

**VILLAGE OF COXSACKIE
BOARD MINUTES
March 13, 2023**

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

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2023 Workshop Meeting was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2023 Local Law #2 of 2023 Public Hearing was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2023 Board Meeting was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

Correspondence Received

A letter was received from Brandon Coats, of 11933 Rt. 9W, asking for a 1-year payment plan to pay off his water/sewer account balance of \$2,954.83.

A letter was received from NYS DEC regarding Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands Permit for South River Street Drainage Improvements.

A letter was received from Greene County Economic Development, Planning and Tourism, introducing James Hannahs, as Director of Economic Development, and also explaining the many opportunities available.

A letter was received from the Town of Coxsackie Assessors Office requesting a member list of firefighters for the property tax exemption.

A letter was received from Coxsackie Hose Co. #3 advising that their banquet is on Saturday, April 8th, 2023.

An email was received from the CBIZ Valuation Group, LLC, who is contracted by NYMIR, the Village's new insurance company, stating that they are looking to come and perform a site visit of all buildings.

An email was received from Demetri Chriss regarding the hazardous state of Ely Street sidewalks for pedestrians.

An email was received from Veronica Foley regarding the NY Forward Grant Proposal.

Correspondence Sent

The Annual Village Update Letter was sent to Village residents.

New Business

The Mayor stated that present tonight are Samantha Pigeon, and Chellie Apa, who have submitted a proposal for some beautification in the Village, such as; replacing the flower box on the corner of Van Dyck Street and Mansion Street, installing some new flower boxes, and installing some new hanging flower baskets in the downtown area.

Chellie Apa stated that they would like to start with 12 hanging baskets, 12 floor pots, and 2 window boxes, which will go where the fence is in front of Bethany Village. They would like to have some color as people enter the Village. What they are proposing is \$1,600.00 for all of these planters. The Village would be responsible for watering, fertilizing, and taking care of the plants. Blackhorse Farms is going to donate an additional 6 hanging baskets, and 6 pots, for a total of 18 planters. That will provide some color throughout the Village.

The Mayor stated that if the Village is going to move forward with this, then the Department of Public Works would need to purchase some sort of water tank, or device, to allow them to go around and keep the plants watered. Also, similar to what is done with the Veteran's Banners and Christmas decorations, the Village will have to obtain a permit from Central Hudson to hang the planters on the telephone poles.

Trustee Hanse asked what poles the women were thinking about putting the hanging baskets on.

Chellie Apa stated that they are looking to use the poles downtown to keep it centrally located, and for the ease of watering the plants. She said that Dianne Ringwald tried to start this many years ago. They are looking to do this project in memory of Dianne Ringwald.

Samantha Pigeon stated that they are looking to name it the "Dianne Ringwald Beautification Project".

Mayor Evans stated that in addition to the \$1,600.00 budget, there would be some cost to for the DPW to purchase watering tanks.

Trustee Hanse asked what inspired Ms. Apa and Ms. Pigeon to start this project.

Samantha Pigeon stated that they had started talking about this before Covid-19 started. They just noticed that driving through other Towns and seeing their flowers, that Coxsackie could use some beautification as well.

Chellie Apa stated that they also do this for the City of Rensselaer, and the Glen Sanders Mansion. She feels that Coxsackie needs something like this.

Trustee Hanse stated that he would even like to see it come further up Mansion Street, not just downtown.

Chellie Apa stated that that could be done in the future. Right now, they could do 18 poles if they did one on each, but she thinks that it would look better with two on each pole.

Mayor Evans stated that he thinks that this is a great idea. As of right now, the money has been expended out of that budget line item. However, the Board can certainly look into budgeting this money for the new fiscal year starting June 1st.

A motion to approve the Dianne Ringwald Beautification Project was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

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.

Mayor Evans stated that as everyone may have noticed, the Village of Coxsackie has received a \$4.5 million NY Forward Grant. There is a gentleman from NYS coming down later this week to introduce himself, and explain the start of the grant process to the Board. The Board is in uncharted territory, since the Village has never received a grant like this one before. They don't yet know the details of how everything is going to work, other than some generalities about it. What he has been told though, is that it will be some time before any projects will actually start. There is a process that the Village has to follow, and since it is NYS money, the Village will be sure to follow that process.

Motions & Resolutions

A motion to approve the request received from Brandon Coats, of 11933 Route 9W, to enter into a 1-year payment plan to pay off his water/sewer account balance of \$2,954.83 was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the request received from Laura Ingram, of 6 John Street, asking to remove penalties in the amount of \$48.13 from her water/sewer account was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the Peddler's Permit application received from Mr. Ding-A-Ling to sell ice cream from April 1st through October 1st was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the request received from Empire State Capital Volkssporters (ESCV), a walking group, looking to hold a walk in Cocksackie on September 30, 2023 was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling the Annual Organizational Meeting to be held on Monday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling the dates of 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13 and 4/20 at 6:00 p.m. as Budget Work Sessions was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2023-Authorizing a Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-C for Thursday, April 20th at 5:30 p.m. was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for the 2023-2024 Proposed Tentative Budget for Thursday, April 20th at 5:45 p.m. was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to deny awarding any bids received for the purchase of the 6'x10' aluminum sewer dump trailer was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve putting the 6'x10' aluminum sewer dump trailer out to bid for a second time was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve water/sewer adjustments from February 1-28, 2023 was made by Trustee Hanse and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the following Appropriation Changes was made by Mayor Evans and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

Appropriation Changes

Meeting:

March 13, 2023

Description: AS PER BOARD APPROVAL or UNANTICIPATED REVENUE (if using revenue)

*****Budget Journal-Fiscal Year Ending 5/31/2021*****

General Fund						
From (Debit)			To (Credit)			
Account	Account #	Amount	Account	Account #	Amount	
Street Cleaning-Contractual	A8170.4	\$ 4,000.00	Brush & Weeds-Contractual	A5140.4	\$ 4,000.00	
Christmas By The River Revenue	A2089CHF	\$ 1,801.00	Christmas By The River-Contractual	A7010.45	\$ 1,801.00	
Office-Equipment	A1325.2	\$ 1,100.00	Auditors-Contractual	A1320.4	\$ 1,100.00	
Personal Services-SRO	A3120.13	\$ 6,991.63	Police-Equipment	A3120.2	\$ 6,991.63	
		\$ 13,892.63			\$ 13,892.63	

A motion to approve the bills on General Fund Abstract #10, vouchers 564-615 totaling \$66,954.26; Water Fund Abstract #10, vouchers 344-378 totaling \$51,426.06; Sewer Fund Abstract #10, vouchers 272-294 totaling \$32,959.22; Heroes Banner Fund Abstract #10, voucher 9 totaling \$468.00; Owl Project Fund Abstract #10, voucher 11 totaling \$95.00; Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #10, vouchers 21-25 totaling \$1,265.65 was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Hanse. Trustee Hanse voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

Public Comment Period

Gavin Hanse asked if there are any plans to have a sidewalk on Bailey Street.

Mayor Evans stated that there are no plans to extend it as of right now. Every few years there is grant money available through the Safe Routes to School Program. The Village has applied at least once or twice in the past, but have not been selected. The Village applied for the sidewalk project that went down Washington Avenue and into JCB Development, but was unsuccessful. The Village will keep looking for opportunities, but there isn't anything planned right now.

Trustee Hanse stated that what is planned is sidewalks going down the other end of Sunset Boulevard to Bailey Street.

Mayor Evans stated that this summer the Village wants to extend across the driveway of the school, by the softball field, and down Sunset Boulevard. They would like to put in a crosswalk there as well. That will create a safe spot for kids to cross.

Christopher Hanse stated that he wants to express his support in relation to Demetri Chriss's email regarding the hazardous condition of the Ely Street sidewalks. He feels that they are in need of replacement.

Mayor Evans stated that the Board feels that this is needed as well. The biggest debate is what will happen to the slate that is currently there.

Trustee Irwin stated that the trees there are so incredibly old. Their roots is what has caused the most damage to those slate sidewalks. The micro-burst that the Village experienced really took care of a majority of those trees.

Mayor Evans stated that there are a few more trees that the Village may need to take care of, but luckily, Greene County often works with the Village on sending a tree cutting crew to assist in taking down trees. The Village just needs to dispose of the wood. This saves the Village thousands of dollars.

Christopher Hanse stated that he has a concern regarding traffic down Mansion Street, to the intersection of Reed Street and Ely Street. He feels that that should be a 3-way stop at some point. There should also be crosswalks at this intersection, so that it gives cars notice that there is a stop sign there, and some sort of benefit to pedestrians.

Trustee Irwin stated that she thinks that the same should be done for coming down South River Street as well.

Mayor Evans stated that there is a part in the NY Forward grant application where the Village needs to look at the downtown traffic flow. He thinks that this could be addressed as part of the evaluation.

Christopher Hanse stated that the justification is that there is new development downtown, and therefore, more people and traffic. The Coxsackie Police Department also needs to enforce people not stopping at the stop signs.

Alex Hanse stated that Coxsackie is becoming more of a tourist destination, and anything that can be done to increase the walkability of the downtown area would pay for itself in spades, in the long run.

Christopher Hanse stated that he has a grievance regarding the Christmas lights on the poles shining in his bedroom window.

Alex Hanse stated that he admires the Christmas lights. However, the ones downtown are hard to see.

Mayor Evans stated that the Village bought LED Christmas lights that were promised to last much longer, and the bulbs blew out. The Village spent a lot of money on these, so it was disappointing.

Gavin Hanse asked who is in charge of the plants in the park downtown.

Mayor Evans stated that NYS put them in, but the Village is going to try and take care of them. The Village didn't really have a choice in the vegetation that was planted.

Gavin Hanse asked where people are going to park with the uprising of tourism in Coxsackie. The parking downtown is horrific.

Mayor Evans stated that that is probably going to be addressed as part of the NY Forward grant.

Mayor Evans stated that this is Trustee Hanse's last meeting, and he wants to personally thank him for all of his help, friendship, and leadership, over the 14 years that he has been on the Board. Trustee Hanse has been on the Board for 16 years, and that is incredible. He said that Trustee Hanse has been a dedicated public servant to the Village, and he appreciates it, he knows that the Board Members that have served with him over the years greatly appreciate it, and he knows that the residents appreciate it.

Mayor Evans presented Trustee Hanse with a plaque on behalf of the Village Board.

Trustee Hanse thanked the Village Board. He said that it has been his privilege to serve on the Board. He loves the Village of Coxsackie, the people who live here, and what the Village stands for. He is grateful for the opportunity, for Dianne Ringwald, and thankful for the public servants that he has served with who really exemplified their love of Coxsackie. He is very grateful for the Village Trustees and Mayor that the Village has now. It is bittersweet. There are times where

he wonders if he made the right decision to not run for another term, but he feels that he has made the right decision. He feels that the village is in good hands, and has a super bright future as a community that will grow in a direction that will allow the people who live here, and work here, to really flourish here. One of the topics that came up tonight were sidewalks, and sidewalks are a priority because the children of the community have always been a priority to him. The Village developed great projects for those children over time, and there will be more, since children need safe routes around the village. So, he thinks sidewalks are always a priority. He looks forward to seeing our village get stronger, and more beautiful. Most of all, he would like to thank his family. He loves them all more than they will ever know, and it means the world to him that they took their time to come to this meeting. He is grateful for all who want to make this village even more beautiful, and these are the things that are critical in the village. He has said this before, and he'll say it again, but really on a village level there aren't any politics. They all see the issues here as residents. There are no Democratic or Republican issues. Everyone who wants to serve, and does serve, really loves this community, and wants to make it better, and he is super grateful for that. He thanked everyone, and stated that it has been a privilege, and a pleasure.

No further public comments were offered.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Berezna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Nikki Berezna
Clerk