

Mayor Monson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Mayor John Monson, Trustees Gary Baker, Jessica Banks, J.D. Freer and Sharon White

Others Present: Larry Hogan, Lori Tyler, Ron Lancy, George Buckalew, Chuck Palermo and Jan Soper

Pledge of Allegiance

Police Department

Trustee Baker stated that there was no police business to discuss at this time.

Resolution 2009-6 (FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)

Trustee Freer made the motion to approve Resolution 2009-6 authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds for the construction of a gravity storm sewer system. The Village of Wolcott received a Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant from FEMA for construction of the new system. The anticipated total cost of the project is \$1,264,000 of which the Village of Wolcott will have to incur a 25% non-Federal matching share of \$316,000. Mayor Monson stated that this is a reimbursement grant but that we will be able to submit reimbursement requests monthly with an expected turn around time of six to eight weeks. The resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds to finance the local match is subject to permissive referendum. Trustee Baker seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Water/Sewer Departments

Mayor Monson stated that the budget is really tight right now and we have incurred a number of unexpected expenses. As a result the work schedule has been altered for Water and Sewer Department employees in that there will be no overtime allowed and no part-time employees working through the end of the fiscal year. There is an employee meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 2:00pm to explain the current financial condition and explore options for reducing costs.

Resolution 2009-4 (Transfer Funds From Reserve)

Trustee Baker made the motion to approve Resolution 2009-4 appropriating \$40,000 out of the Fire Capital Reserve Fund to pay the cost of capital improvements to the Fire Hall. The resolution is subject to permissive referendum. Trustee Banks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Code Enforcement

Otis Vezzose has been working on some issues for the Planning Board. The Planning Board has requested that Code Enforcement Officer Otis Vezzose, Mayor John Monson and Village Justice Hank Krasucki attend the next Planning Board meeting to be held April 13, 2009. Chairperson Daphne Dudus should be contacting Trustees Sharon White and Jessica Banks regarding the meeting.

Planning Board Appointments

Trustee White made the motion to approve the appointments of Daphne Dudus and Thomas Johnson as Planning Board members with a five year term. Trustee Banks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Budget

Mayor Monson presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2010. A budget workshop has been scheduled for March 31, 2009 at 6:00pm and the public hearing on the budget will be held April 14, 2009 at 7:00pm.

Lake Avenue Storm Sewer

- Tom Connor was unable to attend the meeting but he wrote a letter to the Board which Mayor Monson read. Mr. Connor lives at 6198 Lake Avenue and the area frequently experiences significant standing water and flooding due to rainfall. Mr. Connor requests that the Board take action to correct the inadequate storm sewer line that runs from the end of Wright Street to the railroad bed behind Heluva Good.
- George Buckalew was at the meeting to express concern about the same situation as his property is also in the area that floods.
- Mayor Monson stated that we have some of the required pipe now and are working on purchasing more. The storm sewer line collapse on Washington Street this past fall was not budgeted for and ended up costing a lot of money that we really didn't have to spend. Mayor Monson assured all in attendance that the storm sewer line on Lake Avenue would be the first item addressed after the FEMA storm sewer project.
- Mr. Buckalew expressed his concern that if the FEMA project began first than the problem on Lake Avenue would never be addressed. Mayor Monson stated that he understood the concerns and that more information would be available in the next few weeks. He asked Mr. Buckalew to attend the next Board meeting and stated that work would not begin before the spring rains but should begin sometime this summer.
- Mr. Buckalew asked if the standing water in the area could be pumped out from time to time until the problem can be corrected. Mayor Monson will talk to Nick Rizzo about it.
- Mr. Buckalew stated that he thought the area behind the houses was an old creek bottom and perhaps it was never graded right. Trustee Baker and Mayor Monson both stated that the Village should be able to do something and Mayor Monson will speak with Nick Rizzo about getting a pump there to help with the accumulated water.

Blanche Steves Water Bill

Janet Soper, from North Rose, attended the meeting on behalf of Blanche Steves, for whom she has Power of Attorney. Mrs. Steves owns a house in the Village that has been vacant for more than a year and no water has been used. Mrs. Steves is a ninety year old woman having difficulty making ends meet. Mrs. Steves receives a quarterly bill for water and sewer service and since so water has been used the bills have been for the minimum charge. Mrs. Steves does not believe that she should have to pay a bill when no water is used. Mayor Monson explained that as long as there was a service at the property there would be a minimum bill assessed. The only way to discontinue a service is to petition the Board to approve abandonment. The cost for physically removing the service is approximately \$2,000 and if the service had to be reinstalled the cost would be approximately \$3,000. Ms. Soper stated that Mrs. Steves is an elderly woman on a fixed income and the law should be changed to protect people, not to hurt them, and that the recent sewer rate increase was not helping people. Mayor Monson stated that he understood how she felt but that the sewer rates had to be increased because the costs associated with operating the Waste Water Treatment Facility have increased and the Fund must be self-sufficient. Mayor Monson also stated that according to the law if property is connected to the service the property owner must pay a portion of the service. Ron Lancy stated that WCWSA is putting a new line down West Port Bay Road and the property owners are already paying for the service even though they don't have water yet.

Annual Organizational Meeting

The Annual Organizational Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 14, 2009 immediately following the Public Hearing on the budget.

Public Hearing on Bond Issuance for Storm Sewers

It will be necessary to hold a public hearing on the issuance of bonds to finance part of the storm sewer project in the Village. Mayor Monson stated that a public hearing on the proposed financing will be scheduled after we speak with bond counsel from Timothy McGill's office.

Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce requested to have Main Street closed between the Venus fountain and the Palace Theater for a motorcycle show on May 16, 2009. The Lions Club is already holding the Annual Car Show in Northup Park that day and will be utilizing a small section of New Hartford Street as well. Chuck Palermo stated that the Lions Club has not been pursuing the motorcycle aspect of the Annual Car Show in recent years and the Chamber of Commerce wanted to bring that back to the event. Mayor Monson stated that the Lions Club moved the Car Show to the park because there were complaints from some of the business owners on Main Street when the show was held there. Mr. Palermo stated that he has spoken with business owners on Main Street and they are in favor of the motorcycle show being held there. The Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce are different organizations with different goals and focuses and in the past there has been some miscommunication and misunderstanding between the two organizations. Mr. Palermo stated that they are working together now. Trustee Banks suggested that the Chamber of Commerce invite the local merchants to their meetings in order to explain what their intentions are relating to the motorcycle show and also any future projects. Trustee Freer made the motion to approve the request to close Main Street for the motorcycle show on May 16, 2009. Trustee Baker seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Park Use Requests

- Trustee Banks made the motion to approve a request from the Wolcott Council of Churches to use Northup Park on May 7, 2009 from 11:30am – 1:30pm for the World Day of Prayer. Trustee White seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Mayor Monson will be speaking at the event.
- Trustee Baker made the motion to approve a request from the Wolcott Council of Churches to use Northup Park August 9, 2009 through August 13, 2009, 4:30pm - 8:30pm for Vacation Bible School. Trustee Freer seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Minutes of March 10, 2009

Trustee Freer made the motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2009 as read. Trustee White seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Minutes of March 17, 2009 (Special Meeting)

Trustee Baker made the motion to approve the minutes of March 17, 2009 as read. Trustee Banks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Williamson Law Book Company Accounting Program Renewal

Trustee White made the motion to approve the annual software support contract renewal for the Williamson Law Book Company accounting program in the amount of \$825.00. Trustee Banks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Resolution 2009-5 (Transfer from Savings)

Trustee Baker made the motion to approve Resolution 2009-5 authorizing a transfer from the savings account into the checking account in the amount of \$100,000. Trustee White seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Fire Department Renovations

The Board had previously discussed borrowing the remaining \$35,000 for the renovation project at the Fire Hall. Mayor Monson explained that there would be legal and financing costs associated with borrowing the money even though the repayment term is three years. Mayor Monson and the Board will consider transferring \$35,000 from savings to pay for the remaining project expenses and the Fire Department would reimburse the savings account from their annual budget over a three year period.

Abstract #015

Trustee White questioned a bill from MRB Engineering. Mayor Monson stated that the engineering firm prepared project proposals relating to the Waste Water Treatment Plant for submittal for stimulus funding. Trustee Freer made the motion to approve abstract #015 in the amount of \$95,680.61, with vouchers numbered 0809 – 0846 and checks numbered 21491 – 21528. Claims from the General Fund total \$83,294.69. Claims from the Water Fund total \$3,943.57. Claims from the Sewer Fund total \$7,410.81. Claims from the Trust and Agency Fund total \$1,031.54. Trustee Banks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Wolcott Building Supply

Mayor Monson read a letter from Wolcott Building Supply urging people to support local business and buy products and services within the Village. Mayor Monson stated that he understands that local retailers may at times have higher prices than the mass market chains outside the Village. However, he has known local merchants to meet their competitors' prices and stated that no one should be afraid to ask if you feel the price for something is too high. The local economy is not in good shape and everyone is hurting but Mayor Monson feels strongly that we should do as much business as possible with the local merchants.

Restore NY

Mayor Monson stated that he will be participating in a conference call this Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 2:00pm to discuss a proposed project which would potentially create fifty new jobs within the Village. The application for the Restore NY grant program is due May 4, 2009 and more information will be available after the conference call. In addition to Mayor Monson, conference call participants will include Clerk/Treasurer Melanie Countryman, Wayne County Planning Department Director Sharon Lilla, Wayne County Economic Development Corporation Director Peg Churchill and Chuck Frederick.

Mayor Monson

- Mayor Monson stated that he will have a meeting Sunday, March 29, 2009 with investors regarding another business proposal for the Village which would also provide much needed jobs. He will have more information after the meeting.
- Congressman Dan Maffei will be in Wolcott April 15, 2009. He will attend the Rotary Club luncheon at 12:00pm but will visit the Village Hall prior to the luncheon. Mayor Monson intends to give Congressman Maffei a tour of the Village and discuss with him projects which would benefit the Village. If any of the Trustees would like to attend the luncheon Mayor Monson asked them to notify the Clerk. Mayor Monson stated that he has invited all of the Mayors in Wayne County to attend as well.

Trustee White

The Planning Board will meet with representatives from local civic organizations and members of the public on March 30, 2009 at 7:00pm to discuss ideas for beautifying the Village of Wolcott. Larry Hogan asked if the meeting was advertised. The Clerk stated that it was posted and published in the newspaper. Chuck Palermo informed the Board that he is aware of the deteriorating condition of the concrete wall behind his building on Main Street and that he is in the process of getting it repaired.

Trustee Freer

Trustee Freer has nothing to discuss at this time.

Trustee Banks

Trustee Banks has nothing to discuss at this time.

Trustee Baker

Trustee Baker has nothing to discuss at this time.

Lori Tyler

Lori Tyler has a matter to discuss during executive session.

Mayor Monson

- Mayor Monson stated that the Village of Wolcott, the NR-W School District and the neighboring Towns are putting together a committee to research possibilities for shared services. He suggested to Janet Soper that she contact her Town Supervisor (Town of Rose) and inquire about being on the committee.
- Trustee Banks added that the worst answer to give someone with a concern is “because we’ve always done it that way”. She stated that some good points had been raised earlier during the meeting and they need further study so as to make changes for the betterment of society.
- Mayor Monson asked Chuck Palermo, Mayor-elect of the Village of Red Creek, to put together some names of Red Creek residents who might be interested in serving on the committee as well.

Executive Session

Trustee Banks made the motion to go into executive session at 8:17pm for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter. Trustee Baker seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Lori Tyler was asked to attend the executive session.

Trustee Freer made the motion to come out of executive session at 9:06pm. Trustee Baker seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Mr. and Mrs. Henner will be asked to attend the next Board meeting scheduled for March 31, 2009 to discuss future water and sewer billing for the Wolcott Hotel.

Trustee Freer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07pm. Trustee Banks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Countryman
Clerk/Treasurer