

Regular Board Meeting
Village of Montour Falls

January 4, 2024

7:00 pm

Present: Mayor James Ryan, Trustees Vincent Chicone, Philip Smith, Jeffrey Confer and James Nolan

Also Present: Dean Hillyard, Superintendent; Laurie Thompson, Village Treasurer; Emily Byers, Village Clerk; and Tony Nevone, Code Enforcement

Public: Donald Spaccio and Jessica Westlake

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. and asked for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 11 – General Fund, for the amount of \$69,580.75. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Chicone offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Nolan authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 11 – Water Fund, for the amount of \$15,125.19. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Nolan offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 11 – Sewer Fund, for the amount of \$5,001.28. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Confer offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 11 – Trust and Agency Fund, for the amount of \$1,698.72. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Mayor Ryan opened the Request for Qualification (RFQ) proposals submitted for the Owego Street Stormwater Improvement Project, OSC Contract # D040679, PIN# 6755.62. The Village received three submissions and they are as follows: Hunt Engineers, Delta Engineers, and LaBella Associates. The submissions will be reviewed by an appointed panel of three members.

Trustee Chicone offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Nolan appointing Superintendent Dean Hillyard, Trustee Jeffrey Confer, and Trustee Phil Joe Smith to the Owego Street RFQ review committee. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Nolan, and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Chicone offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith authorizing the reimbursement of a tire replacement due to damage from Village owned equipment in the amount of \$162.34. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Chicone authorizing the payment of an EVConnect repair invoice for the vehicle charger, contingent upon a discussion of the matter with the company. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer approving the contract for Amric Associates LTD. to provide bailiff services at the Village Court. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Byers, Village Clerk

Present: Mayor James Ryan, Trustees Vincent Chicone, Philip Smith, Jeffrey Confer and James Nolan

Also Present: Dean Hillyard, Superintendent; Emily Byers, Village Clerk; and Aaron Arnold, Climate Justice Fellow

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. and asked for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Confer offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 12 – General Fund, for the amount of \$25,131.43. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Nolan authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 12 – Water Fund, for the amount of \$6,010.47. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Nolan offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 12 – Sewer Fund, for the amount of \$130,713.38. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Chicone to accept the scoring committee recommendation of Hunt Engineers as the engineering firm for the Owego Street Stormwater Project, OSC Contract # D040679, PIN# 6755.62. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Chicone offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Nolan approving Addendum #1 to the Montour Falls Government Operations Climate Action Plan, the Village of Montour Falls commits to a 50% reduction in GHG emissions within 10 years (2031), base year 2018. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Nolan, and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Byers, Village Clerk

Present: Mayor James Ryan, Trustees Vincent Chicone, Philip Smith, Jeffrey Confer and James Nolan

Also Present: Dean Hillyard, Superintendent; Laurie Thompson, Village Treasurer; Emily Byers, Village Clerk; and Aaron Arnold, Climate Justice Fellow

Public: Jessica Westlake, Jody Saunders

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. and asked for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Chicone authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 13 – General Fund, for the amount of \$64,766.59. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Nolan offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 13 – Water Fund, for the amount of \$5,113.19. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Confer offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Nolan authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 13 – Sewer Fund, for the amount of \$2,631.19. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer authorizing the payment of bills on Abstract no. 13 – Trust and Agency Fund, for the amount of \$2,070.40. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Montour Falls Library Director, Jessica Westlake, updates the board on the status of the Construction Aid project with Halco/NYSED Construction Aid Grant taking place at the library. The first phase of this project was the insulation of the attic and basement which has been completed and has produced noticeable temperature improvements. She is coordinating phase two of the project which will include more energy saving upgrades.

Trustee Confer offered the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Nolan:

Resolution by the Village of Montour Falls approving and endorsing the Village's application to the New York State Canal Corporation and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Grant Program; and WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls desires to apply for up to \$24,000 in financial assistance; and WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls endeavors to improve and/or promote connectivity between recreation areas and communities or between waterways and land trails; and WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls endeavors to make recreational and tourism assets more accessible for all ages and abilities and expand audiences served; and WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments, neighborhoods, and economies; and WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls is a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community; and WHEREAS, the application proposes funding for new sidewalks and new signage; and WHEREAS, the project will benefit low- and moderate-income persons. A low- and moderate-income person is defined as being a member of a household whose income is less than 80% of the area median income for the household size. A principal benefit to low- and moderate-income persons requires at least 51% of the project beneficiaries to qualify as low- and moderate-income; and WHEREAS, the median household income (2021) in the Village of Montour Falls is \$29,878 which about percent of the median household income in Schuyler County (\$53,291) and approximately forty-four percent household income in the entire state of New York (\$71,117); and WHEREAS, the village intends to provide the local dollar-for-dollar match requirement (up to \$24,000) if the grant is awarded; and WHEREAS, the grant application requires the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Montour Falls approves and endorses the New York State Canal Corporation and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Grant Program application for financial assistance prepared for and to be submitted by the village.

The aforementioned resolution was put to vote and resulted in the following: AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Nolan, and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Chicone:

Resolution by the Village of Montour Falls approving and endorsing the Village's application to the SFY 2023-2024 Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment (V-FIRE) Grant Program issued by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES).
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls desires to apply for up to \$1,000,000 in financial assistance with no match requirement; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments, neighborhoods, and economies; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls is a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community; and
WHEREAS, the application proposes funding for a new roof for the Village Firehouse; and
WHEREAS, the median household income (2021) in the Village of Montour Falls is \$29,878 which about half of the median household income in Schuylar County (\$56,437) and approximately two-fifths the median household income in the entire state of New York (\$75,157); and
WHEREAS, the grant application requires the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Montour Falls approves and endorses the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) SFY 2023-2024 Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment (V-FIRE) Grant application for financial assistance prepared for and to be submitted by the village.

The aforementioned resolution was put to vote and resulted in the following: AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Nolan, and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Confer offered the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Nolan:

Resolution by the Village of Montour Falls approving and endorsing the Village's application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - Regional.
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls is the primary applicant and desires to apply for up to \$75,000 in financial assistance; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls endeavors to preserve and protect the residents and businesses of the Village and surrounding communities; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments, neighborhoods, and economies; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls is a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community; and
WHEREAS, the application proposes funding for Operations and Safety, which includes Training, Equipment, PPE, and Wellness and Fitness in collaboration with neighboring firefighting organizations; and
WHEREAS, the median household income (2021) in the Village of Montour Falls is \$29,878 which about half of the median household income in Schuylar County (\$56,437) and approximately two-fifths the median household income in the entire state of New York (\$75,157); and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls intends to provide the local match requirement of 5% (up to \$3,750) of total project cost, if the grant is awarded; and
WHEREAS, the grant application requires the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Montour Falls approves and endorses the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program application for financial assistance prepared for and to be submitted by the village.

The aforementioned resolution was put to vote and resulted in the following: AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Nolan, and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Chicone offered the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith:

Resolution by the Village of Montour Falls approving and endorsing the Village's application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - Vehicle Acquisition
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls is the primary applicant and desires to apply for up to \$75,000 in financial assistance; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls endeavors to preserve and protect the residents and businesses of the Village; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments, neighborhoods, and economies; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls is a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community; and

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding for Vehicle Acquisition; and
WHEREAS, the median household income (2021) in the Village of Montour Falls is \$29,878 which about half of the median household income in Schuyler County (\$56,437) and approximately two-fifths the median household income in the entire state of New York (\$75,157); and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls intends to provide the local match requirement of 5% of grant amount awarded (up to \$3,750); and
WHEREAS, the grant application requires the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Montour Falls approves and endorses the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program application for financial assistance prepared for and to be submitted by the village.

The aforementioned resolution was put to vote and resulted in the following: AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Nolan, and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Confer offered the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Nolan:

Resolution by the Village of Montour Falls approving and endorsing the Village's application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - Operations and Safety.
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls desires to apply for up to \$75,000 in financial assistance; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls endeavors to preserve and protect the residents and businesses of the Village; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls is a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community; and
WHEREAS, the application proposes funding for Operations and Safety, which includes Equipment, PPE, Modification to Facilities, Wellness and Fitness, and Training; and
WHEREAS, the median household income (2021) in the Village of Montour Falls is \$29,878 which about half of the median household income in Schuyler County (\$56,437) and approximately two-fifths the median household income in the entire state of New York (\$75,157); and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls intends to provide the local match requirement of 5% of grant amount awarded (up to \$3,750); and
WHEREAS, the grant application requires the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Montour Falls approves and endorses the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FY2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program application for financial assistance prepared for and to be submitted by the village.

The aforementioned resolution was put to vote and resulted in the following: AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Nolan, and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Chicone offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith accepting the 2023 Delinquent Tax List as presented and authorize the publication. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Nolan and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Confer offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Chicone setting the Tax Certificate Sale date as Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Nolan and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Chicone offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith resolved, the upcoming General Village Election will be held Tuesday, March 19, 2024 and resolved, the polling place will be located at the Village Hall, 408 West Main Street and will be open between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m. AYES: Trustees Smith, Nolan, and Confer. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer to hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. at the Montour Falls Village Hall, 408 W. Main St., Montour Falls, New York, to hear public comments on the transfer of funds from the general account toward the purchase of the Montour Marina. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Chicone offered the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith:

Resolution - Community Distributed Generation (Community Solar) for the Village of Montour Falls New York State Electric and Gas Electric Accounts,

WHEREAS, the NY DPS (Dept. of Public Service) and New York State Electric and Gas have implemented the Community Distributed Generation (CDG) Net-crediting billing mechanism; and
WHEREAS, this allows the Village of Montour Falls the opportunity to receive a discount directly on the New York State Electric and Gas invoice without the need for providing payment information or receiving a second invoice; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls has established a relationship with Ampion, PBC. to administer the Clean Energy Communities Community Solar 'Community Campaign'; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls wishes to set an example for residents;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Montour Falls authorizes the adoption of Community Distributed Generation for all eligible Village accounts with Ampion, PBC.

The aforementioned resolution was put to vote and resulted in the following: AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Chicone offered the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Confer:

Resolution - Village of Montour Falls Supporting Ampion Renewable Energy Program
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls has been presented with an opportunity to partner with Ampion, PBC. dba Ampion Renewable Energy; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls can benefit by completing High Impact Actions associated with the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program; and
WHEREAS, Ampion has a program that is aligned with the Village's goals to promote sustainability and renewable energy for its community and residents; and
WHEREAS, Ampion is offering the Village and residents the opportunity to save money on electricity costs; and
WHEREAS, this program is offered to residents directly from Ampion; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Montour Falls wishes to support this program; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Montour Falls supports its community's participation in the Ampion Renewable Energy Program.

The aforementioned resolution was put to vote and resulted in the following: AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Chicone offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Smith to schedule budget workshops starting on February 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. and additional dates: March 7, March 21, April 4, and April 18, 2024 as needed, with the regular board meeting immediately following. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Chicone authorizing the Village Treasurer to pursue a quote from Inero & Company CPA's for financial services. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Trustee Smith offered a resolution, seconded by Trustee Nolan to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. AYES: Trustees Chicone, Smith, Confer, and Nolan. NOES: None. Resolution carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Byers, Village Clerk