

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY held on April 25, 2022.

Present: Mayor Rossi, Trustee Kormos, Trustee Raymond, Trustee Baskin, Trustee VanDeinse, Village Clerk O'Connor, Village Administrator Jennifer Moskowitz, Attorney Buettner

Absent: Treasurer Smith

1) Call to Order

2) Pledge to the Flag

3) Approval of Minutes

a) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the minutes of the 3/28/22 meeting be approved.

Ayes All

b) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez that the minutes of the 4/4/22 organizational meeting be approved.

Ayes All

c) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the minutes of the 4/11/22 meeting be approved.

Ayes All

4) Mayor Announcements

a) Coffee with the Mayor did not take place this week, planning for this Thursday at Nomad from 9:30am-10:30am.

b) Will be focusing on setting up Mayor's Advisory Boards this week.

c) Thanks to the Rotary and all of the volunteers that helped clean up our parks on Saturday.

d) The Towns of Milton and Ballston have both invited Village residents to participate in their recycling events. Ballston's will be May 7 from 9:00am to 3:00pm and Milton's will take place on May 22 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Both events will be at their respective Town Halls.

e) Drug take back day will be this Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Police Dept.

f) The Mayor met with Library Board members Lori Acee and Andy Mannion to discuss the recent focus on updating the Library space. There will be a community forum on May 5 at 6:00pm.

g) The Dish network contract will not be considered until we are comfortable with the terms.

h) Village residents are welcome to stop by the Town of Milton DPW garage next winter to take a salt and sand mix. The free mix will be limited to filling a 5 gallon bucket.

i) Mayor Rossi, Trustee VanDeinse-Perez and Rory O'Connor toured the former infirmary.

j) A representative from Senator Tedisco's office said grants may start moving again soon.

k) Outdoor dining will be discussed tonight.

l) The water feasibility study is moving forward.

m) Both replacement water pumps have been installed with no issues.

5) Liaison Reports

Trustee Raymond reminded everyone that loose yard debris will be picked up through May; after that it must be bagged. Also, hydrant flushing will begin May 2nd.

Trustee Kormos reported that the Library is working with an architect.

A tree will be planted for Arbor Day on April 30th in Kelley Park and work should begin soon on the new playground.

Trustee Baskin noted that the Arts Committee has begun sales on their planting art project.

A \$5,000.00 grant was received for a public mural on the wall between Wiswall Park and Augie's.

Trustee Baskin went to Doubleday Woods to collect a survey regarding crosswalks.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez introduced Dana Womer, Sandy Hassfurter and Christine Kernochan of the BSBPA.

6) Presentation –Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association

The BSBPA is an all-volunteer organization whose main purpose is to bring business into the Village, and they sponsor many events, including the car show.

There were discussions about a business improvement district, marketing social media.

7) Treasurer's Report – Budget Reallocation Discussion (Mayor)

Mayor Rossi discussed the proposed budget reallocations which includes \$10,000.00 for repairs to the the police and court building, an increase of \$1,000.00 to the Ballston are Seniors, \$10,000.00 towards Family Fun Day and other special events and a \$2,500.00 increase in the Treasurer's salary.

The Trustees expressed concern about accepting the changes without having more time to look at them and have questions answered by the Treasurer.

8) Old Business – PDD Legislation (Baskin) (See attachment.)

Trustee Baskin explained what a PDD (Planned Development District) is and went over the history of the Village’s interest in having one.

Mayor Rossi stated that he spoke with the stakeholders and not one of them will develop under this PDD. Additionally, the County Planning Board may not approve it.

The Board had a lively discussion regarding PDD’s.

9) New Business – Discussion on DPW Equipment Purchases (Mayor)

Mayor Rossi spoke about leasing, interest rates and fund balance.

10) Public Comment Related Only to Agenda Items for Consideration (4-Minute Limit per Speaker)

Ray Otten, 16 Middlebrook Avenue spoke the Kelley Park Playground, and referred to Freedom of Speech regarding the Village newsletter.

Lisa Speidel, 106 Prospect Street also spoke about Freedom of Speech, noting that residents can also get information out, if the Board doesn’t.

Bob Bush Jr. of 71 Church Avenue explained the process of training new firefighters.

Donna Martin, 20 Chesterwood Court stated her concerns about the Trustees wanting final approval for the newsletter.

Christine Fitzpatrick of 31 spoke about the budget process.

Marian Pitsas, 516 Elk Circle noted that the microphones pick up a lot, including paper shuffling and comments.

11) Agenda Items for Consideration

a) (Requested by Mayor Rossi) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the attached budget transfers be approved. (See attachment.)

Ayes All

b) (Requested by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the resignations of Scott Mayr, Joseph Wood and Lacey Dubois from Union Fire Co. #2 and the Ballston Spa Fire Dept. be accepted.

Ayes All

c) (Requested by Mayor Rossi) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the Police Dept. be authorized to expend the amount of \$3,764.22 for computer equipment for the Tahoe. (A3120.2)

Ayes All

d) (Requested by Mayor Rossi) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that that the Police Dept. be authorized to expend the amount of \$12,042.79 for outfitting the Tahoe. (A3120.2)

Ayes All

e) (Requested by Mayor Rossi) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Mayor Rossi that the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Village of Ballston Spa Budget be approved as attached. (See attachment.)

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Mayor Rossi to set a budget workshop for Thursday, April 28, at 7:00pm.

Ms. Speidel thinks it is a good idea.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez -yes Trustee Raymond-no Trustee Kormos-no

Trustee Baskin-no Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Failed

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the FY 2022-2023 Village of Ballston Spa budget presented to the public hearing on April 11, 2022, be approved.

Ms. Speidel would like the Board to discuss what's important to all of us, this is our money.

Carol Johnson of 91 Church Avenue doesn't understand why three Trustees go against what the people want.

Ms. Fitzpatrick feels that the process was done.

Mr. Bush thinks the budget should not be passed if there are changes being proposed.

Gina Marozzi, 10 Old Glory Lane asked if it is legal to pass a budget that has problems.

Attorney Buettner said yes.

Keith Lewis, 38 East High Street wants a process followed.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez -yes Trustee Raymond-yes Trustee Kormos-yes

Trustee Baskin-yes Mayor Rossi-no

Motion Passed

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated she is very disappointed that they could not come together.

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Mayor Rossi that a special meeting be held on May 16th at 7:00 for the purpose of holding a budget workshop.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez -yes Trustee Raymond-yes Trustee Kormos-yes

Trustee Baskin-yes Mayor Rossi-yes

The Treasurer is requested to attend.

Motion Passed

f) (Requested by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, allowing Village eateries from May 1, 2022, through October 1, 2022, to: a) place tables on the sidewalks in front of their establishments so long as they leave a 4-foot unobstructed pedestrian pathway on such sidewalk; and b) to place tables in their parking lots at their discretion.

Fines and violations were discussed.

Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the motion be tabled.

Ayes All

Attorney Buettner will draft a law to present to the Board.

g) (Requested by Mayor Rossi) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin, that Community Emergency Corps., with assistance from the Ballston Spa Rotary and Lions Clubs, shall be authorized to install playground equipment and related items at Kelley Park, with further authority to install a plaque on or around the equipment honoring former members that have passed away.

Ayes All

h) (Requested by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos approving and authorizing Mayor Rossi to sign the municipal lease agreement for the new rubber-tired backhoe ordered by the Department of Public Works. (A8340.2) (Attachment forthcoming.)

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the motion be amended to add “after attorney approval”.

Ayes All

i) (Requested by Mayor Rossi) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Mayor Rossi that in honor of Earth Day and to enable the Village Offices to cut down on paper waste, members of the Board will not request the Clerk to bring paper copies of the Agenda and items related to the Agenda for the Board to Village Board meetings, with the Clerk providing only enough copies for public in attendance.

The Board discussed the motion at length.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez -yes Trustee Raymond-no

Trustee Kormos-abstained Trustee Baskin-no Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Failed

j) (Requested by Trustee Baskin) Motion made by Trustee Raymond seconded by Trustee Baskin, that there is one official village newsletter – The Voice; that all board members will have the opportunity to contribute to this newsletter, which will be produced at least quarterly; that the newsletter will be reviewed and approved by the board prior to public distribution; that the newsletter will be for informational purposes pertaining to village business and events; that no other newsletters or mass emails will be sent by board members using village resources without prior approval of the board, except in cases of emergency.

Trustee Kormos wants to keep politics out of the newsletter.

Mayor Rossi stated that NYCOM does not believe that the Board can prohibit a Mayor from using their official Village email account from communicating with residents.

Trustee Baskin wants to have one newsletter they can all contribute to.

Discussion ensued regarding Board division, with 3 Trustees regularly voting together on issues. As such, a super majority was discussed.

Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the motion be tabled.

Ayes all

12) Other Business

Trustee Raymond is upset that he has not been issued a key to the Village Office since the locks were changed.

Mayor Rossi explained that it is for the purpose of maintaining secure files.

13) Public Comment on All Village Business (4-Minute Limit per Speaker)

Ms. Speidel thanked everyone who helped with the clean up this weekend.

Ms. Speidel also noted that it is Administrative Professionals Week and told Clerk O'Connor and Village Admin Moscowitz that they are appreciated.

Mayor Rossi stated that we have a team that is unbelievable.

Anna Stanko, 32 Kent Street spoke about the PDD and feels that the Trustees do not have confidence in their Boards.

Mr. Otten spoke about the amount of money that was suggested to get rid of bishops weed and plant flowers in Wiswall Park.

Nathan Ward of 1 Hyde Blvd. shared upcoming BSBPA events.

Donna Dardaris, 64 Middle Street agreed with Ms. Speidel that this Village works together and suggested that the Board solicit names of people who would like to volunteer.

Mr. Bush expressed his dismay at the Board's bickering.

Spencer Tacy, Saratoga Avenue stated that issues such as keys should not be brought up at meetings; handle these things like adults.

Mr. Tacy spoke about the challenges of building on non -conforming lots.

Mr. Tacy agrees that the Planning and Zoning Boards are capable of handling issues; we don't need a PDD.

Additionally, Mr. Tacy asked that due to kids hanging out in the park, that we do not use weed killers.

Bob Cavanaugh of 20 Crestline Drive urged the Board to get out and meet the residents to learn about the Village.

14) Board Comments, Questions, and Concerns

Mayor Rossi is bothered that the positive announcements he made earlier will be overshadowed by the negativity of the rest of the meeting.

15) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond, that the Vouchers No. 22-01218 to 22-02002 be audited and the meeting adjourned at 11:29pm.

General Fund	\$ 268,709.18
Sewer Relevy	8,479.70
Capital Projects Funds	945.92
Library Fund	4,329.34
Trust & Agency	<u>6,007.24</u>
Total	\$288,471

Ayes All

Respectfully Submitted,

Teri L. O'Connor
Village Clerk