

Present: Mayor Eagan, Attorney Matt Fuller, Trustees Pat Norton, Mike LaChapelle, Bob Putorti and Tim Watson, Engineer Clark Wilkinson, Charlie Austin, Steve Brock, Bob Murray, and Matt Saari.

Visitors: Gary Hill, EJ Conzola, and Ed Rodriguez

Meeting opened at 1:03 pm. Visitors were invited to speak.

Gary Hill: The power line has the potential to affect our waterline. CHPE should be required to provide us with an alternate water main above ground. He stated, "CHPE has no right to interfere with the Village residents' lifestyle. We should not have to sit back and let them bulldoze us under." Mayor Eagan responded that CHPE and the Village have developed a strike plan to deal with any problems that could happen during their blasting near Village water lines. Mr. Hill responded that he is going to make formal complaints to the appropriate agencies because he believes the plan isn't good enough.

Ed Rodriguez: He was asked by Clark to inspect our wastewater treatment plant after we discovered that we were nearing capacity. He noted that there were several pipes that were corroded and needed to be replaced. He also noted that the current configuration of the plant doesn't allow one half of the plant to be taken offline if necessary. He also noted that there are screening devices that need to be replaced which would make operation easier for the staff. Finally, he remarked that the Village board and mayor should be visiting the site.

The meeting continued with status updates on the following projects:

1. Canal Water Main movement. Clark relayed that the owner of Smith Street Auto would like the Village to provide a permanent easement for the water main connection point located on his property. Clark drafted an easement and sent it to Matt Fuller for review. Once the easement language is complete the board will need to adopt it in the form of a resolution. The contractor, Bellamy Construction, will begin directional drilling for the water main project once they have received the NYS DOT permit. The permit documents were signed by the Village and sent to the contractor in November 2023. The projected completion date for the project is still April 11, 2024.
2. State Route 22 Waterline. Steve reported that they have not worked on the project due to the weather. He is going to request Bellamy Construction drill the final NYS highway crossing upon completion of their drilling under the canal.
3. Lead Service Line Replacement. Tim Watson reported that there were 7 responses to the RFQ that were reviewed. Three companies were chosen for interviews by Tim and Pat Norton. They reached a consensus on the best company for the job.
4. Poultney/Williams Street Sewer. Bob Murray requested additional information so he can complete the pre-bid items. Clark is completing the plans and specifications by February 15, 2024. Clark sent the updated engineering for Poultney/Williams Street to Rural Development last week. Clark is also preparing an updated Total Project Cost to assist with determining the necessary amount for the Rural Development loan application. Pat asked if we would have a response from RD by the end of month February. Both Clark and Bob affirmed that the Village should have a response by then. Bob also commented that Rural Development's approval would be fast but the Environmental Facilities Corporation's approval would take longer.
5. Subcatchment 3 – FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project. Clark reported that he has submitted his initial engineering to FEMA for this grant. The grant request is in the amount of \$250,000 with \$225,000 in federal grant money and \$25,000 in non-federal share. We have submitted letters to FEMA asking permission for Bob and Clark to be involved in this project. We are awaiting approval from FEMA on our request.
6. Other Sewer/Clean Water Funding Updates. Bob asked if we have received any word on the \$2 million dollars from Congresswoman Stefanik. We have tentatively been approved for the \$2 million but are waiting for the final official approval announcement. Bob and Matt asked that final approval be forwarded to them as soon as it is received by the Village.

7. Funding Opportunities and Updates. Bob Murray explained the Village strategy for funding the upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant. He will begin the application and complete as much of the application to EFC as possible in anticipation of getting money from the Water Quality Improvement Program grant. To get interim financing for the Waste Water Treatment Plant the Village has to show that the balance will be covered by BIL funds. If we get the \$750,000 from the WQIP that has to be included too. We have to submit the financing application by June 1, 2024.
8. Grant Opportunities for 2024. Bob Murray reported that the Village has to apply to Northern Borders Regional Commission grant with the application due March 15, 2024 for one million dollars to purchase 38 new valves and/or replace/repair 48 valves. We will most likely be denied this grant due to economic status but if we are denied that we will apply for a Community Development Block grant which will likely be funded. The Community Development Block grant is due July, 2024.  
If the Village is interested, there is a Smart Growth Zoning grant with a 20% local match to assist with developing projects and zoning to encourage growth.  
Restore NY grant applications are currently open. Francis Putorti has expressed interest in applying for a grant to clean up the burned property on Broadway and replace it with a multi-use building. Bob Murray advised the Board that Francis Putorti must have at least a contract to purchase the building for site control before a grant application can move forward.  
Brownfield Opportunity Area Program is a planning program that addresses underutilized sites to facilitate redevelopment. The grant provides up to \$200,000.00 to identify underutilized properties in the Village. If the Village gets this funding and goes through the process, we would automatically gain access to funding to address the sites identified with the grant funds.

Trustee Norton reported that the filters at the Water Treatment Plant will be replaced the week of February 26, 2024.

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Watson to convene into executive session to discuss potential litigation at 4:00PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Putorti to adjourn executive session and to reconvene into regular session at 4:20PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee Watson to hire LaBella Associates for engineering services for UV Disinfection Improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Putorti to hire Kathleen Suozzo PE, LLC for engineering services in support of Lead Service Line Inventory and replacement program, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee Putorti to adjourn the meeting at 4:30PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED