

VILLAGE OF WOLCOTT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

December 12, 2023

7:00 pm

Members Present: Mayor Chris Henner, Trustees: Dave Lewis, Dan Smith, Andrew Marshall and Misty Harper

Others Present: Fran Acker, Chris Breen, Ed Wazinski, Toni M. Kellam, Jerry Lasher, Tommy Mettler, OIC Brian Ritchie, Evan Tyler, Sarah Everett, Brigitte Henry, Darlene Depew, Randy Depew, Jack Roberts, Bud Beach, Sandy Beach, Jeremy Smith, Eva Winter, Travis Winter and their son, Joe Burnett, Diana Gardner, Ron Lancy, Kelly Geiwitz, Chuck Geiwitz, Peter Sterpe, Susan Russo, Richard Russo, Brad Cameron, Matt Evans, Dave Zwolinsk, and Bob Reed joined later in the meeting.

Mayor Henner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Account #06400 is paying water/sewer for an empty building. The owner asked if the water/sewer rates could be changed from commercial to residential since the building is not being used. This has been tabled until a discussion is had with Code Enforcement Officer Tom Sawtelle about possible rezoning.

Fire Department-Chief Jerry Lasher

It's too early in the month for a 911 report.

The Fire Department had 38 calls last month.

Physicals for all the members have been completed.

One truck needs to get to Syracuse for transmission work.

Police Department-OIC Brian Ritchie

See monthly report

OIC Ritchie announced the Police Officer Minisce resigned and went to the Village of Newark.

Highway Department-Chris Breen

Mr. Breen stated Joe Ticconi has started his employment with the Village of Wolcott DPW.

Things have been quiet due to the recent weather.

Sewer Department-Tommy Mettler

Mr. Mettler stated the #3 pump (for the Town of Wolcott) has been cleaned and the mechanical seal has been replaced.

Tommy Mettler also mentioned he had to work on contacts for the Sewer Plant alarm system.

Everything else is running great.

Water Department-Ed Wazinski

HACH renewal Quote #HACH616089-Ed Wazinski reached out to HACH on 12/11/2023 requesting a final review and possible discount on the new quote. He has not yet received a return call. Trustee Smith made the motion to accept and approve HACH quote #HACH616089 in the amount of \$12,923.00 for annual renewal. Trustee Marshall 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Account #24040-The resident passed away and family found check to be submitted for payment but was not sent before the passing. Trustee Smith made the motion to forgive the late fees/penalties in the amount of \$31.72. Trustee Marshall 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Mayor Henner announced the Village of Wolcott was awarded \$5 Million dollars through the WIIA grant. This is a process that has taken a couple of years to apply and be awarded. This grant is for replace, repair and update of the lake plant infrastructure.

Court Audit

Trustee Smith made the motion to approve and accept the October 2023 monthly Court Audit. Trustee Marshall 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Village Clerk-Treasurer

Clerk-Treasurer Acker made the board aware that the Village of Wolcott received reimbursement in the amount of \$13,306.00 for CHIPS projects.

Meeting Minutes

Trustee Smith made the motion to accept and approve the minutes from the November 14, 2023 Department Head Meeting. Trustee Lewis 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Abstract #007

Trustee Smith made the motion to approve Abstract #007 in the amount of \$69,847.64 with vouchers numbered 312-363 and checks numbered 32457-32508. Total claims from the General Fund are \$44,553.45. Total claims from the Water Fund are \$9,397.02. Total claims from the Sewer Fund are \$15,897.17. Trustee Marshall seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

Facilities Use Request

Trustee Smith made the motion to approve use of the fire Department by Susan Lockwood for a 1 year birthday party on December 16, 2023 from 1-5pm. Trustee Harper 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Mayor Henner

Mayor Henner thanked the Historical Society and all participants on the success of this years' tree lighting and Christmas Parade.

The Mayor opened up the floor for opinions on setting up an ice skating rink in Northup Park. The Village has been working on this for a few years. Stalled the decision for a while due to Mike Virts

wanting to erect one at the old Florentine Building. Estimates was brought to the Village Board of Trustees to review.

Mayor Henner brought up the subject of the petition to dissolve the Village of Wolcott that was received by Clerk Acker in November. The Mayor confirmed that the petition was certified. The Village staff has been working with New York State and other contacts to gather information on how to proceed. Mayor Henner was informed during his conversation with the LaBerge Group that since the Village of Wolcott has a certified petition for dissolution, the Village is eligible for the CREG GRANT/ funds in the amount of \$30,000 for an interim study. \$25,000 is paid by the grant and \$5,000 is the responsibility of the Village. Had there been a request for a study first, the Village of Wolcott would not have incurred any expense (\$5,000.00). Another interesting aspect-Towns are subsidized by our tax dollars on the back side by receiving CTEC-which are funds to help offset any dissolution. The amount is 15% of tax levy. This can be amended at any time by New York State.

Trustee Smith made the motion to accept the LaBerge Group Proposal to move forward with the interim study. Trustee Marshall 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Time for the Public

Mayor Henner opened the floor to the public. There was a discussion on the Village Dissolution and questioned about more access to information. LaBerge Group will have a portal to post all information as available and will have public meetings before the study is complete. OIC Ritchie had to intervene at one point when a couple of Individuals in the Winter family interrupted Brigitte Henry when she was trying to speak, after OIC stepped in the meeting continued with more Q&A.

One attendee asked about plans to extend the roadways at Twisted Creek/ Lander's Landing. Mayor Henner stated no new plans have been presented to the Village Board.

Ed Wazinski, Village of Wolcott Water Department, spoke about his contact to the WCWSA regarding dissolution of the Village.

Dave Zwolinski asked if anyone knew about either Town's interest in the dissolution. Tommy Mettler, speaking as the Supervisor for the Town of the Butler responded their Town Board had already met and they all are against dissolving of the Village and that they cannot offer the same services.

Eva Winter asked about status of banners for vets. Dave Lewis stated this was the first meeting held since information was received by Clerk Acker from the Sodus Village Clerk. Brigitte Henry commented that she participated for one in the Town of Rose. Once approved, Clerk Acker will work on updating forms/application for the Village of Wolcott.

Travis Winter made Tommy Mettler (Sewer Department Head) aware that Mr. Winter was still waiting to hear from the RG&E in regards to the hookup on the new building for All Seasons and Sweet Indulgence.

Tommy Mettler spoke as both an employee and the Town of Butler Supervisor regarding dissolving the Village of Wolcott. He stated the Butler Town Board met Dec. 11, 2023 and indicated it is not in favor of dissolution. As the Town of Butler Supervisor, Mr. Mettler stated he has to look out for the best interest of the taxpayers and educate them with the facts.

On his personal side, he mentioned he is fortunate because he can retire if the village dissolves but there are 12 other employees that cannot. And anytime you take 13 employees out of a community, it only hurts local businesses. Tommy stated that he has been told by 3 businesses they would close their doors if the village dissolved. He stated "If the village gets dissolved ... let me just say that would be a huge hit to Eastern Wayne County!"

Jeremy Smith stated he liked the suggestion of the Village having an ice skating rink.

Diana Gardner had questions about maintenance of the railroad tracks. They are maintained by CSX. Chris Breen, Highway Foreman, responded that he would try to reach out to CSX again.

Sarah Everett provided an update on the Christmas Decoration contest that some village residents had created. To date, over 100 houses have decorated to participate. Photos will be posted on social media for voting. Tommy Mettler made a donation, and Peter Sterpe from the Salt House donated gift certificates towards prizes.

Brad Cameron voiced interest in being a member of the ZBA.

Trustee Harper

Nothing at this time

Trustee Marshall

Nothing at this time.

Trustee Smith

Discussed the proposed ice skating rink.

Trustee Lewis

Trustee Lewis mentioned that RG&E had to approve Veteran Salute Banners to be put on their poles. Trustee Smith made the motion to adopt the Veteran Salute Banner project. Trustee Lewis 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor. Clerk-Treasurer Acker will work on updating forms.

Trustee Lewis gave Chief Jerry Lasher information for Jack Whittaker regarding EV safety training.

Executive Session

Trustee Lewis made the motion to move the meeting to executive session for a personnel and contractual matter at 8:28 pm. Trustee Marshall 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor. Clerk-Treasurer Acker and OIC Ritchie were asked to stay. OIC Ritchie left at 8:59 pm.

Trustee Smith made the motion to move the meeting back to regular session at 9:27pm. Trustee Lewis 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Trustee Smith made the motion to purchase a 30' X 60' portable ice rink for Northup Park for \$4,830.00, not to exceed \$5,000.00. Trustee Lewis 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Trustee Smith made the motion to hold a special meeting on December 21, 2023 at 12:30pm to vote on the resolution for Village Dissolution referendum. Trustee Lewis 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Village staff Christmas lunch will be December 21, 2023 at 11:00am.

Trustee Smith made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 pm. Trustee Lewis 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

The next regularly scheduled Village Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on January 9, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Village of Wolcott Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Acker

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Clerk-Treasurer