

## Village of Coxsackie

### Workshop Minutes

June 3, 2024

The Workshop Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mark Evans at 6:15 p.m. Present were Trustee Donald Daoust, Trustee Rodney Levine, and Trustee Deidre Meier. Trustee Katlyn Irwin was absent.

#### **Correspondence Received**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board received a memorandum from Shaun S. Groden, Greene County Administrator, stating that the County would like to spend down their remaining ARPA funds by offering each municipality an opportunity to receive funding for community projects that focus on youth sports and recreation for Veterans.

#### **Invited Guest-Rene VanSchaack**

Rene VanSchaack, Consultant for the Greene County IDA, stated that he is present tonight to discuss both the development of a Community Host Fee in relation to the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project, as well as the IDA's assistance with developing a joint Comprehensive Plan update. The CHPE project construction is well underway along the route in Greene County. The IDA is looking to get started on developing guidelines for use of the Community Host Fee, which was a condition of the IDA's incentive package requirements for CHPE. Mr. VanSchaack referenced Section 8.1 of the Statement of Findings the IDA adopted for this project. When the IDA established this requirement, it was recognized that the project would neither result in any long term employment, or provide any spending in the community after construction. Therefore, this led the IDA to establish this fund. The new fund will allow for communities to partner with the IDA to make investments that can promote growth in the form of future employment and new tax revenues. To get the process started, Mr. VanSchaack is meeting with each town and village board to discuss the fund including potential projects in each community, and gather suggestions for eligible projects. After meeting with each municipality, the IDA will prepare draft guidelines that will be distributed and reviewed with each Town and Village Board, and revised as necessary before adoption by the IDA board. The Host Community Benefit Fund (HCBF) will run with the PILOT for a 30 year term, and will be distributed to the Towns and Villages based on the mileage of transmission line within their individual jurisdictions. The HCBF will not be eligible for use to reduce the general tax levy in any year, and is intended for funding special projects with priority given to projects that will facilitate additional economic growth in the community. The project will not be completed, and therefore no payments will be made, until 2026. Mr. VanSchaack stated that the first step is to have the Village Board appoint 2 Board Members as liaisons, to work hand in hand with the IDA.

Mayor Evans stated that the project he has in mind is already part of the NY Forward Grant. Which is to sell the Department of Public Works site, and since the Village has gained the old American Valve and brush pile site, to build a new DPW garage there. Delaware Engineering is working on drafting a Site Plan for this new location. He is hoping that the money from the sale of the old property will help fund the building on the new property.

Rene VanSchaack stated that he feels that that project could be considered economic development. He said that the Board should think about any future projects that would normally have to be bonded, and consider submitting them to be funded through this path instead.

Mayor Evans stated that the next thing to discuss is drafting a new Comprehensive Plan. The

current one is now 18 years old. The Village has allocated money in this year's budget towards this, but was hopeful that the Town would want to be involved in doing a joint Comprehensive Plan update, like they did the last time. When he approached the Town about this idea, they indicated that they were not interested.

Rene VanSchaack stated that the current Comprehensive Plan is indeed 18 years old, and was a joint plan update between the Village, Town, and IDA. He is also aware that the Town was not interested in once again doing a joint Comprehensive Plan update, but is now considering it. He is aware that if the Village were to have to do the Comprehensive Plan update on their own, it would cost around \$75,000.00. However, by doing another joint Comprehensive Plan update, it would cost around \$50,000.00 for each entity, saving the Village \$25,000.00. Should this happen, the IDA would like to have a representative on the committee. The next step in this process would be to have the Village Board send a letter to the IDA indicating the Village's desire to be involved in a joint Comprehensive Plan project.

### **McQuade Pavilion**

Mayor Evans stated that he has had a hard time keeping in contact with Pettinelli Recreation. He has reached out to a Miracle Playground representative who knows of Pettinelli's issues, and will try to talk to them.

### **Occupancy Fee**

Mayor Evans stated that all paperwork has been submitted. He is hopeful that it passes the legislature before the end of session on June 6<sup>th</sup>. If it passes, it will then get sent to the Governor for her to sign, but that can occur anytime over the summer.

### **Ely Street Water Line Project**

Mayor Evans stated that the project is \$403,000.00, and the Village's portion is about \$200,000.00. The project commenced on May 1<sup>st</sup>, and they have the last of 4 bores to do, and the main line will be complete. Then, there will be the connection to the existing line and the homes.

### **RV's in Driveways and Dumpsters**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Attorney is still working on looking into regulating this.

### **Water Service Line Inventory**

Mayor Evans stated that the Water Service Line Inventory has been progressing, but the Village is nowhere close to finished, and only has until October to make the submission to the NYS Department of Health (DOH). He would like to authorize the Water Department personnel to work an adjusted schedule several days a week, working into the evening, to allow them to go to homes and inspect the water lines themselves.

### **Fireworks**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to discuss the consideration of limiting fireworks displays to Friday, Saturdays, and holidays only.

### **State Telephone Sidewalk**

Mayor Evans stated that the slate sidewalks in the front and side of the State Telephone building, at 46 Reed Street, are severely deteriorated, and a woman fell about 2 months ago and was

severely injured. State Telephone obtained several quotes for replacement, and the lowest was \$19,772.50 from Wase Construction, of Catskill. State Telephone is asking for the Village to cover 50% of this cost. The slate will be taken up and replaced with stamped sidewalks to match the rest of downtown. The Reed Street Bottle Shop sidewalk would be replaced at the same time, and would have the same request for their portion which is \$3,150.00. After deliberation, it was determined that this will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sewer Rate Analysis**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to discuss and review the updated sewer rate figures provided from Mary Beth Bianconi, of Delaware Engineering. The incremental increase in quarterly sewer rates, beginning with the July 2024 billing quarter, is as follows: July 2024-Village Sewer Rate-\$6.86/1,000 gallons, Town/Jail Sewer Rate-\$8.55/1,000 gallons, October 2024-Village-\$7.49/1,000 gal., Town/Jail-\$9.30/1,000 gal., January 2025-Village-\$8.11/1,000 gal., Town/Jail-\$10.05/1,000 gal., July 2025-Village-\$8.74/1,000 gal., Town/Jail-\$10.80/1,000 gal. After deliberation, it was determined that this will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fire Chief**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to discuss the request received from Fire Chief, Scott Bennett, for lights and sirens for the Assistant Fire Chief vehicles. He said that they need to discuss allowing this based on new information he and Trustee Daoust received at the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) conference last month. The quote received is from River Valley Radio, Inc. for \$7,641.00 to equip both vehicles, but he will ask the Fire Chief to obtain another quote from a different company as well.

### **Fire Department Members**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board is supposed to be voting in new members into the Fire Department, and will start at the next Board Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Paving**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village has \$170,662.17 available this year in the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) money. Lafayette Avenue is going to cost \$67,750.00. He said that the Village will still have \$102,912.17 remaining to do some other roads. He suggests that the Village gets individual bids on Bailey Street, from the Town of Coxsackie building to the railroad tracks, and lower Church Street, from Ely Street to South River Street. After deliberation, it was determined that going out to bid for these individual streets will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Appointment to Planning Board**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to discuss appointing a full member and an Alternate Member to the Planning Board. After deliberation, it was determined that appointing Debra Jung as a full member, and Jonathan Meier as an alternate member, will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Coxsackie Yacht Club**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to discuss the request received from the Coxsackie Yacht Club seeking a variance in the noise ordinance for one night on July 20<sup>th</sup> to

have music until midnight for their annual party. After deliberation, it was determined that this will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Department Head Monthly Reports**

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nikki Berezna".

Nikki Berezna  
Clerk