Village of Valatie

Board of Trustees

October 20, 2015

Present Audience

Mayor Diane Argyle 4 residents

Trustee Frank Bevens 1 reporter

Trustee Philip Bickerton

Trustee David Williams

Trustee Angelo Nero

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.

Mayor Argyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Public Hearing for the Parking Ticket Law, Local Law # 2 of 2015.

Mayor Argyle stated that she was approached by a business owner that would like to see a couple of 15 minute parking spots located on Main Street. Trustees Bevens and Williams like the idea but believe it will be hard to enforce. Trustee Bickerton believes we need to do a little more research on this and Trustee Nero was against it completely. Mr. Fitzsimmons stated that he had some reservations with this and it may be hard to enforce but the Board should send a survey letter to the area businesses asking for their opinion and go from there. The Board reviewed the Local Law changes that were made since the September Board meeting. Emelia Teasdale questioned the cost of the parking fine which was in a range of $50.00 to $100.00. Mr. Fitzsimmons explained that the fee was dependent upon the violation and the fee could be doubled if there is a need to go to court. The fee would then be at the discretion of the judge for the violation.

With no further questions before the Board, Attorney Fitzsimmons read the SEQR form.

**Resolution #62** was made by Trustee Bevens to accept a negative declaration for purposes of SEQR for Local Law # 2 of 2015. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution # 63** was made by Trustee Bickerton to pass Local Law #2 of 2015. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Argyle closed the Public Hearing at 7:34 pm and opened the Regular meeting at 7:38 pm.

**Resolution # 64** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve the minutes of the September 15th meeting. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, Trustee Nero abstained since he did not attend that meeting. Motion carried.

**Resolution # 65** was made by Trustee Williams to pay claims 2015-05-#175-220 for a total of $31,794.93. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Public Comment**-

Randall Schmitt commented that adults who are riding bicycles on the sidewalk are going really fast and he is concerned that someone will be run over by them. He stated that the bicyclists are claiming they don’t want to get hit by cars on Main Street.

**Old Business**

**Fire Department**- Trustee Bevens read the report which will be on file at the Village Clerk’s Office. There were 7 calls since the last meeting. There will be a Halloween Party on Saturday, October 31 starting with a parade from Lake Street at 6:30pm. The fire company will also be having a Chicken BBQ on November 11th. This will only be take out and tickets may be purchased through any fire company member.

**Theater**- Trustee Bickerton will be installing a door and so far the air conditioning system is working well but the heating system is not.

**Parks**- The Boy Scouts will be finished working at the MHG Square this weekend and will be having a Veterans Day Run on November 11th an hour before the Memorial Service.

**Water/Sewer Dept**. - The mayor reported that the work is almost done on the sewer project.

**V.E.R.A. -** The artisan’s fair went very well with a lot of new people attending. There was a huge advertising campaign in the Albany and Pittsfield areas. Mr. Schmitt presented a projected budget for the Winter Walk festivities. Trustee Bevens asked Mr. Schmitt if they could get by with what they were allotted last year or if VERA may be able to put more money in.

**Resolution # 66** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve giving VERA $3300.00 toward Winter Walk this year. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution # 67** was made by Trustee Williams to proclaim November 28, 2015 as Small Business Saturday. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. (Resolution will be on file in the Clerk’s Office)

Other business-

The Board received a letter from Maria Walski of Cramer Drive asking for some forgiveness with her water bill. The property is currently vacant and is for sale but there is an unusually high water bill for this past quarter since there is no one living there. She believes that the water may have been left on by realtors showing the property. The Board agreed to just charge her the average amount of $53.38 a month of each billing and asked that she contact her realtor as well.

**Resolution # 68** was made by Trustee Williams to forgive some penalties to Ms. Walski’s bill for a final amount due of $202.12. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, Trustee Nero abstained. Motion carried.

Joan Gavigan sent a letter to the Board requesting some relief for her water bill penalties as well.

**Resolution # 69** was made by Trustee Bevens to cut the penalty amount in half with the stipulation that Ms. Gavigan pay 20% of her bill every month on the balance due by the 15th of each month and pay the current bill as well. The first payment would be due by November 15th. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution # 70** was made by Trustee Bevens to send a certified letter to Michael Ryan with a notice of shut off of his water for lack of payment if he does not make a payment within 10 days. He also will be asked to pay 20% by the 15th of each month until the balance is paid in full. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Spencer Winstead attended the Board meeting due to a discrepancy in his water bill as well. The mayor will send our water department guys back out to Mr. Winstead’s property to read the meter again and see what the issue may be. The Board decided to ask Mr. Winstead to pay the average amount he has been paying which is approximately $131.00 a month and to change his water meter.

**Resolution # 71** was made by Trustee Nero to charge Mr. Winstead the average amount of 3 bills of his regular water bill which is approximately $131 a month and to have our water department change his water meter and possibly his reader. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Michael Ryan entered the Board meeting at 8:20 pm. He explained to the Board that the meter was purchased by the previous owner from the Village of Kinderhook, not the Village of Valatie.

Trustee Bevens explained to Mr. Ryan that the issue was that Mr. Ryan did not contact the Village office for 2 years. The Board asked Mr. Ryan that if they were to waive $2,000 in penalties from his bill, would he be able to pay 20% of the bill every month by the 15th ? Mr. Ryan stated he would.

**Resolution # 72** was made by Trustee Bevens to ask Mr. Ryan to pay $1200 for his first payment and to waive $2,000 in penalties and pay 20% of the balance due each month by the 15th of each month and pay the current bill as well. Trustee Bickerton seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board received a letter of retirement and resignation of the Village Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Walt Simmonsmeier. The Board will advertise for a new Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer.

**Resolution # 73** was made by Trustee Bickerton to accept the resignation of Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer Walt Simmonsmeier with regret and wish him well in his retirement. Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Clerk Office**-

The Clerk is trying to enter the information from the current water billing program to the new billing program but has run in to some issues. The Board will need to review some of the water rates to see if they are correct for each parcel. These “workshops” will be held to correct the errors found but no other Board business will be conducted.

The Clerk’s Office is once again collecting items for “Operation Adopt a Soldier” for items to be sent to our troops overseas. A flyer listing items will be on the counter in front of the office. All items need to be collected by November 5th.

**Senior Center**- no report

**Highway**- The signs for New Street and Mechanic Street are up but there are no stop signs in Holly Hills. Trustee Bevens will do a sign survey with the Town Highway department and see where signs need to be located.

There is only one crosswalk in front of the Martin H. Glynn building and the cameras for Main Street will be up hopefully by mid -November. The paperwork for the $16,300.00 grant has been filed and the equipment has been ordered. The Village electrician will be working on the electric for the cameras. S&F Communications will be installing the cameras.

**Resolution for Climate Change-** The Board received an email from Jan Storm from the Citizen’s Climate Education/Citizen’s Climate Lobby group asking community leaders to sign on to a letter confirming support for climate action. The Board will review the details of this and discuss at the November Board meeting.

**New Business**-

1. Applications for MHG Building-
2. Little Owl’s Adventure Center, LLC- normally a **for profit** organization is not allowed use of the building but because of a mix-up the Board is allowing this business to meet. (Application on file in Clerk’s office) This is contingent upon insurance. The application needs to be corrected to inform applicant’s that **only not** **for profit groups** are allowed use of the building.
3. Green Party-Organizational Meetings on November 14th and December 12th, 10:00 am- noon, contingent upon insurance.
4. Boy Scout Troop 2114, Veteran’s Day Race on November 11, 2015 from 7:00am-11:00am. Insurance has been provided.

**Resolution # 74** was made by Trustee Bevens to approve all applications, contingent upon proof of insurance. Trustee Nero seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

1. Electronics Recycling Day- The Clerk will contact Columbia County Solid Waste for another electronics recycling day to occur on Saturday, November 14th if possible. The boxes for the battery recycling will hopefully be in soon to start that recycling program.

**Other business**-

Lisa Wilson asked the Board who to contact for a street light that shines into her house. The Board will look into this.

The Mayor reported that the Clock on Main Street will soon be fixed for free with a donation form an area resident who just wanted to have it done at no cost to the village.

**Executive Session**

**Resolution # 75** was made by Trustee Bevens to enter in to executive session at 9:40 pm. to discuss personnel and any other business before the Board. Trustee Williams seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution # 76** was made by Trustee Nero to exit executive session at 10:15 pm, Trustee Bevens seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board asked that a notice be placed in the papers for a Building Inspector/Code enforcement Officer. If the applicant does not already have the required licensing, they will be asked to pass any exams within one year. The salary will be based on experience.

The Board also asked that a certified letter be sent to Mr. Penn Steuerwald informing him that his water will be turned off if he does not make a 20% payment of the balance owed on his water bill within 10 days.

With no further business to discuss,

**Resolution # 77** was made by Trustee Nero to adjourn the meeting at 10:17pm, seconded by Trustee Williams, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Fischer

Village Clerk/Treasurer