

Village of Cleveland Board Meeting 6:30PM March 8, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Norm Youmans, Trustees Laureen Tackman, Christine Schreiber, Scott Williams, Fire Chief Zack Avery, Randy Blowers, Cathy Kline, Clyde and Dan Lewis, Shawn House, Paul Baxter, Legislator Roy Reehil.
Absent: Trustee Joe Domachowske,

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER By Mayor Youmans at 6:30PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

DPW REPORT: Zack Avery gave the following report. Due to the crazy weather, they have been plowing, dealing with grinder pumps in the freezing temperatures and power outages, they lost 6 pumps and 2 fuses at the plant. All have been fixed. They have been repairing equipment. The sidewalk snow blower has worked out very well and everyone has been happy with it. It has been used all over the village and is a very good piece of equipment. Zack also stated we received a quote for grinder pumps. We have been purchasing 10 new pumps a year and we used to change about 20-25 each year. We are now changing 35-40 a year due to them aging out. We get 3-4 years out of a rebuilt pump, but need to look to purchase a larger quantity. We got a quote for 20 pumps, which gives us a volume discount. He stated they have been keeping up with demand, but new pumps will be very helpful.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Avery read the monthly report. In addition to the monthly calls, the Chief reported they are expecting the AED's to arrive within the next 45 days. All the equipment has been serviced with the exception of 4ATV1 and 462. They will be making some changes to the ops trailer, and they are researching LED scene lighting for 411 and it will likely be done in house to save money. They have also been researching used fire apparatus for the replacement of the last remaining American LaFrance. They are more concerned with getting the correct piece of equipment and it may take some time. Trustee Williams asked about cellar pumping calls and should we be charging people for this service. Chief Avery responded no, just like we don't charge for boat calls. Residents are paying a fire district tax and the fire department is saving their house. This also allows access to homes that enable the firefighters to prepare in case of a future emergency. Shawn House commented this is just part of doing their job.

DEC INSPECTION: Trustee Tackman read the annual Waste Water Treatment Plant inspection report from Val Murakami of the DEC. Mr. Murakami gave the plant an overall Satisfactory rating. He stated the plant was operating exceptionally well. (The full inspection report is on file at the Village Hall.) In speaking directly with Mr. Murakami, he commended Zack Avery for his outstanding work and overall knowledge of the plant and suggested we work directly with the Town of Constantia and work to make improvements to the Cleveland Plant in order to take Constantia's sewage. Mayor Youmans suggested we write a letter to the town stating we want to work with them and take their sewage. Mayor Youmans made a motion to send such letter to the town and DEC stating our intentions, second by Trustee Schreiber, all in favor. Legislator Reehil asked how many more gallons per day can we accept. We are currently rated for 150,000 gallons per day and we only take in about 35,000. DEC believes with upgrades we can handle 300,000 gallons per day.

Mayor Youmans and Chief Avery signed the Constantia fire department contract. Resident Randy Blowers inquired as to whether Bernhards Bay counts as part of the Constantia sewer district, and the Mayor responded yes, it would be the lake homes essentially. Legislator Reehil asked about looking into replacing street lights with LED lights. He suggested this be looked at with National Grid to see if they offer any programs for this.

TUGHILL REPORT: Paul Baxter stated there was a workshop last week regarding fiscal stress. He provided copies of the handout. He reported the annual Tug Hill Conference is the end of March in Watertown. He discussed the last CSSD school board meeting and the possible options presented were re-districting, re-opening Cleveland Elementary, closing the middle school, moving 7 & 8th grades to Millard Hawk. Many scenarios were discussed. He stated that Glenn Donnelly was at the Tug Hill meeting and the track is on schedule and moving along well due to the mild winter.

LEGISLATOR'S REPORT: Mr. Reehil also commented on the school board meeting stating the 3 factions are not working together. He stated the sale of the middle school could have a big economic impact on the area. He stated the representatives from the North Shore make a lot of sense, not just because they are from here. He feels the administration only cares about money and not what's best. Mr. Reehil went on to state as chairman of the Economic Development Committee he is asking residents and business and municipal leaders to fill out a survey of

what they feel is important regarding economic development. (A copy is on file at the Village Hall) He also mentioned that the State may be interested in helping to pressure the owners of abandoned "Zombie Properties" into taking action to repair or remove these properties. He has requested a copy of the list of abandoned properties in the Village from Code Officer Hamacher. He expects the list of properties the County will foreclose on to be available soon and properties that are not redeemed before a certain date to be sold at auction or gifted to the Land Bank after foreclosure. He will be asking for inventory of infrastructure and housing in order to map this information. Trustee Tackman asked if there was anything new with the dock and Roy stated nothing yet, but we are currently at \$750,000 in funding.

CODE REPORT: Code Enforcement Officer William Hamacher read the monthly report. Mayor Youmans wants to take over 19 North Street and board up the windows and clean up the house and bill to the homeowner. We will be sending a letter to the homeowner regarding this. Our law allows for this process. When this neglect happens, the rest of the Village suffers. The Village currently has 21 vacant properties and the County has approx. 10% vacant.) Mayor Youmans commended Mr. Hamacher for doing a good job and stated look at other communities and see just how good our Village looks. Legislator Reehil complemented the Board, Codes and Zack Avery stating they are all doing a great job, working together.

DOG CONTROL REPORT: Mayor Youmans read the Dog Control Report which stated there were calls for a stray and a dog running at large and there were 10 expired dog licenses this month as well as five residences with unlicensed dogs. All have been given their final notice and will be issued appearance tickets for court if necessary. Mayor Youmans commented that is the way things should be handled and commended Mr. Conover for a great job.

FISCAL STRESS: The Village received a letter of notification from the NYS Comptroller's Office regarding the monitoring of Fiscal Stress of school districts and local governments. The Village received a "No Designation" with a score of 3.3% under Financial Stress and 18.3% under Environmental Stress, both down from last year and well under the 45% designation of susceptible to fiscal stress. Mayor Youmans complimented the Clerk and Trustee Domachowske for doing a great job with the financial end of the Village.

PAY BILLS: March abstract #10, vouchers 397-434, \$29,531.33. The Mayor commented we had a big purchase this month with a pressure washer and the redo of the barn is going well. They have insulated it, put on a new roof, and siding and it has much better heat maintenance. Mayor Youmans made a motion to accept Abstract #10, second by Trustee Schreiber, all in favor.

WATER PROJECT: Mayor Youmans stated we are moving in a different direction as we are now borrowing from our local bank to fund the project. He feels we should segment the project and only borrow what we need to do each phase of the project. For example, this year we would borrow \$650,000 to do the tank and then in the next couple years take more out to complete the rest. Trustee Tackman commented she thought it had already been agreed upon to move ahead with \$1.3 and the payback cost would be \$78,000 per year divided by the total EDU's. Mayor Youman asked the audience what they thought of a roughly \$200 increase per year. Some felt it was too much as they are on a fixed income. Discussion followed on how this should be billed. Should it be on tax bills or billed quarterly. Mr. Reehil feels it is not a tax it's a property infrastructure payment and should be billed this way. The board restated they will move ahead with the \$1.3 million dollar project and the Mayor will get in touch with our engineer to move ahead. Mr. Reehil commented that our water is pristine and is still a great value.

CLERK ITEMS: Trustee Domachoske completed a 6-month analysis of the budget, finding that almost every line was under budget at 6 months. He noted that there were a couple of misclassifications that have been rectified. (One for garbage and one regarding the fire departments sale of equipment). Once his health improves, he will complete

the 9 month analysis. Also, a couple residents have requested the \$25 late fee be waived for one reason or another. Without true extenuating circumstances, I believe it is a slippery slope. The Board agrees with this.

The next Village Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 6:30pm. Mayor Youman thanked everyone for their support during a very difficult time and then made a motion to adjourn at 8:25pm, second by Trustee Tackman, all in favor.