

May 16, 2017 Regular Meeting 6:00PM

PRESENT: Mayor Smith; Trustees Watson and Austin; Sgt. Richard LaChapelle; Carol Greenough; Brad DeFrees; Karen Beckwith; Nat Huntington; Brenda Redford; Elizabeth Robinson; David Molenaar; Elizabeth Reynolds; Steven St. Claire

Brad DeFrees of the Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University gave a presentation on Comprehensive Planning for the long term and short term goals of the future of the community. He stated that Comprehensive Plans take about two years to complete and cost between \$20,000 and \$40,000. Syracuse University would assist with surveying the community, the analysis of the demographics and help with applications for possible funding of half the cost through U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Austin to approve the minutes of the May 2nd meeting, all voting in favor, CARRIED

LETTERS: Charter Communications sent correspondence regarding programming changes. Environmental Design Partnership sent a press release regarding the Sewer Rehabilitation Project for the Board to review. Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Austin to accept and file the correspondence, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Austin, seconded by Trustee Watson to publish the Press Release regarding the Sewer Rehabilitation Project, all voting in favor, CARRIED

BILLS: Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Austin to approve payment of the abstract covering claims #679-711 totaling \$142,314.91, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Mayor Smith, seconded by Trustee Watson to approve the attached list of budget amendments, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Mayor Smith reported that he looked into Stanley Benjamin's claim for reimbursement for a sewer drain cleaning. After speaking with Foreman Steven Brock and Action Septic (who performed the work), it was determined that Mr. Benjamin was responsible for the bill.

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Austin to support the Whitehall High School Band at the Memorial Day Parade with \$200.00, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Austin, seconded by Trustee Watson to advertise for a part-time Clerk for the Village Office, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Mayor Smith, seconded by Trustee Watson to only hold one Board meeting per month, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Mayor Smith, seconded by Trustee Austin to hold the Board meeting on the third Tuesday of every month, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Karen Beckwith complimented the work that was done by Scott Eckhard on the property owned by Francis Tarantino. Elizabeth Robinson asked if this property was in the Historic Preservation District. Elizabeth Reynolds asked if a permit was required to change the façade in a Historic Preservation District. Mayor Smith will review the Historic Preservation Law.

Steven St. Claire asked the Board to pass a law prohibiting anyone from operating a business on a property that is not on the tax roll. He also stated that if you connect water to this property and the bill doesn't get paid it can't be collected as a relevy on a tax bill. He also stated that there is no control of further contamination.

Elizabeth Reynolds stated that she like the improvements being made on the Martel Property. She feels the improvements are better than letting the building sit and rot until it falls down.

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Mayor Smith stated that NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation sent a report to the Village stating that the Martel property was cleaned of contamination in 2010 as best as it could without removing the building and tearing up Poultney Street. NYS DEC has signed off on the Spill Order for this property. The property is not on the tax roll because Washington County will not foreclose on the property and give a clear title. Mayor Smith stated that he is not ignoring the issue and that violations have been issued by Zoning Officer Peter Telisky. Ken Bartholomew suggested a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program instead of paying taxes for this property. Mayor Smith has contacted Attorney Sellar Ryan regarding this suggestion. Attorney Sellar Ryan is looking into this but is not sure if this property would qualify for a PILOT.

Brenda Redford asked for an extension beyond the June 1st deadline to remove the camper from the property on Skenesborough Drive. She is waiting for power to be installed at the new location and is not sure if they can meet the deadline. Trustee Austin stated that ample time was given to remove the camper from this property and does not want to grant an extension. Mayor Smith suggested moving the camper temporarily to the campground on Lower Main Street. Ms. Redford stated that this would be an extra cost that she can't afford.

Motion made by Mayor Smith, seconded by Trustee Watson to adjourn the meeting at 7:17PM,
all voting in favor, CARRIED

Stephanie A. LaChapelle
Clerk-Treasurer