

Minutes
Village Board of Trustees
July 9th, 2020

A 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 Pat Gross Trustee Bill Goodwin Trustee Mark Cronin <u>Absent</u> Trustee Mike Skroszchnik	Village Manager Nate Nagle Clerk-Treas. Donna Dawson Manager's Asst. Rachel Baer Attorney John Groff
<u>Others Present</u>	
Walt Herbst, S. Main St. Caitlin McGurgan, Hulett St. Don Zeigler, Watkins Rd. Ron Swartz, 117 Renwick, Lane	Suze Wallen, Lititz, PA Ryan Wheeler, Canal St. Melanie Smith, South Ave. Mr. and Mrs. Sedlak, N. Carroll St.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:

Village Manager Nagle:

- NYS now has 19 states on travel ban
- mall opens tomorrow if they have air filters, etc.
- adult youth can now play competition games
- tournaments - only teams inside Southern Tier, however we allow our teams to travel outside if they want to

Resolution by Trustee Gross, seconded by Trustee Goodwin

BE IT RESOLVED, that the reading of the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of June 25th, 2020 be dispensed with and the same stand approved as entered by the Clerk.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Financial/Treasurer Report

Clerk-Treasurer Dawson: only just beginning of new budget year. Received through June 30 \$1,560,000 for property taxes, which is 71%. Sales tax is at 62K for this fiscal year so far. Last year at this time it was 94K.

Health Insurance for Board Members (*cont'd discussion*)

Mayor Maloney asked for a motion to table this until the August 13th meeting. Trustee Gross made the motion, seconded by Trustee Goodwin.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolution by Trustee Gross, seconded by Trustee Cronin

BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Planning Board Meeting of June 22nd, 2020 be received and placed on file in the Village Clerk's Office.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Manager Nagle - we printed out one copy, 700 pages. Village part is just a few pages. A lot of data, lots of charts, etc. based upon natural disaster, snow events, storms, floods, etc. Two of the major items in this document is generator for Public Works garage, and generators for Wells 1 and 2. Education of public on floods. It is to be reviewed by haz mit team every 3-5 years.

Resolution by Trustee Goodwin, seconded by Trustee Gross

WHEREAS, the Village of Horseheads, with the assistance from H2O Partners and Chemung County Office of Fire and Emergency Management, has gathered information and prepared the Chemung County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Chemung County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Horseheads is a local unit of government that has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input in the Plan and the actions in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Village has reviewed the Plan and affirms that the Plan will be updated no less than every five years;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village of Horseheads Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Chemung County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as this jurisdiction's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions in the Plan.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Audience Participation

Ryan Wheeler, Canal St. - I'm here to speak about the Board's desire to have health insurance. This was discontinued years ago for the Board, in lieu of a bump in their salaries. And now you also have cell phones. In 2015, there was a resolution about the Fire Department not wanting to participate in an awards program. I was a member then and I don't remember being asked. This insurance for all Board Members will cost \$100,000 per year, and what about judges. How come this wasn't discussed in the budget process. How much will this increase for the taxpayers. Fire Dept. could use money for a paid driver.

Walt Herbst, S. Main St. - I'm here at the request of a number of residents opposed to health insurance for the Board. I was the one that originally offered the resolution to rescind health insurance for the BOT. The Board's salary in 2008 was \$3400 plus insurance. The resolution that I offered ended health insurance but also increased salary by 5k to compensate. So now you ran for office on the premise that you wanted to improve the Village. Why then do you wish to pass this for your own self-benefit. This is directly contradictory to the reason why people voted for you. Also, in your considerations you have to include all elected officials - Judges - if you don't its discriminatory. Third, it seems misleading to speak in terms of it costing \$11,000 with not mentioning the \$13k for the deductible. So we are talking about \$24k per person x 5 or \$120,000 per year; \$168,000 if you include the Judges. There has been no mention of continuing this into retirement, but it seems a likely conclusion, and if so, using average numbers, this approaches \$1Million in unfunded liability. Why? What justification is there? I was contacted because residents thought your salary was \$8k but its actually \$10k. There are roughly 20 mtgs per year, including budget mtgs. Let's say they run 2 hours per meeting. Plus add in the calls and emails. In a year its probably about 50 hours plus 40 hrs. of prep time.

That's 90 hrs. Divided out is \$110/hr . Your addition of health insurance needs compelling justification. If you're going to give yourselves insurance you should drop your salary back to \$3400. Your residents voted you into office not to benefit yourself. Is this award of insurance during your term possible under Article 3? And if so what is the impact on current terms of office. It also raises the further issue of HRA payments which are subject to the same prohibition under Article 3. I urge you to consider the reason you ran for office, to better this Village. Adopting insurance for yourselves does not benefit the residents. And the perception of this to the public is not in your best interest, especially in our current economic climate, and all the unemployed people in this area. Please do not add health insurance for elected officials.

Caitlin McGurgan, Hulett St. - I appreciate this matter because I used to be a Trustee. I do keep a close eye on the minutes, etc. Now I have a small child. Village Board changed in 2008 with salary increase and giving up health ins. Since then I've witnessed several of you run campaigns on keeping the Village financially healthy. In 2019 you got a 25% salary increase. On May 28 of this year you voted to give yourselves cell phones. At the same meeting you didn't want to fill the Managers Asst. position. This has happened a lot over the years. Cost to each Board member for insurance is \$24,000. You all ran knowing this position did not include insurance. What about insurance for your part-time employees. Has anyone actually crunched all these numbers. In this economic climate, I argue that this is entirely self-serving. No doubt sales tax revenue is dropping from COVID. You should not move forward with this. You're already cutting jobs, sharing services, etc., yet giving yourselves raises, phones, and now health insurance. This while many are struggling or out of work. This will definitely result in a tax increase. People will take note. I implore you to not consider this.

Ron Swartz, Renwick lane - I support everything that has already been said. I will not support anyone that votes for this. You cannot vote yourselves raises and health insurance.

Ron Swartz then presented to the Board a photo from 1995 when the Teal Park Bandstand was first restored. He noted that the bandstand needs some repairs now again, the roof especially.

Mrs. Sedlak, 119 Orchard St. - are there any suggestions to our parking situation since the last meeting. We also own a house on the corner of Sayre and South Avenue. When we had the storm the other day it totally flooded that street. Basement of one of our houses was flooded. There are four or five dry wells in that area and only two of them were working. When will something happen to fix this.

Melanie Smith, South Ave. - I don't need to repeat what others said on health insurance. There was a 4.9% increase in Village taxes. School and County taxes will be higher too. So with health insurance it adds a lot. I work for a company who provides health insurance. You need to get your insurance from your full time jobs, or from retirement, etc. You're opening up a can of worms for other part timers, and judges. We can't take this kind of increase here.

Manager's Report

- 2020 Paving/Road Project(s) - Paving was completed on N. Carrol, Mill St, Adams St today. Westlake was started late this afternoon. Westlake and Highland Ave will be completed tomorrow.
- Fire Chief - Chief Sullivan has returned to no restriction duty.

- Moody Testing (Round 2)- Reminder that testing for our Susquehanna River Basin renewal permit started Tuesday. Tuesday/Wednesday we did not run the Filter Plant. Today thru Saturday, possibly Sunday the Filter Plant is being monitored 24hrs with readings every hour. At the conclusion of the next 3-4 days we will not run the Filter Plant for 48hrs. It may be possible over the next 3-4 days that residents may smell chlorine in their water. This is due to the higher level of chlorine so that we may have the proper contact time. The higher level(s) is still well within the proper limits.
- I have been approached by permanent part-time employees, that they also are interested in insurance if the Board gets it.
- We're awaiting the background check on our candidate for the Manager's Asst. position.
- Donna hired a part time seasonal clerk- started last Monday - here until August
- NYS Police Reform & Reinvention - First meeting was original scheduled for this past Wednesday, has been rescheduled for next week the 15th.
- On the Bandstand, we are painting it this year. Since we didn't open the pool, several recreation staff will be working on it. Roof is part of our capital plans, which have been paused for the moment. Roof will cost 8k to replace.
- Sayre Street Yield Sign - Due to the paving expedited paving schedule the Sayre Street yield sign will be installed next week.
- I will mention Sayre Street drywells to the DPW department.
- Trustee Gross and Mayor Maloney asked me about 709 Sayre St., and possibly structural safety violations present. I talked to Code Enf. who report that there are no structural safety violations present. Bldg. permit has expired, but no structure issues. No violations at this time. Someone does mow the property.
- Trustee Gross mentioned that she wants to do another drive around to see Fire Dept., garage, looking at sidewalks, roads, property management, tall grass, etc., and she also suggested we create a meet and greet session for police officers with the trustees.
- I will be out of office next Tues, Wed, Thurs.

Manager Nagle - I received a letter from Mike Edwards that he requested be read into the minutes:

Health Insurance

Around the year 2013 the Town of Horseheads eliminated Health insurance on future, Town Supervisors, Councilmen, Judges and the Town Attorney. This

was done because health insurance premiums were rising uncontrollably. Health insurance is a benefit offered to only our full time employees. The positions mentioned above are not full time employees.

The village, I believe, also did something similar.

The last three years the village has raised the real estate tax 4.7%, 2.8% and 5.9%.. The economy is in a downfall and sales tax revenue is dropping. All local governments are concerned about revenues.

So why would you be thinking about providing part-time elected officials with health insurance, adding an additional expense that will be passed on to the taxpayer. I am available to discuss this letter.

Mike Edwards

Trustee Gross:

- We are going to set up more field trips for the board
- No suggestion for Sedlaks

Trustee Goodwin:

- On July 2nd I heard loud fireworks near my house, Officer Pat Audinwood came up, heard it from Broad St., he took care of problem, excellent police work.
- What is illegal for fireworks, anything worse than sparklers is against the law.
- What is status Matthew circle telephone poles - reflectors, etc. Nate - I'll have to check with DPW
- Jake break noise from trucks on Westinghouse Road. We used to have decibel signs. I think this needs to be addressed again.

Atty. Groff:

- Fireworks, there is a permit system in the Village. Private individuals can get one, though I don't think we've ever done that.
- Verizon cell antennae. Three applications before us, our Planning Board discussed this earlier this week. They waived the 15' above-grade requirement. At their next mtg on 7/27 they will do the SEQR.
- Diamond Gym tax assessment challenge, resulted in payback of \$1800.
- Cyber security - Village adopted a law years ago. Protects the preservation of private information on individuals. This law has been expanded by NYS and makes more personal info protected now. You will receive a draft of an updated law.
- KFC stormwater maintenance agmt. That's been reviewed by the County, we will be proposing modifications.

- NYS adopted a law regarding police reform. Expanded FOIL to make more info on law enforcement personnel open to the public. We have to develop a plan for improving our police activity relating to the community. That program is likely to be developed in conjunction with Chemung County.

Trustee Gross - I'd like to see the results of having the extra officer on for 4th of July weekend.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

/rmb

DRAFT