

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY held October 23, 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) Public Hearing (7:01pm) – Local Law No. 2 of 2023, To Repeal & Replace the Code of Ethics

Ethics Board Chair Julie Gazetos read a letter on behalf of the Ethics Board. (attached)

Ray Otten, 16 Middlebrook Avenue chastised Trustee Kormos for saying she wants it to be difficult for Village Officials to change the Ethics policy and for not taking Counsels advice.

Pete Martin of 20 Chesterwood Court and a member of the Ethics Board chastised the Board for manipulating the Ethics Code and ignoring Attorney advice.

Jared Iacolucci, 24 Chapman Street stated it was good to hear from the Ethics Board directly how they feel, but also thinks it's important that we can have civil disagreements about it.

Christine Fitzpatrick of 31 Chapman Street is in support of this Ethics law and thinks employees will have no issue with a disclosure form.

Marilyn Stephenson of 45 West High Street agreed with Ms. Fitzpatrick.

Gina Marozzi, 10 Old Glory Lane stated that the issue is not with having an updated Ethics Code, it is with some of the Board of Trustees having their fingerprints on the one thing that governs them.

Keith Lewis of 38 East High Street noted he is glad the code is being updated and feels the Trustees were right to rewrite the Ethics Code.

Mike Iacolucci, 9 Russell Street agreed with Mr. Lewis.

Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez to close the Public Hearing at 7:29pm.

Ayes All

4) Minutes

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the minutes of the 10/10/23 meeting be approved.

Ayes All

5) Mayor Announcements

The old Angelica site has been vandalized, seemingly by youth.

Noting that this is a felony, and these mistakes will follow you, Mayor Rossi urged educators and parents to reinforce respect for our community.

6) Liaison Reports

Trustee Kormos noted that Paul Mays has been approved to do the construction drawings for phase 1 of the Library renovations. Bidding should be ready May 24th. A total of \$230,000. Has been raised or committed towards the renovations.

Trustee Kormos said the ADA project data collection is complete. The public is invited to a meeting on 11/6.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez reported that the Fire Dept. has had a total of 370 calls for assistance so far this year.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez congratulated Nathan Tinney and Steven Bowers on their being hired as paid Firefighters in Saratoga Springs.

Additionally, Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated that the BSBPA is looking for a Christmas Tree for Wiswall Park; if anyone knows of one, email dana@ballston.org.

Mayor Rossi thanked the Fire Dept. for their responsiveness.

Trustee Raymond said the DPW is very busy with multiple projects , including picking up loose leaves.

Trustee Baskin said the Park and Tree Board is working with Studio A on Wiswall Park renovations.

Regarding Victory Circle Park, Trustee Baskin reported that 2 benches will be placed there.

Mayor Rossi noted that a resident of Colonial Hills has concerns about the placement of the benches and urged better communication.

Paul Miller of 524 Victory Circle shared his concerns with the proposed placement of the benches, noting he has collected signatures of neighbors who also have concerns.

7) Treasurer's Report (attached)

8) Presentation

a) Family Fun Day 2023 Review – Financial & More (Mary Price-Bush)

Ms. Price-Bush stated that Family Fun Day came in \$4,000.00 under budget.

9) Old Business

a) Sidewalk Law (Trustee Baskin & Trustee Kormos)¹

Trustee Baskin gave an overview of what he and Trustee Kormos prefer as a plan for sidewalk replacement/repair.

In this plan, Trustee Baskin explained, everyone pays in as a community; if anyone wanted to fix their sidewalk ahead of the scheduled plan, they can get reimbursed up to 50% with a cap.

Trustee Kormos noted that sidewalk gaps will be filled in as well.

Mayor Rossi is concerned not only with administrative costs with this plan, but also with legal liability and increased insurance premiums.

Mayor Rossi stated that our insurer cautions against this type of plan.

The Board continued to discuss the topic.

b) Traffic Control Update (Trustee Kormos & Trustee Raymond)

Mayor Rossi noted that Ed Martin, who is with the BSCSD may purchase 2 solar mobile "Your Speed Is" signs that we would be able to use.

Trustee Kormos shared traffic violation data (attached) and stated that solutions will be explored.

Trustee Raymond spoke about stop sign violations.

10) New Business

Kris DuBuque of 6 Kaleen Drive spoke about the Mideast atrocities.

¹ Red-lined version of the proposed Sidewalk Law was not available at the time of publication.

a) Resolution re: Israel & Mideast Peace (Trustee VanDeinse-Perez)

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez thanked Mr. DuBuque for sharing his thoughts, and the Board for helping with the resolution and read the resolution aloud.

Trustee Baskin feels that the violence perpetrated against Palestinians should also be condemned.

Trustee Kormos agreed with Trustee Baskin.

Trustee Baskin would like the resolution to be retitled as to say, "The Village Board condemns killing of innocent civilians in Israel and Palestine."

There was a unanimous show of support by the Board with respect to the resolution as amended.

b) Zoning/BOA RFPs (Mayor Rossi)

Mayor Rossi spoke about concerns with an email Trustee Kormos sent to potential bidders.

Attorney Buettner asked Trustee Kormos to forward the email list.

The Board extended the submission deadline.

c) John St. Water Tower Bid Documents/Bond Resolution (Mayor Rossi)

Trustee Kormos is glad that the bids include continued maintenance.

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

Mr. Iacolucci, 24 Chapman Street thanked everyone who shared their perspectives on the Mideast Conflict.

Mr. DuBuque read an excerpt from an article about Mideast conflicts.

Ryan Johnson of 154 Milton Avenue stated he does not think neighborhoods without sidewalks, such as Colonial Hills should have to pay for other people's sidewalks.

Christin Iacolucci, 24 Chapman Street expressed her support for the new Ethics Law and the proposed Sidewalk Law.

Mr. Lewis spoke about the Woods Hollow contract.

Kamran Parwana, 86 South Street noted he would like to know what changes people objected to in the Ethic's Law.

Mr. Martin asked if not-for-profits can be exempt from the proposed sidewalk fee.

Mr. Otten remarked on the incredible number of man hours our volunteer Firefighters put in.

Ms. Marozzi asked why other organizations that the Village gives money to do not get audited, stating that Trustee Baskin is obsessed with Family Fun Day and asked him to stop using his office to harass people.

Mike Iacolucci, 9 Russell Street expressed his unhappiness with Ms. Marozzi's comments and questioned how the Family Fun Day numbers were arrived at.

Mary Price-Bush of 105 McLean Street explained Family Fun Day expenses.

12) Board Response

The Board continued to discuss Family Fun Day expenses.

13) Agenda Items for Consideration

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the Library be authorized to expend the amount of \$1,379.00 for an AED unit. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

b) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the BSBPA be authorized to conduct the Annual Holiday Parade on Friday 12/1/23 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, with step off beginning at 6:30pm and the requested road closures detailed in attachments. (Requested by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez)

Ayes All

c) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos authorizing the Mayor to enter into the attached five-year lease financing agreement related to the one-ton dump truck purchase/lease-to-own motion approved during the 10/10/2023 Village Board of Trustees meeting and to execute any documents in furtherance of such transaction consistent with this motion. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

d) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond approving the resolution as follows:

Resolution to purchase real property located at 78 Thompson Street, Town of Milton/Village of Ballston Spa;

Whereas, the Motion dated 8/28/23, the Village of Ballston Spa, Village authorized the Mayor to enter into a letter of intent to purchase land and improvements located at 78 Thompson Street, Town of Milton, New York, Tax Map Parcel #203.80-1-46, approximately plus or minus .32 acres of land and property for the municipal purposes of housing the Village of Ballston Spa Police Department and other Village Departments;

And whereas, the Village has negotiated a purchase price of \$450,000.00 for the property and whereas the Board of Trustees has reviewed the SEQR documents relative to this matter finding that this is an unlisted action and whereas it is in the best interest of the Village to purchase the property for the use of municipal housing and Village Departments;

Now therefore be it resolved; that the Board of Trustees approves the purchase price of \$450,000.00.

And be it further resolved; that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to execute and deliver to the seller copies of the contract and purchase to transfer the property at 78 Thompson Street in the Town of Milton;

And be it further resolved; that the Board of Trustees further authorizes the Mayor to execute any and all other documents necessary to effectuate this purchase.



e) John St. Water Tower Bond resolution and related resolution(s) for SEQRA, etc. (See Attachments; Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Trustee Baskin-yes

Trustee Raymond-yes

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes

Trustee Kormos-yes

Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Passed

f) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Raymond authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for an inspection for this property that is allowed for the 78 Thompson Street contract for a limited period of time, not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Ayes All

Christine Fitzpatrick, 71 Chapman Street thinks this is an inspection is a great idea and asked if the house next to it is being purchased too.

Mayor Rossi answered no, just the parking lot.

Attorney Buettner read the SEQR resolution.

Motion made by Mayor Rossi, seconded by Trustee Kormos to approve the SEQR resolution.

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

g) Motion made by Mayor Rossi, seconded by Trustee Kormos to approve the SEQR resolution.

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

h) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin to approve the Bond Counsel resolution.

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

i) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez approving the John St. Water Tower bid documents submitted by Laberge Engineering, and authorizing the Mayor to execute any documents in furtherance of the bid documents consistent with this motion. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

j) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez approving the additional spending related to bid documentation and construction inspection related to the Union Fire Company No. 2 sidewalk/apron (amounts based on the original Labella Engineering proposal). (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

k) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Raymond to schedule a public hearing at the Village Board meeting on November 13, 2023, for the attached draft committee code. (Requested by Trustee Kormos)²

Motion Rescinded

l) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the BOA RFP and the Zoning RFP have extensions of their due dates to 11/1/23.

Ayes All

m) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond approving the proposal by LaBella related to the Pulp Mill Street drainage situation and authorizing the Mayor to execute

² Note: There is no proposed code attached, only a policy document that does not match Committee Policy of the Village of Ballston Spa that is currently in effect.

documentation and approve any expenses related to rectifying the situation after informal consultation with the Board of Trustees.

Ayes All

n) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos to adopt the attached Resolution Adopting Local Law 2 of 2023 (To Repeal & Replace the Village of Ballston Spa Code of Ethics). (Requested by Trustee Kormos)

Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos to accept minor adjustments to the Law.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez noted this has been grueling and she agreed that the Committee should have been the ones making changes.

Although this is not ideal for us, Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated she supports it.

Trustee Kormos stated they are the Legislative body and have the final word.

Mayor Rossi noted that things beyond what should have been included, were included, and will likely cost us money in our collective bargaining.

Mayor Rossi stated that it is the Boards job to pass this law, it doesn't mean the Board should write this law.

Trustee Baskin-yes

Trustee Raymond-yes

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes

Trustee Kormos-yes

Mayor Rossi-abstain

Motion Passed

m) Motion made by Trustee _____n/a_____, seconded by Trustee _____n/a_____ to provide a report from the Village's internal books and accounting system that lists and itemizes all sources of revenue and all expenses for Family Fun Day 2023. This report will be produced and sent to Village Trustees by close of business Thursday, October 26, 2023. (Requested by Trustee Baskin)

Withdrawn

14) Other Business-

None

15) Executive Session (If Needed)

Not needed

16) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:

Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, that the Vouchers be audited, and the meeting adjourned at 11:47pm.

General Fund	\$ 314,265.14
Sewer Relevy	11,826.84
Library Fund	7,320.69
Trust & Agency	<u>1,763.95</u>
Total	\$ 335,196.89

Ayes All

Respectfully Submitted,

**Teri L. O'Connor
Village Clerk**