the tires on the vehicles. Chief DiFabio stated Engine 4 tires were done last month.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert and unanimously approved, the Board of Trustees authorized the Exhaust System to be put out for bid.

Mayor Waterman stated he did not see the need to pass a Local Law to temporarily limit parking on First Street at certain times on certain days as the cone placement seems to have deterred the problem parking. Trustee Mark Eckert expressed concerns over people getting used to the cones and going back to parking incorrectly. Attorney Allan, joining by phone, stated controlling the parking problems with cones is better than a Local Law and trying to enforce the law. Trustee Ann Eckert stated there are also signs posted saying “No Parking This Side”.

**Engineer Report**

Engineer Bill Morse stated Casinella Excavating will begin sewer slip lining on Elm Street as soon as they get an updated Certificate of Insurance to the Village and request National Grid to hold one of the poles.

**Code Enforcement**

Code Enforcement Officer Bill Reagan stated in June he had two applications, five reviews, one permit issued, five construction inspections, four fire inspections, three complaints, 29 violation inspections of which about 50% were regarding long lawns from May, four new notices sent, five meetings, and 20 miscellaneous actions including removing signs from telephone poles. There are no new updates on the proposed liquor store.

Mayor Waterman asked about the status of 2 Feederbank Road. Attorney Allan stated he asked the Surrogate Court to appoint a Public Administrator for the estate and Attorney Allan was told to contact the Public Administrator and he has not done that yet. Mr. Reagan asked if there was anything he could do to help with the process while Attorney Allan is out. Attorney Allan stated anyone can file a petition which might get a family member to take action. Mr. Reagan stated no one is complaining about the property but his concern is about the bricks falling off the chimney and the neighbor is parking cars in the back yard so there is potential for someone to get hurt. Discussion was had about going to Supreme Court which can be expensive. Attorney Allan will reach out to the Public Administrator.

Trustee Ann Eckert stated there were numerous signs posted for the continuous garage sale at 31 South Street. She has removed the signs three times as she thinks there is a law against continuous garage sales. A discussion was held about the number of garage sales a person can have in the Village. Liverpool has a law regarding garage sales. Attorney Allan stated he can work on a law similar to Liverpool’s which will limit the number of garage sales a person can have. Currently only one resident is having a continuous garage sale. Trustee Ann Eckert did not feel the Board should put more money into a new law. Attorney Allan stated we should table the discussion of garage sales and visit it if it becomes more of an issue.

Mayor Waterman stated Apple Auto had 43 cars last week during the day and they are only allowed 34 vehicles including cars for sale, customers and employees. Andrei Koval, Apple A&A Properties, LLC has been over the limit several times since the May 19, 2025, meeting and Mr. Reagan would like to issue him an appearance ticket. Trustee Lighton stated this has been a reoccurring problem for years. Attorney Allan asked what the maximum number of cars Mr. Reagan had counted. Mr. Reagan stated 58 vehicles when the maximum is 34 vehicles. Mr. Reagan stated people have difficulty pulling in and out of the parking lot and there is no room to turn around, so people have to back into traffic. Mr. Reagan suggested pulling his special permit and giving it back when he complies. Mr. Reagan has not taken Apple Auto to court as he needs Board approval to do so. Attorney Allan stated Mr. Reagan should take him to court, have Mr. Koval stand before the judge, pay a fine, and get the judge to order Mr. Koval to reduce the number of cars. Mr. Reagan will write up the history of failing to comply and Attorney Allan will appear on behalf of the Village. Attorney Allan will reach out to Dana Grillo, Apple Auto’s attorney, and Mr. Reagan will begin the proceedings to take Apple Auto to court.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert and unanimously approved, the Board authorized Code Enforcement Officer Bill Reagan to take Andrei Koval, Apple A&A Properties, LLC to court.

Mayor Waterman stated there are two bills to pay that require a budget amendment from A1990.4 Contingency. One is Environmental Paving for $2350.00 for the seeding and landscaping of the new sidewalk at Munro Park and the other is an invoice from Mike Rether for $2655.00 for the removal of brush at Timber Ridge and clearing the trench at First Street.

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert and unanimously approved, the Board authorized the following budget amendment for the work completed by Mike Rether on Timber Ridge and the trench on First Street:

A1990.4 Contingency $2655.00

A8510.43 Community Beautification Miscellaneous $2655.00

The motion was duly approved.

Upon motion of Trustee Lighton, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved, the Board authorized the following budget amendment for the work completed by Environmental Paving for the seeding of Munro Park for the new sidewalk:

A1990.4 Contingency $2350.00

A8510.43 Community Beautification Miscellaneous $2350.00

The motion was duly approved.

Mayor Waterman stated Attorney Allan has done a lot of work on the Employee Handbook.

Attorney Allan stated pages 23-24 of the Employee Handbook are ready for Board approval as they pertain to long term full-time employee Sharon Norcross’ health benefits. Mrs. Norcross dropped the Village’s insurance and switched to Medicare and a supplemental policy effective July 1, 2025 to save the Village approximately $17,000 a year. Trustee Rinaldo asked about voting on the Employee Handbook as a whole. Trustee Ann Eckert stated the Board needs time to review the newest draft. Attorney Allan stated the draft of the Employee Handbook has been circulating for about a month with a few new revisions and should be voted on by next month.

Trustee Mark Eckert would like the words “at the Village’s discretion” added to page 23 after “not more than $300 per month”. A discussion was had regarding the language. Trustee Ann Eckert stated the amount was changed from $300 in Draft 1 to $400 in Draft 2 and now on page 24.

Upon motion of Trustee Lighton, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and approved by the Board, the Health Benefits on pages 23-24 of the Draft 2 on the Employee Handbook were approved.

The voting was as follows:

Richard Waterman Mayor Yes

Martin Rinaldo Trustee Yes

Ann Eckert Trustee No

James Lighton Trustee Yes

Mark Eckert Trustee No

The motion was duly approved.

Upon motion of Trustee Lighton, seconded by Trustee Ann Eckert and unanimously by the Board, the remainder of the Employee Handbook will be tabled until the next meeting August 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Waterman thanked Trustee Ann Eckert and Trustee Rinaldo for their help with Family Fun Day. The most popular activities were the balloon man, face painting by the Town Shop youth center, and the bounce house.

Byrne Dairy is ready for demolition. The fire department is on site with Warners/Memphis Fire Department doing training exercises tonight.

Mayor Waterman updated the Board on CHIPS, There is currently $19,217 available for installing crosswalk lights. We have received three quotes for installing the crosswalk lights which go into the ground six feet. The quotes are as follows:

$21,995 – EPS for installation (does not include assembly of lights)

$24,800 – DiKat Inc – includes installation and assembly

$23,700 – BRE (Binghamton Road Electric) – includes installation and assembly

The remaining $4,483 would come from A1990.4 Contingency if the Board goes with BRE. Trustee Ann Eckert asked if we had asked the Town Highway Department as she thought they had assembled and installed their crosswalks. Mayor Waterman stated he thought the County and Town had split the cost, but Trustee Ann Eckert thought Scott Glover had installed a couple. Mr. Reagan asked if the Village could save money by having the highway department dig the holes. Mayor Waterman will check with the Town.

Upon motion of Trustee Mark Eckert, seconded by Trustee Ann Eckert and unanimously approved, the Board authorized Binghamton Road Electric to install two sets of crosswalk lights at a cost of $23,700.00 pending a call to the Town of Camillus.

Mayor Waterman stated the Trustees and Clerks, and their spouses are invited to the Skaneateles Boat Cruise with the Mayors Association on August 20, 2025. The cost is $25 per person for the first six to attend and $72 per person over six. There are eight members able to attend at a total cost of $294.00. Mayor Waterman proposed the Village pay the cost for the members to attend as other municipalities pay for their members to attend.

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert and unanimously approved, the Board authorized the Village to pay for the Board members, clerks, and spouse to attend the Skaneateles Boat Cruise on August 20, 2025.

Mayor Waterman stated the Town of Camillus is saving thousands of dollars with NYS Municipal Energy Consortium (NYSMEC). Mayor Waterman called Jim Gorman, National Grid, to learn more about the program and was told many schools participate but was not aware that municipalities have the program. It is an energy-saving cost which goes through BOCES. Mayor Waterman will contact Sean Joyce and see if they can give a presentation at one of our Board meetings. Attorney Allan would like to see the agreement and if the program did not meet the expectations, could the Village could get out of the program without penalty.

Mayor Waterman read an email regarding Climate Smart Communities through the Central NY Regional Planning. There is a resolution to approve to become a Climate Smart Community. Attorney Allan stated the resolution could be approved with a little adapting. He would like to know if the Village could get out of the program if we changed our mind and if there would be a penalty. There are some steps, goals, and standards the Village needs to complete to try to enhance the climate change problems we have. Mayor Waterman will ask Isabel Willson to make a presentation to the Board.

Mayor Waterman stated there is a loan resolution that needs to be approved for USDA for the Snow Plow truck.

Trustee Lighton asked about refinancing the loan. Mayor Waterman stated if the interest rate goes down before we sign for the loan we will receive the lower rate but if the rate goes up, we are locked in at 4.25%.

Upon motion of Trustee Lighton, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved, the Board approved the $108,000 loan resolution for 15 years at 4.25% interest for the new Snow Plow truck.

A discussion was had about the new policy required for the USDA loan which is the Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The LEP is a plan for municipalities to assist people with limited English proficiency by having a way to translate documents or have a way to translate a conversation with Google translator. Attorney Allan is working on this policy for the Village.

Mayor Waterman stated he has been getting quotes on copier leases with supplies and service as our current copier is costing about $4000 in toner replacement. It appears a copier lease with supplies will save almost $3000 a year and replace our current machine which is damaged. It appears the cost for a lease is about $100 a month for a total of about $1200 annually which is about $3000 in savings. Attorney Allan had asked about Onondaga County contract for leasing and Mayor Waterman has learned there is a contract. We are meeting with Toshiba on Thursday morning.

Mayor Waterman has two grant requests into Senator Chris Ryan’s office to finish the 4 Feederbank Rd garage and repair the Village Hall. Jared, Senator Ryan’s office, stated the grant administrator is out of the office but will be letting us know if there is funding available.

Leanna Nugent, Onondaga County Arborist, stated the tree in front of 57 Main Street is not going to bounce back and needs to be replaced. Mayor Waterman will call Dusart to get a price on a Japanese Lilac Tree. Mayor Waterman would also like to flexi pave around the base of the trees with CHIPS funds next year.

The village office sustained water damage as a result of vandalism where a bottle was found jammed into the gutter causing water to flow into the building damaging the floor upstairs and the ceiling in the meeting hall. The insurance adjuster quoted $17,912.35 for repairs with the $1000 deductible waived plus an additional $4049.33 if the work was completed, totaling $21,961.68 and documentation submitted. Mayor Waterman will look into getting quotes for the repairs.

**Approval of Vouchers**

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

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved by the Board, Abstract #14 was approved as follows:

General: $86,215.94

Sewer: $118.57

Trust: $509.25

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Waterman asked if there were any questions regarding June 16, 2025, Minutes. There were none.

Upon motion of Trustee Lighton, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo and unanimously approved the minutes of June 2, 2025, were approved.

**Trustee Comments**

Trustee Rinaldo stated the new trees at Munro Park had been mowed over inadvertently by the

Town. The sapling planted on Main Street also died.

Trustee Mark Eckert asked if there was any progress on the drain on South Street. Mayor

Waterman asked Mr. Morse if he had completed the list of the drains the Village could do and the

ones that had to be done by a third party. Mr. Morse will call Jason tomorrow and work on the list.

Trustee Rinaldo stated the State was replacing sidewalk sections with truncated domes on Main

Street/Elm Street, Main Street/Union Street, both sides of Union Street/Elm Street and the corner

of Maple Drive and Main Street.

Trustee Ann Eckert asked if the highway department could trim the ground brush under the trees

around the Village. Mayor Waterman will mention this to Jason.

Mayor Waterman requested an Executive Session to discuss three personnel matters and invited

Mr. Reagan to stay for the first session.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert, unanimously approved, the

Board entered Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. for personnel matters.

**Executive Session**

Mayor Waterman invited Mr. Reagan to the first Executive Session.

Upon motion of Trustee Lighton, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo, unanimously approved, the

Board exited Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Lighton and approved, the Board authorized a pay increase to $28.50 for Fire Code Enforcement Officer John Raflowski effective July 1, 2025 who works approximately four hours a week.

The voting was as follows:

Richard Waterman Mayor Yes

Martin Rinaldo Trustee Yes

Ann Eckert Trustee No

James Lighton Trustee Yes

Mark Eckert Trustee No

The motion was duly approved.

Mr. Reagan left the Executive Session.

Upon motion of Trustee Lighton, seconded by Trustee Rinaldo, unanimously approved, the

Board entered Executive Session at 6:42 p.m. for personnel matters.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Lighton, unanimously approved, the

Board exited Executive Session at 7:09 p.m.

Attorney Allan will add the highway department job descriptions to the Employee Handbook.

Upon motion of Trustee Mark Eckert, seconded by Trustee Lighton and unanimously approved, the Board authorized a $1.00 per hour increase for the hours Dylan works as a supervisor if Jason is not available for more than five consecutive workdays.

Upon motion of Trustee Rinaldo, seconded by Trustee Ann Eckert and unanimously approved, the Board authorized $100 per month insurance buyout for eligible full-time employees who opt out of single person health insurance and $150 per month insurance buyout for employees eligible for family insurance who opt out.

Mayor Waterman will advise Jason that he cannot return to work without a doctor’s note releasing him back to work.

Upon motion of Trustee Ann Eckert, seconded by Trustee Mark Eckert, and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Carrie Grooms

Clerk/Treasurer