

January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting 6:00PM

PRESENT: Mayor Eagan; Trustees Norton, Putorti, LaChapelle and Watson; Chief David Buxton; Charlie Bennett; Barbara Spoor; EJ Conzola

Mayor Eagan opened the meeting to discuss the Village's disinfection improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. These improvements are required by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and is estimated to cost \$1,200,000.00. The Village intends to apply to the USDA Office of Rural Development and NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation for funding of this project. Charlie Bennett asked why the water and sewer system was so expensive. Mayor Eagan stated that the Village is under a Consent Order with NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation and needs to rectify issues with the Wastewater Treatment System. The Water Treatment System need updates to its infrastructure and has to pay a significant increase in taxes on our Dresden properties due to a recent revaluation of assessment. Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee Watson to close the public hearing at 6:12PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to approve the minutes of the December 13th meeting, all voting in favor, CARRIED

LETTERS: The Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company submitted a letter stating that Governor Hochul has recently signed Real Property Tax Law 466-a which allows local government entities to give up to a 10% exemption of the assessed valuation of the primary residence of volunteer firefighters and/or volunteer ambulance workers. The Whitehall Volunteer Fire company is asking the Village to give these exemptions on the tax bills for Volunteer firefighters. Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company submitted a roster of members and a list of Officers. A Notice of Submission of Segment 3 Environmental Management & Construction Plan for the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project was received. Charter Communications submitted correspondence regarding upcoming programming changes. A Lost Prevention Report was received from The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company regarding the boilers at the Dept. of Public Works garage. The Counties of Warren and Washington Industrial Development Agency is seeking comments regarding the amended and restated Uniform Tax Exemption Policy. The American Legion requested a payment of \$200.00 to be paid to the Whitehall High School Band for their participation in the Memorial Day Parade. The American Legion failed to make this request in April when asking for permission to hold the parade. A letter was received from Judith DeCicco regarding the status of her proposal to have a bench installed in Riverside Park in memory of Jim Lafayette. New York State Department of Health sent a letter regarding the sanitary survey of the water system that was conducted. Washington County Treasurer sent the annual report of payments made to the Village of Whitehall for 2022. Steven Brock requested to be paid for two weeks of vacation in lieu of time off. Dina St. Claire sent a letter requesting an adjustment to her Water/Sewer bill due to broken hot water pipes that had frozen in her home. The executed copy of the Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement between Counties of Warren and Washington Industrial Development Agency and CHPE LLC was received. Alexander Gilmore submitted a letter of resignation as a Police Officer effective January 19, 2023. Motion made by Trustee Putorti, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to accept and file the correspondence, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Putorti, seconded by Trustee Norton to approve payment of \$200.00 to the Whitehall High School Band for their participation in the Memorial Day Parade, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee Watson to approve paying Steven Brock for two weeks of vacation in lieu of time off, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to accept Alexander Gilmore's resignation as a Police Officer effective January 19, 2023, all voting in favor, CARRIED

BILLS: Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Putorti to approve payment of the abstract covering claims #23-00483-23-00486, 23-00494-23-00499 and 23-00501-23-00540 totaling \$432,345.68, all voting in favor, CARRIED

January 17, 2023 Regular Meeting Continued

REPORTS: December reports were received from Zoning/Compliance Officer, Justice Putorti and Justice Clark. Working Foreman Steven Brock and Police Chief David Buxton submitted reports. Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Watson to accept the reports and to place them on file, all voting in favor, CARRIED

APPLICATIONS: Richard Lambert, Dustin Nicholson and James Lee submitted applications for Laborer. Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Putorti to accept the applications and to place them on file, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Norton to accept the proposal from Community Bank for the financing of the purchase of a Dump/Plow Truck in the amount of \$110,721.83 for five years with an interest rate of 4.89% and to authorize Mayor Eagan to sign the acceptance of this proposal, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Trustee Norton reported that the meter for the pit at the Water Treatment Plant will be installed this week. Trustee Watson stated that a section of the retaining wall along the canal needs repair. Mayor Eagan has sent pictures of the deteriorating canal wall to the Regional Director at NYS Canal Corp. Oversight Board.

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to hire Matthew Sears as Laborer at a rate of \$19.00/hr., all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Norton to convene into executive session to discuss specific personnel at 7:06PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Putorti to adjourn executive session and to reconvene into regular session at 7:55PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Putorti, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to hire Carl Mattison as a full-time Police Sergeant at a rate of \$31.68/hr. and provide no health insurance, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Putorti to hire Paula Wilbur as a part-time Police Officer, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Norton to increase the rate of pay for Bami Hurley, Richard Lavin and Darrell LaChapelle as part-time Laborer/Truck Driver to \$20.00/hr., all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Norton to adjourn the meeting at 8:10PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Stephanie A. LaChapelle
Clerk-Treasurer