

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

Mayor Mark Evans called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present was Trustee Donald Daoust, Trustee Katlyn Irwin, Trustee Rodney Levine, and Trustee Rebecca Vermilyea.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2023 Workshop Meeting was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2023 Local Law #6 of 2023 Public Hearing was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine and Trustee Vermilyea abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2023 Local Law #7 of 2023 Public Hearing 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 minutes from the October 9, 2023 Board Meeting was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

Invited Guests

Randall Squier, Coxsackie-Athens School Superintendent, stated that he is present tonight to inform the public about the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District's proposed \$29.4 million capital project. This capital project is designed to enhance the well-being of students, faculty, and the community as a whole. The state-mandated Building Condition Survey, completed in 2020, began the development of this capital project to prioritize improvements to health and safety, educational programming, and access to mental health resources. Some proposed improvements to the Middle/High School include adding card access to select exterior doors, replacing domestic water piping, installing air conditioning in high school and middle school second floor classrooms, replacing select EPDM roofing, renovating 3 high school science classrooms, expanding the fitness center adjacent to the middle school gymnasium, providing a renovation of 3 existing classrooms into a new wellness suite, providing a multi-purpose synthetic turf field and new softball field, and reconstruct west side middle school parking lot and access drive. Prolonged use and changes in 21st century science curriculum call for renovations to the 1970's science classrooms at the high school. The proposed project will provide new furniture, casework, finishes, and add air conditioning to three science classrooms, improving the learning environment for students. To enhance wellness for students and community members, the proposed project will renovate and enlarge the fitness center. This will allow for increased equipment to accommodate the district's fitness needs and provide an easily accessible space free of charge for community use. With the creation of a new wellness suite, Coxsackie-Athens CSD will be able to consolidate resources for counselors, school psychologists, and mental health workers in one space. This will enhance interdepartmental collaboration and access to school resources for improved student wellness. Enhanced health and wellness at Coxsackie-Athens CSD is the primary focus of this project. The proposed improvements to the Coxsackie Elementary School is to replace knob door hardware with lever hardware, add card access to select exterior doors, renovate the kitchen, renovate the second floor classrooms and provide air conditioning, replace select drainage pipes for improved stormwater management, replace and widen sidewalks, reconstruct the basketball court area,

extend sidewalks within playground areas for improved ADA compliance, and replace the playground with accessible equipment and play surface. The proposed improvements to Edward J. Arthur Elementary School include improving exterior door hardware function at the main entrance, adding card access to select exterior doors, replacing domestic water piping, rewire technology cabling, renovating the kitchen, renovating the second-floor classrooms, providing air conditioning, reconstructing the basketball court area, replacing the playground equipment for improved accessibility, and resurfacing the tennis courts. To improve classroom environments for students and teachers and provide a more comfortable space for learning to take place, this proposed project will completely renovate and install air conditioning in the second-floor classrooms at both elementary schools. Renovations to the elementary school kitchens will provide more modern finishes, surfaces, and equipment to improve the food serving process during breakfast and lunch periods. In addition to upgrading finishes, lighting, flooring, and casework in the existing mid-century classrooms, the classroom renovations will provide new furniture for enhanced collaboration and ensure each classroom has dedicated areas where a variety of learning, play, and socialization activities can take place. Both playgrounds will receive upgraded play surfaces for improved safety and accessible equipment to enhance ADA compliance and provide outdoor play spaces for all students. There is also a proposed improvement to the multi-purpose field. Synthetic turf will prolong annual use and withstand weather conditions. The project is also proposing a combined grass practice field for soccer and baseball. The capital project cost is \$29,415,000.00, with estimated financing coming from a combination of capital reserve, state aid, and project bonding. The 2023 capital project proposal includes allocating \$1,000,000.00 of capital reserves to the overall cost of the project. Coxsackie-Athens CSD will receive approximately 71% back on eligible project costs through the use of the State Building Aid, reducing the cost incurred by the district. The remaining balance will be bonded to pay for this project. Bond payments will be largely offset by state aid, anticipated increased PILOTS revenue, and retiring debt. As far as the tax impact, the estimated tax increase is up to \$0.86 per \$1,000 of assessed home value. Voting on this capital project will be on Tuesday, December 12th from 12 p.m.-9 p.m. at the C-A Elementary Schools. He said that the public can learn more by visiting www.cacsd.org.

Mayor Evans asked what the timeframe of the project would be if it gets approved.

Mr. Squier stated that optimistically it would be out for bid winter of 2024, with the work starting spring/summer of 2025, and hopefully finished by the fall of 2026.

Trustee Vermilyea asked how enrollment figures were looking.

Mr. Squier stated that it is a steady decline as far as district wide goes, that is why they are able to repurpose these areas. Graduating classes are in the 90's, and the elementary schools have 70's in each grade. He said that there are public forums Wednesday, November 15th at 6:00 p.m. at the Athens Elementary School, as well as Tuesday, November 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the Coxsackie High School library.

Correspondence Received

A letter was received from Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Candice Herbek, resigning from the position.

A letter was received from Greene County stating that they will be having a study done on the EMS service in Greene County, and they invite the Village of Coxsackie to make any comment as the Task Force meets.

A letter was received from Champlain Hudson Power Express explaining their route through the village area, and providing contact information. Work is scheduled for next spring in the village

area.

Correspondence Sent

A letter was sent to Ken Hetrick, former Wastewater Treatment Plant employee, regarding the amount he owes the Village of Coxsackie for training that he received.

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 Michael and Tara Barberi, of 216 Mansion Street and 17-19 Church Street, asking to have the penalties removed from their water/sewer accounts for a combined total of \$196.66, across 5 accounts was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. 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 letter of resignation received from Candice Herbek from her position as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve renewing the MVP Silver 8 QHDHP EPO health insurance plan for employees effective 12/1/23 was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve increasing the salary for Scott Martell, Superintendent of Public Works, to \$66,268.80/year was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve increasing the salary for Nikki Bereznak, Clerk, to \$50,000.00/year was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. 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. 292023-Adopting the Revised 2023 Greene County Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan. 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 October 1-31, 2023 was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. 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 #6, vouchers 307-373 totaling \$125,894.70; Water Fund Abstract #6, vouchers 154-189 totaling \$117,143.36; Sewer Fund Abstract #6, vouchers 139-168 totaling \$77,837.14; Capital Projects Fund Abstract #6, vouchers 6-7 totaling \$6,318.40; Heroes Banner Fund Abstract #6, vouchers 16-17 totaling \$486.93; Owl Project Fund Abstract #6, vouchers 18-21 totaling \$4,543.26; Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #6, vouchers 9-10 totaling \$1,121.50 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.

Public Comment Period

Mayor Evans stated that he would like to formally introduce Jennie Rundell, who is present tonight, as the new Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. He said that he has known her for many years living in the village. He is very pleased to have her working for the Village. Today was her very first day, and he wishes her the best of luck.

Barton Wallace asked if Randall Squier was present at the meeting tonight to discuss the C-A School capital project.

Mayor Evans stated that he was at the meeting earlier and gave a presentation on the capital project and has since left.

Barton Wallace stated that he would just like to add that there will be a video coming out on the school district's website that the public can view, and that if any community members individually, or as a group, would like the school committee members to come and speak to them, they are willing to do so.

Mayor Evans stated that the DPW is done for the year with sidewalks. They did a great job getting a lot of sidewalks done, repaired, etc. The Village got the Bailey Street intersection done, which is a huge improvement, and extending down past Hose Company #3 firehouse. In talking with the fire company, the apron in front of the firehouse will need to be redone in the next several years. He told them that when they are looking to do the apron work, to let the Village know, and the sidewalk can be extended. The section of sidewalk on Sunset Boulevard was also completed. There has been great feedback on the crosswalk that was put in across from Sunset Apartments as well.

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 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Bereznak
Clerk