

REGULAR MEETING-BOARD OF TRUSTEES-JANUARY 14, 2003-7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: ERNEST W MARTIN, MAYOR; TRUSTEES – JOHN MURPHY, THOMAS KINISKY, JOHN TREACY

ABSENT: RAYMOND WALKER, TRUSTEE

ALSO PRESENT: ATTORNEY, WILLIAM F REYNOLDS; BUILDING CODE OFFICER, MARTIN RICCARDI; FIRE CHIEF, JEFF MAHAR; SUPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS, RUSSELL L LAQUIDARA

SPECIAL GUESTS: LINDA SANDERS, HISTORIAN; LINDA PALMIERI, DEPUTY HISTORIAN, BLOCKHOUSE CURATOR; DBS PLANNING, STEVE KIRK & MATT HESS

Mayor Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Mayor Martin welcomed Ms. Linda Sanders, Town & Village Historian; she gave her annual report to the Board per NYS law. (Copy on file) Her report included the many activities she was involved with during the preceding year. She advised the Board that she is now retired and will spend more time at the office.

Mayor Martin welcomed Ms. Linda Palmieri, Deputy Historian/Blockhouse Curator; she gave an annual report of her activities (copy on file). She reported that the Blockhouse had 3,487 visitors in 2002, this included 6 school groups, 2 DAR groups and 3 tour buses the total visitors were from 32 different states and 5 foreign countries. A new section of bricks were installed during the year and a tree in memory of Dani Moore Parsons was planted in the park.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk read a letter from Supervisor Lilac, Town of Stillwater, regarding a recent letter in the Express written by Deputy Mayor John Murphy. The Supervisor questioned if this letter to the Express was authorized by the entire Village Board of Trustees.

CODE OFFICER'S REPORT – Martin Riccardi

Heating and plumbing inspection of a new home, Colonial Estates (lot 31); final inspection 3 season room and deck, TenBroeck St; insulation inspection of a new home, Colonial Estates; completed the 2002 annual report of activities for the Bureau of Census.

The Board questioned if Mr. Riccardi was able to complete an inspection of the corner property. Mayor plans to call owners for permission to inspect.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT– Jeff Mahar

Fire Department is running smoothly. We still have no heat in the engine bays. Discussion was held regarding this problem. Supt. advised that someone would be here tomorrow to fix the problem.

SUPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT– Russell L. Laquidara

Water – everything is running smooth, the test results are very good. There are no problems to report at this time.

Sewer – there is a problem with the influent meter. Clarence will be starting “Basic Operator Training Course” at Hudson Valley January 28th.

DPW has been very busy plowing snow and snow removal in the entire Village over the past several weeks. We are doing preventive maintenance to all vehicles during slow times.

Mayor Martin commended the Village DPW for a job well done with regard to the recent snowstorms.

MOTION to open the floor to the public and press made by Trustee Kinisky, seconded by Trustee Murphy.
Motion carried 3-0

Vincent DeMidio, North Hudson Avenue requested assistance with clearing out the fire hydrant in front of his home. He also requested that it be raised in the spring so that it could be cleared easier during snowstorms. Board will see that it is taken care of as soon as possible.

Trustee John Treacy introduced Matt Hess and Steve Kirk, Administrators of the Village Small Cities Block Grant.

Mr. Hess advised he received a call from the Small Cities Office regarding our grant in progress. He explained the problem we are having getting rental property owners to join in the program and the inability to get contractors to bid on the existing projects. The program is in jeopardy of being suspended if we cannot address these problems immediately. He also spoke regarding the need to get the public facilities work started. This is being coordinated with the Main Street NY Grant.

Matt Hess provided packets of information to the Board for their review regarding various options to get this program moving.

Steve Kirk spoke to the Deputy Director at the Governor's Office; they are not in favor of expanding the target area because many of the areas in the target area that we had hoped to address have not been addressed. Steve Kirk feels it would be better to provide a loan program and get these properties taken care of rather than lose the entire funding. Trustee Kinisky questioned why, if we were able to extend in the past, we are not able change the area for this program. Steve explained it is a different agency running the program this time and they do not want to extend unless the entire need has been addressed in the target area. Basically Small Cities is saying your application was for a specific purpose, you are not accomplishing this purpose and therefore they are not interested in expanding the target area. Steve Kirk explained the basic loan system for rental units. He advised while the program is still open any loan payments made to the village must be expended in the target area, however, after the project is closed payments can be used in other areas of the village as long as Small Cities criteria is followed. The money for the loan would come from the grant.

The Board expressed some concern regarding the loan program. Questions were asked and answered. Steve Kirk advised it is necessary to take action as soon as possible. He also advised there is a problem getting contractors to bid on the existing projects. The lead paint issue is a very big problem.

Vincent DeMidio suggested holding a presentation for the property owners to explain the program and its benefits.

It was decided that they either needed to move forward with a loan program or scrap the entire grant program.

MOTION to approve implementing a low interest loan program for rental property owners for their 30% contribution made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Kinisky.
Motion carried 3-0

Mayor Martin will schedule a meeting with the property owners to explain the program that is being implemented.

Steve Kirk advised there are some grant opportunities available. Board felt this is not a good time. Mr. Kirk explained there is Economic Development Funding, this is for a company that is interested in developing in the Village, adding jobs to the community. This is open round funding.

Matt Hess advised that the Skatepark Grant is moving along. A licensed architect needs to be hired to prepare plans and sign off. Board advised the village was contacted by an architect who offered his services free of charge to the community. Trustee Walker has been working on this program.

Mayor Martin and the Board thanked Steve and Matt for their information.

MOTION to close the floor to the public and press was made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Treacy.

Motion carried 3-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee John Murphy – Trustee Murphy spoke regarding the water situation, effective February 1st we will be looking at a \$46,000 shortfall in the water fund revenues. Mayor has requested all non-essential purchases in the water fund be stopped until this situation is resolved. He spoke to Bruce Ringrose regarding the Town plans; it appears it will be 6 to 8 weeks before they will have the chlorine injection system installed. It is likely town will not do testing until spring, it appears it will be another 3 months at best. We are trying to decide alternative ways to increase the shortfall in revenue. It was suggested that we could possibly charge a one-time fee of \$100.00 per residence. It would not be advisable to change water rates at this time. A discussion was held regarding other alternatives. The attorney suggested this be discussed in executive session due to contract matters being discussed.

Trustee Murphy distributed a water quality sampling program supplied by Bruce Ringrose, that could be done in conjunction with the town sampling program.

Mayor Martin advised he sent a letter to the Supervisor requesting mediation with regard to the dispute between the Town and Village. The Town sent a response refusing to meet at this time.

A brief discussion was held regarding the letter that was received from the Supervisor commenting on Trustee Murphy's recent letters to the Express. The Mayor will talk to the Supervisor to clarify what he meant by his statement that he is in a position to help the village and the Deputy Mayor should realize that.

Trustee John Treacy – Trustee Treacy read a statement regarding his decision not to run for re-election this year. He hopes that the Village will continue to try to resolve the issue with the Town.

Mayor Martin thanked John Treacy for his service to the village and is sorry to see him leave.

Trustee Thomas Kinisky - Ferry Lane Project, archaeological study found some artifacts, they need to return for more testing, and the estimated cost is \$2,500. This is a necessary study we can not proceed without completing this phase.

MOTION to authorize the continued archaeological study at a cost of \$2,500 for the Ferry Lane Sewer Project made by Trustee Kinisky, seconded by Trustee Murphy.

Discussion: If the Village wants to install sewer lines on Ferry Lane this study must be done.

Motion carried 3-0

Trustee Kinisky advised he would have a press release regarding his decision not to run for re-election. He is not prepared to discuss this tonight. He has paperwork relevant to various sewer projects to turn over to Trustee Walker. Trustee Kinisky requested the Attorney fax information regarding easements for the Colonial Road Project to the Village Office for Trustee Walker.

Trustee Kinisky suggested the Clerk prepare a press release regarding the upcoming election since the two Trustee seats have no incumbent running.

ATTORNEY – William F. Reynolds

Mr. Reynolds spoke regarding the village owned property on Clinton Court that an adjacent landowner has approached the Board with a request to purchase a portion

of the land. Board had agreed on a price of \$1,000 would like Mayor to let property owner know.

OLD BUSINESS

Water rates to be discussed in executive session.

W.R.Enterprises – storage facility requesting a decision from the Board regarding the proposal that was presented at the last Village Board Meeting. Mayor Martin received a request from their Attorney for a decision as soon as possible. Trustee Murphy spoke regarding this proposal he would like to have them return to the February meeting to discuss this further.

Mayor Martin questioned if Mr. Tatum submitted a change of use application. Mr. Riccardi advised he is only refurbishing the house at this time.

MOTION to approve the minutes of December 3rd and December 17, 2002 made by Trustee Treacy, seconded by Trustee Murphy.

Motion carried 3-0

MOTION to approve the audited claims:

A	\$14,253.91
F	\$ 5,621.31
G	\$ 2,569.01

Made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Treacy

Motion carried 3-0

MOTION to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:00 P.M. made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Treacy.

Motion carried 3-0

The Mayor was authorized to commence litigation against the Town of Stillwater if nothing changes in one week.

The Treasurer was authorized to pay Russell Laquidara extra weekend pay for the extra time he worked during the recent snowstorms and snow removal.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Treacy.

Motion carried 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo L. Partak
Clerk/Treasurer