

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY held on
November 13, 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 Raymond that the minutes of the 10/23/23 meeting be approved.

Ayes All

4) Mayor Announcements

a) Thank you to the County for running the election.

b) The Pulp Street Mill drainage issue is being evaluated.

c) The Wiswall Park sewer pipe will cost between \$180,000 and \$230,000 to handle. Three options will be considered.

5) Liaison Reports

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez reminded everyone that the Christmas Parade is 12/1/23.

During Small Business Saturday on 11/25/23, there will be a downloadable app that will offer incentives to shoppers and also will track data, such as customer demographics Trustee VanDeinse-Perez reported.

Mayor Rossi congratulated Mary Price-Bush on her election as Trustee and noted that the Organizational Meeting will be held 1/2/24.

Trustee Raymond reported that the DPW has been very busy with leaf pickup, Kelley Park improvements, a storm drainage project on Dublin Drive and preparing for winter.

Trustee Baskin noted that the Park and Tree Committee continues to work on Wiswall Park design and park rules.

Also, Trustee Baskin stated. Brookside Museum will host a "Sounds of Winter" concert on 11/18 at 3:00pm.

6) Treasurer's Report (attached)

7) Presentation - none

8) Old Business

**a) Sidewalk Law/Benefit Assessment/Tax/Allocation/Reimbursement & Loan Approach
(Trustee Baskin & Mayor Rossi)**

Trustee Baskin supports an assessment plan that all property owners would pay into, and also favors using 5% of unassigned fund balance. With this plan the Village would take over the sidewalk repair and replacement.

Mayor Rossi is in favor of a plan that would consist of reimbursement and a low interest loan for people in need.

Trustee Kormos is concerned about the code not being enforced if we the Village doesn't take over sidewalks.

Mayor Rossi stated that our liability insurer cautioned against the Village taking over sidewalks, as our premiums would increase due to liability.

Trustees Baskin and Kormos disagreed.

Mayor Rossi read an email directly from our insurance broker.

The Board continued to discuss the matter.

b) BOA Consultant Selection (Trustee Kormos)

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez will send any questions the Board has to the proposers.

c) Traffic Counts (Trustee Kormos)

Trustee Kormos stated that CRTC offers free services regarding traffic studies, bicycle, and pedestrian counts.

d) ADA Draft Plan (Trustee Kormos)

Trustee Kormos said the ADA committee would like to present at the next meeting.

e) TAP-CMAQ grant (Trustee Kormos)

A TAP-CMAQ Grant, which provides funds to fill sidewalk gaps and to connect the Zim Smith Trail to Downtown via Grove Street. Trustee Kormos noted the Village applied for, but did not get this grant 2 years ago, and suggested reapplying.

Mayor Rossi said there is a question of grant money being considered a gift if used on private property.

9) New Business

a) Committee Operations (Trustee Baskin)

Trustee Baskin stated that all meetings should end with an opportunity for public input and thanked all committee members for their work.

b) Draft Financial Disclosure Form (Trustee Baskin)

Trustee Baskin said this is a first draft and asked for feedback.

c) Newsletter (Trustee Baskin)

Trustee Baskin asked for feedback so the newsletter can be approved.

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

Anna Stanko of 32 Kent Street spoke about the Sidewalk Committee that was appointed by Mayor Romano over a decade ago pointing out that Route 50 is the biggest issue.

Ms. Stanko noted that as far as determining the right of way on streets, there are no maps; surveys would have to be done.

Ray Otten, 16 Middlebrook Avenue said the north end has the most need.

Mr. Otten noted that volunteers are needed for the Thanksgiving Dinner, especially for cleanup.

Kate VanBuren of 105 South Street offered refrigeration space for the Thanksgiving turkeys.

Ms. VanBuren announced that Life Works Community Action is distributing Thanksgiving meals to 1,500 families County wide.

Mike Iacolucci, 9 Russell Street feels he has been misrepresented on social media and criticized the Mayor's use of it.

Trustee Baskin said it is inaccurate to say he proposed a tax rate increase.

Jared Iacolucci of 24 Chapman Street agreed with Trustee Baskin regarding sidewalks.

Kristin Iacolucci, 24 Chapman Street also agreed with using tax dollars to fix sidewalks.

Gina Marozzi of 10 Old Glory Lane took issue with Trustee Baskin's letter to the editor in which he claimed Mayor Rossi is a major developer, which is untrue.

Trustee Baskin argued that because the Mayor represented his family as an attorney in their property developments, that makes the Mayor a developer.

Pete Martin, 20 Chesterwood Court praised Life Works.

Mr. Martin expressed his disappointment regarding Trustee Raymond's letter to the editor in which he called Trustee VanDeinse-Perez and Mary Price-Bush a derogatory name and suggested an apology be made.

Martha Iacolucci of 9 Russell Street asked if there could be a referendum on the sidewalk issue.

Keith Lewis of 38 East High Street noted that in the absence of a local newspaper, social media is used to distribute information.

Mr. Lewis prefers the Village website to be used for this.

Jeremy Baird, 3 Maple Avenue noted he is disappointed with the Board meetings and hopes that it will change.

Lisa Speidel of 106 Prospect Street asked again about the status of the fire whistle.

Mayor Rossi stated it needs to be replaced and the Fire Dept. is discussing what to do, as it will be costly to replace.

Bob Bush Jr., 71 Church Avenue feels he should not have to pay for somebody else's sidewalk and questioned why there is urgency now.

Board Response

Trustee Kormos noted we have money in the budget for tree removal.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated that Mayor Rossi does not receive enough credit for allowing disagreement without retribution.

Trustee Raymond defended himself regarding his letter to the editor where he called Trustee VanDeinse-Perez and Trustee Elect Price-Bush "sycophants."

Trustee Baskin asked Attorney Buettner how Board members can interact with a committee.

Attorney Buettner stated that as long as Board members can attend committee meetings as long as 3 Trustees are not speaking about Village business, however, Trustees are discouraged from attending unless they have something specific to learn at the meeting.

12) Agenda Items for Consideration

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the BSBPA be authorized to conduct "Small Business Saturday" on 11/25/23 from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Proof of insurance has been provided. (Requested by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez)

Ayes All

b) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Raymond approving the purchase of rock salt from Morton Salt for the price of \$61.65 per ton and the total price of \$12,330.00. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Ayes All

c) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez to approve the attached art projects for Village of Ballston Spa Fiscal Sponsorship for the 2024 Saratoga Arts re-Grant Program, as recommended by the Ballston Spa Committee on the Arts and authorize the Mayor and Village attorney to execute any final paperwork required. (Requested by Trustee Baskin and Trustee VanDeinse-Perez)

Ayes All

d) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Baskin to schedule a public hearing on draft Local Law No. 3 -- Committee Code on November 27, 2023, at 7:00 pm. (Requested by Trustee Kormos; Final Draft Not Available)

Attorney Buettner does not recommend this be a code, but rather a policy.

Trustee Baskin-yes	Trustee Raymond-yes	Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-no
	Trustee Kormos-yes	Mayor Rossi-yes

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez feels this should be a policy, not a code.

Mayor Rossi wants to hear what the public has to say.

Motion Passed

e) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Mayor Rossi to hire G&G Municipal Consulting (proposal attached to update the 2021 TAP-CMAQ grant application and for the board to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents associated with the grant including the commitment to contribute 20% of the total grant amount. (Requested by Trustee Kormos)

Motion amended:

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Mayor Rossi to hire G&G Municipal Consulting to prepare a 2024 TAP-CMAQ grant application through updating of the 2021 TAP-CMAQ grant application and for the Board to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents associated with the submission of the grant including the commitment to contribute 20% of the total grant amount.

Motion amended:

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Mayor Rossi to hire a consultant to prepare a 2024 TAP-CMAQ grant application for the Board for the not to exceed amount of \$5,000.00 and authorizing the Mayor to select such consultant after informal discussion with the Board and to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents associated with the grant including the commitment to contribute 20% of the total grant amount.

Ayes All

13) Other Business

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond to appoint Rebecca Little as Deputy Treasurer of the Village of Ballston Spa with a probationary period of six months before hire and appointment to the lock step with the Treasurers timeline of appointment, with salary at the previous level that was afforded to the prior Deputy Treasurer.

Ayes All

14) Executive Session (If Needed)- Not needed

15) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the Vouchers be audited, and the meeting adjourned at 9:58pm.

General Fund	\$199,511.25
Sewer Relevy	481.39
Library Fund	13,403.04
Trust & Agency	860.47
Total	\$214,256.15

Ayes All

**Respectfully Submitted,
Teri L. O'Connor
Village Clerk**

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