

Village of Coxsackie

Workshop Minutes

October 10, 2024

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

Water & Sewer Request

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board has received a request from Lisa Macalone, of 11539 Route 9W, owned by John Halsted, to hold the currently owed water/sewer balance of \$1,108.62 from the Town Water/Sewer Levy onto Town of Coxsackie taxes.

After deliberation, it was determined that this type of request should come from the property owner, John Halsted, as opposed to the tenant. The Clerk stated that she will call Ms. Macalone to inform her that the Board will need a request in writing from the property owner.

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.

Request for Crosswalk

Mayor Evans stated that the Board needs to have a discussion regarding installing a potential crosswalk at the intersection of Bailey Street & Mansion Street. The Village would need to make a request to the NYS DOT for approval.

Labor Agreements

Mayor Evans stated that the agreements with Council 82 (Police Department), UPSEU (Water & Wastewater Departments), and Teamster's (Department of Public Works), all expire next May 2025. The Village customarily starts the process to negotiate new agreements now, and has them agreed to, at least in principle, by the time the budget process starts next March/April 2025. Mayor Evans stated that he would like to retain Elayne Gold, of Roemer, Wallens, Gold & Mineaux, to negotiate on the Village's behalf, as she has done in the past.

After deliberation, it was determined that this will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on October 14th.

Fire Department Parade of Lights

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to approve allowing the Fire Department to hold their annual Parade of Lights on Friday, December 6, 2024, with line up on Kings Road at 6:00 p.m., and stepping off at 6:30, proceeding from Kings Road down to Reed Street.

After deliberation, it was determined that this will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on October 14th.

Health Insurance Renewal

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to approve the 12/1/2024-11/30/2025 health insurance renewal for Village employees.

After deliberation, it was determined that renewing the MVP Silver 8 QHDHP EPO health insurance plan for a term of 12/1/2024-11/30/2025 for Village employees would be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on October 14th.

Liability/Auto/Commercial Insurance Renewal

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to approve the commercial insurance renewal for the Village of Coxsackie, provided by Marshall & Sterling Upstate, Inc., in the amount of \$152,036.71 for a term of 11/25/2024-11/24/2025

After deliberation, it was determined that this will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on October 14th.

Sewer Line & Hook-Up Request

Mayor Evans stated that Mark Misuraca built a new house at 146 Riverside Avenue, and he has submitted a request to connect to the sewer system. The issue is that the sewer line across the street was put in by Halsted as an extension 20 years ago. It is privately owned. There have been some issues with this line backing up in the last year. First, the Mayor asked that Mr. Misuraca provide permission from the owners, which he did. Secondly, they would like the Village to take over the line. The line should be evaluated for its condition by Delaware Engineering, at the existing owner's expense, before the Village takes ownership.

NYS Comptroller Audit

Mayor Evans stated that the audit has commenced, and one of the early recommendations is to approve the monthly Treasurer's report, which he will have the Clerk add as a standard part of the agenda. The auditor also asked if all of the Village Board Members get copies of the full report. The Mayor said that he will make that happen. The auditor asked if each Trustee reviewed it, and the Mayor's response was that the auditor needs to ask them.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Remaining Funds

Mayor Evans stated that at the last New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) Conference a few weeks ago, it was learned that remaining ARPA funds can be used for everything that has a line item in the municipality's budget. However, the remaining money must be spent or allocated by either a Resolution, or better, a signed contract, before December 31, 2024. It appears the Village should have about \$95,000.00 remaining, and the Village Board should quickly decide what projects they would like to see this put towards. For example, the Village could use it to pay for the recent flooring and carpeting in Village Hall, the Village could replace the heating system at Village Hall, which is estimated around \$20,000.00, it could be used for the kitchen upgrade at D.M. Hamilton Firehouse, Wi-Fi for Riverside Park, or to be able to set-up cameras, also utilizing the \$20,000.00 in Police Department Grant money the Village has, just to name a few.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Renewal Resolution-Good Energy

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to approve Resolution No. 172024-Concerning a Proposed Action to Select Good Energy, L.P. to Act as Community Choice Aggregation

Program Administrator and Community Solar Program Administrator.

After deliberation, it was determined that this will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on October 14th.

Police Department Officers

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board needs to review the resumes and meet two new Police Department candidates tonight.

The Board met with Police Officer candidates Ryan Buell and Thomas F. Nolan III.

After deliberation, it was determined that hiring Ryan Buell and Thomas F. Nolan III as Police Officers will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on October 14th.

Christmas by the River Committee-Lighting on Reed Street

Mayor Evans stated that the idea of placing overhead lights across the street between buildings on Reed Street has been proposed. These would be similar to what Aaron Flach did on South River Street. While no formal group of people assembled, the Christmas by the River Committee has raised the question to see if this proposal could move forward. In talking with Patricia Maxwell, the Historic Preservation Commission needed to review it, and it was approved at their last meeting on October 8th. Both Dolores Gori and Patricia Maxwell, of the Christmas by the River Committee, are present tonight to answer any questions regarding the proposed overhead lighting on Reed Street.

Trustee Irwin left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor Evans asked who will ask all of the building owners for approval to attach the lights to their buildings.

Dolores Gori stated that she is taking charge of asking approval of building owners. She asked if the Village will be supplying the electric.

Mayor Evans stated that the Village will be supplying the electric, but it may require putting a separate connection on the poles downtown.

Patricia Maxwell stated that Aaron Flach will be assisting with this project. Mr. Flach's vision is to have 1 source for all connections, like how his on South River Street is currently fed. He will also be contributing 1,000 feet of cable.

Trustee Levine stated that at both ends of Reed Street/South River Street, and Mansion Street/Reed Street, there are existing outlets.

Mayor Evans asked if the lights would be year round or seasonal.

Patricia Maxwell stated that that would be determined based on whether or not the lights pose a disturbance to residents on second or third stories. She volunteered to poll those residents that live on higher floors, to see if the lights would be a disturbance.

The Village Board discussed putting the lights on a timer.

Mayor Evans stated that if the lights are on a timer, and it needs to be adjusted in any way, it can

always be changed in the future. He asked if there was a drawing showing which buildings the connections would be made on.

Dolores Gori stated that Mr. Flach will be working on this drawing.

Patricia Maxwell stated that the Village Board will have to decide whether they want the lights year round or seasonal.

Trustee Levine asked if the lights are LED lights.

Dolores Gori stated that the lights are LED lights.

Patricia Maxwell stated that although the lights are LED, they are a warm white.

Mayor Evans asked what the cost was.

Dolores Gori stated that it is estimated around \$2,000.00, but the Christmas by the River Committee has been taking in donations.

Mayor Evans stated that the Village may have some money in the budget.

Trustee Levine asked how maintenance on the lights would be performed.

Mayor Evans stated that the bulbs are LED and should last long, and the Village owns a bucket truck should they need to be accessed.

Dolores Gori stated that they will purchase some extra bulbs in case, but the bulbs should last a while. She stated that Mr. Flach has all of the specifications and costs.

Aaron Flach arrived to the Meeting and stated that he will send an email to the Village Board with costs and the drawing of the building connections downtown.

After deliberation, it was determined that approving the request received from the Christmas by the River Committee to install overhead street lighting using vintage Edison style bulbs, similar to those on South River Street, to be strung diagonally between buildings over Reed Street in conjunction with the Christmas by the River Festival held 12/1/2024 will be added as an agenda item for approval at the next Board Meeting on October 14th.

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, Fire Chief Stephen Salluce, Jr., Police Chief Samuel Mento, Water Superintendent Adelord Preville, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Ragaini, and Historic Preservation Commission Chairperson Patricia Maxwell.

The following Department heads were excused: Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator David Varade, Planning Board Chairman Robert Van Valkenburg, Jr., 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 Meier. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Nikki Berezna
Clerk