

May 21, 2024 Regular Meeting 6:00PM

PRESENT: Mayor Eagan; Trustees LaChapelle, Norton, Watson and Putorti; David Buxton; Carl Mattison; Jerry Martin; EJ Conzola; Michael Rocque; Riley Ballard; Brian Brooks arrived at 7:00PM

Jerry Martin has a complaint regarding the vacant house next to his that has very high grass and downed tree limbs. He also asked who is responsible for mowing the median on Champlain Avenue. His neighbor used to mow the median but last year a complaint was filed for blowing the grass into the street and now he won't mow the median. Jerry Martin asked if he mowed the median and blew the grass into the street would he be liable if a motorcyclist had an accident due to this. Carl Mattison replied that yes because there is a law against depositing debris in the road. It was suggested that the grass be mowed so that it went back onto the median. Jerry Martin stated that the Village may have to start mowing the median.

Mike Rocque asked if the Village could help in placing the veterans' banners on the poles throughout the Village as the Legion can't get volunteers to complete this. The banners would be placed in May and taken down in November. He also asked if the Village could mow two properties along the state highway that have memorials as the gentleman that did this can no longer do it.

Riley Ballard asked if the Christmas Cheer committee could leave the manger by the firehouse in Riverside Park permanently and could the lights that are up high in the trees be left in the trees. Trustee Watson will check to see if any of the trees need to be trimmed if so, those lights will have to be removed. Riley Ballard also asked if more electrical outlets could be placed throughout the park. Trustee Watson replied that the Village plans to do electrical upgrades in Riverside Park. Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Putorti to allow the Christmas Cheer Committee to leave the manger in Riverside Park permanently, all voting in favor, CARRIED

The public hearing to take and hear comments regarding the Village's community development needs and to discuss the possible submission of Community Development Block grant applications for the 2024 program year was opened. The Village would use the grant to pay for infrastructure upgrades. There were no comments from the public regarding this. Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Norton to close the public hearing at 6:23PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to approve the minutes of the April 15th meeting, April 24th meeting and April 30th meeting, all voting in favor, CARRIED

LETTERS: Town Supervisor Rozell sent a letter requesting a meeting with the Mayor to discuss dividing the shared building expenses equally. A letter was received regarding grant opportunities for charitable organizations to benefit the elderly through the Washington County Home for Aged Women. Charter Communications sent correspondence regarding upcoming programming changes and the quarterly franchise fee of \$7,315.58. Salvatore Panetta submitted a request for an adjustment on the sewer portion of this water bill due to having two leaks at Champs Restaurant that went into the restaurant and not into the sewer system. S&P Global Ratings sent notice affirming its rating of the Village as "A" and changed the outlook to negative from stable. David Buxton submitted a letter resignation as Police Chief effective May 29, 2024. Matthew Brayman submitted a letter of resignation as a Police Officer effective May 29, 2024. Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Watson to accept the correspondence and to place it on file, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Norton to table Salvatore Panetta's request for an adjustment on his sewer until further information is received, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Putorti to accept David Buxton's resignation as Police Chief effective May 29, 2024, all voting in favor, CARRIED

May 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Continued

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Norton to hire David Buxton as a part-time Patrolman with his pay based on the Part-Time Police Officers Union contract, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Watson to hire Carl Mattison as a part-time Patrolman with his pay based on the Part-Time Police Officers Union contract, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Putorti to accept Matthew Brayman's resignation as a Full-Time Patrolman effective May 29, 2024, all voting in favor, CARRIED

BILLS: Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee Watson to approve payment of the abstract covering claims #24-00769-24-00772 and 24-00775-24-00809 totaling \$227,229.40, all voting in favor, CARRIED

REPORTS: April reports were received from Justice Johnson and Justice Nichols. Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Watson to accept and file the reports, all voting in favor, CARRIED

APPLICATIONS: Robin Burgart, Victoria LaCroix, Anthony Igwe and Serena Dunster submitted applications for the Clerk-Treasurer position. Ernest Stacey submitted an application for the Department of Public Works. Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Norton to accept the applications and to place them on file, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Putorti, seconded by Trustee Norton to adopt the attached resolution authorizing the issuance of serial bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.00 pursuant to the local finance law to finance the wastewater effluent disinfection project and delegating the power to issue the bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the sale of such bonds to the Village Treasurer, all voting in favor, CARRIED

The wastewater effluent disinfection project through a review of the Environmental Assessment Form and consideration of the criteria in 6 NYCRR-617.7c the Village Board concluded that the action will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and issued a Negative Declaration on July 26, 2023.

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Watson to authorize Mayor Eagan to sign the Tax Warrant for the fiscal year June 1, 2024-May 31, 2025, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee Putorti to approve the attached budget amendments, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company invited the Board members to their 2024 Installation of Officers Banquet to be held on June 1, 2024.

Trustee Norton reported that the water treatment plant is operating well. Trustee Putorti stated that the Zoning/Compliance Officer is doing a good job in getting properties cleaned up. Trustee LaChapelle stated that Zoning/Compliance Officer needs an ID badge and possible magnetic signs to place on his vehicle identifying that he is working for the Village. Trustee Watson reported the Dept. of Public Works have repaired two water leaks on County Route 12, checked on Pine Lake and discovered that two dams will need repairs, hydrant flushing and street sweeping have been completed and repairs have been made to the fountain in Riverside Park.

Brian Brooks talked with the Board regarding the proposed overhaul of the Fire Brigade Standard which could have significant financial implications for the Village if adopted. Brian is asking the Board members to make comments as to the impact on the Village before the comment period ends on June 21, 2024. He will provide additional information in writing for the Board to review. Brian Brooks stated that a Fire District is needed.

May 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Continued

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to convene into executive session to discuss specific personnel at 7:30PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to end executive session and to reconvene into regular session at 8:01PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to hire Luke Wescott as a Laborer at 19.00/hr. pending a physical and negative drug screening with a probationary period of six months, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to allow salaried employees to accumulate comp time in lieu of overtime at a rate of 1-1/2 hours for every hour worked beyond normal work hours with a maximum accumulation of 40 hours, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Putorti, seconded by Trustee Watson to adjourn the meeting at 8:12PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Stephanie A. LaChapelle
Clerk-Treasurer