

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY held on May 8, 2023.

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

1) Call to Order

2) Pledge to the Flag

3) Minutes

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the minutes of the 04/6/23 special meeting be approved.

Ayes All

b) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the minutes of the 04/10/23 meeting be approved.

Ayes All

c) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the minutes of the 04/24/23 meeting be approved.

Trustee Raymond-abstained

Trustee Baskin-yes

Trustee Kormos-yes

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-abstained

Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Passed

4) Mayor Announcements

a) Happy 70th birthday to Ray Otten 😊

b) Clerk O'Connor is going to be a grandmother 😊

c) Front Street is scheduled to be milled on May 15 and paved on May 22

5) Liaison Reports

Trustee Kormos noted that on May 11 there will be an auction at the Library, put on by The Friends of the Library.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez said the Arts Committee is working on collaborating with photographers.

Trustee Raymond reported that the DPW is pouring ADA ramps , replacing catch basins and a fire hydrant this week as part of the Front, Spring and Charlton Street project. Hydrant flushing continues and leaf and brush pick up has begun.

Trustee Baskin noted that the Arts Committee is focused on their digital presence online.

Trustee Baskin said that the crafting library project and the search for crafting class instructors are moving forward.

The Park and Tree Board had a good turnout for their Arbor Day event and a sycamore moon tree was planted. Special thanks to the Cornell Master Forest Owner Volunteer Program for donating the tree and Kristopher Williams for educating the Board and helping to plant the tree.

Michele Bechard was thanked for planting 2 beautiful trees in front of Waverly Square Antiques.

6) Treasurer's Report (attached)

7) Presentation

a) E-3 Energy Management (Phil Caliendo / Peter Schmitt)

The presentation was on the potential to save money on energy bills and the possibility of electric car charging stations.

8) Old Business

a) Remote Participation by Board Members Due to Illness (Trustee VanDeinse-Perez)

Attorney Buettner explained that Board members can appear remotely, however members of the public must be allowed to join them at their location.

The State is now saying that municipalities can draft a law allowing Board members to appear and participate remotely only in the instances of illness and/or disability.

The Board agreed to have Attorney Buettner move forward with drafting the law.

9) New Business

a) Discussion of Trustee Baskin's Proposed "Village Events Committee" (Mayor Rossi)¹

Trustee Baskin explained he wants this committee for transparency and inclusion purposes.

Trustee Kormos feels this Board has spent too much time on events, the proposed committee could deal with the details.

Trustee Raymond wants the entire board to be involved with appointing committees.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez expressed concerns with ambiguity as this is written.

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

Anna Stanko, 32 Kent Street spoke about sexual predators living across from Kelley Park and a nearby neighborhood.

Regarding Trustee Baskin saying he wants the Events Committee for transparency, Ms. Stanko noted that everyone knows who is on the committee. Ms. Stanko added that no one has ever been excluded from volunteering.

Ms. Stanko fears this is a political football; we need to come together and do these events for the families in this Village.

Lori O'Connor of 199 Milton Avenue stated one of the reasons she fell in love with the Village is because it was a "Village of Friends".

Ms. O'Connor feels that if this committee is formed, it should only be made up of Village residents.

Donna Dardaris, 64 Middle Street agreed with Ms. Stanko and stated that she does not feel it's appropriate to make this a political issue and told the Board to stop throwing up barriers to try to make it difficult.

Mayor Rossi expressed his gratitude to Ms. Dardaris for everything she does.

Marilyn Stephenson of 45 West High Street noted that the House and Garden Clubs geranium and plant preorder sale is going on through 5/12.

Ms. Stephenson asked what is going on with the pedestrian signs.

Mayor Rossi said they are going up next week and police patrols will be increased also.

Gina Marozzi, 10 Old Glory Lane asked if this proposed events committee will be overseeing all Village events.

Trustee Baskin answered that it would be all events that receive Village funds and added not necessarily oversee but be part of recommending where Village funds should go.

Ms. Marozzi asked if that includes any group that receives funds such as the BSBPA.

Trustee Baskin said it's aimed at events.

Ms. Marozzi feels that ASCC is being singled out.

¹ Due to the nature of the topic, a public comment session specific to this topic will be held, with speakers being permitted two minutes to speak.

Ms. Marozzi chastised Trustee Kormos for spreading false information and harming their ability to raise funds.

Mark Blech of 10 Thompson Street spoke about the time constraints of putting together events and his concern about having to wait to be vetted by the proposed committee.

Ray Otten, 16 Middlebrook Avenue reported that the Rotary Club had a very successful clean-up day last Saturday.

Mr. Otten conveyed his concern that the Board is not taking FEMA training seriously.

Mary Price Bush of 105 McLean Street is grateful that we raised our kids in a Village that has so much love and feel of community, young families deserve to have that too.

Ellie Dillon, 116 Malta Avenue is upset that the Democratic Committee is being slandered for not supporting things.

Regarding the proposed committee, Pete Martin of 20 Chesterwood Court pointed out to the Board that no one has spoken positively about it and urged the Board to listen and stop passing things no one wants.

Mr. Martin has an issue for Trustee Kormos to be on the Revenue Advisory Committee because he feels that she did not represent the committee well at all, specifically regarding the \$50.00 fee for only 1 missed meter reading.

Mr. Martin appealed to the Board to stop always voting 3-2; be open minded.

Christin Iacolucci, 24 Chapman Street thinks events are just as important as the other things such as arts, parks and trees, planning and zoning and as such they should also have the same formal committee status.

Ms. Iacolucci thinks the Mayors Task Force is doing a great job and sees no reason they couldn't be on the official committee.

Lisa Speidel of 106 Prospect Street had a long list of concerns including delayed leaf pick up, trash and leaves along the Tedisco Trail, speeding on Village streets, there being too many committees and flags not being flown at half-staff when appropriate.

Dana Womer, 18 Coronado Way reminded everyone that there will be a silent auction to benefit the Library on 5/11, 5/15 there will be a ribbon cutting for the Gateway House of Peace thrift store and on 5/20 the National Bottle Museum and The Real McCoy will host a "BYOB" event (Bring your own bottle) to get information on your old bottles.

Additionally, Ms. Womer noted that "Strange World" will be shown in the park on 6/2.

Mayor Rossi spoke about Narcan training and stressed we need to be aware that Fentanyl is here.

11) Board Comments, Questions, & Concerns

Trustee Kormos stated she looked into the law, and unfortunately there is nothing we can do about sexual predators living near the park or a nearby neighborhood.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez encouraged everyone to get Narcan training and noted addiction is a disease.

Addressing the \$50.00 fee for not reading the meter, Trustee Raymond said it's been an overwhelming success.

Mayor Rossi has the authority to waive the fee if a homeowner has a valid excuse.

Trustee Baskin thinks FEMA training is not all that is needed, we should have a meeting of 1st responders to make sure we have a plan.

Mayor Rossi spoke about the events being underfunded and thanked the community for the incredible amount of offers to help.

Mayor Rossi agreed that the events are being undermined by some negativity on Facebook.

Mayor Rossi stated we know this is politically motivated; every time we try to get funding for an event now that Covid is over, it's a fight.

The Board discussed the motion regarding the events committee at length.

12) Agenda Items for Consideration

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the property owner for the property located at 40 Glen Street be given permission to tap into the Village water and sewer system. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

b) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez that The Saratoga County Agricultural Society be granted permission to hold the Annual Saratoga County Fair at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds from 7/18/23-7/23/23. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

c) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos that Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Co. #1 be authorized to expend the amount of \$5,465.78 for nozzles, hooks, and a pro bar. (Requested by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez)

Ayes All

d) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the DPW's 1992 Athey H-10 Street Sweeper be deemed surplus equipment. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

e) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the DPW be authorized to sell the Athey H-10 Street Sweeper to The Town of North Greenbush Highway Dept. for \$6,800.00. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

f) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Raymond to request Village engineer (Labella Associates) to provide a proposal with scope of work and fee to replace the existing sewer infrastructure located within Wiswall Park, including, but not limited to: design of new infrastructure, development of plans and construction estimate, provide contract bid documents, administer contract bid and award process, and provide construction support/inspection services as needed using funds provided from the American Rescue Plan Act to the village. (Requested by Trustee Raymond)

Ayes All

g) Motion made by Trustee _____ n/a _____, seconded by Trustee _____ n/a _____ that Alex Funicello, Kevin Dillon, Trustee Elizabeth Kormos, Peter Martin, Trustee Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez, Mayor Frank Rossi, Jr., and Lawrence Ryan be appointed to the Revenue Advisory Committee (RAC) and that the committee be charged with reviewing and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees following the attached charter. (Requested by Trustee Kormos)²

Withdrawn

h) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos to engage the services of Danziger & Markhoff LLP ("D&M") to perform GASB #75 actuarial services for the Village's OPEB (post-employment benefit program) calculation at the rate of \$3,650, and authorizing the Mayor to execute related document(s), as necessary. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

i) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez approving the Labella Associates proposal for professional services related to the Village's DPW garage repairs, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

j) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that Donald Traver be approved as Assistant to the Deputy Treasurer for the Village of Ballston Spa, effective May 8, 2023. His role shall be in a part-time capacity and shall conclude 30 days after the appointment of a new Treasurer. His pay shall not exceed \$15.00 per hour. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

k) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that Barbara Bartlett be approved to provide accounting assistance and training for the Village of Ballston Spa, effective May 8, 2023. Her role shall be in a part-time capacity (with services provided based on her availability) and shall conclude upon future approved motion from the Board. Her pay shall not exceed \$30.00 per hour. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

l) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Village of Ballston Spa and Ballston Spa Police Benevolent Association be approved, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Agreement and any subsequent documents to memorialize the new contract consistent with the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Trustee Baskin-yes Trustee Raymond-yes Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes
Trustee Kormos-yes Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Passed

m) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos authorizing the transfer of funds from the following accounts to the recently approved Fire Reserve account for the specific purpose of purchasing Firetrucks: A-3410-004-00 - \$30,074.97; A-3411-004-00 - \$49,825.69; A-3412-004-00 - \$41,140.94; & A-3413-004-00 - \$2,840.55. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

n) Motion made by Trustee _____n/a_____, seconded by Trustee _____n/a_____ to create an official Village Board Events Committee, in accordance with the following charter:

“BALLSTON SPA EVENTS COMMITTEE CHARTER

Mission Statement: The mission of the Events Committee is to help foster and advance village-sponsored, community-wide events for the enjoyment of village residents, and to promote a sense of community and civic engagement.

Duties of the Committee:

- 1) Make recommendations to the Village Board regarding the expenditure of funds and the design and implementation of village-sponsored events.
- 2) Help identify internal and external resources and partnerships that can be utilized to increase the quality and quantity of community events, including diverse funding sources, material resources, and volunteers.
- 3) Assist in the implementation of village-sponsored community events.
- 4) Evaluate and provide feedback to the board on events, for continuous improvement.

Committee membership - The Committee will consist of 7 members. Members are not required to be Village residents, but preference will be given to those who are. Initial terms will be given for 1, 2, and 3 years with subsequent appointments for 3-year terms. The Committee members and Chair will be chosen per the Village of Ballston Spa Committee policy that was approved 10/11/22. Members of the committee shall disclose to the board of trustees any personal financial interest in any project considered by the committee. The Chairperson, who is chosen by the committee membership, will have a term of two years.

Open Meetings /public disclosure:

All meetings that include a quorum of the committee will be noticed on the Village’s meeting calendar, Village website and Village social media pages. Committee meetings will be open to the public and provide the opportunity for public comment. Agenda and minutes will be at the discretion of the committee. Committees must meet either in person or by videoconferencing/webinar format.” (Requested by Trustee Baskin)

Withdrawn

o) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin approving the resolution for the SEQR Notice of Intent to serve as lead agency for the adoption of the Village of Ballston spa's Comprehensive Plan that is to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Trustee Baskin-yes Trustee Raymond-yes Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes
Trustee Kormos-yes Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Passed

p) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin to hold a public hearing on May 22 at 7:01pm related to Local Law #2 of 2023 related to sidewalk code for the Village of Ballston Spa.

Trustee Baskin-yes Trustee Raymond-yes Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes
Trustee Kormos-yes Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Passed

¹ Note that this composition of membership has been flagged by our Village Attorney: “[T]his committee cannot continue with these members. There are three village board members on this committee, which, as you know, cannot occur without it becoming a meeting of the Board of Trustees.” No further instructions were provided prior to publication of this Agenda by the members of the Board. If any changes are proposed prior to the meeting, this Agenda will be amended accordingly.

13) Other Business

Trustee Kormos suggested that we look at other accounting firms if EFPR is going to charge us hourly.

Mayor Rossi would like to speak with EFPR and try to work it out.

Mayor Rossi asked the Board to email him their desires with respect to EFPR.

14) Executive Session (If Needed)

Not needed

15) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, that the Vouchers be audited, and the meeting adjourned at 10:19pm.

General Fund	\$ 53,213.23
Sewer Relevy	2,387.68
Capital Projects	27,070.00
Library Fund	3,198.58
Trust & Agency	<u>700.19</u>
Total	\$ 86,569.68

Ayes All

Respectfully Submitted,

Teri L. O'Connor
Village Clerk