

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on April 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

Present: Mayor John Barton  
Trustee Michael Horrigan  
Trustee Daniel Hogan  
Trustee James Gallagher, Jr.  
Trustee Jeffrey Gaulin  
Attorney William Nikas

Mayor Barton swore-in newly elected Trustees Jeffrey Gaulin and Daniel Hogan to four (4) year terms.

At 6:03 p.m. time was set aside for a Public Hearing on the 2022-2023 Village Budget.

The Tentative Budget was presented to the Board on March 31, 2022. The Mayor reported the current tax rate is \$8.34, the proposed tax rate is \$8.50 that equates to that on a \$150,000 assessed home it is about a \$24 increase. Trustee Horrigan adds that the Department Heads to a great job and it has been a tough couple of years with inflation. Adding an example that for the Water Department the price of chlorine use to be \$1.10 it is now \$5.50 per pound, same situation with fluoride. We did our best to accommodate the departments and to keep the tax rate down.

Mayor Barton opens the meeting up to the public for questions or comments. None was given.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Horrigan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to close Public Hearing on the 2022-2023 tentative budget.

With regard to Traffic Violations Bureau discussion, Mayor Barton says that he has received notification that the State has gone through their records, and they should be sending a payment to the town who will then forward a payment onto the village. It is believed to be around \$17,000 and should be received this week.

Trustee Horrigan shares the purpose of this discussion stating that it was about 6 years ago that the court was abolished and absorbed by the town. With that any parking tickets or related tickets would go to the town and then come back to us. Over the last 6 years we have received about \$250. There was a coding issue between the town and the state. A figure was determined to be around \$17,000; it is believed to be a bit lower than it should be but at this point the village will take what is being offered. Attorney Nikas notes that the \$17,000 is an amount that was determined on a State audit and that it is believed to be fairly accurate. The town is necessary willing to consent to a Traffic Violations Bureau and now that we have a clean slate, it will be a lot easier to monitor what is due to us in the future, going forward. A monitoring process should be set into place through the Police Department for money due to us. A brief discussion ensued.

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Horrigan and carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 14, 2022, were approved as submitted.

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Gaulin and carried, the minutes of the special meeting of March 31, 2022, were approved as submitted.

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Horrigan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve the Committee Appointments as submitted:

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Deputy Mayor -----	Michael Horrigan
Street Committee -----	Jeffrey Gaulin, Daniel Hogan
Water Committee -----	Jeffrey Gaulin, Daniel Hogan
Fire Committee -----	Daniel Hogan, Jeffrey Gaulin
Police Committee -----	Daniel Hogan, Michael Horrigan
Finance Committee -----	James Gallagher, Michael Horrigan
Insurance Committee -----	James Gallagher, Jeffrey Gaulin
Senior Citizen Committee -----	Daniel Hogan
Recreation Committee -----	Jeffrey Gaulin, Michael Horrigan

Street Lighting, Parks Committee -----	James Gallagher, Daniel Hogan
Safety Inspections Committee -----	Daniel Hogan, James Gallagher
Contract Negotiating Committee -----	John Barton, Michael Horrigan
Sandy Hill Days Liaison -----	Jeffrey Gaulin
Greater G. F. Transit Advisory Committee -----	James Gallagher, Michael Horrigan
Washington County Sewer Agency -----	Michael Horrigan
Community Development Small Cities Board --	Michael Horrigan, James Gallagher
Village Owned Property Committee -----	James Gallagher, Jeffrey Gaulin
Building Committee -----	James Gallagher, Daniel Hogan
Local Business Liaison -----	Michael Horrigan

Trustee Horrigan clarifies the purpose of the Committee Appointments, every board member gets put on a committee. With Bob Cook no longer a Trustee the appointments had to be updated for Trustee Gaulin. These are readily available so if you have an issue, you can contact the board member in that committee. Clerk Allen will make copies for the public and Mayor Barton adds that it will be contained in today's meeting minutes.

Upon motion made by Trustee Horrigan, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve the appointment of Hope Rosati-Fretleoloso as Enforcement Officer (P/T) effective 4/11/22, at the rate of \$20/hour.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve the appointment Riley Mawn, as a Volunteer Fire Fighter, contingent upon successful completion of mandatory requirements.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Horrigan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve appointment of Cori Winch as Police Officer (F/T) effective 5/2/22, at the appropriate rate reflected in the collective bargaining agreement.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve the resignation of Police Officer, Matthew Brayman effective 4/4/22.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve the request of a letter of recommendation for Jin's Wine and Liquor at 34 Main Street, to begin the process of a liquor license.

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to authorize proper Budget Appropriations:

	Debit	Credit
A-1990.4.000 Contingency	\$7,200	
A-5142.2.000 Snow Removal		\$7,200

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, the following monthly reports were approved as read:

- Police Department, submitted by Chief Gillis
- Fire Department, submitted by Chief Thomas Bover

Upon motion made by Trustee Horrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried, the following abstracts were audited and ordered for payment:

General Fund	Check Nos. 34771 - 34827
Water	Check Nos. 5866 - 5868
Capital Project	Check Nos. 114 - 115
Derby	Check No. 1039
Trust	Check Nos. 7755 - 7767
Payroll	Check Nos. 30814 - 30835

Discussion on advertisements or banners to be hung in the parks. We receive requests occasionally. At this time, it will be something that we will want to look a bit further and formally regulate it. Trustee Horrigan adds that we are getting a lot of requests from about a half a dozen people that want to hang a banner on the gazebo or put stakes in the ground and I don't think that is the look we are going for, that we wouldn't want Juckett Park to turn into a billboard, but it will be something that we will definitely take a look at and to discuss it next month.

A member from the public asks if the park is financed by the foundation and if there are any stipulations. The Mayor responds that it was set up to mainly take care of the grounds.

**Mayor Comments:**

He would just like to remind the public that Derby Park is closed to everyone upon completion. He received a call that people were in the park. Currently the gates at the park do not have locks, the contractor now has to zip tie the gates closed so the park is not accessible. A request was sent to the Police Chief to monitor the park with patrolmen. The Mayor and Trustee Horrigan spent the day inventorying the custom bricks that were purchased by residents, 420 bricks to reconcile the count error.

**Board Comments:**

Trustee Horrigan would like to give further updates on Derby. The village is extremely fortunate for the Clark company who received the bid project for Derby. They are receiving great reviews about them. They communicate well with good news and any concerns they may have. We are lucky to have them. Trustee Horrigan was able to speak with Tyler the onsite supervisor and received an update of what is going on this week. We have Rosic coming in for to the wells and to finalize the irrigation system. The softball field should be done this week with the red clay, the bricks should also be done, about 3 more weeks and they should have the walkways completed all around the soccer field and event areas. They are looking to get out of there by the end of April, but it will most likely be closer to the second week of May. The biggest challenge will be the sod. We have Saratoga Sod coming to do the entire field and the sod needs 30 days of nobody on it during that time. So, it will look like a park and people will wonder why they can't enter the park, but it is important that we give the turf that time or it will be waste of a large amount of money if people do get in there. Please be patient. We will have an announcement and a celebration when it is ready.

Trustee Horrigan would also like to add that this Friday at 1:00 at the Stand Theatre there will be hosting a celebration of life for Rick Connelly. Rick was a tremendous guy who did so much for the community. He respectfully invites everyone to the Stand for the celebration of life.

Trustee Horrigan also informs the public that Carrie Woerner will be here next Monday, April 18 from 6-8pm here at Village Hall. She travels all around the state to assist in any questions people may have. If you have any questions on the state budget or any other questions for her, he recommends joining her.

Trustee Horrigan also reminded the public of the discussion of the no parking that has come into effect over the last year and that the new signs are now going up. He capitalizes that the purpose of these changes is mainly for safety concerns throughout the village.

Trustee Gaulin formally introduces himself to the public, sharing his former career with the Village Police Department and his attachment with the Village. Trustee Gaulin recently retired as a Detective back in July of this year and looks forward to serving the community on the Village Board. He is also part of the School Board for the last 12 years.

The Mayor opens the meeting up to the public.

Agnes Kiernen, resident of Cherry Street, approaches the Board. She begins by stating that she walks a lot and talks to the neighbors. When she moved here three years ago, the first thing she noticed was the Strand Theatre, Sandy Hill, Tops store, and some of the beautiful houses on Pearl Street. It wasn't until this spring that she noticed the trash, appliances in the yards, and began having serious issues with her neighbor.

Trustee Horrigan asks, if she contacted the police on her neighbor issue. She replied that she has. She states the police have been fine, but it seems to be an ongoing issue. Kiernen continues that her real reason that has brought her to the Board tonight was the trash on River Street.

She shares that she has posted photos on Facebook and someone who saw the mess has cleaned it up on Sunday Morning. She was a bit concerned when she heard that they cleaned it up due to the hazardous traffic on that street.

Trustee Horrigan informs her that it is not just dangerous but trespassing on a railroad is a Federal offense. The railroad has put the Village on notice about two years ago. This is a yearly disagreement between the railroad and Village and the trash plant to come to terms on working together to get it cleaned up. He is thankful no one got hurt and that they have already arranged with the railroad that someone will be here as early as next month. We are all aware and frustrated. The Mayor adds that he has made his yearly contact to the trash plant manager to plan out the cleanup of that area. They had it scheduled for next week. Although the Village and Wheelabrator are on the same page, it still falls on the railroad for compliance. Trustee Horrigan states he understands the frustration as we are all frustrated, but this is a yearly problem. It happens every year. We must wait for the railroad.

Kiernen asks about the property above the railroad and that by the time everything is set up, it is too late. Trustee Horrigan says it can be reviewed to try to adjust the schedule. It is also planned when the snow melts, during the winter no one notices but, in the spring, when the snow melts is when it becomes more visual. Mayor Barton adds that the trash plant must do a spring shutdown to do maintenance on the plant. After that shutdown is when they planned to address the issue.

Keirnan asks the Board for all the contact information of the railroad and the trash plant so she can do a protest or to be able to call them. The Board agrees to share a phone number to the railroad and the trash plant.

Trustee Horrigan expresses concern and would like to enunciate that he does not want the Village to be involved with the protest or for it to be portrayed as such.

Kiernen adds that although the Board says they have a federal law that they can't trespass, that she believes that it is also a liability to the village or county or whoever owns the road and asks for the Village to warn these agencies that if they leave their trash, citizens are going to try to clean it up because not everyone knows about this federal law and there is no sign. Trustee Horrigan replies that there is no sign, but it is trespassing. A call to Village Hall could help explain why there has been no action. Trustee Hogan reiterates that the Village is trying to take the necessary steps to schedule the cleanup. He continues to explain the shutdown at Wheelabrator. Wheelabrator was going to take care of it on a scheduled time, contingent upon the snow melting. He also adds that he thinks it is great that someone went out and cleaned it up. Mayor Barton would like to clarify that it is not Wheelabrator's responsibility. They do it as a courtesy and to help the community. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Kiernen changes the topic to inform the Board that her group would like to have a cleanup Main Street day on April 30<sup>th</sup>. She would like the village to provide a dumpster so that once they clean it up, they can leave it in a village dumpster. The Board collectively would like to discuss this further. Kiernen would also like to find out about any seniors in our area that could benefit from some assistance. She states that her group is just starting out and they haven't quite figured it out yet. The Mayor says that something like that would be up to her and the private property owner. A brief discussion ensued.

Next member from the public approaches the Board. Kay, Director of the Library expresses her concern on the no parking that is now being enforced on Clark Street. The library has elderly people coming to visit the library and it may be difficult on them finding close parking. Mayor Barton clarifies that the main focus of changing the street to no parking was for the Fire Department, for in case of emergencies and having adequate space to get in and out during these emergencies. School buses was also a concern regarding the parking on Clark Street. Kay asks if there was an option to allow parking during non-school hours. Trustee Horrigan asks the Assistant Chief of the Fire Department to confirm the 75 feet on either side of a Fire Department for the departure of fire trucks. Assistant Chief confirms that is correct. With that in mind, allowing parking during non-school hours would still be a concern for the Fire Department. Kay proposes if there could be an alternative option or a pathway to the library or a shorter way for them to park at Paris Parking Lot and be able to have an access way directly to the library. The Board agrees that it could be later discussed for other options to allow easier access to the library. A brief discussion ensued.

Next member from the public approaches the Board. Matthew Miller of 13 Elm Street. He would like to inquire of the possibility of a dog park. He doesn't believe it should be the Village or Town responsible for the park would like to see if there is a way that he could get the two municipalities along with business owners and residents and try to figure out a way to offer a dog park in our area. Trustee Horrigan expresses his concern on location. Miller's location request of the property near the locks. Attorney Nikas adds that that property is private property. Trustee Horrigan recommends attending a Town meeting as they have more property options and larger properties for it to be considered an option. A brief discussion ensued. Miller thanks the Board for their recommendation.

The next meeting will be held on May 9, 2022, at 6:00 pm

Mayor Barton shares that the Board meeting are at 6:00 pm, with the exception of June, July, and August, during these months they are at 4:00 pm.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, the Board to move to Executive Session.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, the Board to close Executive Session and resume regular Board Meeting as scheduled.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

---

Cassandra Allen, Village Clerk-Treasurer