

Village Board Meeting
January 3, 2022, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center

Attendance: Village Board: Mayor Paul Labas, Deputy Mayor Gordon Smith (via teleconference), Trustees Dean Hyatt, and Lisa Ackert; absent Trustee Dan Brown

Village Key Staff: Superintendent of Public Works Scott Mackey, Ass't Sup't Joshua Hayes, Police Chief Ernie Bassett, SRO T.J. Zovistoski, Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone, Ass't Fire Chief Michael Zinn, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Austin Crosier, Sr. Reporter, *NYVT Media*, Tim Farkas, Freelance Reporter and Editor, *NYVT Media*

Others: Mr. Erik Pekar, Mr. George Demas, Mr. Tyler Williams, and Mr. Matthew Rollwagen

Mayor Labas led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and they called the Meeting to Order at 7:00pm.

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Hyatt moved ratification of the Meeting Minutes as circulated. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: Mayor Labas reviewed the following monthly reports with the Board: Police Dept., Fire Dept., Local Ordinance Officer, Water (3 samples, all satisfactory), and Village Court. Trustee Ackert moved acceptance of the reports as submitted. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Appropriations: The following claims were presented to the Board for review and in consideration of payment:

General Fund:	\$31,966.84
Water Fund:	\$45,571.87
Sewer Fund:	\$16,122.26
Senior Shuttle:	\$1,909.05
Unaudited	
Vouchers:	<u>\$2,121.58</u>

Total Claims: \$97,691.60

The Board audited the appropriations and Trustee Ackert moved their approval for payment. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Coin Drop Request—After Prom Party: Mayor Labas reviewed a coin drop request received from the Chairperson of the After-Prom Party. An April date has been requested. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Hyatt moved approval of the request, subject to covid protocols and the weather. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor's Reports: The Mayor briefed the Board in the following matters:

- A. Tractor Parade: Mayor Labas thanked Tractor Parade Organizers Paul Garrone, Krystle Morey, and Art Moyer for their efforts in organizing and executing the Tractor Parade on December 10th. The Parade contained some 48-50 entries and was very well attended per the Mayor. He also thanked Telescope Casual Furniture and Manchester Wood for the use of their facilities for staging and pick up. The Mayor feels that the event was a great success, and most appreciated by the community during the Holiday Season.
- B. Church Street Bridge: The Mayor advised that the Church Street bridge had reopened as of December 23rd. He expressed appreciation to the work crew there and Village DPW in completing the job in difficult weather. Mayor Labas advised that the bridge will likely be closed for a few days in the spring for the application of the final coat of asphalt and completion of the sidewalk.

The Mayor opened the meeting to public comment at 7:07pm.

Mr. Erik Pekar thanked the Tractor Parade Committee, Holiday Decorating Committee, and Village DPW for their efforts in promoting a festive holiday season. He also thanked the DPW for their efforts in keeping the streets clear thru the winter season. Mayor Labas thanked Mr. Pekar for his comments and reminded those in attendance of the Parking Ban from November 1-April 15. Overnight Parking on Village streets is prohibited during this time to allow the DPW to plow, sand and salt the Village streets.

Mr. Austin Crosier inquired if there were any updates to report within the Village Police Dept. Mayor Labas commented that he did not have any new hires to report at this time. Police Chief Bassett advised that he had completed a canvass of the Civil Service List and of the 21 candidates remaining, 15-16 have already been hired or committed to other agencies. Of the 5-6 candidates remaining, only one has indicated interest, and he does not reside in Washington County. The Chief advised that he and the Mayor will continue to try to address this matter, but that the shortage of local, qualified candidates may extend the process of recruitment/placement of new officers.

Mr. Tim Farkas of NY-VT media inquired of the Mayor what percentage of 911 calls are being handled locally as opposed to by the NYSP or County Sherriff. Chief Bassett asked if he could respond to that question, and the Mayor deferred to him. Chief Bassett indicated that to his knowledge, the vast majority, if not all, calls were still being handled locally, and if other agencies were responding within the Village, it was generally for stand-by or back-up purposes. The Chief stated that he was not aware of any direct responses by these other agencies. Mr. Farkas followed up with questions concerning additional hires in the Department since the last Village Board Meeting, and how the Department was managing the volume of calls given their shortness in staff. Trustee Hyatt and Mayor Labas stated that if someone contacts 911 to report a concern that their calls would always be handled. They also pointed to the labor shortage across the Country, particularly in the Police profession, given some of the events seen in 2021. They credited Chief Bassett and SRO Zovistoski for working extra hours and doing their best in a difficult situation and advised that the Village will continue to work on this issue.

There was no further public comment.

At 7:15pm, Trustee Hyatt moved that the Board convene an Executive Session concerning Collective Bargaining Negotiations within the Police Dept. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

At 7:25pm, Trustee Ackert moved that the Board return to regular session. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Smith moved approval of a Memorandum of Agreement representing the terms of the tentative agreement between the Village and UPSEU, the collective bargaining agent for the officers of the Village Police Department. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Trustee Ackert moved an increase in salary for Chief Bassett to a rate of \$34.00/Hr. retroactive to June 1st. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There being no other business, Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the Meeting be adjourned at 7:25pm. Trustee Ackert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard H. Roberts", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard H. Roberts
Village Clerk-Treasurer