

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY held  
November 27, 2023**

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

Absent: attorney Buettner

**AGENDA**

**Board Meeting  
Village of Ballston Spa  
November 27, 2023**

**Zoom Log in ID: 88902961300 Password: 380778**

**1) Call to Order**

**2) Pledge to the Flag**

**3) Public Hearing on Local Law No. 3 of 2023 (to add Chapter 15, Committees, to the Code of the  
Village of Ballston Spa (5 Minutes per Speaker)**

Mayor Rosi read the notice of public hearing.

Marilyn Stephenson of 45 West High Street read a statement (attached)

Jared Iacolucci, 24 Chapman Street would like clarification on the number of committee members.

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos to close the Public Hearing at  
7:09pm.

**Ayes All**

**4) Minutes**

Mayor Rossi announced there are no minutes to approve tonight; Village Clerk O'Connor became a 1<sup>st</sup>  
time Grandmother.

Mayor Rossi congratulated Clerk O'Connor, Keegan, EJ, and baby Quinn.

**5) Presentation**

**a) ADA Sidewalk Presentation**

Chris Round from LaBella and Carrie Ward of CRTC spoke about the ADA transition plan.

**6) Mayor Announcements**

a) Thank you to all who helped with the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

**7) Liaison Reports**

Trustee Kormos announced that on 12/7 at 6:00pm in the Library there will be an art exhibit called  
"Messages from Survivors" and a presentation from a Holocaust survivor.

Mayor Rossi shared that there will be a menorah lighting in Wiswall Park on the same night at 7:15 in  
Wiswall Park.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez noted that Small Business Saturday went well.

Trustee Raymond stated that the last day that leaves or brush can be put out is 12/3.

Mayor Rossi thanked Jim and Cathy Ebert for donating the Christmas tree and Tre Top Techs for  
helping to move and install it.

Trustee Baskin said the Park and Tree Board is excited about the newly planted trees on Low Street and thanked the DPW for spacing and planting the trees.

Trustee Baskin noted that trees between sidewalks and streets are Village trees. The Village should be consulted before anything is done with these trees.

Trustee Baskin shared that the Park and Tree Board and Studio A are discussing possible layouts and designs for Wiswall Park.

Additionally, Trustee Baskin announced that the Lark Trio String Quartet will perform at Brookside Museum on 12/30 at 3:00pm.

**8) Treasurer's Report (attached)**

**9) Old Business**

**a) BOA Consultant Selection (Trustee Kormos)<sup>1</sup>**

Trustee Kormos said that Trustee VanDeinse-Perez did a great job getting references and wants to move ahead and schedule interviews.

**b) TAP-CMAQ Grant Issues (Trustee VanDeinse-Perez & Trustee Kormos)**

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated that a general concern is that we don't have our rights-of-way sorted out and that is a red flag for the grant.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez noted that the general consensus is that we should not apply during this round.

Trustee Kormos said she has been gathering right-of-way data and we should have enough to apply.

The Board engaged in a lengthy debate on the matter of consultants, grant writers and whether or not Trustee Kormos has actual right-of-way data.

Due to the volatile nature of the conversation, Mayor Rossi called for a 5 minute break at 8:08pm.

The discussion continued.

Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Baskin to have Trustee Kormos prepare a 2023 TAP-CMAQ Grant application and for the Board to authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documents associated with the grant including the intent to contribute 20% of the total grant amount, spend up to \$1,000.00 for an engineer to provide quality assurance level of review of application and authorize Village staff and vendors to provide any requested information including cost estimates.

Keith Lewis, 38 East High Street expressed disappointment in the Board's behavior.

Mike Iacolucci of 9 Russell Street feels the Board could have done better on this matter.

Anna Stanko, 32 Kent Street and Director of Real Property Tax Services for Saratoga County explained that the information Trustee Kormos does not suffice as right-of-way information.

Trustee Raymond suggested getting surveys could be part of our 20% contribution.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez noted that not having enough information will hinder our chances for the grant.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the potential nature of this discussion, the Board may be required to enter into Executive Session during this discussion.

Ray Otten of 16 Middlebrook Avenue stated that Trustee Kormos has been dishonest and is pandering to her side of Town.

Trustee Kormos stated she admits it, but said it's for children, walkers, and bicyclists.

Kristin Iacolucci, 24 Chapman Street asked the Board to work together on this grant.

Trustee Baskin-yes

Trustee Raymond-yes

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-no

Trustee Kormos-yes

Mayor Rossi-no

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez said she is more inclined to listen to the experts who advised getting more information before applying.

Mayor Rossi agreed.

#### Motion Passed

Motion made by Mayor Rossi, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez that the TAP-CMAQ application done by Trustee Kormos is focused just on sidewalk connectivity and only sidewalk connectivity in the Village of Ballston Spa.

Gina Marozzi of 10 Old Glory Lane asked about residents who were against the Zim Smith Trail extension, wondering if that changed.

Mayor Rossi added that Eric Connolly, Town of Ballston Supervisor wanted to put a parking lot on the school owned rec field at the intersection of Hyde Blvd. and East High Street for the Zim Smith Trail.

Mr. Lewis feels the preapplication should go forward.

Jared Iacolucci of 24 Chapman Street said that the Comprehensive Plan encouraged exploring a Zim Smith connection.

Ms. Iacolucci also wants to move forward.

Alex Funicello, 60 Hyde Blvd. thinks a Zim Smith connection should be a priority.

Trustee Baskin-no

Trustee Raymond-no

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes

Trustee Kormos-no

Mayor Rossi-yes

#### Motion Failed

### 10) New Business

Regarding Wiswall Park, Trustee Baskin asked the Board if they are willing to spend \$1,500.00 for a 3D rendering.

The Board agreed to wait for a finalized design.

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

Mr. Lewis asked about the County's offices possible move, accusing the Mayor of withholding information and of not using influence to make the County offices stay in the Village.

Mr. Lewis again said the Mayor is a land developer.

When Mr. Lewis's 5 minutes ran out, he turned his comments over to Melissa Taylor of 4 Creekview Court to finish reading.

Mayor Rossi clarified he is not a land developer and does not own any land.

Ms. Marozzi stated that people are tired of the nastiness and the obsession with the Rossi family.

Ms. Marozzi announced that "Breakfast with Santa" will be held at St. Mary's Church on 12/2 from 8:00am to 11:00am and a Menorah Lighting will be held in Wiswall Park on 12/7 at 7:15pm, immediately following the Library's presentation with a survivor of the Holocaust.

Ms. Marozzi announced that MacBoston 18 Truck is selling "Wreaths Across America" and the laying of the wreaths will be on 12/16.

Mr. Iacolucci expressed his anger regarding the Board and residents' behavior.

Mr. Iacolucci also expressed concern about the possibility of the County move.

Mayor Rossi spoke about the County's space issues and noted there is only so much we can do to keep them here.

There was prolonged back and forth on the matter.

Ms. Stephenson announced that there will be a wreath ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Park on 12/1 at 12:00pm, sponsored by the Ballston Spa House and Garden Club.

Christine Fitzpatrick, 31 Chapman Street read a statement. (attached)

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated, as Mayor Rossi had, we have not received any report from the County on their possible move.

Referring to the statement read by Former Mayor Fitzpatrick, Mayor Rossi expressed his disappointment with her for using scare tactics.

Mike Iacolucci, of 9 Russell Street requested that rules be carried out across the board.

Charlene DuBuque, 6 Kaleen Drive noted she is disappointed with the bullying going on and encouraged people to come up with solutions to the issues.

Bob Bush Jr., of 71 Church Avenue chastised the Board for their behavior.

Mr. Bush urged the Board to stop bickering and work with the Mayor, stop attacking his character.

Mr. Funicello thinks there should be more coordination with the County regarding the Zim Smith Trail.

Ms. Stanko suggested that the Trustees stay out of the County matter and let the Mayor deal with it, as that is the proper channel.

Ms. Stanko stated there is no report released yet, the Mayor is not lying, so please stop accusing him of doing so.

Additionally, Ms. Stanko criticized the Board for their treatment of Mayor Rossi and pointed out that he is doing a great job, as shown by the number of votes he received in the election.

Ms. Iacolucci feels these meetings are not being presided over well and suggested someone else lead the meetings.

Mr. Otten recognized Trustee VanDeinse-Perez for having the most control.

Mr. Otten feels that the motion regarding the Menorah should be passed.

Kris DuBuque, 6 Kaleen Drive would like public comment returned to two 3 minute periods so that the Board can be held accountable.

Mr. DuBuque suggested that the Board take turns holding office hours in order to be accessible.

Michele Bechard of 14 Bath Street said we all need to do better.

12) Board Response

Trustee Raymond agreed that the meetings need to be less conscientious.

Trustee Baskin again called Mayor Rossi a land developer.

Several people asked Trustee Baskin to move on.

Trustee Baskin continued, asking the Mayor if his family was buying more property.

Mayor Rossi expressed his frustration with Trustee Baskin continuing to bring up his family.

Trustee Baskin then asked if the 9/11 Memorial was a behind the scenes agenda to move the 9/11 Memorial to Wiswall Park,

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez asked Trustee Baskin to please stop and move on.

Mayor Rossi chastised Trustee Baskin for the way he treats him.

Trustee Baskin defended his behavior.

### 13) Agenda Items for Consideration

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond approving the expenditure of \$7,507.40 by the Ballston Spa Fire Department for New York State Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Benefit Insurance coverage for 2024. Any transfer that is required within the Fire Department's budget lines to A3410.04.06 is approved, as this amount is \$1,007.40 over the budgeted amount for this insurance for Fiscal Year 2024. (Requested by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez)

Ayes All

b) Any necessary motions/resolutions related to the potential approval of Local Law No. 3 of 2023 (See Agenda Item #3 Above).

No motion was presented.

The Board discussed the process of liaison appointments, meeting notices and training.

c) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos to approve the attached Annual Financial Disclosure Form, to take effect upon filing of the Ethics Law with the New York Department of State. (Requested by Trustee Baskin)

Motion amended as follows:

Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos to approve the attached Annual Financial Disclosure Form, with respect to the already filed Ethics Law changes that were approved by the Board on 10/23/23.

Motion amended as follows:

Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos to approve the attached Annual Financial Disclosure Form, with respect to the already filed Ethics Law changes that were approved by the Board on 10/23/23 with a signature and date lines added to the bottom of attached form.

Motion amended as follows:

Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Kormos to approve the attached Annual Financial Disclosure Form, with respect to the already filed Ethics Law changes that were approved by the Board on 10/23/23 with a signature and date lines added to the bottom of attached form, to also change the sentence reading the Officer or employees name and title, title is optional to the Officer or employees name, and there title or role.

Ayes All

d) Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Raymond to hold a Public Hearing on Local Law #3 of 2023 12/11/2023 at 7:01pm

**Ayes All**

**e) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez seconded by Trustee Baskin approving the spending of \$1,300.00 for a Menorah display to be used annually in Wiswall Park. The amount represents a combination of funds in the Celebrations account from unused Family Fun Day money and specific donations related to the Menorah from members of the community. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)**

**Ayes All**

**f) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Kormos approving the use of Wiswall Park by the Mayor’s Events Task Force on December 7, 2023, from 7pm until 8pm for a Menorah Lighting Ceremony. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)**

**Ayes All**

**14) Other Business**

**Trustee Baskin would like the newsletter printed.**

**15) Executive Session (If Needed) None needed**

**16) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:**

**Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Raymond, that the Vouchers be audited, and the meeting adjourned at 12:10am 11/28/23.**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$75,162.62</b>
<b>Sewer Relevy</b>	<b>6,382.11</b>
<b>Library Fund</b>	<b>3,834.81</b>
<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b><u>2,212.22</u></b>

**Ayes All**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Teri L. O’Connor  
Village Clerk**