

April 30, 2024 Special Meeting 4:00PM

PRESENT: Mayor Eagan; Trustees LaChapelle, Putorti, Norton and Watson; EJ Conzola

Motion made by Trustee Putorti, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to adopt the 2024-2025 Budget as proposed at the Public Hearing with a 5% increase in the tax rate, a 7% increase in the Water rates and a 7% increase in the Sewer rates, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Mayor Eagan asked if there were anymore resignations from the Police Department. Trustee LaChapelle stated not at this time. It was suggested to advertise for the vacant Sergeant and Full-Time Police Officer positions as these positions are in the budget. Trustee LaChapelle asked what was the alternative in the short term. Mayor Eagan stated that the Police Department can't just be abolished and that public hearings would need to take place, the Board would have to have a vote and other options such as a proposal from Washington County Sheriff would be needed. Mayor Eagan had a discussion with Washington County Sheriff regarding coverage for the Village. The Sheriff's department would absorb the current police officers if they took over the Police Department. Mayor Eagan will have a more formal discussion with the Washington County Sheriff regarding a cost estimate to have dedicated Sheriff Deputies in Whitehall if the Police Department is short staffed and ask if he can give a proposal to the Board at their next meeting.

BILLS: Motion made by Trustee Watson, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to approve payment of the abstract covering claims #24-00759-24-00764 totaling \$363,868.42, all voting in favor, CARRIED

APPLICATIONS: Heidi Davis, Dawn Anthony, Michelle Murray, Heather McGee and Regina Jones submitted applications for the Clerk-Treasurer position. Applications from Britt Gellenthien and Luke Wescott were received for the Laborers position. Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee Watson to accept the applications and to place them on file, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Mayor Eagan stated that the Board received an invitation from the NYS Canal Corporation to a tree planting at the South Bay Boat Launch on May 3 at noon. Mayor Eagan participated in a community wide clean up and stated that a lot of debris was picked up.

Trustee Norton stated that the filters at the Water Treatment Plant have been replaced and that 5 old filters could be saved for possible future use. They will be stored in a building at the Water Treatment Plant once the tires have been removed. Trustee Putorti stated that Smith Street Auto maybe able to take the old tires for a fee. Trustee Norton asked if the new waterline under Champlain Canal has been turned on yet. It has not as we are still waiting for the approval from NYS Department of Health before it can be turned on.

Trustee Putorti stated that the Zoning Officer is getting properties cleaned up. Trustee Putorti asked what the status was of replacing the fence along the railroad tracks on Broadway. Mayor Eagan called the Regional Director for the Railroad who stated that there was a question of who owned the fence. Mayor Eagan told him that when the fence was destroyed by the flood, we were told that we could not touch the fence as it belonged to the railroad. Mayor Eagan was given the name of a local person in charge of maintenance for the railroad to contact regarding the replacement of the fence.

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to convene into executive session to discuss possible litigation at 4:37PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Motion made by Trustee Norton, seconded by Trustee LaChapelle to end executive session and to adjourn the meeting at 4:50PM, all voting in favor, CARRIED

Stephanie A. LaChapelle
Clerk-Treasurer