

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees held at Village Hall at 7:30 p.m.  
February 01, 2024**

Members Present: Mayor Bruce Stebbins  
Trustee Ruth Cico  
Trustee Nate Collins  
Trustee O'Donnell  
Trustee Reinagel  
Trustee Shepard  
Trustee Cole

Others Attending – Attorney Bob Baldwin; Village Clerk Jody DePaulis; Treasurer Mark Baker(via phone); Senior Center Coordinator Ruth Troy; DPW Superintendent Chuck McAuliffe and Police Chief Mike Lefancheck; PAC-B Videographer Ben Weiss; Citizens: Jim Dale, Phillis Dale, Cindy Clarke, S. Patterson, Mary Anne Williams, James Miller, Lisa Campagna, Vickie Freyleue, Donna Freyleue, MaryAnne Patulski, Patricia Hipolito, John Tonello, Gina Tonello, Jill Hayes, Michael Kester.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Resolution #210/2023** Moved by Trustee Shepard, second by Trustee Cico  
Resolved that the minutes from the Village Board meeting of January 18, 2024, be approved.

**Carried**

**Citizen's Comments-**

Jim Dale spoke on behalf of the Center for the Arts. He met with the Papermill Island Sub-committee. So far, they are planning ten music venues, 4 Theatrical performances, children's events. They have a 16-week calendar of events to schedule, and it will conclude with a harvest dance. Trustee Reinagel will also be on the committee. Some events will have food and alcohol. There will also be events that are paying events. They are excited for this year.

Vickie Freyleue wanted to let everyone know that the petition to move the election to November was handed in on February 1, 2024. She asked the board to rescind their decision on the referendum to move the election from March to June. The Village of Liverpool moved their elections to June, and they do not like it and want to move the elections to November. June elections are more confusing as people have more going on with regents, graduation, etc. Moving the elections to June would only confuse the matter. She also referenced the former mayor editorial comments in the Messenger. She did say as she was speaking with Mayor Stebbins, she gave her word that the party would not run as Democrats, and she would hope the Republicans would do the same.

Cindy Clarke wanted to let the board know she is in support of keeping the election where it is and let the people decide.

Michael Kester addressed the board regarding the recent article in the Messenger from the former Mayor. He wanted to read his response that he sent to the Messenger regarding his opinions on moving the election to November. He mentioned the quote of who are the quality voters in the village that the editorial addressed. He is for moving the election to November.

Jim Dale readdressed the board, this time as a citizen with the same sentiments as the other speakers. The quote of quantity vs quality did not sit right with him. There is a right to vote and be counted in our representative democracy. He asked the board, who is it that they fear? He also asked the board to rescind their proposal to move the election to June.

Patricia Hipolito-Also expressed her concern on the election moving to June and not to November.

**Trustee's Comments-**

Trustee Reinagel commented on the election process. He does not want to see the village become polarized by becoming Democrat vs Republican. He is concerned this will open a pandora's box. He also mentioned Vickie Freyleue's article in the Post-Standard. Ms. Freyleue responded that she did not contact the paper, they contacted her.

- **Mayor's Comments-**
- The Mayor was disappointed in the residents' responses on calling out the former Mayor and the editorial. He gave many years of service to the community and the current Mayor expressed that he was thrown under the bus by naming him directly.
- The Mayor moved on and discussed grants that he is looking into for the village.
- He wanted to again remind residents that Election day is Tuesday, March 19, 2024, from 12:00-9:00 pm at Village Hall.
- Mayor Stebbins told the residents about the successful weekend of the Big Chill. And it was an excellent turnout for the community event.
- He informed the board and residents of a grant proposal by the Dormitory Authority through Rachel May's office. This grant will help them acquire a new street sweeper, as the current one is over 23 years old.
- Mayor Stebbins also wanted to extend his sympathies to the family of Mark Augustus. Mark was a 20-year member with the Police Department from 1977-1997. Mayor Stebbins and Police Chief Lefancheck shared some stories of their time working with Mr. Augustus.

## **Department Heads**

**Village Clerk Jody DePaulis-**Informed the village that tax season is almost here. Taxes will begin mailing on February 28, 2024, and are due without penalty from March 01, 2024-April 01, 2024.

**Treasurer Mark Baker-** Spoke via phone. There was a change due to the budget tax equalization rates. Town of Lysander has a 90% equalization rate, and Town of Van Buren has a 95% equalization rate. The tax rate in the Town of Lysander is 6.718053 and Town of Van Buren is 6.364471.

**Senior Center Coordinator Ruth Troy-** Ruth Troy wanted to let everyone know that there will be a mobile mammography van for mammograms on February 6, 2024. An appt is needed. Please contact Canton Woods on information on how to set it up. Also, on Valentine's Day there will be music for everyone to enjoy. Also, there is a National Grid Senior Advocate that will be available at Canton Woods if anyone needs to see her, please do so.

**DPW Superintendent Chuck McAuliffe-**wanted to inform the board that the traffic light on Downer is down. Also, the television stations contacted him today and budgets are what they are doing with the money that is not spent on salt. He put them in touch with Mark Baker who spoke with them.

## **New Business**

- **Property Tax with Additional Charges Levy 2024-2025 Village Tax**

**Resolution #211 /2023** Moved by Trustee O'Donnell, second by Trustee Collins

Resolved approve levying the real property tax for the year 2024 – 2025 with the tax rate for the Lysander to be 6.718053 per thousand and Van Buren portions of the village to be \$6.364471 per thousand and also levying of the water and sewer arrears in the amount of \$137,731.24, the exemptions left unpaid from prior sales in the amount of \$6,415.24; the unpaid code fees in the amount of \$125.00, and the sidewalk replacement project in the amount of \$11,069.88. **Carried**

- **Part Time Help**

**Resolution #212 /2023** Moved by Trustee Cico, second by Trustee Reinagel

Resolved to approve Linda Ross for temporary part time hours in the Village Clerk's office, at rate of \$20.00/hr. for a total of 15 hrs. a week, until March 31, 2024, if needed.

**Carried**

- **Budget Modifications**

**Resolution #213 /2023** Moved by Trustee Collins, second by Trustee Cole

Resolved to approve budget modifications as proposed in the document Budget Modifications 2024-02-01.pdf.

**Carried**

- **Canton Woods Agreement**

**Resolution #214 /2023** Moved by Trustee Cico, second by Trustee Collins  
Resolved to authorize the mayor to sign the 2024-2029 Polling Place agreement between Canton Woods Senior Center and the County of Onondaga Board Elections for the use of 76 Canton Street on select election days (Primary and General Elections).  
**Carried**

- **Motion to pay bills as audited.**

**Resolution #215 /2023** Moved by Trustee Collins, second by Trustee Cico  
Resolved to pay the bills from their proper accounts, after audit.

**Abstract #022**

- General Fund Checks #49671 - #49703 \$ 51,259.52
- Water Fund Checks #25598 - #25607 \$ 18,442.12
- Sewer Fund Checks #24291 - #24296 \$ 85,303.62

**Carried**

- **Adjournment**

**Resolution #216 /2023** Moved by Trustee Collins, second by Trustee Cico  
Resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:29 p.m., until the next Village Board meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2024, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

**Carried**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Jody DePaulis*

*Village Clerk*

Village Clerk, Village of Baldwinsville