

**Village Board Meeting  
June 3, 2024, 7:00pm  
Village Municipal Center**

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

Village Key Staff: DPW Superintendent Scott Mackey, Ass't Sup't Josh Hayes, Police Chief Ernie Bassett Jr., Fire Chief Michael Zinn, Ass't Chief Keith Seebode, Local Ordinance Officer Curt Pedone, Sgt. Josh Whitney, Police Officer Matthew Brayman, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Dee Scarlotta, and Clerk-Treasurer Rick Roberts

Press: Doug LaRoque, NYVT Media, Erik Pekar, NY-VT Media

Others: Ms. Heather Leaman, Mr. Matthew Rollwagen, Mr. John Harney, Mr. Pete Kishak, Mr. George Demas, and Mrs. Kathy Juckett

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

Ratify Meeting Minutes: Deputy Mayor Smith moved ratification of the Minutes of the Meetings of May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> as posted to the Village website. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

Resolution—Justice Court Audit: The Mayor advised that Trustee Davies had completed the annual audit of the Village Court based upon the template provided by the Office of the State Comptroller. The Board briefly reviewed the audit results. Trustee Davies then sponsored a Resolution by motion summarizing the audit findings. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously via roll call vote.

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

General Fund:	\$145,580.03
Water Fund:	\$24,615.56
Sewer Fund:	\$45,565.42
Senior Shuttle:	\$1,317.22
Unaudited Vouchers:	<u>\$108.02</u>
Total Claims:	\$217,186.25

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

Budget Transfers: The Clerk-Treasurer circulated several suggested Budget Transfers **for the 2023-24 fiscal year** relating to the final payroll and retirement accruals:

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reason</u>
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>			
A31201	Police Dept. Salaries	+\$10,000.00	Final Vacation and time off accruals
A33101	Crossing Guard P/S	+\$50.00	Final P/R Accruals
A90108	ERS Retirement	+\$4,000.00	Final Ret't Accrual, NYS
A90158	Police Ret't	+\$6,000.00	Final Accrual, NYS Ret't
A90308	FICA Taxes	+\$1,500.00	FICA Taxes, P/R Accruals
A31204	Police Dept. C/E	-\$12,000.00	Cure above shortfalls
A19104	Insurance Premiums	-\$5,500.00	Cure above shortfalls
A2612	Stop DWI Patrols	+\$4,050.00	DWI > Budgeted, cure shortfalls

**Water Fund**

F83401	Water Salaries	+\$50.00	Small over-run, Water Salaries
F97007	Interest, Water Plant Bond	-\$50.00	Interest < Budgeted, Cure shortfall

**Sewer Fund**

G81101	Sewer Salaries	+\$2,750.00	Sewer Salaries > Budgeted
G95509	Capital Projects	-\$2,750.00	Cure above shortfall

Following a brief period of discussion, Deputy Mayor Smith moved approval of the Budget Transfers as recommended. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

- A. **Zombie Property Update:** Mayor Labas advised that another zombie property housing squatters had been cleared this past month. This property is located on Morrison Avenue. Following eviction, the bank had the property professionally cleaned and secured it. The Mayor is also working with the Local Ordinance Officer concerning another property with similar circumstances. The Mayor thanked Curt Pedone for his time and efforts in managing these properties. He advised that the Village's efforts to combat these issues will continue.
- B. **Revisit Request for Change in Use/Zoning:** Mayor Labas revisited a letter received from Mr. Peter Stephanopoulos concerning the former Masonic Lodge located at 43 East Main Street. They are seeking to use the property for special events such as bridal showers, post-funeral gatherings, etc. However, the property is zoned residentially. This matter was discussed last month and tabled. The Board discussed this matter and Trustee Hyatt suggested that this matter be referred to the Planning Board for consideration to classify it as an Inn. If it were classed as an Inn, these activities could be permitted in the present zoning classification through

a Special Use Permit. The Planning Board would consider matters such as parking, refuse removal, and overall impacts to the surrounding neighborhood when considering the Special Use Permit. If the Planning Board does not feel that they can classify the property in this way, they would then refer the applicants to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Following Trustee Hyatt's suggestion, a period of discussion ensued. At the conclusion of the discussion period, the Board agreed to proceed per Trustee Hyatt's suggestion. The Planning Board Clerk will reach out to the local property manager to initiate the referral process.

Mayor Labas opened the Meeting to public comment at 7:15pm.

Mrs. Kathy Juckett asked several questions concerning Planning/Zoning matters.

Mr. Peter Kishak commented concerning the request for change of use/zoning for 43 West Main St. He feels that if parking is a concern for this facility, perhaps the owner should consider purchasing an adjoining parcel and developing parking to support the requested use(s).

Fire Chief Zinn inquired if the Board had any further information concerning the Department's request to lease out the former Henry Hose Fire Station and/or consider a change in Zoning for the property. He advised that a copy of the Bylaws for the Henry Hose Company had been located but that there was no specification as to what happened to Company property upon merger/dissolution. The Mayor advised that the Board has been working with the Village Attorney to seek answers concerning ownership and the Department's questions. A period of discussion ensued between the Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, Village Board, and Mrs. Juckett. At the conclusion of the discussion period, Trustee Hyatt suggested that the Fire Company Officers meet with himself and the Mayor weekly or biweekly in hopes of sharing information as it became available and fostering better communications.

There was no further public comment.

At 7:40pm, Trustee Hyatt moved the Board convene an Executive Session regarding a matter pertaining to employee relations/contract negotiations. Deputy Mayor Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

At 8:00pm, Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the Board return to regular session. Trustee Davies seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Mayor advised that no decisions were made during the Executive Session.

There being no further business, Deputy Mayor Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned. Trustee Hyatt seconded the motion and it carried without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard H. Roberts  
Village Clerk-Treasurer