

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ballston Spa, NY, held on May 16, 2022.

Present: Mayor Frank Rossi, Jr., Attorney Karla Buettner, Trustee Ben Baskin, Trustee Liz Kormos, Trustee Shawn Raymond, Trustee Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez, Treasurer Julia Smith

Zoom Log in ID: 88902961300 Password: 380778

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:59pm
- 2) Pledge to the Flag
- 3) Workshop – Budget Reallocation (Led by Treasurer Smith) – See Attached

Trustee Baskin asked if each item will be voted on separately. Mayor Rossi confirms there will be one vote at the end of the Workshop.

Julia Smith outlines the crosswalk issues. Painting the crosswalk would be less expensive than putting in lights at the crosswalk. If they want to add the lights to the crosswalk, DOT will require a study indicating the need for lights at the crosswalk. If there are not ADA ramps at the sidewalk, then the Village needs to pay and install the ramps. Trustee Raymond suggested that DOT can install the crosswalk and pay for it, or DOT could say the municipality could install the crosswalk if the Village applied for a permit to put one in on a DOT Highway that the Village pays for. Mayor Rossi feels the DOT should take on the ownership of putting in the crosswalks. Trustee Raymond feels DOT would approve and pay for the crosswalk. Mayor Rossi asks why the Village would hold onto the \$15000.00 and Trustee Kormos stated the money should be held so that if the Village needs the crosswalk, it can be paid for right away. Trustee Raymond suggested that DOT can pay for the whole project, or they may not. Mayor Rossi asked Trustee Baskin felt it is a great use of Village funds and should be kept in the budget.

The next topic was the \$17000.00 to be removed from the budget for the Comprehensive Steering Committee Plan. The original idea for the \$17k was for 2 different phases of consulting. There was a change that was reflective of those two phases into 1 and the difference in funds was covered this fiscal year out of the contingency fund and so there is no need to have the additional \$17k in the new fiscal budget. Trustee Baskin asked about the total spent in the current fiscal budget was. Julia Smith replied it was \$60k.

The next subject was \$10000.00 being removed from the contingency. The budget took the contingency fund from \$100,000.00 to \$120,000.00. This change would bring the contingency to \$110,000.000 which is still a 10% increase for the year. Trustee Kormos asks what is left in the contingency from the current budget. Julia Smith replied that there is \$53k left in the contingency fund.

The next proposal was to bring the Trustee salary down to the Fiscal 20-21 salary level. Trustee Kormos asked when the last increase was, and Julia Smith advised it was either in 2020 or 2021. Trustee Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez replies that the Village could use the money for better things for the Village. The Mayor states that he is willing to take a lesser salary to cover the balance of the salaries that the Trustee's will not vote for themselves to take a cut in salary.

There has been an increase in the Engineering fees. There is a proposed cut in the Engineering fund of \$40k to be cut down to \$20k. Julia Smith referenced the different funds that Engineering fees tend to fall into. Trustee Kormos suggests a \$10k cut. Trustee Raymond and Trustee Baskin both agree.

There is an added \$20,000.00 in the budget for a Bathroom remodel at the Eagle Matt Lee Fire House. Chief Krough suggests leaving the \$20k in the budget and do both the fire houses bathrooms. Trustee Raymond supports that idea. Trustee Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez also supports \$10k for each Firehouse bathroom. Julia Smith clarifies that the Board agrees to \$10k per firehouse bathroom and gets a confirmation.

The Court and Police building did not include an additional \$10,000.00 expense in the original workshop for their budgets. Trustee Raymond stated that if there is a critical need then the funding could come out of contingency. Trustee Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez also stated that Chief Bush had mentioned that the building itself isn't ADA compliant.

Conversation ensued about the Tedisco Grant that is about the Village Hall upgrades.

\$10,000.00 expense has been added to the budget for Family Fun Day and other events in the Village. The breakdown of what is currently budgeted is as follows - \$4000.00 for the Memorial Day Parade, \$2000.00 for the Holiday parade, \$1000.00 for Holiday Decorations, \$250.00 for the Easter Egg Hunt, \$4500.00 for Swimming Under the Stars – \$2500.00 for Falling Leaves, \$2000.00 for Winter Fest. \$1000.00 for flags around the Village. Conversation between attendees and Trustees began about the challenges about putting on events in the Village without funding from the Village.

Mayor Rossi verified that the Board unanimously approved of the Julia Smiths raise of \$2500.00.

Mayor Rossi asks for an increase to the Village Seniors due to inflation. Trustee Baskin expressed his denial for this request as the Seniors were already given the opportunity to ask for additional funding and they did not ask for an increase. Trustee Kormos agrees to the denial.

The Board of Trustees agreed to increase the sidewalk reimbursement. Mayor Rossi mentioned that there is a Grant outstanding that involves a match from the Village that the code of the Village does not support. Attorney Buettner advised that she needs to get more information on the Village sidewalk issue.

\$1624.00 is allocated to the Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association and there is a question of who takes care of the watering of the Village 's flowers. Trustee Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez stated that the BSBPA has a few volunteers that will handle water.

Mayor Rossi made a proposal of putting the \$1624.00 in, leaving \$13127.00. Events - \$7000.00, BSBPA \$3000.00, sidewalks- \$3127.00? Trustee Kormos counters the proposal with the Village matching funds for a BID. Trustee Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez counters with information that the BSBPA is not supportive of the BID. Trustee Baskin is not supportive of adding money for the BSBPA because they have already had their opportunity to ask for funding and did not include the \$3000.00. Trustee Baskin requests a reasoning for the increase and is in support of their need for additional media outreach assistance.

Dave Womer – 18 Coronado Way, Ballston Spa - Board Member of the BSBPA – Stated that the increase in the funding supplied by the Village Trustees will go towards utilizing a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to help manage the social media for the Village, which is a value to the BSBPA and their relationship with the Village.

Trustee Kormos brought up the newsletter being mailed to the residents not just emailed. \$990.00 is the quote that she received from a local printer on the newsletter. Trustee Kormos feels this is a good investment in communication with the residents. Trustee Raymond agrees with the idea. Trustee Baskin

suggested that the newsletter money come out of the sidewalk budget; if the sidewalk budget can't take the extra cost, then additional sidewalk money can come out of the contingency funds.

Mayor Rossi summarized – The Village is going to recover \$17,000.00 from the Comp Plan line, \$10,000.00 from contingency, \$633.00 from the Mayors salary, \$10,000.00 from Engineering, and \$873 from the Sidewalk Fund as it was budgeted, to give the Village a total of \$38124.00 , \$10,000.00 for Eagle Matt Lee for ADA bathroom and \$10,000.00 for Union's ADA bathroom, \$2500 for the Treasure's salary increase, \$1624.00 for BSBPA for water, \$7000 for Village Events, \$3000 for Digital Media through BSBPA and , \$4000.00 for the Newsletter. \$38124.00 total

**4) Public Comment Related Only to Workshop and/or Agenda Items for Consideration (4-Minute Limit per Speaker, Mayor Rossi suggested 2 minutes for the intent of expediency)**

Keith Lewis – 38 East High Street, Mr. Lewis was upset that this entire conversation is happening, and stated it sends a message to everyone who sent proposals for the budget. Mr. Lewis asked the Board of Trustees if this is a precedent for a monthly issue? Mr. Lewis feels the Board of Trustees should be paid more as their salary is not sustainable.

Mayor Rossi suggested that the Board of Trustees worked well over this process and hoped it continues.

Motion made by Trustee Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that reflects the transfers that were discussed during the workshop in the Mayor's review that are verifiable by the Treasurer and video review.

Trustee Kormos asked the question about Conflict of Interest in her role of the Sidewalk portion of the work shop. Mayor Rossi and Attorney Buettner state that Trustee Kormos is NOT in a Conflict-of-Interest position.

**AYES All**

5) Agenda Items for Consideration

a) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos, permitting the Ballston Spa Central School District (Malta Avenue School) to close Grove Street from 9:30am until 12:30pm on Tuesday, May 17th for an EMS Show & Tell event. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

**AYES All**

b) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond, that the Mayor be authorized to approve and sign the proposal from Marshall & Sterling for general liability insurance beginning fiscal year June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, in the amount of \$104,419.01

Trustee Baskin asked if this motion was made due to a time requirement. Mayor Rossi replied that the motion was made to allow for more conversation with Marshall and Sterling and DPW before the new budget year.

**AYES ALL**

c) Attorney Karla Buettner outlines the Sidewalk Law.

Trustee Bernadette asked about the penalties associated with the new law and Attorney Karla Buettner answers that Code Enforcement decides any code violations.

Mayor Rossi asked for ANY public comment on the process of the new Sidewalk Law, and there was no public comment in person or on Zoom.

Trustee Baskin requests that the 4ft rule be added in cases of obstruction. Attorney Karla Buettner makes the change.

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, Seconded by Trustee Kormos that asks for Resolution to become Lead Agency for the new Sidewalk Law - See Attached (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

**Roll Call**

**Trustee Baskin – AYE**                      **Trustee Kormos - AYE**                      **Trustee Raymond – AYE**  
**Trustee VanDeinse-Perez - AYE**                      **Mayor Rossi – AYE**

d) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin, to set a public hearing related to Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2022 for the Village of Ballston Spa to take place on Monday, May 23rd, 2022, at 7:01pm, and to direct the Clerk to transmit the public hearing notice. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

**Roll Call**

**Trustee Baskin – AYE**                      **Trustee Kormos - AYE**                      **Trustee Raymond – AYE**  
**Trustee VanDeinse-Perez - AYE**                      **Mayor Rossi – AYE**

e) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, that James Redden be appointed as a part-time Police Officer. (Requested by Mayor Rossi)

Trustee Kormos asked if the position was a replacement position, and Mayor Rossi confirmed it was a replacement position.

**AYES ALL**

**12) Other Business – No other Business**

**13) Public Comment on All Village Business (4-Minute Limit per Speaker)**

Paul Marozzi – 10 Old Glory Lane - Mr. Marozzi brought up that if the Board of trustees would like the different Fire Houses to request permission for private events at the Fire Houses he will also like to call each Board member in the middle of the night for permission to do that as well. Mr. Marozzi suggested that the Board of Trustees need to educate themselves on what the Fire Houses do.

Pete Martin – 20 Chesterwood Court – At the Comprehensive Plan meeting the speaker was very good. The speaker had referenced grant money and Mr. Martin asked why the Village didn't apply for the stormwater grants.

Trustee Kormos replied that the Village needs to have the correct studies behind the grant applications.

Gina Marozzi – 10 Old Glory Lane – Mrs. Marozzi asked where the expectation of the newsletter goes?

Trustee Raymond stated he thinks mailing the newsletters will be an excellent experiment.

Lisa Speidel – 106 Prospect Street – Stated that she feels that money should be spent on events in the Village in order to have something to write about in the newsletters. Ms. Speidel feels that the Village does not update the web page well enough. Ms. Speidel feels that the arguing over the tiny things in the budget is disrespectful of all the volunteers in the Village who do real and important work.

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

Trustee Baskin responded to Mr. Marozzi that he felt it was appropriate to know what is going on at the different Fire Houses.

Trustee Kormos compared it to holding a private event at any Village facility such as Wiswall Park.

**15) Executive Session (If Needed) – Not Needed**

**16) Adjournment –**

Motion made by Trustee Baskin, seconded by Trustee Raymond that and the meeting be adjourned at 10:00pm.

**AYES ALL**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Moskowitz

Village Administrator