**VILLAGE OF COXSACKIE**

**BOARD MINUTES**

**January 10, 2022**

Mayor Mark Evans called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Trustee Donald Daoust, Trustee Stephen Hanse and Trustee Rebecca Vermilyea. Trustee Katlyn Irwin was present via Zoom video conference.

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2021 Board Meeting was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

**Correspondence Received**

A letter was received from the Affordable Housing Partnership of the Capital Region advising of a program to assist homeowners who have experienced financial hardships due to Covid.

A letter was received from the Capital Bicycle Racing Club requesting the Village’s assistance in the annual Trooper Brinkerhoff Races on April 9th & April 23rd.

A letter was received from Young/Sommer LLC regarding the certificate of public need for the Champlain Hudson Power Express.

A letter was received from Sleepy Hollow Lake requesting support in their pursuit of funding from the IDA for water quality testing related to the installation of solar arrays nearby.

A letter was received from the Greene County IDA granting the Village 1,000 gallons of sewer capacity in order to pursue sewer hook-up approval from the DEC for the new Hatchet Hardware (Ace) store on Route 9W.

**Liaisons & Board Reports**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board will dispense with the reading of the monthly department head reports, but that all monthly reports are on file with the Village Clerk.

**Motions & Resolutions**

A motion to approve the request received from Jim Warren, of 502 Riverside Avenue, to remove penalties from their water/sewer account in the amount of $ 34.92 was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. Mayor Evans abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the request received from Capital Bicycle Racing Club to hold the annual Trooper Brinkerhoff Race on 4/9 & 4/23 with assistance from the Village Police Department was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Evans gave a statement regarding the Settlement Agreement and Consent Order between United Mobile Homes (UMH) and the Village of Coxsackie. He stated that for 2 ½ years the Village of Coxsackie has been involved in a lawsuit with UMH. Earlier last year it was recommended by counsel that the Village look to settle the lawsuit. The Mayor stated that he may not be happy with everything in this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order, but that it represents the best effort to avoid trial, and gives the Village control of the project through the Planning Board approval process. In the best interest of compromise, this signifies a good deal of effort on both parties to come to an agreement.

Trustee Daoust stated that he feels that it is time to move forward past this lawsuit. The Village’s insurance has accepted this settlement under the direction of counsel. It is time to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Trustee Hanse stated that he feels that this Settlement Agreement and Consent Order is not in the best interest of village residents. He has multiple issues with the agreement.

Trustee Vermilyea stated that she will be recuing herself from voting on the Settlement Agreement and Consent Order due to a conflict of interest. She currently has stock ownership in UMH.

Trustee Irwin stated that although she is not in support of the project or company. However, she does not see a better option for the Village than to settle with UMH.

A roll call vote was taken to approve the Settlement Agreement and Consent Order to settle the lawsuit of United Mobile Homes (UMH) v. Village of Coxsackie et al., with the understand that the Village of Coxsackie is executing subject to judicial approval, and the value of the monetary settlement is materially less than what is claimed, and the Village Board is vesting the Mayor with the authority to sign the proposed Consent Decree. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted no. Trustee Vermilyea abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the water/sewer adjustments from December 1-31, 2021 was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the bills on General Fund Abstract #8, vouchers 555-618 totaling $109,727.55; Water Fund Abstract #8, vouchers 271-304 totaling $ 44,707.84; Sewer Fund Abstract #8, vouchers 202-229 totaling $ 63,815.41; Capital Projects Fund Abstract #8, voucher 8 totaling $ 41,085.60; Adopt A Grave Fund Abstract #8, vouchers 4-6 totaling $ 662.15; Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #8, voucher 25 totaling $ 1,160.16 was made by Trustee Vermilyea and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

**Public Comment Period**

Veronica Foley, of 56 Ely Street, stated that she is happy to see that the Board has agreed to change the way that they post the Board Minutes to allow sufficient time for the public to review before approval. However, it was discussed at the Workshop Meeting that the process will be to instruct the Village Clerk to post the minutes one week after they are typed and submitted to the Board Members for review, with the word “Draft” on them, and she noticed that this policy was not approved via an official vote. She also stated that she did not feel that she was quoted in entirety in the last Board Minutes from December 13, 2021. She had posed a question to Mayor Evans regarding using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase a gear washer/dryer for the Fire Department. She questioned who the Mayor has received guidance from to use these funds to purchase this piece of equipment, when she feels that it is not an acceptable use. His reply was that he received guidance from the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), but there was no further discussion. She notified the Village Board that she has since filed a fraud claim in connection to improperly spending ARPA funds with the proper authorities at New York State. She also requested that the Village Board consider moving forward with continuing to offer the Village meetings via Zoom as well as in person. She stated that if the Board agrees to offer the meetings via Zoom, she would also like to see the meetings recorded and transcribed directly.

No further public comments were offered.

A motion to adjourn the Board meeting was made by Mayor Evans and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Bereznak
Clerk