

Minutes

Village Board of Trustees

January 9, 2020

A regular meeting of the Village of Horseheads Board of Trustees was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in Village Hall.

Present were:

<u>Village Board and Staff</u>	
Mayor Rob Maloney Trustee Bill Goodwin Trustee Pat Gross Trustee Mark Cronin Village Manager Nate Nagle <u>Absent</u> Trustee Mike Skroszchnik	Village Atty. John Groff Clerk-Treasurer Donna Dawson Manager's Asst. Rachel Baer Planning Bd. Chair Mike Stenpeck Police Chief Tom Stickler Water Supt. Don Gaylord Water Operator Steve Smith
<u>Others Present.</u>	
Lance Margeson, N. Carroll St. Dave Padgett, W. Franklin St. Tom Rupp, Tifft Ave. Don murphy Shull Lane Ruth Konchack, John Street Susan Ostrander, Hulett St.	Melanie Smith, South Ave. Jamie Gensel, Fagan Engineers Don Zeigler, Watkins Road Cindy Rathbun, Westwind Rd. Tyler Rathbun, Westwind Rd. Seth Zawko, Winding Way

Resolution by Trustee Gross, seconded by Trustee Goodwin

BE IT RESOLVED, that the reading of the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of December 12th, 2019 be dispensed with and the same stand approved as entered by the Clerk.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Maloney	Aye
Trustee Goodwin	Aye
Trustee Gross	Aye
Trustee Cronin	Aye

D&A: Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) Grant

Village Manager Nagle stated that the Village has been awarded the grant in an amount not to exceed \$3 Million, which is 60% of the total project costs of \$5 Million. Tonight we just need to formally accept the award. Then we work on bonding and prioritizing the project list. Have a few options on funding we are looking at. One is state funding which could be a lower interest rate. Could be as low as 0%. Requirements of the grant include a certain percentage of work has to be done by minority/women owned businesses. Also veteran owned businesses.

Discussion ensued regarding this grant award. Trustee Goodwin said the Village definitely needs to do this, just figuring out the \$2 Million financing. Are we sure that \$5 Million takes care of the whole project.

Jamie Gensel, Fagan Engineers - we can utilize all this money on your system. We packaged the group of projects in order to come up with the maximum grant. Can be done over a few years. One option is short term financing and long term financing. What we recommend is doing short term fin for entire project. Only paying what you use as you go. Then when your done you move to long term refinancing.

Trustee Cronin - we have spent a lot of time on this since I've been here. We've had so many water main breaks. This is a 100 yr. old system and I am very much in favor of doing this.

Trustee Gross - I agree.

Jamie Gensel - also water losses cost you money. There is water loss that you prob don't even know of.

Resolution by Trustee Gross, seconded by Trustee Cronin

WHEREAS, the Village of Horseheads Board of Trustees has identified 5 projects to upgrade, repair and replace various aspects of the Village water system, and have identified the component projects as "Horseheads Water System Improvements 2020", and

WHEREAS, to finance a portion of the cost of construction of the various projects the Village was awarded a NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation grant through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant program, DWSRF Project #18767, which would cover 60% of the costs associated with the various projects in an amount not to exceed \$3 Million, and

WHEREAS, this Board previously determined that the projects comprising the Water System Improvements 2020 were Type II actions under SEQR thus not requiring further environmental review, and

WHEREAS, NYSEFC has indicated to the Village that it must confirm its acceptance of the grant award no later January 17, 2020, and

WHEREAS, this Board is committed to pursue the construction and installation of the water system upgrades, repairs and replacements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Horseheads Board of Trustees hereby confirms its intention to proceed with the Water System Improvements 2020 project and accepts NYSEFC WIIA grant in an amount not to exceed \$3 Million, and authorizes Village Manager Nathan Nagle or his designated representative to confirm said acceptance and to execute an "Acknowledgement and Acceptance of WIIA Grant Award" including identification of project milestones, and to forward same to NYSEFC prior to January 17, 2020, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Village Manager Nathan Nagle or his designee is authorized, pursuant to this resolution, and any other applicable resolutions referenced herein, to enter into a grant agreement with NYSEFC regarding this WIIA grant no later than June 25, 2021, subject to review and approval by Village Attorney John Groff.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Maloney	Aye
Trustee Goodwin	Aye
Trustee Gross	Aye
Trustee Cronin	Aye

Financial Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Donna Dawson:

- Submitted detailed reports and summary as well as cash flow report.
- General is up because we haven't spent all of tax revenue
- Water is high because we received the FEMA money
- Sales tax is up 62K this year over last year.
- Water revenue is up 12K over last year. In part due to water rate increases.

Resolution by Trustee Gross, seconded by Trustee Goodwin

BE IT RESOLVED, that Village Manager Nathan Nagle is hereby authorized to attend the following NYCOM (New York Conference of Mayors) training seminars with all expenses paid as are allowed under GML Section 77B:

- New Officials Boot Camp - January 15th - Geneva, NY
- Winter Legislative Meeting - February 9th - 11th, Albany, NY

Village Manager Nagle - The one in Geneva is a one-day seminar. Topics will be roles of elected officials and new issues. Second one is a three-day session in Albany in February. Opportunity to meet with our local representatives to discuss concerns.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Maloney	Aye
Trustee Goodwin	Aye
Trustee Gross	Aye
Trustee Cronin	Aye

Discussion: E. Franklin St. Farmland

Village Manager Nagle - this project has been around for at least 5 years. Recent conversation with the State is its time for us to make a decision. In your packet is the presentation I've given before. Nothing has changed on the project. We just need to decide if we want to proceed with this. We have received all the tax exemptions from the Town, County, School, and Library. Once we acquire the land we still don't have to develop immediately. There will be a financial commitment with development and

maintenance. And we have other projects on our list as well: WIIA grant, DPW vehicles, fire equipment. Each of those are pushing the \$200k mark. But this is a project that doesn't need to be completed the first year. Might be 5-10k for maintenance for mowing, etc. That would be done inhouse, except the mowing of the farm piece. As far as the house, the state has kept the heat on. I'm sure other utilities have been turned off. We would have to decide what we want to do there. So please look over this info. We need to give the state an answer.

Calendar Items

Manager Nagle distributed a draft calendar for budget meetings and commissioner meetings. Goal is to adopt budget on April 23. Deadline is May 1.

Audience Participation

Susan Ostrander, 908 Hulett St. - My daughter was walking home from school this week, and was hit by a car. A year ago today at 7:30 am another incident happened just like this. Distracted driving, etc. Years ago the principal would be out there. Please work with school district to protect the kids. Its not safe and we need to do something.

Lance Margeson, 508 N. Carroll St. - I am also a bus driver. I agree that something needs to be done by the school. Center and Sayre and Center and Fletcher are chaotic. I've had to slam on the breaks in my bus to avoid hitting students and cars. Students and drivers. Parents too. At high school dismissal time is chaos. By the pool out onto Sayre St. there is a partial sidewalk. Students are on both sides, crossing, etc., crossing in front of cars. They should all be on one side. A crossing guard could direct them all that way. The school should have someone out there. Used to have crossing guards. Don't know why they were taken away. Also drivers are always speeding down Center St. I would like to see a police presence on Center St. at all times of the day when our officers are not busy with other activities. Something that could help are those signs that show your speed. Elmira schools have this. Its very beneficial.

Tyler Rathbun, Westwind Road - I am a student at high school. I've had more close calls in that area than anywhere. Almost been run over. My mom drops me off to junior lot and I walk into the bldg. Been very nearly hit several times. I know it probably helps to have perspective of a student. I really believe that something needs to done in that area. And soon.

Ruth Kondrack, I work as a bus driver. In 17 years I've never seen anything as bad as the accident from last Monday. Something has to be done. It's a mess over there. And with the district construction going on its very bad.

Cindy Rathbun, Westwind Road - I'm a former police officer and security guard. I see this as the parents need to be held accountable. Need to give law enforcement leverage too. No parking signs are good. But now they see the police driving around, and they try to stay ahead of them. Police need to be issuing tickets now, no more warnings. I'm saddened by the bureaucracy tying hands of law enforcement. And parents that are demonstrating skirting around the law, etc. I've seen twice this week cars passing school buses down there.

Manager's Report

Village Manager Nagle reported on the following items:

- Part time court clerk doing very well. Should be working court nights by the end of the month.

- DPW have had an employee out on workers comp, returns on Monday.
- This past Monday we had a different DPW employee injured. Will find out more tomorrow.
- Xmas tree pickup
- Code Enf - in the middle of fire inspections
- Revision of hotel plans
- Police - very busy week.
- Water - repairing several services next week.
- Repair in supply line to Dewey Hill.
- Looking at water leaks
- Clerks office preparing for next budget season
- Grant policy will be presented at next board meeting.
- 36 policies to be reviewed annually.
- Last 3 days I have observed the area near the school. I did take a walk up Fletcher on Tuesday but concentrated other days in the intersections. I was there yesterday morning. What you are saying is accurate on all accounts. We are going to come up with recommendations as to what should be done. Also the school construction is a factor as well. But thank you for coming in and sharing your thoughts.

Police Chief Tom Stickler:

Crossing guards were always by the freeway for kids crossing to Center St. Never had them at the high school. Kids don't listen to crossing guards at high school age. School safety has been one of my priorities. And I have a son that goes there. On Jan 6 at corner of Sayre and Center there was an MVA. Two pedestrians struck by a car. In this particular case the driver said he didn't see them. That is human mistake. He was ticketed. Video that we could obtain from school camera did show that driver came to a complete stop, then proceeded through the intersection. Every day between 7:30-7:50, 3:05-3:20 there are high volumes of pedestrians and drivers. Stopping illegally, parking illegally. Parents picking up kids. I've added parking regulations, added extra patrols in morning and afternoon. We are enforcing parking and vehicle and traffic laws every day over there. Also sometimes the officers are on other calls and aren't there. We've made some parents and students upset with tickets. As with human nature if we're not there the problem increases. So we try to be there as often as possible. That is why I have officers patrolling instead of being stationary. Every day I see kids coming out of school looking at their cell phones. Walking in front of cars. It's not illegal to text and walk. We have 3 SRO's and their responsibility is in the school itself. I won't state that Sayre and Center is more dangerous than any others. No more than Watkins and Westinghouse. No more than Westinghouse with motorcycle incident. Even if I had an officer stationed there things still happen. It's human error. Again the driver didn't see them. We have numerous accidents in all areas daily. Coincidentally there was a hit and run in Hanover square a couple days ago. We did apprehend that person. It isn't just at the school. These are unfortunate things we have to deal with every day. We have intersections with numerous accidents. Usually it's just human error. We have drug issues we are also addressing. We arrest drunk drivers but it still happens. A few days ago I received an email to post an officer over there which can create a worse hazard. It creates a distraction. I have over 30 yrs. in law enforcement. We have great officers who are diligent. We have 10 full time and several part time officers. Based on my recommendation and years of experience our best thing to do at this point is to patrol and cover as many intersections as we can. If we post a stationary at one intersection we are neglecting the others. I'm willing to hear other thoughts on how to improve.

BOT, Department Head Updates

Trustee Gross:

- We have the same concerns as you do. We will work with the school to see what more can be done.
- Are we meeting with the school. Chief Stickler - we meet with them frequently about their construction projects.

Trustee Goodwin:

- Commend police chief for work on the hit and run incident.

Trustee Cronin:

- On the farmland I think the residents have spoken on us moving forward with this.

Mike Stenpeck - aren't those students at the junior lot on a permit. Why can't the school issue staggered permits. So they all don't leave at the same time.

Chief Stickler - we don't have control over that, or even know how you would enforce that. School controls the permits on that lot.

Mayor Maloney:

- A lot of options we need to explore. We are going to work with the school to make this safer.

Motion by Trustee Gross, seconded by Trustee Goodwin, that the following item be added to the agenda:

- Health Insurance Consortium - New Alternate

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Maloney	Aye
Trustee Goodwin	Aye
Trustee Gross	Aye
Trustee Cronin	Aye

Resolution by Trustee Cronin, seconded by Trustee Goodwin

WHEREAS, the Village of Horseheads is a participant in the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (GTCMHIC) ("Consortium"), and

WHEREAS, as such participant the Village Board designated a representative of the Village to serve on the governing board of the Consortium and may designate an alternate director to such governing board, and

WHEREAS, this Board has previously designated Village Clerk-Treasurer Donna Dawson as its director for the Board of Directors of the Consortium.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board does hereby designate Village Manager Nathan Nagle as the Alternate Director to attend meetings of the governing board of the Consortium when Ms. Dawson cannot attend, he is authorized to exercise the Village's voting authority in that capacity.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Maloney	Aye
Trustee Goodwin	Aye
Trustee Gross	Aye
Trustee Cronin	Aye

As there was nothing further to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

/rmb

DRAFT