

Regular Board Meeting

November 3, 2008

6:00p.m.

Present - Mayor Donna Kelley, Trustees Bonnie Howell, Philip Gillemot, Phil Joe Smith, Sharon Wiedemer.

Absent - None.

Also present - Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Casselberry, Mike & Christina Hughey, David Austin of the Watkins Review.

Mayor Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Mayor Kelley called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kelley announced that the meeting was called one hour early for the purpose of discussing the proposed countywide water district.

Audience present for the discussion included Greg Mathews, Jim Howell, Jim Ryan, John King and Tom Klaseus of the NYS Department of Health.

Tim Steed of Hunt Engineers presented a condensed version of the report that suggests consolidation of the water systems of Town of Dix, Town of Reading, Village of Watkins Glen and Village of Montour Falls. He noted the study originally included a countywide wastewater treatment facility until it became clear it was too costly for further study.

Tim explained that the district would operate under a separate board of directors and be comprised of representation of each participating entity. Tim indicated that with a consolidated approach a water system can be more reliable. The report estimates that each of the water systems have major improvements to bring them into up to date. Montour Falls system update cost is estimated at \$3,094,800 and consists of water line replacement, storage tank rehabilitation, chlorine contact piping for wells. The estimated cost of the interconnection required for the systems to be joined is \$787,152. The report presently contains one interconnect at Steuben Street to provide water to Steuben Street users and does not feed into the rest of the village. The "flat" or lower portions of the village will continue to be fed by the wells.

Tom Klaseus of the NYS Department of Health explained that new groundwater regulations take effect in 2009 and will require the village to make modification at the well site for chlorine contact time. This modification will be necessary regardless of a consolidation. Tom also noted that the village has a large percentage of water loss and indicated this is excessive and should be investigated.

Jim Ryan, Fire Chief commented on both what he refers to as a redundancy and quantity issue with regard to the water system. He recalled the waterline break one year ago that threatened the water supply to the hospital noting the backup supply would have been water from tankers. He also recalled the lack of water to extinguish a large fire on Main Street several years ago and added that the lines are old and constricted. Jim noted that the water system and its performance is taken into consideration when an ISO rating is issued. This ISO rate is used in part to base the homeowner's insurance premiums on. The homeowner benefits from a lower ISO rating.

Jim Howell commented that the water rates are too low and a capital account should be established to begin water system improvements. He commented the source of unaccounted for water loss should be identified. He inquired of the engineer if the Steuben Street tank could be retained along with establishing an interconnect at Steuben Street. Jim also added that he does not see how one employee cannot serve both water system and wastewater treatment plant. Normal maintenance such as regular flushing of hydrants and exercising of valves is not being performed. Lastly, he noted that action must be taken to protect the wells from land spreading and injection of bio-solids by the owner, Ed Gates.

Tim Steed and Tom Klaseus both agreed that without the Village of Watkins Glen and the supply of water from the lake there would be no consolidation.

Mayor Kelley thanked Tim Steed for attending the meeting and speaking with the board about the water district report. Tim will continue to incorporate information in the report as it is received.

The minutes of the October 20, 2008 regular board meeting were presented.

Trustee Howell offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Gillemot to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2008 regular board meeting as presented. AYES: Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Smith Trustee Howell, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Crystal Ricks, new Director of the Schuyler County Chamber of Commerce was present to address questions and concerns relative to membership with the chamber. She noted having submitted a letter in support of the NY Main Street Grant. She stated that among membership benefits with the chamber it offers general support of the community.

Jim Frame, Superintendent of the OMCS District presented plans for \$10,375,000 in capital improvements at each of the schools in the district. Mr. Frame stressed that the project will not be funded by school tax dollars. The funds come from a combination of state aid funds and a pool of funds referred to as EXCEL for physical improvements such as these. The project is scheduled for spring 2010. Board thanked Mr. Frame for the presentation.

Bob Howell owner of Seneca Hardwoods offered a proposal again this year to rebuild two docks at the Montour Falls Marina & Campground using existing piling and resulting in four safe slips for renting. The proposal amount is \$2,000.00.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Howell to accept the proposal from Seneca Hardwoods to rebuild two docks at the Montour Falls Marina & Campgrounds in accordance with the proposal for an amount of \$2,000. AYES: Trustee Smith, Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Mayor Kelley reported a Planning & Zoning Training is being offered on December 10th in Big Flats. Mayor to send a letter to all Planning Board and Board of Appeals members reminding them of training requirements.

Village Clerk reported that proposals are being obtained for a telephone system for the Village Hall offices of Village Clerk, Village Justice, Mayor and Code Enforcement.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Howell authorizing up to \$2500.00 to be expended to install a telephone system in the Village Hall providing voice mail and conference calling ability. AYES: Trustee Smith, Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Board members received copies of the energy audit completed for the Village Hall for review and to be discussed at a future meeting.

Trustee Howell offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith to designate the General Village Election will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009. AYES: Trustee Smith , Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Howell to reduce the tax warrant by \$241.29 representing the prorated exempt portion of the Montour House taxes from June 1-October 17, 2009. AYES: Trustee Smith , Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Mayor Kelley reported having met with Code Enforcement to prioritize the Library building repair list based on how they might affect the integrity of the building and for grant purposes. Using the estimates prepared by Clayton Snow, Mayor suggested a total of \$29,820.00 to be designated for Main Street grant funds. Improving drainage between the Library and Village Hall buildings as well as securing the chimney can be completed before winter weather by village forces. Bat proofing the attic was not considered structural and was struck from the list as were programmable thermostats. Clerk recalled the design prepared for the handicap ramp and back porch rehabilitation provided for an open entryway in order for a wheelchair to access the back porch. Mayor Kelley presented the concept of a rain garden on the front corner of the Village Hall that would take the drainage diverted from the two buildings.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution seconded by Trustee Howell authorizing funds be expended to secure and cap the west chimney on the library building and place drainage material/piping and installation of a rain garden at the direction of Schuyler County Soil & Water Conservation. AYES: Trustee Smith , Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Gillemot offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith authorizing a second extension of two months until January 30, 2009 for the transfer of ownership of the library building from the Village to the Library Association to allow additional time needed for negotiations. AYES: Trustee Smith, Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Board agreed a tentative meeting might be held on the second Monday of January with the Library Board.

Mike Hughey reported the water main for the Marina Improvement Project has been installed and there does not appear to be any leaks. The 4- 2" taps will be completed on Tuesday and pressure testing will be scheduled after that. A walk thru inspection of the project is scheduled for Wednesday November 5th.

Mayor Kelley advised the board the Marina Road will be closed to traffic for the winter season. Boaters/Campers may park and walk in. Emergency traffic and law enforcement will have access. This will allow the village work forces to install water and sewer lines throughout the winter without backfilling each day.

Trustee Howell offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Gillemot to authorize a one-month refund of \$168.33 to Robert Bebel for the lack of use of his dock at the marina due to placement of boats for winter storage. AYES: Trustee Smith , Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

One bid was received for the sale of a 1988 40' Holiday Rambler camper from Sam Dixon for an amount of \$1,251.00

Trustee Howell offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Gillemot to accept the bid from Sam Dixon in amount of \$1,251.00 for the 1988 40' Holiday Rambler camper abandoned and located at lot 69A in the Montour Falls Marina & Campsites. AYES: Trustee Smith , Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

A response has been received from Hunt Engineers on the revisions made to the Raymond Street Family Housing sewer design. A copy will be sent to Mr. Frandsen.

Trustee Howell offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Gillemot to rescind the **Resolution authorizing the Village of Montour Falls to make application to the Fall 2008 New York Main Street Grant Program** as adopted at the Regular Board Meeting of October 20, 2008. AYES: Trustee Smith , Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Howell offered the following **Resolution authorizing the Village of Montour Falls to make application to the Fall 2008 New York Main Street Grant Program** seconded by Trustee Gillemot.

Whereas the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal has announced a Fall 2008 round of the NY Main Street Grant Program, with municipalities eligible to apply for funds to stimulate re-investment in mixed-use commercial districts; and

Whereas the Village of Montour Falls desires to assist with the revitalization of its commercial district on West Main Street between Genesee Street and NYS Route 14, including the historic Montour House, the historic Shequaga Falls park and neighboring properties;

Now therefore be it resolved by the Village of Montour Falls Board of Trustees that the Village Mayor is hereby authorized to file application to the NY Main Street grant program for an amount not to exceed \$465,000, with the understanding that:

- the State grant funds will be matched with local funds from individual property owners;
 - grant funds of up to \$330,000 will be applied to the renovation of the Montour House;
 - grant funds of up to \$25,000 will be applied to eligible streetscape improvements;
 - administrative funds of up to \$33,750 received through the grant program may be paid to Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development (SCOPED) for administration and program delivery; and
- Be it further resolved that the Village Mayor is authorized to execute all documents necessary for the filing of said grant application. AYES: Trustee Smith , Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Howell:

- reported she spoke with the Sheriff about increasing patrol in the marina during the off-season.
- inquired about the second shift 3:00-11:00p.m., planned for this winter season and how it will affect the daytime work considering the small number of employees. Mike Hughey indicated that the amount of work during the winter days slows up and second shift will perform maintenance tasks.
- requested the Main Street barrels be picked up and delivered to the DPW shop for holiday decorating. She will make contact with Mr. Stevenson and arrange for evergreen boughs.
- noted the Montour House will have it's first Open House this Friday evening 6-8p.m..
- Watkins Glen Promotions has designated Friday, August 7 as the sole Nascar night celebration in Schuyler County and will take place in Montour Falls.

Trustee Gillemot:

- reported on a fund raising event for the Library to be held at the Mechanics Club this Sunday morning from 8-11 a.m.
- reported on possible projects the Montour Falls Improvement Association would consider. Mayor noted in response to gateway signs; she is working on the gateway sign for the village entrance from the north. Mayor also noted that a Business Association is under consideration and they will make suggestions for Main Street improvements rather than extension of the Glorius T.
- inquired if the location of utility hookups is covered in the proposed zoning law.

Mayor reported the permits from NYSDEC and Corp of Engineers have been received for the Raymond Street water line replacement.

Mayor suggested the Sheriff be advised of the increasing number of children on Main Street likely in violation of the curfew.

Board discussed continued concerns for parking on both sides of South Genesee Street from Main Street to South Street creating congestion and a hazard for emergency vehicles.

Board agreed that the Village Board cannot make exceptions to winter parking restrictions on West Main Street and the Saunders will be advised they will need to make arrangements for off street parking for their vehicles.

Mayor Kelley advised the board she has been in contact with Rural Water Association who has offered to come to Montour Falls and assist with identifying the source(s) of water loss in the system. She is also working on a wellhead protection local law with Attorney Halpin.

Trustee Gillemot agreed to attend the Schuyler County Planning Commission meeting on November 13 at 7:00p.m. to represent the Village on the referral of the Draft Comprehensive Plan and Draft Zoning Law.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Gillemot authorizing payment of bills on General Abstract \$45,331.92, Water Abstract \$1,987.25, Sewer Abstract \$6,807.01, Capital Projects Marina Improvement Project Abstract \$20,845.70. AYES: Trustee Smith, Trustee Howell, Trustee Gillemot, Trustee Wiedemer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Gillemot offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00p.m, seconded by Trustee Smith. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Casselberry, Clerk-Treasurer

