Village of Valatie

End of Year Board Meeting

May 29, 2014

**Present Absent Audience**

Mayor Argyle Trustee Bickerton 1 member of the Press

Trustee Bevens

Trustee Nero

Trustee Williams

Mayor Argyle opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Motion**- Tr. Williams motioned to appoint Barbara Fischer as the new Clerk/Treasurer, seconded by Tr. Bevens, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion**- Tr. Bevens motioned to appoint Margaret Bryant as the new Deputy Clerk, seconded by Tr. Nero, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

Mayor Argyle introduced the new Clerk/Treasurer to the Board who resumed taking the minutes.

**Motion**- Tr. Nero made a motion to authorize the Clerk, with the assistance of the Village Accountants, to adjust fund balances for the end of the fiscal year 2013-2014, seconded by Tr. Williams. All members present voted yes, motion carried.

Mayor Argyle noted that the Accountantwas in the office on Thursday and reviewed encumbering left over funds from the Fire Department.

**Motion**-Tr. Bevens motioned to move excess funds left over in the Fire Department line to this year’s budget to purchase turn out gear, seconded by Tr. Williams, all members voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion**- Tr. Bevens motioned to allow the Clerk to send out the 2014 Tax Bills, seconded by Tr. Nero, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

Mayor Argyle discussed organizing a committee to work on the water rates.

* Looking at unit charges that may not be fairly distributed
* Need to adjust water rate
* Possibly lowering minimum from 1 to 5000 gallons instead of 7500 gallons
* Working on breaking down into categories- chart presented
* Only one customer uses more than 1 million gallons

A water leak found near the Ichabod Crane School is the responsibility of the Town of Kinderhook and they are working on it.

The Board discussed the chart presented by the Mayor depicting the water and water unit charges. It was discovered that most residents use between the 10,000- 20,000 gallon range. The low end is between 1- 10,000. According to the budget, revenue would need to be raised by 15%. The unit charge should cover the mortgage on the loans. The delivery charge should cover the maintenance that needs to be done.

Currently the minimum is up to 7500 gallons with a $14.00 minimum charge and $2.00 per thousand after that. A commercial unit is $24.75. There is 1 unit charged per residence per building depending on what the occupancy is. The Mayor reminded the Board that the rate changes need to be changed by the end of July. A workshop meeting will be set up to discuss the rates.

**Motion**-Tr. Williams made a motion to adjust water bill account #900, seconded by Tr. Bevens, all members present voted yes, motion carried. A dollar amount will be calculated and given to the Board hopefully at the next meeting.

A request was received from the Valatie Free Library requesting to use the Valatie Senior Center on June 12, 2014 from 6:00-8:00pm for a book talk and signing by local author Bruce Hallenbeck.

**Motion**-Tr. Bevens made a motion granting the Library permission to use the Senior Center on June 12, 2014 for a book talk and signing by local author Bruce Hallenbeck. Motion was seconded by Tr. Nero, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

A list of garbage collection problems was presented to the Board. A list will be kept in the Clerk’s office from County Waste recording any difficulties collecting the garbage each week. Tr. Bevens volunteered to go around and check on each issue presented each week.

**Public Comment**

The reporter from the Register Star questioned the Board regarding the salary of the new Clerk/Treasurer Barbara Fischer and the Deputy Clerk Margaret Bryant. The Clerk/Treasurer salary is $43,680 for a 40 hour week. The Deputy Clerk will be paid a salary of $8700 for a 15 hour week. The Mayor commented that out of 15 applicants, Ms. Fischer and Ms. Bryant had the most experience in all phases of the job.

**Motion**-Tr. Bevens made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:40 PM, seconded by Tr. Williams, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion**-Tr. Bevens motioned to come out of executive session at 8:30pm, seconded by Tr. Nero, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion**-Tr. Bevens made a motion to have the former Village Clerk Melissa Martino- Morin continue training the new clerk/treasurer at a rate of $20.00 per hour for a total of up to 80 hours at the discretion of the new clerk, seconded by Tr. Nero. All members present voted yes, motion carried.

**Motion**-Tr. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Tr. Bevens, all members present voted yes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk/ Treasurer