

**VILLAGE OF COXSACKIE
BOARD MINUTES
May 8, 2023**

Mayor Mark Evans called the Board Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were Trustee Donald Daoust, Trustee Katlyn Irwin, Trustee Rodney Levine, and Trustee Rebecca Vermilyea.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2023 Organizational Meeting was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Rodney Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2023 Budget Work Session was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Rodney Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve minutes from the April 10, 2023 Board Meeting was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Rodney Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2023 Budget Work Session was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Rodney Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2023 Local Law #3 of 2023 Public Hearing was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. Trustee Irwin and Trustee Levine abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2023 2023-2024 Proposed Tentative Budget Public Hearing was made Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Rodney Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2023 Budget Work Session was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Rodney Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

Correspondence Received

A letter was received from the tenants at Peppertree Apartments asking the Village Board to consider placing a bench near the sidewalk for smokers to sit.

A letter was received from from PERMA asking the Village to support a bill in the legislature that would allow PERMA to continue to offer the ACP or Alternative Contribution Program.

A bill was received from Emminger, Newton, Pigeon, Magyar, Inc. for appraisal of Peppertree Apartments for the appraisal challenge lawsuit.

A letter was received from DEC granting sewer moratorium relief for connecting a new home at 32 Warren Avenue.

A letter was received from Village Historian, Betty Cure, on a request of the Friends of the Library that the Village name the Daffodil as the official Village flower.

Correspondence Sent

Letters were sent to Sunset Vista residents who have a past due water/sewer bill, advising that shut offs will occur soon if the Village does not hear from them.

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.

Trustee Daoust stated that Veterans Banners are going well. They gained another 38 banners this year. You'll see that they're putting up banners tomorrow, starting on Washington Avenue, coming up Mansion Street, doing Reed Street, and a couple of side streets. It's been very well received this year, and all the people that had banners last year are really happy to be going back up, and they're all in 100% good shape. So, they're going to last another year now. He definitely wants to thank the DPW for helping them by putting them up. There's about 75 to go.

Trustee Vermilyea stated that the Cemetery Committee have a meeting coming up on Wednesday. They are looking to start cleaning the headstones down in Riverside Cemetery. Some of the stones are in really bad shape. So, they'll start cleaning some of those up.

Mayor Evans stated that the Memorial Day Parade is coming up on Memorial Day. Lineup is at 1:00 p.m. up on Apple Blossom Lane, and then step-off is at 2:00 p.m. He said that the New York Forward Grant, the \$4.5 million grant that the Village received, will be referred to the Local Planning Committee (LPC). That committee has been established. There are members, 14 members, he thinks, on the committee. This has all been at the direction of the Department of State. The Village is following their rules, and their guidelines. As far as that goes, he had a Zoom call today with the consultant and their folks, which are multiple other companies involved in various specialties, and there's training that will be required by all the people on the committee this week online. Then there's a potential first date for a kickoff Meeting. He doesn't want to say when it is yet until it's confirmed, but within the next few weeks or so. So, that should get going. As of right now, all the Meetings will be here at Village Hall. Probably on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. That's what they're shooting for. At the desire of the State, there will be no Zoom option. They want in person participation. So, they will gauge the first meeting. If they exceed capabilities of this room, the Village will offer that the second Meeting will be moved to the Auditorium at the School, or some larger venue that can be utilized. The first meeting will be here, and look for it to be publicized. He said that he would hope by the end of the week, at the very least.

Motions & Resolutions

A motion to approve the request received from Chris Reda, of 100 New Street, asking for the waiving of penalties in the amount of \$66.89 from his water/sewer account, due to not receiving the bill was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the request received from Mary Ann Murphy, of 23 Law Street, asking for the waiving of penalties in the amount of \$66.13 from her water/sewer account, due to her inadvertently not paying the January billing was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve sending a letter to the Town of Coxsackie asking if they would like to share

the cost of a Comprehensive Plan update for Town & Village was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling a Special Work Session-Water & Sewer Rate Review for Monday, May 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve accepting the bid received in the amount of \$8,900.00 from TOM14903, via Auctions International, for the Wastewater 2020 Mission MODP 6 x 10 trailer was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the request received from the Cocksackie Yacht Club to grant them a noise variance until midnight on Saturday, July 15th for their annual fundraiser, with the understanding that they hand out flyers notifying the neighbors was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken on Resolution No. 152023- Resolution for Standard Workday and Reporting for Appointed Officials-Police Chief. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted no. The resolution passed.

A roll call vote was taken on Resolution No. 162023- Declaration of Official Intent Related to McQuade Park Project. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The resolution passed.

A motion to approve water/sewer adjustments from April 1-30, 2023 was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the bills on General Fund Abstract #12, vouchers 676-726 totaling \$95,767.95; Water Fund Abstract #12, vouchers 413-443 totaling \$49,678.00; Sewer Fund Abstract #12, vouchers 328-353 totaling \$54,654.17; Capital Projects Fund Abstract #12, voucher 12 totaling \$5,172.50; Heroes Banner Fund Abstract #12, vouchers 11-12 totaling \$1,676.00; Owl Project Fund Abstract #12, voucher 13 totaling \$150.00; Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #12, voucher 26 totaling \$0.28 was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

Public Comment Period

Veronica Foley asked if the Board could tell the public who is on this Local Planning Committee.

Mayor Evans stated that he could not tell the public yet.

Veronica Foley asked if it is a mix of people. She asked if the Board could give the public a general idea.

Mayor Evans stated that it's a good mix of people, and mix of people from the village, and business owners, owners of buildings that are in the downtown area, people and businesses

throughout Coxsackie, residents of both inside the village, and outside the village, and not for profits. They were contacted by the Department of State. However, the Mayor was able to recommend people for these positions.

Veronica Foley asked what the committee members roles would be at the meetings, and if there would be public comment allowed.

Mayor Evans stated that the public will be involved, but he is not sure if there will be public input at each Meeting. All LPC members are expected to be present at each Meeting. It is projected to take 7 months. He has been told that the Village needs to stay on that path, because it is all supposed to conclude at roughly the same time along with every other community that received the grant. The Department of State representative should be here, as well as multiple people from the consulting company that the State hired.

Veronica Foley asked how frequent these meetings will be over that 7 month period.

Mayor Evans stated that he is told once a month. That could change depending on what needs to be addressed. However, they said at least once a month.

Veronica Foley asked if when the Board knows more about the participation in these meetings if the public can expect an update like this at the public meeting. She is interested in knowing the mechanics of when the public can speak or participate.

Mayor Evans stated that he certainly will. He would say that at the meeting, the folks from the State will probably lay the groundwork for how things will work going forward.

Trustee Irwin stated that for the record, the Village Board is not involved in this process.

Mayor Evans stated that no Village elected officials are able to be on this committee, except for the Mayor, and apparently the regulations are that the CEO, or the head of the municipality, is the Co-Chair of the committee. The other Co-Chair is a gentleman from the Capital District Regional Economic Development Committee. He has not met him yet in person, but he did meet him on Zoom today. All of the other committee people are local residents. No other Village Board Members are allowed to be on the committee. He thought that they would be able to, but that is the rule. They went as far as to involve the School, and get School Board Members, but was told that they cannot be on the committee because they are also elected. The Village does have representation from the School, however, but it could not be anybody who is elected. They have very specific rules surrounding this, and so the Village is taking their lead.

Cynthia VanStone stated that she is here to reinforce the letter received from Betty June Cure. The Friends of the Library are asking that the Village make the Daffodil the official Village flower. They are looking to start a resident garden plan. If the Daffodil is made the official flower, she is able to get discounts from vendors. She has been working on this for a while. The Daffodil is the first flower that blooms after Winter, even in the snow. The other reason they chose the Daffodil is that because the Deer do not eat it, sit on it, or walk on it. Nothing will eat a Daffodil, or Daffodil bulb. The Daffodil will bloom for over 3 months in the right conditions. If you ever go to England or Ireland in May, all of the courtyards are filled with Daffodils. It is utterly beautiful. She used to talk to Joseph Ellis about it. The Community Garden has plans to put them in, and the Friends of the Library are going to put them in at the Library. She thinks that it would be stunning, and they grow and multiply nicely. Her plan is to have different groups to agree to plant them, as well as try to get resident participation. It would look really beautiful.

Trustee Levine asked if they looked at any other flowers.

Cynthia VanStone stated that they did look at other flowers. Also, when researching this, they found that the Village does not have an official flower, but does have an official shrub, which is the Hawthorn Shrub. Betty June Cure has all of the former Garden Club Minutes. One of the things she did think about was that it would be nice to go with a native flower. However, a lot of flowers pose some problems. A lot of places choose flowers that bloom early, like lilacs. Betty June Cure felt that the Daffodil was in keeping with the Dutch heritage of the area. The Daffodils bloom for a long period of time, and people are kind of guaranteed to enjoy them.

Trustee Daoust asked if Daffodils kill other flowers.

Cynthia VanStone stated that the Daffodil does not kill other flowers if it is in the ground, but it does if it is in a vase with other flowers. She said that when Daffodils spread it is very dense. So, they can push other things out.

A motion to approve naming the Daffodil as the official Village of Cocksackie flower was made by Trustee Vermilyea and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

Trustee Daoust stated that he has a concern with the safety of people down on Reed Street, with the vehicles going down the street, and now Che Figata put their tables back out on the street. He just has a bad feeling that someone could lose control and run into the people sitting at those tables. Again, this is just his opinion, but he is wondering if there is something that the Board can do to regulate this.

Trustee Irwin stated that the Board approved Che Figata's outdoor setup for the last two years. If it is something that the Board is going to discuss and make a decision on, maybe they look into requiring cement Jersey Barriers around the perimeter of the outdoor seating area, since it is extending out into the middle of a public 2-way road. It's probably a discussion for another time, but she realizes that with everything that has gone on, parking is now more of an issue than in previous years when discussed. The Board should at least look into what would be technically required in terms of safety.

Trustee Vermilyea stated that she agrees that it is nice that they are out there, but wonders why they can't be on the sidewalk instead of the street. It creates a parking and safety problem.

Mayor Evans stated that it sounds like a further discussion needs to be had amongst the Board about this.

Trustee Daoust asked if there is an issue with the Hunter Bus Garage hooking into the Village sewer line.

Mayor Evans stated that there is currently a request for this before DEC. However, they need to get a Grinder Pump because of the distance the sewer will have to travel. There are no plans before the Town of Cocksackie Board yet. Only a letter was sent to DEC requesting permission for relief from the Sewer Moratorium. Hunter Bus Garage needs engineering work done.

Trustee Vermilyea asked if the Board is going to address the correspondence received from the tenants of Peppertree Apartments requesting that the Village purchase a bench, and the letter received from the Backus family asking for relief on their water/sewer bill.

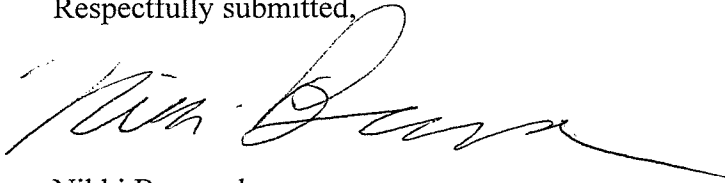
Mayor Evans stated that the Board is declining to act on the request from the tenants of Peppertree Apartments regarding the bench, and that the request received from the Backus family will be discussed at the next Work Session.

No further public comments were offered.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 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 stroke extending to the right.

Nikki Berezna
Clerk