

**Village Board Meeting
February 5, 2024, 7:00pm
Village Municipal Center**

Attendance: Village Board: Mayor Paul Labas, Trustees Dean Hyatt, Dan Brown, and Denise Davies; absent Deputy Mayor Gordie Smith Jr.

Village Key Staff: Superintendent of Public Works Scott Mackey, Ass't Sup't Josh Hayes, Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone, Fire Chief Michael Zinn, Ass't Chief Keith Seebode, Village Attorney Michael Martin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Doug LaRocque, NYVT Media, and Julie Fedler, NYVT Media

Others: Mr. Colby Hayes, Mrs. Karin Rozell, Mr. John Freed, Mr. Ron Ehntholt, Mr. David and Mrs. Kathy Juckett, Mr. Pete Kischak, Mr. George Demas, Mr. Matthew Rollwagen, Mr. Dan Williams, and Mr. Connor Hoagland

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

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Trustee Hyatt moved ratification of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 8th as posted to the Village website. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

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

General Fund:	\$42,121.84
Water Fund:	\$8,686.22
Sewer Fund:	\$14,682.72
Senior Shuttle:	\$1,337.25
Unaudited	
Claims:	<u>\$3,521.77</u>

Total Claims: \$70,349.80

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

Resolution—Appoint Representative for D&H Rail Trail Council: Mayor Labas inquired the Board's pleasure considering a Resolution to appoint a representative to the newly formed D&H Rail Trail Council. This Council will administer, maintain, and/or work to improve the Rail Trail regionally from Castleton, VT to Salem, NY. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Hyatt sponsored the

Resolution as previously published/circulated, appointing Dwayne Daigle as the Village's representative. Trustee Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Appoint Election Inspectors: The Mayor reviewed a memo from the Village Clerk/Election Officer relating to the appointment of Election Inspectors for the Special Village Election to be conducted on March 19th. Following a brief period of discussion, Trustee Brown moved the appointment of the following inspectors:

Diana Scarlotta (Chair)
Janel Prehoda

Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

- A. Circulate Working Copy, 2024-25 Budget: The Mayor advised that the Budget Officer had circulated a working copy of the 2024-25 Budget to the Board for review. He advised that meetings with Dept. Heads have been conducted, and rates plugged in for Health Insurance, Retirement, etc. He advised that he expects a levy increase of 2-3% for the coming year for the General Fund, and \$10-\$15 increases in the Water and Sewer Funds due to continued inflationary pressures.
- B. Schedule Budget Workshop: The Mayor inquired if the Board would like to schedule a Budget Workshop to continue the process of finalizing the Tentative Budget. Following a period of discussion, it was agreed by unanimous consent that the Workshop would be scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd at 6:00pm at the Village Municipal Center.
- C. Update—Abandoned/Burned Out Structures: Mayor Labas advised that he had been working with the Local Ordinance Officer (LOO) to address a number of vacant/abandoned properties and burned-out structures within the Village. These dwellings have become inhabited by "squatters" in certain circumstances, and in others they are not winterized and the Village has seen water leaks, entrances accessible to nuisance wildlife, etc. The Mayor advised that securing these properties and/or putting them back in service would be a priority going forward.

Mayor Labas opened the meeting to public comment at 7:10pm.

Mr. Connor Hoagland addressed the Board concerning the replacement of his sidewalk on Irvine Place. He advised that this project was completed by a local contractor with assistance from the DPW in November 2022. However, he explained that there were some inconsistencies and/or miscommunications with the billing for the same. He then referenced a prior issue with his sewer lateral that he feels was mishandled by the Dept. of Public Works. He cited expenses associated with the sewer backing up into his residence. He cited phone calls and meetings with the Mayor and Village staff including the DPW Superintendent and the Village Clerk, none of which resolved the matter to his satisfaction. He stated that he is a business owner, a 15+ year resident, and that he likes Granville and wants to continue to call it his home. He stated that he feels that the Village needs to do better.

Mr. Ronald Ehntholt commented that he had concerns with certain crossings for the School Children within the Village and wished that there were more signage and/or lighted signs to promote pedestrian safety. He cited seeing the sidewalk snowplow maintaining the sidewalk in front of Tractor Supply when school children were walking thru snow in other locations while on their way to school. The DPW Superintendent advised that an employee had been hired per-diem with the specific job of maintaining the sidewalks following a snowstorm, and that the protocol for maintaining the sidewalks is to start with Quaker St. as it is the main thoroughfare for the children who walk to school.

Mrs. Kathy Juckett inquired how matters were proceeding regarding GCS's request for an exception to the Village Animal Control law to permit the School to enhance programs in Agricultural Education. The Mayor advised that this matter had been referred to the Village Attorney. Several Board members also advised that they were hoping to see some additional specifics regarding the plan (for example, how many chickens, no roosters, pen size, etc.) before proceeding. The Mayor advised that the Board as a whole was supportive of the concept presented, but they were just hoping to firm up the specifics before proceeding. Trustee Brown advised that he would contact the Ag Program Supervisor when he was at GCS and ask that she forward any additional details to the Village at her earliest convenience.

There was no further public comment.

Mayor Labas advised following the public comment period that his position concerning the sidewalk replacement on Irvine Place and lack of payment for the same was different than the accounting previously offered by Mr. Hoagland. He cited a previous quote for a contractor to provide these services at \$13,700 and he advised that Mr. Hoagland had approached him to see if the Village could be of assistance given the pricing that had been provided to him by the contractor. He noted that GCS had similarly reached out for a small section of sidewalk on their property, contiguous to Mr. Hoagland's lot. Upon completion, he stated that Mr. Hoagland was unwilling to pay, citing ARPA monies that had been used to replace a section of sidewalk on Quaker St. The Mayor noted that the School had paid for their portion of the concrete costs as agreed, as had Tractor Supply, but that Mr. Hoagland continued to refuse to pay. The Mayor advised that he felt that Mr. Hoagland was misconstruing certain things and that he still refuses to pay. A period of rather animated discussion ensued between the Mayor and Mr. Hoagland. At the conclusion of the discussion period, the Mayor requested a motion to convene an Executive Session regarding matters leading to the appointment of certain Village employees.

At 7:30 pm, Trustee Brown moved that the Board convene an Executive Session regarding the potential appointment of one or more candidates for employment. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. *The Village Attorney accompanied the Board into the Executive Session in its entirety.*

At 7:55pm, Trustee Davies moved that the Board return to regular session. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Mayor advised that no decisions had been made in the Executive Session.

There being no other business, Trustee Davies moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55pm. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts, Clerk-Treasurer