

Village of Coxsackie

Workshop Minutes

September 5, 2024

The Workshop Meeting was called to order by Mayor Mark Evans at 6:00 p.m. Present were Trustee Katlyn Irwin and Trustee Deidre Meier.

### **Good Energy-Electrical Aggregation**

Javier Barrios of Good Energy talked with the Board about renewing a 24-month agreement to continue Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) for electrical savings for residents. He stated that the renewal continues to be no cost to the municipality, and it is an opt out program. This means that any resident who is not already with a third-party supplier for their electric will automatically be enrolled unless they decide to opt out. He gave an overview of the program to the new Trustees on the Board explaining how the program works. The program gives a fixed budget secure rate instead of a variable rate, and this program does not change the delivery which is still managed by the current electric company. The municipality can also enter or leave this program at any time without any kind of penalization. The Village of Coxsackie is enrolled in this program along with the Village of Athens, Town of Cairo, and Town of New Baltimore. Good Energy currently has a Request for Proposal (RFP) out for electric wholesalers to bid on the contract renewal term. Looking back over the last 36 months, 20-28 of those months were either lower than, or on par with, Central Hudson's rates. As of right now, the rates look to be around \$0.094/kwh. Prices must be within 5% of the utility supplier. The two wholesalers in this area that can bid on the RFP are Constellation Energy and Direct Energy. Constellation Energy is the current electric supplier. The current contract is set to expire in December. So, a decision will need to be made in the next few weeks. If the Board feels that the rates are not competitive enough, the other option is to stagger the renewal for spring instead of December, where the rates could be cheaper. If this is done, residents would have to go back to Central Hudson as their supplier in the interim, but this could be done. Mr. Barrios stated that after the RFP's have been submitted, he will inform the Board on the results.

Trustee Rodney Levine arrived at 6:15 p.m.

### **Farmers' Market**

Mayor Evans stated that Nicole Schmitt is present tonight to discuss her interest in being the new Market Manager for the Farmers' Market.

Nicole Schmitt stated that as a current vendor at the market, with Hannacroix Hill Farm, it has been incredible to have an amazing network of vendors, and a community that supports and embraces local producers and artisans. Since moving to Greene County, she has been seeking out new ways to become involved within the community. She has provided the Board her professional resume, which is heavily focused on sales and sales leadership. She said that she thinks that many of these skills are transferable to working within the community. While being a vendor, she has built relationships with other vendors and customers. She has worked with Eileen Goble, current Farmers' Market Manager, and is comfortable with the time commitment, and knows the basic job duties. Some things that she would like to improve upon are having a potential portable ATM service. There are also internet and cell phone service issues downtown.

Mayor Evans stated that the Village is working on trying to solve the cell phone service and internet issues.

Nicole Schmitt stated that she is also contemplating putting vendors outside of the pavilion, allowing for more seating underneath. There has also been talks of potentially having a Winter Farmers' Market.

Trustee Irwin stated that maybe Aaron Flach would allow them to utilize the Event Center space, or they may be able to use 1 Reed Street if large enough.

Mayor Evans suggested that Ms. Schmitt poll the current vendors to see if there is an interest in a Winter Market.

Nicole Schmitt stated that she would also like to see 1 community based booth per week set up.

After deliberation, it was determined that the appointment of Nicole Schmitt as Farmers' Market Manager will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Non-CDL Laborer in Department of Public Works**

Mayor Evans stated that the Department of Public Works has an employee that still has not obtained their CDL permit, and it has been over a year. Per the union contract, all DPW employees must obtain their CDL within 1 year from their hire date. The Board will have to have a further discussion in the near future about how to handle this employee.

### **D.M. Hamilton Kitchen**

Mayor Evans stated that D.M. Hamilton has requested that some repairs be made to their kitchen. The Board will have to have a further discussion in the near future about this.

### **NYS Comptroller Audit**

Mayor Evans stated that an auditor from the NYS Comptroller's Office has reached out stating that they will be on-site at the Village Building in the next week or two to begin their audit.

### **Disposal of Old DPW Truck**

Mayor Evans stated that the Superintendent of Public Works, Scott Martell, would like to auction off a 2004 Ford F700 truck with approximately 30,000 miles on it. This would be listed through the Auctions International website like the last truck that went out to bid. The Village has the new truck on order, and delivery is anticipated by early 2025. After deliberation, it was determined that this will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sunset Boulevard "No Parking"**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to review the draft Local Law #3 of 2024- To Amend Section 145-47 of the Village Code of Coxsackie, to address "No Parking" on a section of Sunset Boulevard, and set a Public Hearing. After deliberation, it was determined that scheduling a Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2024 for October 14, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Donald Daoust arrived at 7:00 p.m.

### **Fire Chief**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to accept the resignation received from Scott Bennett as Fire Chief, and have a discussion about the election for the replacement Fire Chief. After deliberation, it was determined that accepting the resignation received from Scott Bennett as Fire Chief will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. in order to discuss potential discipline of a Fire Department member [Name Withheld] was made by Mayor Evans and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular Workshop Meeting at 8:31 p.m. was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

### **Department Head Monthly Reports**

The following Department heads came in at their respective scheduled times to give their monthly report: Clerk Nikki Berezna, Department of Public Works Superintendent Scott Martell, Acting Fire Chief Dominic Yannazzone, and Police Chief Samuel Mento.

The following Department heads were excused: 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 adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Daoust. Trustee Daoust voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Nikki Berezna  
Clerk