

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY held on February 28th, 2022.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Christine M. Fitzpatrick.

Present: Mayor Fitzpatrick, Trustee Ben Baskin, Trustee Elizabeth Kormos, Trustee Shawn Raymond, Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes, P.C.- Karla Buettner, Village Clerk -Teri O'Connor, Village Treasurer - Julia Smith, Village Administrator- Jennifer Moskowitz

15 Members of the Public were in attendance

21 Members of the public observed via Zoom - Zoom Log in ID: 88902961300 Password: 380778

1) Call to order

2) Pledge to the Flag

3)) Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos that the minutes of the 2.14.2022 be approved.

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4) Mayor Announcements:

i)The Mayor announces that the Board Meeting is multi-media and is both in-person as well as via zoom. The Mayor welcomes those attending via Zoom.

ii)The previous week there had been a large amount of calls and complaints about snow removal on the route to school on Chapman Street and Malta Avenue. The Mayor explains that the homes were “posted” which means that the DPW puts a sign on the door of any home that is not following the snow removal policies. Those homeowners are given 24 hours to get the sidewalks cleared. After being posted most homeowners cleared their sidewalks. There were 4 homes that did not follow snow removal policy and the DPW cleared their sidewalks and will charge them for that service.

iii)The Mayor announces that the email addresses are now listed for the Mayor and all the Board of Trustees on the Village website.

5) Treasurer’s Report: See Attached

Trustee Baskin asks the Village Treasurer if the Village is looking into a new auditor for next year. Julia Smith assures Trustee Baskin that the delay is somewhat normal, and that we are looking for new auditor moving forward.

6) Old Business: No old Business

7) New Business:

Presentations:

i) Teri O’Connor-Village Clerk – See Attached

ii) Jennifer Moskowitz-Village Administrator – See Attached

Trustee Baskin asks about the volume of phone calls that come into Village Hall and the Village Clerk advised that there are numerous calls that come into Village Hall and they are varied as they are numerous.

iii) Marilyn Stephenson-Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee – See Attached

Mayor Fitzpatrick thanked Ms. Stephenson for all the work that the comprehensive Plan Steering Committee is doing. Trustee Raymond thanks her for all the hard work and efforts of the committee.

iv) Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Baskin, that the attached budget transfers be approved.

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8) Consent Agenda 2022 Expenditures:

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin, that:

The Library be authorized to expend the amount of \$10,000.00 for professional services (Master Plan). (L7410.4)

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9) Trustee Liaison Reports:

Trustee Raymond provided a report, Water Supply System Condition, in response to social media posts about the Village of Ballston Spa water system. – See Attached.

Trustee Baskin informed the Board of Trustee's that all the non-profits have turned in their budgets in preparation for the budget workshop.

10) Other Business: No other business – Trustee Baskins thanks the Mayor for putting up the email addresses.

11) Public Comment:

Mandy Rider - 9 Heritage Blvd - Asked if the Village could do something as a sign of support for the Ukraine people.

Frank Rossi Jr – 63 Saratoga Avenue, Apartment B - Appreciated Trustee Raymond bringing up the water situation. Mr. Rossi states he has spoken with the previous 2 Mayor's and they believe that well #4 takes about \$10000.00 to fix. He addresses Trustee Raymond's statement about the water situation. He feels that the well will fail soon and accuses the Board of Trustees of doing nothing to address this issue risking the water supply that the Village supplies to the Village residents and to the outside water usage customers as well. He suggests using the ARPA funds to address this issue.

Bernadette Van Deirse – 9 Mechanic Street – Thanks the Village Clerk and the Village Administrator for their hard work. Asks about the continuing issue of abandoned and/or vacant buildings in the Village.

Bob Bush – 71 Church Avenue- Asks why isn't the water paying for itself? If we are continuing to bring in money from water bills, why isn't that money going to pay to take care of the water infrastructure?

Angela McFarland - 365 Milton Avenue- Trustee Raymond brought up social media, and she is asking why we aren't using more technology to be more transparent? Requests that the Board of Trustees be more active in their transparency. The Trustees are in a position to have meaningful dialogs and they are failing to engage the public in meaningful dialogs and are misrepresenting the information to the public.

Lisa Speidel – 106 Prospect Street – Ms. Speidel is very concerned that she and her mother deserve to have water and is upset that the Village id putting that water at risk. At the previous meeting Ms. Speidel asked a question and was very upset that no one had called her or emailed her about an answer. She references that the Village has a nuisance cat law. She is upset that her neighbor's cat continues to trespass on her property, states she can't use the doors to her house because the cat continues to mark on her property. She is unable to access her home because of the cat. She is unable to feed the wild birds because of the cat. She requests that the Village speak with the cat owner and fine her for violating the Village Code. She states that her property is now covered with cat feces.

Lori Acee – 25 Eastern Avenue – Thanks Mayor Fitzpatrick for the communication coming out of Village Hall. Feels the communication has never been better and feels very informed by Village Hall and appreciates the staff and all the work the Village staff does. Also appreciates the Village newsletter, the web site and states it's a drastic improvement and says thank you.

Gina Marozzi – 10 Old Glory Lane – References Trustee Raymond’s comments on the water issue and she asks if the report he is referencing can be made public? She also asks about the Ukrainian support and volunteers to take on that project.

12) Board Response:

Trustee Raymond responds to the questions about where the water money goes. He states that the water money goes to DPW staff, and water monitoring, and a certain level of upkeep. But the need for money to address the water infrastructure issues exceeds the moneys coming in from the water payments. States the Village is looking into grants for our infrastructure to make the burden less stressful to the Village taxpayers.

Mayor Fitzpatrick adds that when the Village makes changes to the water system the Village will need some funding mechanism for those changes. The Mayor states that the Village of Ballston Spa will not need to ration water and that our well fields are fine. Well #4 is a “Champ”, as per our engineer, and we have very good capacity. In terms of the PDD, the Village is still taking comments on it but right now the Village is consumed with the budget and we will return to the PDD after the budget is passed. In terms of the FOIL requests the Mayor states they will be responded to in a timely manner, as the law allows. The Mayor addresses Ms. Speidel and her Nuisance Cat issues and states that she will follow up with the new Milton Animal Control Officer.

Trustee Baskin addresses the issue of the water situation and states that the Village is paying a great deal of attention to the water system.

The Mayor states she will circle back to the issue of the Ukrainian show of support.

13) 8:10pm Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing the matters leading to the appointment or employment of a particular corporation related to the water feasibility and the grant, Motion to enter the Executive Session made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos.

AYES ALL

14) Reconvening at 9:20: no action taken in executive session.

15) Review of proposals for the Water Feasibility Study

MRB – \$55k

LaBerge - \$30k

LaBella - \$74k

Trustee Raymond explains his theory on the differences between the different proposals.

The specifics of Trustee Raymond’s argument are unintelligible due to sound issues.

Trustee Kormos wants to go with LaBerge because they are a local company and their references were very enthusiastic about the recommendations. Trustee also feels the Village will be eligible for more grants because the Village is a hardship location.

Trustee Baskin likes LaBerge because of their costs and their recommendations.

Mayor Fitzpatrick points out that LaBella will remain our Village Engineer firm. But likes that LaBerge is local and will be very hands on. Support the LaBerge proposal.

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Kormos to accept the proposal from LaBerge in the amount of \$30k plus Grant application fees not to exceed \$7500 per grant and reimbursable expenses not to exceed \$1000.00 for the study and \$250 per grant and to authorize our attorney to put together a contract and further authorize the Mayor to sign the contract that the attorney brings to the Board. The Contract to be paid out of ARPA Funds.

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15) Adjournment:

Motion made by Trustee Kormos, seconded by Trustee Raymond, that the Vouchers No. 21-01410 and 22-01082 to 22-01622 be audited and the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

AYES ALL

General Fund	\$ 36,159.13
Sewer Relevy	2,962.61
Capital Projects	78.09
Library Fund	4,055.07
Trust & Agency	<u>561.99</u>
Total	\$43,816.89

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Moskowitz
Village Administrator