

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY** held on February 13, 2023.

Present: Mayor Rossi, Trustee Kormos, Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, Trustee Raymond, Village Clerk O'Connor, Treasurer Bartlett, Village Administrator Moskowitz Attorney Buettner

Absent: Trustee Baskin

**) Call to Order**

**2) Pledge to the Flag**

**3) Minutes**

**a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the minutes of the 01/23/23 meeting be approved.**

**Ayes All**

**4) Mayor Announcements**

**a) Congratulations to Dr. Duca on being named Superintendent of BSCSD.**

**b) The Mayor, Jeff Gawrys and the BSBPA had a discussion today with merchants and property owners regarding the upcoming Front Street improvement project.**

**c) Mayor Rossi and Trustee VanDeinse-Perez met with representatives of the County to discuss their potential move out of the Village.**

**5) Liaison Reports**

**Trustee Raymond reported that many of the pedestrian crossing signs are up.**

**Trustee Kormos noted that there is going to be a new sign, designed by the Friends of the Kayaderosseras for the trail at Kelley Park.**

**Regarding the Tree inventory Trustee Kormos noted that Jeff Gawrys has been given some direction as to which of the more essential trees need to come down.**

**Trustee Kormos shared that Ray Otten has been working with a group concentrating on Kelly Park and Victory Circle Park in Colonial Hills.**

**Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated that the Arts Committee is outlining ideas for projects.**

**6) Treasurer's Report (attached)**

**7) Presentations**

**None**

**8) Old Business**

**a) Code Updates (Sidewalk, Park, Ethics, ADU) (Mayor Rossi & Attorney Buettner)**

**Attorney Buettner said that the public hearing on the Ethics Code is ready for a date be set and a couple of more changes from Trustee Baskin need to be added to the Sidewalk and Park Codes.**

**With respect to the ADU, Attorney Buettner advised that it be put off until the Comp Plan is approved.**

**b) Water Infrastructure Updates/Planning (Mayor Rossi)**

**Mayor Rossi noted that 2 assessments from Engineer Don Rhodes were received on the John Street tower. One was for renovation of the existing steel tank, the other was for glass fused to steel**

tank that could last possibly 100 years. The cost for renovation would be \$1.06 million dollars. The glass lined option would cost \$2.78 million dollars.

Mayor Rossi said that Mr. Rhodes stated that glass fused to steel has its own set of issues and suggested that it does not make them worth living with the repair of the current tank.

Trustee Kormos feels we should renegotiate our cell tower agreements, stating we should not have any costs associated with the towers.

Mayor Rossi noted that Mr. Rhodes suggested we do things to make ourselves loan and grant worthy.

#### **c) Trumbull/Rosewood Crosswalk Update (Mayor Rossi & Attorney Buettner)**

Attorney Buettner spoke about the right of way, noting that the Village has the obligation to make sure those sidewalks are ADA compliant.

Although under State law the Village does not need the homeowner's permission to make the sidewalks ADA compliant, Mayor Rossi said we will consult with them.

#### **9) New Business**

None

#### **10) Public Comment (5-Minute Limit per Speaker)**

Mike Iacolucci, 9 Russell Street asked about the status of Woods Hollow.

Mayor Rossi stated that The Town of Milton no longer wants to maintain Woods Hollow, which was declared forever wild.

The Town expressed an interest in buying the property and the possibility and details are being discussed.

John Carollo of 38 Washington Street noted that flags should be lit up or come down at sunset.

Ray Otten, 16 Middlebrook Avenue announced that the Rotary will be having a chicken dinner BBQ fundraiser at the VFW. Preorders can be done at [Ballstonrotary.com](http://Ballstonrotary.com)

Anyone interested in joining the Kelley Park group can contact Mr. Otten through Facebook.

Mr. Otten noted that the Rotary is looking at possibly replacing the steps that lead up to The Tedisco Trail and suggested making it ADA accessible.

Regarding the CDTA bus stop at Malta Avenue, Mr. Otten suggested eliminating it due to traffic and parking concerns; there is another stop 1 block down and 1 block up.

Mark Blech of 10 Thompson Street asked who will be doing the regular Village maintenance when the Front Street project is being done and is concerned about how the project may affect the Birdhouse Project.

Mayor Rossi said the DPW will have coverage to do their regular duties and does not think that the birdhouse project will be affected.

Jared Iacolucci of 24 Chapman Street hopes the Comprehensive Plan will address transportation.

Christine Kernochan, BSBPA Vice President thanked the Mayor for setting up the Zoom meeting today; communication is key for the businesses.

Ms. Kernochan noted that the chocolate Festival was very successful.

#### **11) Board Comments, Questions, and Concerns**

Trustee Kormos said CDTA will be bringing in consultants and will also take public comment.

Trustee Raymond feels the real issue with the Malta Avenue/Milton Avenue bus stop is that there is a lot of traffic.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez thanked the BSBPA for doing a wonderful job.

## 12) Agenda Items for Consideration

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the attached budget transfer be approved. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

b) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez that the Library be authorized to retain Architect Paul Mays at a cost of \$2,000.00 (approximately 12 hours of service). (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

c) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the following projects be pursued for funding and grants over the next five years: 1A-1 Geysers Road Well Generator; 1A-2 John Street Water Tank Rehabilitation; 1A-3 Colonial Hills Tank and Rowland Street Tank Rehabilitation; 1B-1 Water Leak Detection Survey; 1B-2 Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) Evaluation; 1C-1 Water Service Meter Replacement; 1C-2 Water Value Replacements; 1D-1 Chester/Lewis Utility Improvement; 1D-2 Columbia Avenue Utility Improvement; 1E-1 McLean Street; and 1E-2 McMaster Street Projects. (Requested by Trustee Raymond & Trustee Kormos)

After discussion,

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the following projects be pursued for funding and grants for the following projects over the next five years: 1A-1 Geysers Road Well Generator; 1A-2 John Street Water Tank Rehabilitation; 1A-3 Colonial Hills Tank and Rowland Street Tank Rehabilitation; 1B-1 Water Leak Detection Survey; 1B-2 Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) Evaluation; 1C-1 Water Service Meter Replacement; 1C-2 Water Value Replacements; 1D-1 Chester/Lewis Utility Improvement; 1D-2 Columbia Avenue Utility Improvement; 1E-1 McLean Street; and 1E-2 McMaster Street Projects.

Ayes All

d) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the ADA Transition Plan Advisory Committee be formed with the following members: Ed Martin, Nathan Ward, Ray Otten, Dana Womer, Katie Tiedemann, Robert Wiltsie, Colby Krogh, and Sandra Cross. Members have completed committee interest forms as required by our committee policy. The grant funded project will be led by Carrie Ward, Senior Transportation Planner of the Capital District Transportation Counsel and Liz Kormos, Village Trustee with assistance of the planning and engineering firm LaBella Associates.

Ayes All

e) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond creating the position of Part-Time Accounting Clerk, for an hourly rate and overall payment that does not exceed a prorated amount for the remainder of the current Fiscal Year (based on the date of hire) of \$24,000.00, adjusting that annual amount by a percentage increase or decrease that is consistent with the budgeted increases or decreases of Village Offices staff generally for future Fiscal Years. The position's maximum number of hours per week will be 19 hours. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Trustee Kormos stated she will abstain from voting because she did not receive the job descriptions.

Mayor Rossi reminded Trustee Kormos she was given them on Friday.

Treasurer Bartlett said the duties of the new position would include payroll coordination, retirement reports, union dues and online payment batches.

Trustee Raymond feels that training for the Treasurer is lacking due to EFPR having staffing issues. Trustee Raymond feels the rest of the staff should be trained to do Treasurer duties, and then this position won't be needed.

As such, Trustee Raymond feels the motion should be amended to reflect a term of 6 months and then reevaluate to see if the new position is needed.

Trustee Raymond suggested outsourcing HR.

Mayor Rossi noted that he is willing to use the Mayor's discretionary funds to pay for municipal accounting training for the Treasurer.

Regarding Trustee Raymond suggestion of delegating Treasurer duties to others, Clerk O'Connor stated that we all help each other, however we all have our own daily duties that keep us busy.

Attorney Buettner stated that the Treasurer has a right to appoint her own Deputy, the Board just needs to create the position.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez hopes this Board will support this position.

Trustee Kormos said she spoke to other people and did some research as to how other Village offices are staffed.

Trustee Kormos agreed with Trustee Raymond that it should be a temporary 6 month position, but it should be a higher level person with municipal experience.

Trustee Kormos wants staff structure to be reviewed.

Mayor Rossi disagrees that the position should be temporary, and asked Trustee Raymond if he would agree to a date of 1/1/24 to reevaluate.

Trustee Raymond answered he will only agree to 8 months.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated there is an obvious need for staffing in that department and will agree with the 1/1/24 date.

Trustee Kormos asked what would be cut to pay for this new position.

Mayor Rossi said we don't need to cut anything.

Trustee Raymond reverted back to supporting a 6 month term.

Trustee Kormos agreed.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez questioned Trustee Raymond's concern with a longer term.

Trustee Raymond thinks a shorter timeline will make things happen.

Mayor Rossi noted that one of the problems is that this is being politicized.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated her disappointment with Trustee Raymond.

Treasurer Bartlett has concerns about finding someone to agree to work for only 6 months; there is a lot of work to be done.

Trustees Raymond and Kormos answered we can reevaluate in 6 months.

Treasurer Bartlett noted that if the position is not extended after 6 months, she will be back to where she is now, working 70 hours a week.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez is concerned with the way the job market is, finding a temp will be difficult.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez pointed out that the Treasurer is working 70 hours a week and is asking for help; it's sad we can't provide that to her.

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond to create a position of Deputy Treasurer for an appointment period of 6 months with a 6 month automatic renewal unless the Board determines to terminate the position for an hourly rate and overall rate that does not exceed a prorated amount for the remainder of the current fiscal year based on the date of hire of \$24,000.00 , adjusting the annual amount by a percentage increase or decrease that is consistent with the budgeting increases or decreases the Village offices staff generally for future fiscal years. The positions maximum number of hours per week will be 19 hours. The 6 month period begins on date of hire of said Deputy Treasurer.

Trustee Raymond-yes

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes

Mayor Rossi-yes

Trustee Kormos-abstain

Motion Passed

### 13) Other Business

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez allowing DPW to accept a bid taken by Auctions International for the old Vac truck for \$20,000 and permitting the Mayor to execute any paperwork related thereto.

Ayes All

### 14) Executive Session

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez seconded by Trustee Kormos that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the real property potential cost for Woods Hollow, labor negotiations and The Ballston Two litigation.

### 15) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:

Motion made by Trustee Raymond seconded by Trustee Kormos that the attached Vouchers be audited and the meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.

General Fund	\$ 76,368.75
Sewer Relevy	1,108.80
Library Fund	1,229.80
Trust & Agency	-----
Total	\$ 78,707.35

Ayes All

Respectfully Submitted,

Teri L. O'Connor  
Village Clerk