

Village of Coxsackie

Workshop Minutes

January 4, 2024

The Workshop Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mark Evans at 6:00 p.m. Present were Trustee Donald Daoust, Trustee Katlyn Irwin, Trustee Rodney Levine, and Trustee Rebecca Vermilyea.

Correspondence Received

A memo was received from Roemer, Wallens, Gold & Mineaux, the Village's labor attorneys, on new laws in effect.

A memo was received from Roemer, Wallens, Gold & Mineaux on the IRS mileage reimbursement for 2024 from 65.5 cents to 67 cents per mile.

A letter was received from Central Hudson regarding routine line clearance program.

A letter was received from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) granting sewer moratorium connection relief for 0 and 55 Sutton Place.

A letter was received from Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) awarding the Village a \$1.5 million sewer line grant.

A letter was received from EFC regarding information needed for the \$1.5 million sewer line grant.

A letter was received from Champlain Hudson Power Express regarding the start date of January 15, 2024 for the project.

Water & Sewer Requests

The Board discussed the request received from Tara McSherry, of 137 Riverside Avenue, asking to waive her late fees in the amount of \$20.72 from her water/sewer account. After deliberation, it was determined that it will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on January 8th.

The Board discussed the request received from Wayne & Aaron Flach, of 2 Reed Street/31-33 South River Street, requesting consideration of the water use charges in the amount of \$13,921.44 supposedly caused by a tenant leaving the water running. After deliberation, it was determined that the request will be denied, but the Board will offer a payment plan if that is helpful.

Champlain Hudson Power Express

Mayor Evans stated that the Champlain Hudson Power Express has provided an updated Road Use Agreement (RUA) for the portion of the project that will go through the Village. The original RUA was done several years ago. So, a new one had to be done to include more specific designs and impacts. The new RUA also includes language on a donation amount given to the Village. Village Counsel has looked it over and found that the only legal issue is the mention of going through, over, or under a park. In this instance it would be Firemens' Park. After Village Counsel spoke with Champlain Hudson Power Express' Counsel, they were able to find a

workaround to put in the agreement. The Board is awaiting a final draft.

RVs in Driveways & Shipping Containers

Mayor Evans stated that last month the Board discussed considering legislation regarding the regulation of RV's parked in resident's driveways. There currently is nothing in the Village's Code regulating such a thing. The potential issues with having people living in a parked RV is the noise it would generate for neighbors, such as running generators, and the lack of oversight on whether the water/sewer usage and disposal is handled correctly. Other communities have local laws pertaining to regulating RV's. He stated that the Board may also want to include regulation on shipping containers, dumpsters, and tractor trailers. He said that he had sent the Village Attorney an email explaining their concerns, and the Village Attorney will draft something for the Board to look at.

Village Complex Paving

Mayor Evans stated that the Village had received an estimate to pave the Village complex. The Board needs to have a discussion about potentially using American Rescue Plan Act funds, along with other funds, to pay for this. Mayor Evans stated that last month he asked Scott Martell, Superintendent of Public Works, to get new updated estimates with, and without, milling. It is cheaper to not have to mill first. He will also approach the church and State Telephone about contributing towards the project since they use the parking lot also.

Planning Board Vacancy

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to discuss a replacement for the vacant Planning Board position after Christine Martin resigned. The Planning Board Chairman, Robert Van Valkenburg, Jr., suggested appointing the current Alternate Planning Board Member, Matthew Bennett, as a full Member. The Board can then look to fill the Alternate Planning Board Member position. After deliberation, it was determined that the Board will review Mr. Bennett's resume, and if there are no objections it will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on January 8th.

Crossing Guards

Mayor Evans stated that the Village will be potentially losing a Crossing Guard, and is already down a Crossing Guard position that has not been filled. The Board needs to have a discussion about any next steps the Village can take to find another Crossing Guard. Mayor Evans stated that after last month's discussion, he sent an email to Randall Squier, the Cocksackie-Athens School Superintendent, regarding the school assisting in recruiting for the position. He has not heard back from Mr. Squier yet, but he will follow up with a phone call. After deliberation, the Board stated that they would like to have the Crossing Guards count how many kids cross during the morning and afternoon, and take a look at that data.

Bench Donation/Dedication at McQuade Park

Mayor Evans stated that the Board needs to discuss which type of bench they want to allow at McQuade Park. Last month, Mary Higgins sent an email to the Mayor stating that she wants to donate and dedicate a bench in honor of her sister. She provided some examples of the types of benches she was looking at. The Mayor had directed her to the Miracle Recreation site as that is the company that produced the existing playground. He told her that he would bring her request before the rest of the Board. He stated that he personally thinks that the Village should stick with Miracle as to keep the style and coloring of the park equipment all the same. He is afraid that if the Village starts to allow different styles and color variations there will be no uniformity. After

deliberation, it was determined that the Board does not want the bench in McQuade Park, and rather see it in Riverside Park. This would require Ms. Higgins to reach out to NYS Parks for her approval.

Parking Spots at the Department of Public Works

Mayor Evans stated that there have been issues raised from residents on Mansion Street across from the DPW Garage at 38 Mansion Street about designating parking spots for local residents vs. Short-Term Rental users at the DPW Garage. After deliberation, it was determined that the Board is not going to act on this matter.

Village Cemetery Rules

Mayor Evans stated that last month the Board reviewed the proposed Cemetery Rules for the Village Cemetery on Mansion Street. After deliberation, it was determined that it will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on January 8th.

Town of Coxsackie/Hose Company #3 Fire Contract

Mayor Evans stated that the Fire Contract with the Town of Coxsackie and Hose Company #3 is up for renewal. After deliberation, it was determined that it will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on January 8th.

Mileage Reimbursement

Mayor Evans stated that the Board needs to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement for 2024, which is being changed from 65.5 cents to 67 cents per mile. After deliberation, it was determined that it will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on January 8th.

Officer Brandon Ewing

Mayor Evans stated that the Board needs to accept the resignation received from Brandon Ewing as Police Officer. After deliberation, it was determined that it will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on January 8th.

Department Head Monthly Reports

The following Department heads came in at their respective scheduled times to give their monthly report: Fire Chief Shawn Burdick.

The following Department heads were excused: Department of Public Works Superintendent Scott Martell, Police Chief Samuel Mento, Water Superintendent Adelord Preville, Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator David Varade, Planning Board Chairman Robert Van Valkenburg, Jr., Code Enforcement Officer Michael Ragaini, Historic Preservation Commission Chairperson Patricia Maxwell, and Dog Control Officer Sherry Vieta.

All Department head monthly reports are on file with the Village Clerk.

A motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss potential discipline within the Fire Department was made by Mayor Evans and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

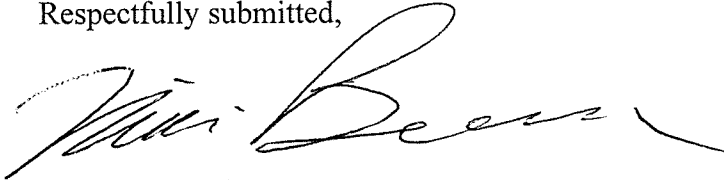
A motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. and return to the normal Workshop Meeting was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Mayor Evans. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to reinstate the Fire Department Point System effective immediately, with the understanding that members can appeal to the Fire Chief by January 31, 2024 was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Vermilyea. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted no. The motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Evans 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 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Berezna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nikki Berezna
Clerk