

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECORDING TRANSCRIPTION

**MB – Mayor Barrett; TD – Trustee Donecker; TC – Trustee Crary; TR – Trustee Rumsey; TS – Trustee Smith;**

MB: Start this meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. I will call this meeting to order. The first is looking for a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from the last board meeting of October 26, 2020.

TR: I make a motion.

MB: Cindy? Second?

TS: I'll second.

MB: OK Rebecca. Are there any questions, comments, corrections? OK all in favor say, "aye"?

ALL: Aye.

MB: All opposed? Motion carries. I'd also make a motion to accept the minutes of the special meeting that was held on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> regarding the impact on revenue to the water and sewer.

TD: So moved.

TC: Second.

MB: Any questions or comments? All in favor say, "Aye".

All: Aye

MB: All opposed? Motion carries. Those minutes are also accepted. Today we will open for public comment. Being no public, does the board have any public comments? OK moving right along. Ed is not able to be with us today. He had a family matter they had to attend to so very briefly looking at water, all the reporting monthly reporting have been sent out with the lead and copper results received, there was one problem with one sample. There had been a problem prior he did not expound upon what that that problem was so will have to check with him further. With operations they are continuing to check the system for phosphate and chlorine weekly and chlorine bi/weekly. Pump number one at the well building should be diagnosed by the end of the month. If you recall, there is a pump on order for that because the solenoid was not the problem. We have all the meters have been removed throughout the village those that get them pulled. Led and copper samples were sent for retesting and we're awaiting the results. I believe that the testing above was a prior matter. We were able to send a retest and we're waiting the results for that. The leak in the Wolf complex has been addressed that's over by Black Bear Run, for those of you who are not familiar. Information in regards to who's responsible for the water lines and what the actual easements are, those happen uncovered and have been found and now we're planning for project to replace those water lines. There is a 2 inch regular pressure line in there that keeps breaking and so we're looking to replace it with a 2 inch high pressure line as well as add some cleanouts to the sewer line. We are also waiting for new chlorine pumps to install and these will be used in the transfer from calcium hypochlorite to sodium hypochlorite for disinfection and they run the entire system for billing purposes. Expenditures have been with Sack Chemical and Ferguson Waterworks. Things to do in the upcoming month is fix the pump issue and when that has been found they'll take care of it so the new electric check valve on pump one is due to be shipped

on the 20th of November. In the waste water Department the SPDES and the DMR were completed for August. They are comparing the plant for winter, so all outside plant piping will be winterized, machinery and equipment is stored in the pole barn until the spring and they have finally gotten the go ahead from DEC for fecal sampling. They were allowed to use another EPA certified test and the samples were sent and when they got the OK they applied biosolids to land application site with the help of DPW. There seems to be a little snag in contract one of the wastewater treatment project. Ed had a meeting with Brandon Becker who is our engineer from Lamont engineers on the 6th of November to review the plans for the second contract. So as you know we had made a motion to be able to send out those bids once a contract was finalized. They haven't gone out yet. When Ed did a further review there are a number of issues that still need to be addressed. Those issues include, the new digester was missing a decant option that needs to be added, along with this friend and notice that the return pipe from the digester would be difficult to install due to piping and having to trench out the cement floor to the existing building. They looked at other options but he feels that crunching out those cement floor is the best option. He is also hoping to have only one pump to handle all of our needs however, the original plans drawn up by Lamont engineers call for two pumps. They're exploring alternative options waiting on the specifications for the appropriate pump. The plans were also missing some finer details that have been discussed above but they haven't been drawn up yet and the additional details include some things that need to be finalized prior to Ed's approval. These were what was mentioned above along with influent box overflow measures, various piping from inside the gestures to the new digester, electrical specifications for new control panels etc. At this time the plans are not fully complete once they're drawn up you will approve them with pending and at that time will go forward. Ed's intent is to make sure that everything is exactly as needed, exactly as we specify to minimize the amount of change orders. He's really being conscientious about keeping costs and spending to a minimum. Anybody have any questions or comments for that?

TS: Are these other options still being looked at?

MB: Those are options that need to be included but haven't been yet. Those were part of the original specifications from years ago, actually. There are two resolutions that we need to speak about. What we found was as we were going through the budget the NYMR liability insurance premium for sewer was \$667.64 less than what we had budgeted and there are no more premiums that need to be paid for liability for the rest of this year. That means the money just sits there or we move it into an appropriate fund that can be used within the sewer Department. What we are proposing is to take the \$667.64 and then add it to the contingency budget because there's no doubt they'll be a few things as contract 2 progresses and as contract one finishes up, there will be a few things that can be adjusted. This resolution known as the 2021 Budget Amendment for Sewer Fund is resolving that administrative changes take place in the budget moving \$667.64 from G1910.4 which is unallocated insurance and moving that to increase the budget for G1990.4 contingency fund in the same amount. May I have a motion to approve this resolution?

TD: So moved.

MB: Mark. And a 2<sup>nd</sup>?

TR: Second.

MB: Cindy. Any questions or comments? We're trying to do it in a timely fashion instead of waiting until the end. All in favor of this resolution say, "aye".

ALL: Aye

MB: All opposed say "no". Motion carries, resolution passes. For the next resolution is for this is for the water fund there was an oversight in the budget so in the preparation of the 2021 budget under the line items or source of supplies towers in pumps contractual, which is F8320.4 all the sources for supplies powers and pump were included in there including our bills for National Grid to the tune of \$13,000, that's what we were budgeting. When the figures were transcribed into the final budget National Grid was missed. That wasn't included in the total for F8320 for source of supplies, pumps and power. It's a problem because there's a whole of \$13,000 and it was a it was a transcription error, technical error, that no doubt we'll know going forward to look more closely. So, in order to address that there are three areas that we can pull from. The first is the extra NYMR liability insurance premium for water was \$390.00 less than budgeted so we're proposing to pull \$390.00 from the liability insurance there is also \$10,000 budgeted for contingency that we can pull in and then I designated my compensation to the water fund in the amount of \$2166.66 that will also go into that fund and we feel that that should be sufficient to cover. Therefore, I am looking for a resolution that would move \$390.00 from left 1910.4 unallocated insurance and move \$10,000 from F 1990.4 contingency fund and increase the budget by \$10,390.00 and in addition the \$2166.66 is already in there. I would like a motion to approve this resolution of adjusting the water fund.

TD: So moved.

MB: Okay, Mark. And a 2<sup>nd</sup>?

MC: Second.

MB: Mark. Is there any discussion, any questions? Hearing none, all in favor of this motion say "aye"

ALL: Aye

MB: All opposed say no. Motion passes. At a special meeting held on October 28th addressing the loss of revenues to water and sewer due to COVID, the board resolved that a minimum usage of 3000 gallons per quarter will be added to every water and sewer account to be collected in the next billing cycle. All fee increases require a public notice according to general municipal law section 452. I would like a motion to hold a public hearing at the beginning of our next board meeting, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, to address the increase in water and sewer fees.

TS: So moved.

MB: Okay, Rebecca. Second?

TC: 2nd Mark Cray second. Any comments, questions? All in favor say, "aye".

ALL: Aye.

MB: All opposed say no. Motion carries. Upon further review of water and sewer laws, we've also found out that there are some requisite corrections to be made to the laws pertaining to quarterly billing. Initially sewer billing was conducted on a semi-annual basis dating back to 1975 for sewer and 1994 for water. Billing was changed to quarterly collections in the early 1990s and this was never updated in the laws, which we need to do. I would like to ask Trustee Donecker and Trustee Smith, if they would work with Crystal to ensure that these updates are made to the local water and sewer laws with respect to the billing cycle. I don't think that there's really anything else that needs to be modified.

TD: No problem.

MB: Once these changes have been made and approved by the board at the next meeting on November 23rd we would need to schedule a public hearing for December 14th in accordance with the same general municipal law to do that. So those changes will be presented and reviewed at the next meeting. Thank you, Trustee Smith and Donecker. At this time the Clerk-Treasurer report, Crystal O'Brian. Just a few small things. We did receive a few last minute tax payments before we had to send the information to for re levy leaving us with only 16 unpaid properties and I'm sending list to the County tomorrow. I have a scheduled an employee benefit meeting for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This includes our reps for the health insurance, Aflac and deferred comp both in person and virtual. As far as I know, all of our employees will be attending again this year. I have gotten about 1/4 of the way through the LGS one retention schedule and Mark Crary said he's just barely starting to read it. Hopefully we'll be able to get together in the next couple weeks and most likely more towards the next meeting and then be able to discuss a little bit of it at the next meeting. Tuesday and Wednesday the 17th and 18th I have my accounting principles of procedure school. This is the advanced accounting school through the state. It kind it worked out really well doing it from home last time so I'm going to plan on doing that. It's also payroll week so I'm sure I'll be in here doing that as well. A notice will be in this week's paper for the March 16th Village election for the mayor and two trustees position up got election. It feels like we just finished that and we are at it again. Finally, the financial report #5 for October is ready for review. I have added a summary of revenues and expenditures requested by Mark Crary, to the report.

MB: At this time I would like a motion to approve the abstract number 11 and I know Cindy you're unable to review it. May I have a motion to approve the abstract 11?

TC: So moved.

TD: Second.

MB: Mark Crary. Second Mark Donecker. Any questions or comments on the bills?

TC: I do have a question about the digitronics for the reprogramming of radios. 13 handheld radios and as part of the county wide

MB: I think it's part every year they come in and they adjust and give an overhaul and they give a tweak, and they are moving to low band so it may be that they were doing that annual but we can check with Glen Williams for that, absolutely. Mark and I were wondering if traffic cones are getting run over? Are we replacing cones or we need extra cones? We are ordering 18.

MB: I would think that we are replacing them.

CO: That is a Roger question.

MB: Then before that bill is paid we will check with Roger in the morning but 18 have already been purchased. We will clarify why they are being purchased. People tend to walk off with them. So all in favor of approving abstract 11 with the caveat that they will be able to check on the radio and the digitron and the cone purchases, all in favor say, "aye".

ALL: Aye

MB: All opposed say no? Motion carries. Now going on to old business. COVID-19 update; at the present time we have three patients under active quarantine. There are 60 quarantined travelers in our area. We are now up to 2904 tests performed to date and the number of positive people testing positive went up this this past week to 22. All of them are recovered save one an no additional fatalities, so that's good. You all know that the governor has issued

additional travel advisory cutting down quarantine period from certain states from 14 days now it's a blanket 3 days with testing before you come into the state and on the 4th day of being in the state you get tested again. There you don't have to do the testing with the contiguous states of Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey. There is language in there about essential travel. Crystal and I have signed up for a NYCOM seminar tomorrow in which we should get more clarification on that. We will share more information as we get that and keep it in a timely manor. With FEMA; the emergency Halloween Storm Update, the site inspection for Tuney Park and the public beach has been completed and signed off. Tomorrow we will provide the mitigation plans that are being finalized with Lenny from soil and water and with Roger Blanchard. That went very, very well and I just want to make sure that we keep up with that since there are a few more schedules that need to be reimbursed. There is nothing for update with the Covid FEMA response. With the FEMA brick hazard mitigation this was the letter of information or letter of intent that we sent regarding a grant opportunity for the generator at the wastewater treatment plant. So last week late in the week I was notified that submitting this grant is contingent upon posting the hazard mitigation plans for the County and communities which has caught many of us off guard. So there was a big scramble. Thankfully, Speculator had a fairly complete plan because when we met with the hazard mitigation planners in late September we had Bob Benkovich, Mark Donecker, Roger and myself so it was a fairly complete plan from the go ahead which was great. I would like to extend my thanks, sincere thanks to Don Purdy and the County for ensuring that there was a reasonable plan in place for the County to post to meet the posting requirements for the public comment period. If you go to our website, you will see a portion of a press release that has been issued by the County stating in part that Hamilton County announces the 30 day public comment period for the 2020 update to the Hamilton County hazard mitigation plan to start November 9<sup>th</sup>. This planned currently includes only the Village of Speculator and update is currently underway to include the other towns in the coming months. Citizens of Hamilton County and other stakeholders are invited to comment on the draft hazard mitigation plan. the plan can be found on the Hamilton County website as well as our own website a copy of this plan has been posted. If you like to take a look at that it's on the on the spreadsheet. There was a concern in the beginning that posting this early with the County may impact on other townships within the County but that's not the case it's not going to impede them. If we had not met this deadline of today, posting it to the websites, we would have had to wait to the next grant cycle which would have been a year from now. I'm very grateful that the County stepped up with the help of folks in Albany to get that posted and keep us moving.

TD: Mayor, did Roger and Ed get back with the questions that were asked that we couldn't answer?

MB: We can double check the plan, Mark, and ensure that they do get back, but I had sent those questions out.

TD: Alright, I'll check.

MD: Thank you. Now I have some very good news from the LED street lights. It's been an ongoing saga near and dear to my heart. I was able to speak with Joe Palone from National Grid last week regarding the street lights. A letter indicating our desire to proceed with National Grid replacement of fixtures involves was submitted to them last week. They are presently preparing an invoice for us. The only correction to the light inventory was to make all

the lights on South Shore Rd, located within the Village, to be set at an equivalent level of 100 Watts not sure what that translates into LED, it's like 29 lumens. Those will all be the same at present there's only one that's a lot brighter than the others so those will all be the same. All fixtures are designed so that they do not add to light pollution so there's no light directed upwards it's mostly downwards and the light doesn't shine horizontally or it doesn't shine horizontally too far if it does National Grid will come and put a shield up for residents who have an issue with that. They said that was no problem at no additional cost. The estimated installment will take approximately 4 to six weeks after we pay the invoice in the amount of \$2592.60. The rebate incentive will be filed by National Grid on our behalf and we should receive it within four months. The rebate will be in the amount of approximately \$5730 providing the village with \$3137.40. So we will make out well with that. Our projected annual savings on the street lights is at \$2917.26. That's how much you should save each year on our streetlights going forward. That is based on today's rates. Within the next four months we should be getting a check for about \$3100 which will be very helpful. Verizon small cell tower; there's no change. That's still on target. They're looking to get started in the new year. There is an update to the moratorium on the termination of utility services of the deferred payment for water. As an update to our discussion at the last board meeting it has been clear provided by the Village attorney, Katie Smith, that we are not obligated to submit an official plan to New York State as soon as possible. The public has been notified of the debt repayment plan that went out with the water bills and so that's all set and then what we have to do is internally determine what sort of information it would require to determine the extent of financial harm or financial crisis people have been put in due to Covid. So we would need that for our own records and then each debt repayment plan would be individualized. I do not have any new business. Does anyone have any new business to introduce?

TS: I have a question. We were asked for a map with all the different lights. I have been working on that. My problem is on each pole there are three different numbers.

Sometimes it's a NIMO number, sometimes it's our number there is like another number in there. So I keep going back to try and get this straightened out.

MB: You have the National Grid number? If you have the inventory list it has a National Grid number so if you go off of that number.

TS: On this one here they do have pole numbers. It's kind of confusing to even figure out on a couple of the polls. I think they had an old pole that is no longer working well so they put their new pole up and then that one gets a number too, so I'm not sure if you want the NIMO numbers or if you want the numbers Rogers trying to use.

MB: The numbers that Rogers trying to use are on the spreadsheet I think there is a way we can dissolve those.

TS: That would be helpful, yes.

Mb: Any other new business? Now for round table. I was very happy to receive today a letter from Camp-of-the-Woods that says, " To whom it may concern, which would be us. I am pleased to enclose a \$5000 donation from Gospel Volunteer Inc. to the Village of Speculator. Please use these funds where most needed. We appreciate all the Village does is to serve and support Camp-of-the-Woods. Kind regards Jim Hammond, President. Obviously this comes at a timely time and I would like to propose that we would take that \$5000 and put it towards the

COVID issues that we're having in the waterfront coming up short in revenues. Does anyone else have a place where it would be better suited than the water Department?

TD: No, I think the water Department contingency fund would be the best place.

MB: May I have a motion then to take this \$5000 donation from Gospel Volunteers and move it to the water fund to the appropriate fund, which Crystal will designate?

TD: So moved.

MB: Mark Donecker, second?

TS: Second.

MB: Rebecca. Any questions, comments? I think Ed will be relieved, that's my comment. He has been working really hard to watch our expenditures and he's really done a great job.

Alright, well all in favor of moving this donation to water say, "Aye".

ALL: Aye.

MB: All opposed? Motion carries. Alright any round table items?

TC: Do we have any update as to if there is any litigation going on with the Elliot Lane property?

MB: It has been silent. We've heard nothing so the ball is in their court. I can't go into the details in public session but we have heard nothing further. It is public knowledge that a hearing was held informing the village there is an intent to sue everything was turned over to our insurance and we've heard nothing further. Anything else hearing nothing may I have a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33.

TC: So moved.

MB: Meeting adjourned. Thank you.