

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY held on March 28, 2022.

Present: Mayor Fitzpatrick, Trustee Raymond, Trustee Baskin, Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, Trustee Kormos, (via Zoom) Village Clerk O'Connor, Treasurer Julia Smith, Attorney Karla Buettner

1) The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

2) Pledge to the Flag

Mayor Fitzpatrick welcomed new Trustee Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez

3) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the minutes of the 3/14/22 meeting be approved.

Trustee Baskin-yes Trustee Kormos-yes

Trustee Raymond-yes Trustee VanDeinse-Perez- abstained

Motion Passed

4) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the minutes of the 3/15/22 special meeting be approved.

Trustee Baskin-yes Trustee Kormos-yes

Trustee Raymond-yes Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-abstained

Motion Passed

5) Mayor Announcements:

i) Ricketts has been demolished; once it is cleared there will be a completion report which will be posted be our website.

ii) The State is requesting an increase in AIM funding.

iii) The Village has been recognized for the 3rd year in a row as a Tree City.

iv) Bath Street will be closed all day this Saturday for Fire Dept. training at the Angelica site.

v) We are trying to move forward with getting the \$100,000.00 Tedisco grant.

vi) Approval of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan is saying we are using it as guidance, we are not approving or funding all of the projects. The final report is on the website.

vii) The appointment of Jeff Gawrys as the Acting Superintendent of Public Works is a provisional appointment , which originated with Jeff needing more help. A permanent position is dependent upon Jeff passing the Civil Service Exam. The open laborer position will be replaced with a Working Supervisor position. The position will be posted.

6) Treasurer's Report- attached

Interim Budget overview (on website)

Public Hearing set for 04/11/22 at 7:00pm

7) Old Business:

None.

8) New Business:

Presentations:

Linda Elmer, Vice President Ballston Area Senior Center (attached)

Meg Stevens, Ballston Area Community Center (attached)

i) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the attached budget transfers be approved.

Ayes All

ii) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin, that the resignation of Police Dept. cleaner Ray Groski be accepted, effective immediately.

Ayes All

iii) Motion made by Trustee Kormos seconded by Trustee VanDeinse, that

Whereas, the Village of Ballston Spa, in conjunction with the Capital District Transportation Committee, and consultants from VHB and Planning4Places, received a grant from the Capital District Transportation Committee for the Village of Ballston Spa Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan to design a plan which would promote economic development, improve safety, and create a connected and integrated multi-modal transportation network for users of all ages and abilities and would be used as the basis for future engineering and construction projects in the Village, working with the community to create safer routes and crosswalks to the Village, school and recreational facilities and that takes into consideration the needs of all travelers, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and motorists, and

Whereas, the Village of Ballston Spa Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan was finalized in January of 2022, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herewith:

Now therefore be it resolved that the Village Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Village of Ballston Spa Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

Ayes All

iv) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the Malta Avenue Elementary School PTA be granted permission to hold a Community Day Celebration on April 30 (rain date May 21) from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. This street fair event would block off Malta Avenue between Pine St. and Chapman St. from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A permit will be issued upon receipt of proof of insurance.

Ayes All

v) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse, seconded by Trustee Raymond to allow the home located at 102 Locust Court, Ballston Spa owned by Melanie and Timothy Brown to connect to the Village of Ballston Spa water system.

Ayes All

vi) Motion by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos to appoint Jeff Gawrys as the Acting Superintendent of Public Works effective immediately with a promotional salary increase of \$3,000. Permanent appointment is subject to his passing a promotional exam for this title.

Ayes All

vii) Motion made by Trustee Kormos and seconded by Trustee Raymond to appoint Gary Stephenson of 45 West High St. to the Historic District Commission term ending in 2024 to fill the seat of Donald Traver who has resigned.

Ayes All

viii) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin to appoint Michael Healey of 32 Chapman St. to the Library Board term ending in 2026 to fill the seat of Linda Gawrys who has resigned.

Ayes All

ix) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin to appoint Kamran Parwana of 86 South St. to the Zoning Board of Appeals term ending in 2026 to fill the seat of Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez who was elected Village Trustee on March 15, 2022.

Trustee VanDeinse asked why current ZBA alternate Gary Dale was not considered as is tradition; he has done an excellent job.

Mayor Fitzpatrick answered that Mr. Parwana also has experience working with municipalities, so she is appointing him.

Trustee Baskin-yes Trustee Kormos-yes

Trustee Raymond-yes Trustee VanDeinse-no

Motion Passed

x) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Raymond to appoint Caitlin Parwana of 86 South St. to the Park and Tree Board, term ending in 2024. to fill the seat of Stacy Simmons who has resigned.

Ayes All

xi) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin to appoint Ashley Bush of 36 Birchwood Lane, Ballston Spa to the Committee on the Arts term ending in 2023 to fill the seat of Heather Longacker who has resigned.

Ayes All

xii) Motion made by Trustee Raymond seconded by Trustee Baskin to approve the contract with Behan Associates Landscaper Architecture , D.P.C. dba Behan Planning and Design for preparation of a comprehensive plan for the Village of Ballston Spa and to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract . The contract cost of \$60,000 will be allocated to A. 8010.4

Trustee VanDeinse asked if it is typical to receive a contract and vote on it the same day; we just got it this afternoon.

Mayor Fitzpatrick noted that has been on the agenda; the attorney has been going bac and forth with the contractor.

Trustee VanDeinse stated she is uncomfortable with this and thinks it should be tabled since the Board just receive the contract today.

Trustee Raymond said it is his understanding that this contract negotiation has been going on for a long time and it is quite common to finalize it at the 11th hour.

Mayor Fitzpatrick added that the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has reviewed the contract and also selected Behan.

Trustee Baskin-yes Trustee Kormos-yes

Trustee Raymond-yes Trustee VanDeinse-no

Motion Passed

9) Consent Agenda 2022 Expenditures:

i) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse, that the Police Dept. be authorized to expend the amount of \$1,249.00 for an ID card printer. (A3120.2)

Ayes All

10) Trustee Liaison Reports:

Trustee Raymond noted that the water pumps we are waiting for are still on hold. We still don't know when they will be delivered.

Trustee Kormos noted an Arbor Day celebration will be held at the end of April. Details will be posted on the website.

11) Other Business:

Trustee Baskin summarized the Boards priority projects. (attached)

Mayor Fitzpatrick noted that the records management is going along and 18,000 pounds of paper has been discarded so far.

Trustee Kormos noted that many years ago, Mayor Fitzpatrick told her about Ballston Spa, the wonderful community she lived in and that is one of the reasons Trustee Kormos built a home here.

Trustee Kormos noted that implementing the Sexual Harassment policy and program and the records management program are some of the Mayor's accomplishments.

Trustee Baskin thanked Mayor Fitzpatrick for stepping up.

Trustee Raymond stated it has been an honor to be the Deputy Mayor.

12) Public Comment:

Anna Stanko, 32 Kent Street expressed her displeasure, as the Chair of the ZBA, with this Board for overlooking Gary Dale, who has served the ZBA well as an alternate.

Ms. Stanko stated that while it may not be in writing, it has always been the policy to promote alternates and noted this was a political move.

Ray Otten of 16 Middlebrook Avenue noted that he was on the bike and sidewalk committee and didn't realize that this was the plan that would be adopted.

Mr. Otten pointed out that 28 bicycles were noticed over a 14 day period, various days, 2 hours a day at different intersections and noting that the report recommends over \$1.7 million in changes to the Village for 28 bicycles.

Mr. Otten also noted that the report says there is a perception of the residents of Hyde Blvd. that cars are speeding down their street when in fact they are going almost a mile an hour less than our speed limit.

Additionally, Mr. Otten pointed out that the Park & Tree Board vacancy was never announced to the public, and the Board was not informed that Caitlyn Parwana was going to be joining us. Mr. Otten asked why it was not put out to people who might be interested.

Ellie Dillon of 116 Malta Avenue thanked Mayor Fitzpatrick for stepping up.

Angela McFarland, 365 Milton Avenue stated she hopes to see communications be more open, social media platforms be a 2 way conversation and see elected officials put their naes behind the comments being made.

Ms. McFarland noted that regarding the online bullying that each and everyone of the Board is aware of, silence is compliance.

Amy Jenkins of 37 Grove Street and Richard Bashant of 65 Chapman Street spoke about the ice skating rink and thanked the Village for the supporting the program, which had over 300 skaters.

Mark Blech of 10 Thompson Street spoke about the Arts Committee ethics violation, expressing his dismay that it was kept off of social media.

Mr. Blech spoke about an arts grant that he wanted to apply for, noting the Mayor was not interested and stated he has been criticized and people have tried to sabotage his projects.

Lisa Speidel of 106 Prospect Street welcomed Bernadette and encouraged everyone to work together despite political affiliation.

Ms. Speidel is also bothered by the Park and Tree Board vacancy not being made public.

Ms. Speidel also agreed that silence is compliance and encouraged people to voice their opinions to convince this Board to listen to us, we pay taxes.

Mayor-elect Frank Rossi Jr., 63B Saratoga Avenue thanked everyone who voted for him and Christine.

Mr. Rossi noted he respects Mayor Fitzpatrick and said that respect is not Trustee Baskin and Kormos telling residents that nothing is going to get done because it's still 3-2.

Mr. Rossi spoke about the surrogates during the election going unhinged, noting former Mayor Woolbright received flowers and a note because somebody felt justified in doing that.

Trustee Raymond suggested this is not Village business.

Mr. Rossi disagreed and stated that Trustee Raymond that was being political regarding committee appointments and said we have to do better.

The Mayor-elect told the Board he wants to work with them, not against them and told Mayor Fitzpatrick he hopes she will stay involved, she is an important part of our community.

Mike Iacolucci, 9 Russell Street, thanked Mayor Fitzpatrick for her selfless efforts and congratulated Trustee VanDeinse-Perez and Mayor -elect Rossi.

Mr. Iacolucci said that people of different political parties should not be viewed as enemies.

Gina Marozzi of 10 Old Glory Lane expressed her dismay that no announcement has been made that the previously cancelled Easter Egg Hunt is now scheduled due to her and Mark Blech stepping up.

Ms. Marozzi chastised the Board for not standing up against the flowers and note that were sent to the Woolbright's.

Ms. Marozzi is afraid we will lose the Tedisco Grant due to the back and forth changes.

John Carollo of 38 Washington Street noted it was an honor to be a part of the campaign that helped elect Christine and Liz to their Trustee positions.

Mr. Carollo noted the anger that surrounded the election and stated its time to work as a team.

13) Board Response:

Trustee Baskin said he doesn't remember and doesn't believe he ever said they weren't going to get anything done and hopes people will help us get things done.

Trustee Baskin spoke about the arts grant proposal, saying the Board never received a proposal, and stated that Mr. Blech ran out of time by waiting until the election was over to present the grant.

At Trustee Baskin's request, Attorney Buettner spoke about social media pages, and noted that the law really discourages municipalities from allowing comments in general on social media.

Attorney Buettner noted reasons for that, including the difficulty of administering it and content discrimination.

Ms. McFarland wants the Ethics code updated and a clear policy listed; Trustees should not be manipulating other outside pages and not identifying themselves as behind the scene.

Trustee Raymond noted that Mayor Fitzpatrick tried to straighten it out.

Regarding Board and committee, appointments, Trustee Raymond said it's his top priority to make sure they are diverse, representing ethnicity, gender and political affiliation.

Trustee VanDeinse -Perez stated that the issue is not with Mr. Parwana, she and Mayor-Rossi want him involved.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez wants to see healing in this community, we are very broken and we all have to take stock as to why.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez wished Mayor Fitzpatrick well.

Trustee Raymond, regarding Trustee Baskin's priority list, said that things have been in the works for years now; we can't just do this, or take a pot of money and do that, it's a lot more complicated than that.

Trustee Kormos hopes said it's time to stop sending surrogates out to criticize and find fault on any issue.

Mayor Fitzpatrick noted we are trying to move forward with the Tedisco grant.

Mayor Fitzpatrick spoke about the Committee on the Arts grants and said she has done everything in accordance with what are rules are.

Attorney Buettner explained the process of a municipality applying for a grant, agreeing that the Mayor did what she was supposed to do.

14) Adjournment:

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the Vouchers No. 22-00546 to 22-01832 be audited and the meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

Mayor Fitzpatrick thanked her colleagues on the Board, the Village staff and all of her supporters.

General Fund	\$139,149.04
Sewer Relevy	2,853.74
Capital Projects Fund	28,796.50
Library Fund	5,928.07
Trust & Agency	<u>1,884.74</u>
Total	\$178,612.09

Ayes All

Respectfully Submitted,

Teri L. O'Connor
Village Clerk