VILLAGE OF VALATIE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

APRIL 14, 2015

FINAL

PRESENT AUDIENCE

Mayor Diane Argyle 12 residents

Trustee Frank Bevens Deputy Louis Bray

Trustee Philip Bickerton 1 reporter

Trustee Angelo Nero Asst. Fire Chief Rustin Dolan

Trustee David Williams

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Mayor Argyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Argyle opened the Public Hearing for the tentative budget at 7:01 pm. She stated that the Board had held a couple of Budget workshops and explained that payroll is an expensive part of the budget as well as retirement and health insurance. Electric costs have risen dramatically which has caused the budget to rise. The Board is currently looking into solar power as a source of electricity that may cut expenses. Space on the water tower will be rented to Verizon to bring in some income but this is still not enough. The Board is open to suggestions to help cut costs. Mayor Argyle opened up the hearing to any comments. Pam Joern asked whether the Board will be going after the LDC for lack of payment of water and sewer bills. Mayor Argyle explained that the LDC is currently making payments on those past bills as well as their current bill.

There were no other comments from the audience. Mayor Argyle closed the Public Hearing at 7:07pm.

Mayor Argyle opened the Public Hearing to override the Property Tax Cap at 7:08 pm. There were no Public comments.

Mayor Argyle closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 pm. The Board will make a resolution to override the Tax Cap at the May 12th meeting.

Resolution #136 was made by Trustee Nero and seconded by Trustee Bevens to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2015 meeting. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Resolution #137 was made by Trustee Bevens and seconded by Trustee Williams to approve the minutes of March 10, 2015. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Resolution # 138 was made by Trustee Bevens and seconded byTrustee Bickerton to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Resolution # 139 was made by Trustee Bickerton and seconded by Trustee Williams to approve the payment of claims 461-516 for a total of $36,869.49. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

**Old Business**

James Manning from Tierra Farms reported on the Farmer’s Market which may start on May 31st from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm. in the Senior Center parking lot. So far there will be 11 vendors. Another meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00 pm.

**Code Enforcement**-

Attorney Pam Joern, representing Nut Biz, questioned why the Building Inspector found no violations for the US Hotel and the Village paid for the engineer’s report. Mayor Argyle stated that Walt Simonsmeier found 22 violations and the LDC was notified of these violations. Gunther Fishgold, new owner of the old American Legion building, stated that he had 2 unexpected visits by Walt and he had to pay for an engineer’s report. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained that the building inspector can stop by a project when he needs to but if the property owner would rather he contact them first then that is ok as well.

Mr. Fishgold did not feel that it was right that the Village paid for the LDC engineer report. He also stated that the Village attorney should write a letter to the State Comptroller to go after the LDC. Mr. Fitzsimmons commented that the Board can go after the LDC if they wish to and Walt can also condemn the building and shut it down but the owner still owns it. He stated that there is a process that needs to be performed to condemn a building. The building inspector would need to write a letter asking the LDC for another engineer report within 30 days or the Village would condemn the building. If the Village intends to bring the LDC to court, it would go through the local court system first. The Mayor will contact the Village Associate Attorney for advice.

**Other Business**

Tim Holt asked the Board if he wanted to build a middle income senior apartment building with an age restriction of 55 years and older on his property, could it be done at the market rate without any zoning changes? He would like to have a 5 acre solar farm with grazing animals under the panels

on this property and wondered if he needed any permits for this. Rob stated that he would need a Special Use permit and would need to appear before the Zoning Board of Appeals for an interpretation.

**Fire Department**

Assistant Chief Rustin Dolan presented the fire department report- on file in the Village Clerk’s office. There will be an open house for recruitment on April 26th at the fire house from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm. There will be a pre-sale and takeout only chicken barbeque catered by O’Kenny’s on June 11th from 4:00 – 6:30 pm. Tickets are available from any member.

Resolution # 140 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the Fire Department Officers for 2015-2016. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The officers are as follows:

Chief- Joseph Laviano

1st Assistant Chief- Rustin Dolan

2nd Assistant Chief- Joseph H. Loeffler

Other business-

Resolution # 141 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the application for the Northern Columbia Softball League to use the Callan Park field on Sundays during the months of April through September. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

Mayor Argyle commented that the locks on the garbage baskets need to be changed because they are decaying. The bathrooms will be opened this week.

**Water/Sewer**

Mayor Argyle commented that the screen project was started this week. The Town of Greenport has solar panels on a piece of land and they would lease to the Village for $1.00 according to Pat Manning from Viridian.

**V.E.R.A.**

Joe Herwick from Beaver Mill Antiques asked the Board for approval to hold their monthly outdoor “Antique Sales” starting May 16th to September 19th. The sale would take place on their own private driveway and they would be selling items from their shop as well as have a handful of other vendors.

Resolution # 142 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the monthly antique sales. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Curbside Clean-up Day will be held May16th. Residents can place items on the curb in front of their house or they can call the Village Office to have their name placed on a list for pick-up of their items.

**M.H.G Portrait**

Mayor Argyle updated the Board on the status of the Martin H. Glynn portrait. Another letter has been written for Board approval to send to the Ichabod Crane School Board regarding the portrait.

Resolution #143 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the letter to the Ichabod Crane School Board regarding the Martin H. Glynn portrait. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Clerk Update**

The new water billing program has been downloaded and information will be transferred so we can start the new program in the July billing. We received information regarding electronic re-cycling from a company from Lakewood, NJ who does business in this area. The cost for one dumpster would cost $1500. The clerk will talk to Columbia County Solid Waste to see what their program is.

**Senior Center**

Still waiting for someone to pick up a new television for them. Trustee Williams has been assigned this task.

Other Business

Resolution # 144 was made by Trustee Bevens to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with Columbia County and all the Towns and Villages in Columbia County for cooperation and assistance between their respective Superintendents of Highways and Highway Departments for Public Works for the general maintenance, construction and repair of municipal roads, highways, bridges and property. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**New Business**

Resolution # 145 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the Valatie Free Library & the Kinderhook Memorial Library use of the gym on July 16, 2015 from 6-8 pm for a presentation. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 146 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the use of 5 rooms for the Niverville Fire Department to hold fire fighter physicals on Monday, May 11, 2015 from 5-9 pm. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 147 was made by Trustee Bevens to approve appointments of offices for the 2015-2016 year. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The list of appointments is on file in the Village Clerk’s office.

Resolution # 148 was made by Trustee Bevens to enter into executive session to discuss finance and the budget and any other business before the Board. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Resolution # 149 was made by Trustee Nero to exit executive session at 9:43 pm, seconded by Trustee Bevens. All in favor, motion carried.

The Board will do some research on possibly borrowing $100,000 in a 5 year BAN to pay off the sidewalk link project, the county and school district PILOT and to pay any other bills that are being carried over. The percentage rate will need to be reviewed. A resolution can be made at a Budget workshop meeting.

Resolution # 150 was made by Trustee Nero to appoint Morris Associates as the Village Engineer. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

There will be another Budget workshop on April 16, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

With no further business to discuss,

Resolution # 151 was made by Trustee Nero to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 pm. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk