VILLAGE OF VALATIE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

July 10, 2018

7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT**  **AUDIENCE**

Mayor Diane Argyle Trustee Angelo Nero- absent, notified Fire Chief Rustin Dolan Trustee Frank Bevens Randall Schmitt

Trustee Larry Eleby

Trustee David Williams.

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Mayor Argyle called the meeting at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Resolution #9** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the minutes of June 12, 2018. Trustee Williams seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution #10** was made by Trustee Eleby to pay claims 2018-2-#42-85for a total of $72,261.70 and $116540.62 for off abstract bills (which includes the Highway contract) making $188,812.32 for a total of all bills. Trustee Williams seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Public Comment**- Randall Schmitt commented that the Weed Control Company sprayed the flowers in the box that VERA has. The company also did not place signs up stating that they were spraying pesticides. The company will be contacted regarding this.

Jack Smith, a resident of the Village, had contacted one of the Trustees and complained that the street sweepers were starting too early, 8:30 which is earlier than he would like. Other residents have complained that the street sweeper did not start early enough for Main Street. Trustee Bevens will deal with this issue.

**Fire Department**-Mayor Argyle stated that walls are going up and the floor is looking good. Chief Dolan reported that there were 6 calls since the last meeting with 1 false alarm at the Raihofer Senior Apartments. The fire department purchased 4 sets of turnout gear and hose testing is set for Saturday. The ladder truck paint was worse than anticipated but it is covered under warranty.

**Theatre**- New windows have been put in in front of the Theater which were donated by Mario’s Hardware Store and the building has been painted by Marshal Brainard and Tom Barber as volunteers. There was a complaint regarding someone letting their dog use the area next to the Theatre as a bathroom. The Board discussed moving the fence back further. Attorney Fitzsimmons suggested putting up a sign stating “No dogs allowed”. This way they would be violating the law and the Board could have the person ticketed and they would go to court.

**Parks**- Mayor Argyle is waiting for the engineer to look at the pavilion at Callan Park.

**Water/Sewer**- (Report on file in Clerk’s Office) – All is well except for the Sewer plant truck is not back yet. Hopefully it will be done soon.

**VERA**- July 21st is the Village Wide Tag Sale. Maps will be dropped off at the Village Office and distributed around the Village businesses. The Presbyterian Church is also having a tag sale. It was suggested that this be placed on the website and Facebook, etc. The Boot drive for the Fire Department will also be held that day as well. Trustee Bevens suggested that maybe we should think about doing our tag sale the same day as the Village of Kinderhook. There will be further discussion regarding this.

**Clerk Update**- The Village tax bills have been collected and the July water/sewer bills have been mailed out. The new Deputy Clerk Dawn Banks has been doing great. There will be a wedding held at the Gazebo across from the office on July 14th. The Clerk asked that the meeting be moved to a later date because she will be out of the office for vacation and not returning until the date of the regularly scheduled meeting. The new Deputy Clerk is not quite ready to handle the preparation for the meeting on her own yet.

**Resolution # 11** was made by Trustee Eleby to move the August Board of Trustees meeting to August 21st at 7:00 pm. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, carried.

Columbia County Emergency Management was notified by the NYS Department of Homeland Security that FEMA has given final approval of the Columbia County application for the Hazard Mitigation grant program (letter on file in Clerk’s Office). They are asking that the City of Hudson, and Villages of Chatham, Valatie and Kinderhook adopt a resolution at a regular Board meeting and forward this resolution to DHSES and a copy to the Columbia County Deputy Director Henry Swartz for their record.

**Resolution #12** was made by Trustee Bevens to adopt a resolution for FEMA approval of a Multi- jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Senior Center**- The Board discussed cars that are parking in the lot next to the senior center for 24 hours or more and what can be done to deter this. The Board discussed with Attorney Fitzsimmons that this is hard to enforce. The Board will continue to look into this issue.

**Other Business**- The Board discussed property tax foreclosures on certain properties. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated that there could be selective enforcement arguments therefore letters should be sent to remind homeowners if they have forgotten to pay their taxes. This is actually done every fall. It was also discussed to hire a Code Enforcement Officer who is willing to go to Court on cases. It was suggested that a letter be sent as well as photos taken of each property in violation of the Building Code. Attorney Fitzsimmons will start the process of foreclosure which can take up to one year.

**Highway Dept.-** The Mayor will get a list from Town Highway Superintendent John Ruchel regarding which roads need asphalt and how much. The cost of asphalt has risen. The Board decided to work on getting sidewalks up to par because there is not enough money to work on both projects. The Board discussed looking into getting a grant to fix the sidewalks and then State DOT can pave the State Roads such as Main Street and Route 9 (Kinderhook St.).

**Building Dept**.- A letter will be sent in violation of the Building Code for junk on a property on Upper Main Street. The Building Inspector asked that the Board review the Building Schedule fee again to add penalties for those residents who had not applied for a building permit or who have not renewed their permit which is only good for 6 months. The fee would be doubled the cost of the permit and be titled an “Administrative Fee” since it requires additional work for the Building Department in keeping track of violators. A formal resolution needs to be drawn up.

**Resolution # 13** was made by Trustee Bevens to establish an Administrative Fee according to the Village of Valatie Building Permit Fee Schedule for residents who have not acquired a building permit or who have not renewed their permit. The Board of Trustees will have the authority to amend such said fees from time to time as warranted by resolution. Trustee Williams seconded, all in favor, carried.

**More new business-** Mayor Argyle stated that Mayor Jim Dunham from the Village of Kinderhook asked us to share in getting a grant to develop a park and access to the Kinderhook Creek. This is still in the development stages. Trustee Bevens inquired about getting access for the fire department to draft as well. More discussion to follow.

Mayor Argyle also commented that the fence near Fuzzy Butz has shrubbery growing out of it that needs to be taken care of but it is too dangerous to clear out. The Village will need to find someone to cut the shrub. Chief Dolan recommended Tapler Tree Service. The Board will look into this.

Trustee Eleby received some sewer plant lights and estimates to install them at the Sewer Plant. The estimate received from Wohlberg Electric was $6,270.10 and the Village would receive an incentive from National Grid in the amount of $2,287.00 making the total cost $3,983.10.

**Resolution # 14** was made by Trustee Eleby to move forward with getting the lighting put in at the sewer plant. Trustee Bevens seconded, all in favor, carried.

The Mayor will also look into getting bids for a new Fire Alarm System and look into getting a quote from Wohlberg Electric for exit lights for the MHG building.

**Applications for MHG building**-

**1.** Boy Scout Troop 113 for an indoor tag sale 10/12-10/13/18

**Resolution #15** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the application. Trustee Williams seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution # 16** was made by Trustee Eleby to send a donation of $200.00 in memory of Chuck Rothermels’ mother to the Palmer Engine and Hose Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary since Mr. Rothermel has done many jobs for the Village of Valatie and it’s residents. Trustee Bevens seconded, all in favor, carried.

**Resolution # 17** was made by Trustee Bevens to make all parks in the Village of Valatie SMOKE FREE in conjunction with the Tobacco- Free action of Columbia & Greene Counties. Trustee Eleby seconded, all in favor, carried.

With no further business to discuss,

**Resolution # 18** was made by Trustee Eleby to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Trustee Bevens seconded, all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer, RMC

Village Clerk