

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY** held on October 11, 2022.

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) Approval of Minutes**

**a) Motion made by Trustee Van-Deinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the minutes of the 10/11/22 meeting be approved.**

**Ayes All**

**4) Mayor Announcements**

**a) The Mayor was a guest at a Malta Ave. PTA meeting where school street safety was discussed.**

**b) We are looking into hiring a second school crossing guard and merging that position with the parking enforcement position.**

**c) Paving is complete and leaf pick up is beginning. The new street signs will be placed hopefully before the end of the year.**

**d) Tricia Hasbrouck will be starting in the Village office tomorrow as Receptionist/Data Entry Clerk. Village Clerk O'Connor will be appointing Ms. Hasbrouck as Deputy Clerk later in this meeting.**

**e) Joe Lanaro has started as the Village's newly assigned Engineer by LaBella Engineering. A meeting was held to discuss a plan to identify underground utilities on Front Street and Wiswall Park.**

**f) Regarding the Beehive apartments, the zoning has reverted back to R1. We are working with the new owners to get something done with the property.**

**g) The Bath Street Sledding hill has been tentatively scheduled for 2/11/23.**

**h) The Holiday Parade is 12/2/22.**

**i) We had a great tour with representatives from NY Forward.**

**5) Liaison Reports**

**Trustee VanDeinse-Perez spoke about the tour with the NY Forward representatives, noting that they remarked that the zoning boundaries are good.**

**Trustee VanDeinse-Perez noted that volunteers are needed for the Holiday Parade; those that are interested should email Dana at the BSBPA.**

**Saratoga Arts will be receiving additional funds and encourage the Village to become a fiscal sponsor.**

**Trustee Baskin noted that the Arts Committee is considering an inside mural, as we have run out of viable outside wall.**

**Trustee Baskin said the Arts Committee is finalizing their charter.**

**Friends of Wiswall now has official officers, noted Trustee Baskin.**

**Trustee Kormos reported that the Library is applying for a grant.**

**Trustee Raymond noted that leaf pick up has begun; brush pick up will begin soon.**

## 6) Treasurer's Report

Mayor Rossi spoke about ADP payroll issues as well as our accounting system, which is not easy for new people to learn. Our accounting firm, EFPR will no longer support us if we continue with the system we are currently using and recommends using "AccuFund" accounting system.

Mayor Rossi stated that he has the authority to appoint the interim Treasurer, noting that he sent the resume of the person he'd like to appoint to the Board members.

Mayor Rossi expressed his disappointment that only Trustee VanDeinse-Perez responded and asked the Board if they would like to say something.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez feels it is helpful that this applicant has municipal experience.

Trustee Raymond said he doesn't have a particular opinion.

Trustee Kormos would like to know what accounting system the applicant has used and feels that the new Treasurer should be involved in the decision making regarding our accounting system.

Trustee Raymond noted that our software is archaic.

Mayor Rossi stated that with AccuFund, EFPR can actively login to the system and fix issues.

Trustee Baskin wants to wait until the next meeting in order to do due diligence in making a decision on the software.

Mayor Rossi answered that this cannot go 3 weeks, he will call a special meeting.

The Mayor will get any answers that the Trustees are looking for; send an email with questions within 24 hours.

Trustee Kormos wants to hear from other users.

## 7) Presentations

There were none.

## 8) Old Business

### a) Grant Updates (Trustee Kormos)

Trustee Kormos reported that the Urban Forestry Inventory and Management Grant is almost complete.

The DEC has authorized the Village to purchase a license for 2 years for a software package that will incorporate the data from the tree survey, as well as the purchase of a tablet that can be used.

Trustee Kormos thanked the Park and Tree Board for doing an excellent job. The DEC was impressed with the Tree Guide and asked if they could share it with other municipalities.

### b) "Village Hall" Repairs (Trustee Raymond)

Trustee Raymond noted that the vault underneath the sidewalk and the retaining wall should be attended to sooner rather than later.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez replied that from what she gathered, the reps from NY Forward want us to wait to see if we get the grant before starting any projects.

### c) Water Infrastructure Study (Trustee Raymond)

The Board discussed the water tower assessment.

Mayor Rossi said that the equipment on top of the John Street tower is creating issues.

Trustee Raymond wants to see the assessment.

Trustee Baskin would like an analysis of whether to paint or move the tower.

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos to accept the survey proposal of LaBella Engineering related to Front Street and Wiswall Park topographic and right of way survey and sub-surface utility location dated October 19, 2022. The price is not to exceed \$30,000 and the Mayor may execute any documentation related to this proposal.

The Mayor opened the meeting for public comment on this motion.

There was none.

Ayes All

## 9) New Business

### a) CDTC UPWP Grant (Trustee Kormos)

Trustee Kormos stated that CDTC opened up planning initiatives for their 23-24 Unified Planning Work Program. The federal transportation money can be used for a number of items including regional planning, infrastructure safety and complete streets.

Trustee Kormos would like to move forward with applying.

## 10) Public Comment #1 (3-Minute Limit per Speaker)

Michele Bechard of 14 Bath Street asked for more details on the grant.

Trustee Kormos said this grant would help us with zoning.

Ray Otten, 16 Middlebrook Avenue asked how many Board members have done the FEMA training.

Attorney Buettner stated that they are in the process.

Mr. Otten thanked the DPW for the fantastic job they did paving.

Additionally, Mr. Otten spoke about public bus stops blocking traffic at busy intersections.

Gina Marozzi of 10 Old Glory Lane read a statement about the treatment of the events group. (attached)

Melissa Taylor, 4 Creekview Court read a statement criticizing Mayor Rossi 's behavior and stating her accomplishments. (attached)

Kris DuBuque of 6 Kaleen Drive suggested reaching out to the middle and high school students for volunteer opportunities, including committee membership.

Keith Lewis, 38 East High Street asked the Board to do due diligence before making decisions.

Mr. Lewis stated he is investigating the recent election.

In addition, Mr. Lewis spoke about Clerk O'Connor's ZBA application.

Mayor Rossi stated Mr. Lewis cannot use public comment to attack individuals outside of the Board.

Mayor Rossi noted that he clarified with Fire Chief Krogh about the accusation that he called a "secret meeting" with Trustees Baskin and Kormos and the Town of Ballston. The Mayor noted that Chief Krogh said the meeting did occur about the fire contract but he did not invite the Trustees to a "secret meeting".

Kamran Parwana of 86 South Street thanked the Board for a more productive meeting tonight.

## 11) Agenda Items for Consideration

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos that Union Fire Co. #2 be authorized to hold The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on 11/24/22 with preparations beginning 11/21/22.

Ayes All

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

The Budget transfer duplications will be removed.

Ayes All

c) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that Union Fire Co. #2 be authorized to expend the amount of \$7,680.00 for turnout gear. (A3412.2) (Requested by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez)

Ayes All

d) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Baskin that Union Fire Co. #2 be authorized to expend the amount of \$2,952.00 for turnout gear. (A3412.2)

Ayes All

e) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos that Tricia Hasbrouck be hired to fill the position of Receptionist/Data Entry Clerk with a salary of \$38,000.00. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

f) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos to approve the attached November 2022 Village Board newsletter for Village-wide distribution. (Requested by Trustee Baskin)

Ayes All

g) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Raymond to engage LaBella Engineering in the design of ADA ramps for a crosswalk on Rt. 50 near Rosewood Ct. and Trumble Ave. to NYSDOT standards and specifications. The proposal would include completion of the required NYSDOT Perm 33 application, and would be contingent upon approval by the Board of LaBella's proposed fee. (Requested by Trustee Baskin)

Ayes All

h) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond to permit Amanda McDonald (311 Emmett St., reporting potential near-term dry well situation), David & Karen Avenarius (158 McLean St., no water service currently), and Steven Ryan (66 Greenfield Ave., reporting potential near-term dry well situation) to connect to Village water until November 30, 2022, or the first snowfall of greater than three inches, whichever comes first, pursuant to emergency water hook-up extension rights afforded the Board of Trustees in Section 200-1(B) of Village Code. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

i) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the Village approve the purchase of a 2-year lease of the Diamond Maps software for \$1,632 and up to \$600 on a tablet. Funds will be taken out of the remaining balance of the Urban Forestry Inventory and Management Plan Grant. (Requested by Trustee Kormos)

Ayes All

j) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that Mayor Rossi, Village Clerk O'Connor and Interim Treasurer Traver be authorized to execute the attached Corporate Resolution regarding Adirondack Trust. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

After discussion, the motion was revised:

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond to accept a revision to the motion as follows: Mayor Rossi, Village Clerk O'Connor and Interim Treasurer Traver be authorized to

execute the attached Corporate Resolution regarding Adirondack Trust pursuant to approval by the Village Attorney with regard to any concerns Trustee Basin has related to outside signers. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

k) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin that Don Traver be authorized to access all Village bank accounts and that he be an authorized signatory, and that the Mayor be authorized to execute any documents related to this motion, if necessary. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

l) Motion made by Trustee Kormos seconded by Trustee Raymond that Jason Buczek be appointed as a member of the Village of Ballston Spa Library Board in accordance with the unanimous vote put forth by the Library Board on his behalf. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

m) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the Village of Ballston Spa Library Board be approved to apply for the Alfred Z. Solomon grant to be used by the library to increase usage by patrons for studying, reading, and working in the Library, and that the Mayor be authorized to execute any documents related to such grant, if necessary. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

n) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the Village of Ballston Police Department be approved to apply for the State of New York Traffic Enforcement Technology Grant, and that the Mayor be authorized to execute any documents related to such grant, if necessary. This grant is intended to support police agencies by providing equipment associated with electronic data collection. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

o) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez seconded by Trustee Baskin that the Village of Ballston Spa Fire Department be approved to make repairs to the emergency siren atop the Police Department & Court Building, for a cost not to exceed \$1,400.00. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

## 12) Other Business

Trustee Baskin stated he will send a draft of the form to be put online regarding interest in joining a committee.

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez that the Board approves the Village Clerk's appointment of Tricia Hasbrouck as Deputy Clerk and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics to fill out the unexpired term of Julia Smith.

Ayes All

## 13) Public Comment #2 (3-Minute Limit per Speaker)

Bob Bush Jr., 71 Church Avenue also thanked the Board for being productive and feels the public comment somebody made before didn't belong here and was very demeaning.

Mr. Bush would prefer the newsletter be longer than it is.

Christin Iacolucci of 24 Chapman Street asked for a list of groups and committees.

Mayor Rossi suggested looking up the minutes of the official year meeting held in April.

Mr. Otten noted that there is no outside handicapped access buttons at the Library.

Mr. Otten suggested that Trustee Kormos be more sensitive to those with disabilities.

Trustee Kormos apologized for using the wrong term, citing her age as the reason.

Trustee Kormos said we can look at public buildings to see what can be done to address Mr. Otten’s access concerns.

Mr. Lewis wants the Village to be a democracy.

Mr. Lewis again brought up Clerk O’Connor’s ZBA application.

Trustee Baskin feels that it is within bounds to comment on any public official..

Mayor Rossi stated that the application was made as a resident of this Village.

Trustee Kormos questioned Clerk O’Connor’s mailing to her neighbors.

Clerk O’Connor explained she did what was requested by the ZBA.

Attorney Buettner confirmed that what Clerk O’Connor did is the normal process.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated that was the process when she was a ZBA member.

ZBA Chair Anna Stanko, 32 Kent Street, also said it is normal practice.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated this discussion is inappropriate.

Ms. Marozzi pointed out other items that were approved after the budget and also stated she helps senior citizens with their absentee ballots under the supervision of the Board of Elections.

Ms. Marozzi is getting tired of being accused of things and being used against her brother.

Marl Blech, 10 Thompson Street asked if the Board if they think Family Fund Day funds were misused.

Mayor Rossi said funds were not misused.

Mr. Blech asked why they are continually being harassed; you don’t do this with other committees.

Mike Iacolucci of 9 Russell Street asked if a process was followed regarding Family Fun Day funds.

Mayor Rossi explained the process.

Mr. Iacolucci stated that ASCC and the people involved should not be subject to criticisms, they are doing what they can for the Village.

There was more discussion regarding process and consistency.

**14) Board Comments, Questions, and Concerns**

There was none.

**15) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos tha the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and updates on property at 9:26pm.**

**Ayes All**

**16) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:**

**Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez that the Vouchers No. 23-00067 to 23-00968 be audited and the meeting adjourned at 9:51pm.**

**Vouchers- FY2023**

General Fund	\$ 75,004.95
Sewer Relevy	1,874.72
Library Fund	2,867.89
Trust & Agency	<u>6,618.90</u>
Total	\$ 86,365.96

Ayes All

Respectfully Submitted,

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