

**VILLAGE OF COXSACKIE
BOARD MINUTES
January 8, 2024**

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

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2023 Workshop Meeting was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2023 Board Meeting was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Irwin abstained. The motion carried.

Public Comment Period-Agenda Items Only

Veronica Foley stated that she had a question regarding the joint Fire Contract with the Town of Coxsackie and Hose Company #3. She said that there was a cover letter included with the copy of the contract that mentioned that there was a Public Hearing held by the Town of Coxsackie regarding the Fire Contract, and she wants to know if the Village held a Public Hearing also.

Mayor Evans stated that the Village did not hold a Public Hearing. Traditionally, the Village has signed as a Third-Party to the Fire Contract. It is negotiated completely between the Town and Coxsackie Hose Company #3. Long before he ever became Mayor, it has always been that the Town and Hose Company #3 negotiate the contract, and then it is forwarded to the Village for a signature by the Mayor.

Veronica Foley asked if the Board could explain what the Fire Contract is for, what the merits are, and how it helps the Village.

Mayor Evans stated that legally the Village is a party to it because Hose Company #3 contracts directly with the Town to provide fire protection to the eastern half of the Town of Coxsackie, but because Coxsackie Hose Company #3 is a private corporation as well, they are still a Village Fire Company. They are then under the umbrella of the Coxsackie Fire Department. So, because of that, traditionally, the Mayor has always been a third signor on that contract.

Veronica Foley asked if the Board could tell the public about what exactly the contract means.

Mayor Evans stated that it is for fire protection.

Veronica Foley stated that the way she read it is that Hose Company #3 is now going to provide fire services for all of the Town of Coxsackie.

Mayor Evans stated that this contract has been the same for many years.

Veronica Foley stated that she didn't realize that it was something that has stayed the same. She thought that it was something new. A while back she knows that there were talks about potentially consolidating the fire companies, so she thought that this was something related to that.

Mayor Evans stated that this is the same contract that they have had for decades. Technically this

contract is not legal. They found this out years ago. What is supposed to happen is that the Town should contract with the Village for fire protection services. The Village has not made an issue out of it, because it has been done that way for many decades, but the Village did find out that there is technically no legal avenue for the Town and Hose Company #3 to do this contract. It is supposed to be done between the Town and the Village through an Intermunicipal Contract. The Village has had discussions with the Town in the past, and there will be discussions with the Town going forward, because fire trucks are incredibly expensive, and two sets of trucks exist. One set that the Village owns, and one set that the Town owns. It is a duplicate set in some cases. He said that he has felt for a long time that the taxpayers are the ones who lose. What they are trying to talk about in the long run is to potentially consolidate the truck fleet.

Veronica Foley asked if both the Town and Village Fire Companies respond to the same fires.

Mayor Evans stated that if it is a Village fire call, both companies respond with Village owned trucks. If the call is in the Town, then a different set of trucks is used. Again, some of them are duplicated. So, down the road, it makes sense to see if there is a way to solve that. However, the contract on the agenda for tonight is the absolute same contract as the last several years.

Veronica Foley stated that on the letter received from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation about the sewer connection there is a gentleman carbon copied by the name of Dave Varade. She said that next to his name there is "WWTP". That is also listed on a charge to the Capital Funds Project line. She asked what "WWTP" stood for.

Trustee Irwin stated that WWTP stands for Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Mayor Evans stated that Mr. Varade is the Chief Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator.

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.

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 at the Workshop Meeting the Revocable Consent Agreement with Champlain Hudson Power Express and the Road Use and Crossing Agreement for The Champlain Hudson Power Express Electric Transmission Cable System Crossing was discussed. Those agreements were sent to Village Counsel for review, and the Village Attorney found no issues with them other than some minor edits to be made that are non-material. So, he recommended that it be added to the agenda for approval tonight. After approval, the Village Attorney will make any minor edits that need to be made, and will send a final version to be signed by the end of the week or so.

Motions & Resolutions

A motion to approve 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 was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to deny 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 was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the Village Cemetery Rules was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the joint Fire Contract with the Town of Coxsackie/Hose Company #3 was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve accepting the resignation received from Christine Martin as a Planning Board Member was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve accepting the resignation received from Brandon Ewing as a Police Officer was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the bid in the amount of \$195.00 received from Summitfarm via the Auctions International website for the A.R.E 8' Classic Series Truck Cab from the Water Department was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve appointing Matthew Bennett from an Alternate Planning Board Member to a full Planning Board Member with a term of 1/2024-4/2027 was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken on Resolution No. 12024-2024 Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons Tax Exemption Maximum Income Limits. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea was absent. The resolution passed.

A roll call vote was taken on Resolution No. 22024-Mileage Reimbursement Rate Change.

Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Vermilyea was absent. The resolution passed.

A motion to approve the Revocable Consent Agreement with Champlain Hudson Power Express and the Road Use and Crossing Agreement for The Champlain Hudson Power Express Electric Transmission Cable System Crossing was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve water/sewer adjustments from December 1-31, 2023 was made by Trustee Daoust and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the bills on General Fund Abstract #8, vouchers 437-497 totaling \$244,039.47; Water Fund Abstract #8, vouchers 229-264 totaling \$64,800.28; Sewer Fund Abstract #8, vouchers 196-229 totaling \$105,483.58; Capital Projects Fund Abstract #8, vouchers 10-11 totaling \$17,423.22; Heroes Banner Fund Abstract #8, vouchers 20-22 totaling \$120.82; Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #8, voucher 14 totaling \$0.09 was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. The motion carried.

Public Comment Period

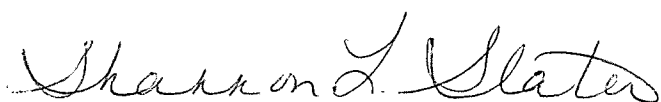
Trustee Daoust stated that this year marks the end of the second year for the Heroes Banners. Those that have purchased a Banner can have the option to renew for another two years at a reduced price of \$50.00. This can be offered since the banners and hardware have already been purchased. Every banner has been washed and put back in their cases. The committee has also started a Field of Flags project which will be done in memory of anyone who has served or is currently serving. It will be \$50.00 for a 3' x 5' flag with a plaque on an 8' pole. They will be placed on the front lawn of the old school on Elm Street. If anyone has gone out to Greenville, you will see that they do a Field of Flags as well. Forms can be picked up at the Village Office.

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. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Slater
Treasurer