

May 29, 2024 DPW Meeting 2:00PM

PRESENT: Mayor Eagan; Trustees LaChapelle, Norton and Watson; Matt Fuller; Charlie Austin; Matt Saari; EJ Conzola; Clark Wilkinson; Bob Murray; Jeff Murphy; Julie Rowland; Bill Humphries; Devin Bulger; Jason Vandenburg

Poultney Street Waterline –

Waterline has been on for three weeks. The contractor completed the work below the contract amount. It was stated that any Village expenses should be paid out of the BAN funds.

Lead Service Line Replacement –

A draft letter to be sent to homeowners regarding the service lines in their homes will be reviewed. Sean Doty of Suozzo, Doty and Associates will have the report complete so that this project can be listed on the IUP listing.

Sanitary Sewer –

Bob Murray and Matt Fuller are making sure that we meet the requirements of NYS Environmental Facilities Corp. funding for Poultney/Williams Street project so that we won't need any USDA/Rural Development funds for this project.

Clark Wilkinson is verifying information to have the report for Subcatchment #2 completed by early next week for the IUP listing.

Bob Murray discussed the EPA Community Grant Project requirements and implementation process. The Congressional Appropriation Award is for 2 million dollars with EPA's calculation of the local cost share to be \$500,000.00 for a total project cost of \$2.5 million dollars. The project for EPA purposes is likely to consist of two or more separate projects such as the WWTP and subcatchment #2 with a total project cost of at least \$3,425,700.00 in order to utilize the full 2 million dollar grant, recognizing the grant awards already approved for the WWTP. The Village 20% match can be funds from NYS DEC WQIP or EFC, CDBG or RD. The EPA grant award has a fixed 3-year term so the project must be completed by March 8, 2027. The first step is to identify the Project so that the Village can utilize the entire 2 million dollars. The EPA guidance indicates that a community can request a change in the type or purpose of the project to be funded by the grant. Before the grant can officially be awarded, the Village needs to complete an Environmental Information document, identify and document any pre-award costs, such as project administration or engineering costs that are to be paid out of grant funds, a work plan and budget. The Village must follow the procurement procedures identified in the EPA grant guidance documents. The Village and consultants are required to attend grant management training and budget development webinars. The Village must have an active registration in SAM.gov.

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to authorize Mayor Eagan to sign LaBella Associates' proposal to provide professional services in grant writing, environmental and engineering services for the 2024 CFA CDBG Application, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Norton to approve the attached resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the NYS Office of Community Renewal through the 2024 Consolidated Funding Application and authorizing and directing that the Mayor or Village designated representative submit the application to OCR and act in connection with the submission of the application, including execution of all required certifications and forms and to provide such additional information as may be required, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Washington County Sheriff Jeff Murphy gave a presentation on a plan to provide specialized protection to the Village of Whitehall. He described that he will use the same template that was used in Fort Edward to provide coverage when Fort Edward's police department dissolve. He understands the need to have police coverage in the village. His presentation provided a model for shifts based on the data he received from the dispatch center for the busy times of the day in the village for the police department. The plan would provide 20 hrs./day/7 days a week coverage. Washington County already has administration staff in place so there would be no charge for that. Four deputies would be hired to be stationed out of Whitehall. The coverage

would include a radius around the Village. If a major incident happens, the Deputy could be called outside of Whitehall if they are the closest one to respond.

Matt Fuller stated that the Board should contact the Mayor and/or Trustees from the Village of Fort Edward regarding their experience in having the Washington Sheriff's Dept. coverage since they dissolved their police department. He also stated that the Board needs to move forward with a decision of whether to keep the police department or dissolve it. There is a process that needs to be followed to dissolve the police department which will take some time.

Jason Vandenburg asked if the Sheriff contract would support supplementing using part-time police officers that are already hired through the police department. Trustee Norton asked if the current Police station would be used as a substation for the Sheriff's department. Trustee LaChapelle asked if the Sheriff's dept. would use the part-time Investigator that is hired through the police department. Sheriff Murphy stated that the Sheriff's dept. would provide police services entirely due to liability and training and would not use the part-time officers. The Sheriff's dept. would use the current police station as a substation using deputies that live locally as well. Sheriff Murphy stated that his office would help the village in either instance if the police coverage stays operational or is contracted through his office. Trustee Norton asked if the police equipment would be sold or if the Sheriff's would utilize it.

Matt Fuller stated that the equipment could be built into the fees as needed to provide coverage. He stated that financial numbers would need to be provided from the Sheriff for coverage and what the Village currently pays for coverage. A local law process would need to be followed if dissolution of the police department is what the Board wants and a public hearing would need to be conducted to get the public's thoughts on this.

Bill Humpries asked who the officer in charge of the Police dept. was. He also stated that the Village residents already pay county taxes and this it wasn't fair for them to pay for Sheriff coverage outside the Village. Matt Fuller stated that the Board would have to establish this through the hiring of an officer in charge or interim Chief of Police.

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to adjust the sewer portion only of the water/sewer bill for Champs Corner Restaurant using the average of the previous bills due to a water leak, all voting in favor, CARRIED

John Daly submitted a request for an adjustment on his water/sewer bill at 116 Broadway due to a water leak. Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to table this request until more information can be provided by Steven Brock, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Norton to accept the resignation of Paula Wilbur as a full-time Police Officer effective June 6, 2024, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to convene into executive session to discuss potential litigation and specific personnel at 3:42PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee Watson to end executive session and to reconvene into regular session at 4:50PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Norton to appoint Sgt. Richard LaChapelle as the Officer in Charge of the Police Department at a salary equivalent to the Chief's hourly rate, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee Norton to shut the water service off to the property located at 11 Blue Goose Road due to non-payment effective June 10, 2024, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee LaChapelle, seconded by Trustee Watson to hire Matt Brayman and Paula Wilbur as part-time Police Officers, all voting in favor, CARRIED

May 29, 2024 DPW Meeting Continued

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to adjourn the meeting at 5:00PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Stephanie A. LaChapelle  
Clerk-Treasurer