

Minutes

Village Board of Trustees

October 23, 2014

A meeting of the Village of Horseheads Board of Trustees was held on the above date at 8:30 A.M.

Present were:

Village Board and Staff

Mayor Donald Zeigler
Trustee Ron Swartz
Trustee George Koliwasky
Trustee Caitlin McGurgan
Village Manager Walt Herbst
Village Atty. John Groff

Clerk-Treasurer Sharron Cunningham
Manager's Asst. Rachel Baer
DPW Matt Mustico
Code Enf. Bob Young

Absent

Trustee Mike Skroskznik

Others

Dave Padgett, W. Franklin St.
Wayne Brubaker, Gardner Rd.
Tom Rupp, Tift Ave.

Brad Lytle, Grand Central Ave.
Jean Quinn, Gardner Rd.
Dave Radin, S. Main St.

Resolution by Trustee Swartz, seconded by Trustee Koliwasky

BE IT RESOLVED, that the reading of the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of October 9, 2014 be dispensed with and the same stand approved as entered by the Clerk.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Zeigler	Aye
Trustee Swartz	Aye
Trustee Koliwasky	Aye
Trustee McGurgan	Aye

Audience Participation -

Brad Lytle, Grand Central Ave. - commend you putting something in newspaper about bonding issue. Will there be a public hearing or workshop on this? Also - caution signs for crosswalks. I believe you would place one by library. I think it's important to have one there where children cross. Also - recurring question about police chief. I know you're working on it. The citizens just don't know what's going on. Hope you can address this.

Jean Quinn, Gardner Road - I suggest that there be a workshop on the bonds. Is it going to raise our taxes? If you're paying out \$20k a month, where is it coming from. Also - the morning meetings. How many people are here for this. I don't like it. You have two board members with important jobs. I suggest you go back to both night meetings.

Resolution by Trustee Koliwasky, seconded by Trustee McGurgan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Planning Board Meeting of October 14, 2014 be received and placed on file in the Village Clerk's Office.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Zeigler	Aye
Trustee Swartz	Aye
Trustee Koliwasky	Aye
Trustee McGurgan	Aye

Discussion: SEQR Review - Well 4 and 5 Inter-Connection

Atty. Groff - this project is subject is to SEQR review. Wendell has provided us with documents. Village would send request to other interested agencies about our acting as lead agency. We would conduct a coordinated review. In this case the Village Board would seek to be appointed as lead agency. We then give them 30 days to react. If they do nothing it deems to be an approval of our being lead agency. So these notices will be going out. Other part is the Part 1 of the SEQR short form. That would be provided to these agencies. Part 2 is where you analyze the environmental impacts. Part 3 is the determination.

Trustee Koliwasky - seeing that this is actually located in the Town why aren't they lead agency.

Atty. Groff - they aren't a permitting agency. And they're not involved in doing it or paying for it. And not involved in the benefit of the project. Predominate impacts are Village related. Purpose of this is to initiate that kind of dialogue.

Resolution by Trustee Swartz, seconded by Trustee McGurgan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the hours for Halloween in the Village of Horseheads will be 5:30pm - 8:00pm on Friday, October 31, 2014.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Zeigler	Aye
Trustee Swartz	Aye
Trustee Koliwasky	Aye
Trustee McGurgan	Aye

Trustee Koliwasky - regarding the bonding. There has been many workshops and its been discussed at board meetings. If wants to have another one to discuss it that fine. On the morning meetings - I'm the one that made the resolution and I stand by it. Not even 1% out there are present no matter when the meeting is. A big meeting on a normal day is 8-10 people. All I can say is I brought it up and we voted on it. I can't drag people to a meeting. We have all the administration and department heads here if we have questions at the morning meetings. Except for a small cluster of people this is the first I've heard of complaints. Caitlin knew this when she took the job. Mike knows about it. It wasn't directed at him. I can't help public perception. I think it works well. Gives everyone an opportunity to attend.

Trustee Swartz - I agree morning meetings are not a problem. Village staff can be here to answer questions.

Trustee McGurgan - I have a question on the manhole covers out there. On Grand Central Ave.

Manager Herbst - those are the sewers controlled by the County. They are responsible for putting risers in. But we have filled in the gap with blacktop. We are working on getting County to buy risers that we would put in. In the mean time we try to do the blacktop.

Trustee McGurgan - At Thorne St. Park there will be a Halloween event on the 29th, from 5-7, sponsored by Kiwanis. Also on the morning meetings - I see both sides but after 7 months it has zero to do on whether I can be present. I haven't missed one. I don't think the general public at large likes it. Many people have commented they can't be here. But I do feel some people try to come. Furthermore, Mike Skroszknik couldn't be here today. A conversation should take place and get the ball rolling. Probably be a vote at the end of that. I would suggest that we discuss it and think about next year.

Atty. Groff - The Planning Bd. and ZBA are considering a cell tower application. Proposed location is east of the Fire Dept. off N. Main. Applicant has been provided with alternate sites to consider. Village has retained some consultants to assist in review of the application. Materials have been submitted to consultant. Verizon is not happy with the choice we made for consultants. They question the qualifications of the consultant. Consultant says that's interesting because other Verizon apps they have consulted on their credentials have not been questioned. Proposed sites were seen visually by consultant,. They are in process of reviewing the applicants materials. Prelim report submitted by the Plan. Bd. meeting next Tuesday. The ZBA meets on Oct. 30th. ZBA will likely have more than one meeting. Many ZBA members have attended PB meetings so they are familiarizing themselves. Role of the PB is to review and recommend. The ZBA is the deciding party. Review process for a cell tower app is not same for other variances. The criteria for cell towers is based on demonstration of need. They are treated as a public utility. If applicant can demonstrate need then under the state laws and federal regulations the tower will be where they propose. Does not take into consideration zoning limitations. That goes both to location and characteristics such as height, etc.

Trustee McGurgan - I went to the Planning Board Mtg. I got the impression they never gave clear answers on what point outside margins will they accept any other location.

Atty. Groff - we have asked them to consider 7 diff locations. We offered them 3 early on and

supplemented with 4 others. They looked at first 3 and studied them and results they supplied said they didn't meet their needs for various different reasons. That is their position. Whether that is proven or not. When they get before the ZBA they will have to convince them. They are suggesting that alternate locations do not serve their needs. There are many technical issues. Their trying to serve areas that have dense population and dense use. Some of the locations we asked them to see would take what they claim to be their service area away from densely populated areas. Whether new sites we suggested are good we don't know yet. We asked to consider: T&C fire station, Lighthouse Baptist Church, Gardner Road ball field, soccer field area on Broad St. which is part of cemetery. We've asked them to look at these because they are closer to population areas they claim they are serving because we thought it may be suitable. If they were to select one of these it might be less visually intrusive.

Manager Herbst - I had the opportunity to spend some time with Nate at National Parks Convention. It was very impressive. Came away with new appreciation for what Nate and his staff does. He'll come back with some very good ideas. As far as the bonding for energy, this first started in 2010. We've had several presentations from Wendell. We had one last month. As well as workshop on the bonds three weeks ago. In addition to that we've talked about this in Star Gazette, and in the newsletter. Will there be a tax increase - NO. That is guaranteed. That's the whole purpose. Contract uses savings in utility costs to pay for bonding. Because it's all calculated out they guarantee there will not be any cost increase. If we spend 1000 now and this reduces cost to 600 then they guarantee that 400 savings will pay for improvements and bond and interest on bond - guaranteed. At the end of this it was 500-600K to the good above and beyond the guaranteed savings. Our accountant was in favor of this. Thought it was a good program. It will not raise taxes.

Manager Herbst - pedestrian caution signs are problematic. We put them out and in 5 min one had been hit already. Nobody has stopped to say they hit it. They are \$400 a piece. We have purchased new ones but we are also getting a template to paint warnings in the street preceding the crosswalk. Library location is good idea.

Manager Herbst - on the Police chief- working with civil service. We spend \$100K a year for this position. Sgt. Zelko filling in but he has said he is not interested in being the permanent chief. He plans to stay on as an officer. The civil service test is required for this position. That test will be given in March 2016. What we can do is appoint someone provisionally. That person has to take the test and be in the top 3.

Manager Herbst - On the morning meetings, one point made was the morning meeting allows those who can't come at night to attend. Not having a morning meeting precludes that. There are many residents who don't attend the night meetings.

Matt Mustico - on the manholes, county has different size risers but don't fit some holes. Various depths. Talking to someone about an adjustable one. Don't know if county will pay for those. We'll have to get a price and see if they will pay for them.

Mayor Zeigler - those crosswalks signs, \$400 each and they last one day. That is a NYS law that you have to stop. At all crosswalks. Also - The morning meetings. I don't think anyone's schedule conflicted more than mine. When I took the job I knew what I needed to do. It goes with the turf. The job is what the job is. I like the fact that I can ask the staff questions. We are not picking on anyone. That's not what this is about. I'm not going to say how I would vote. If you want to be involved on this board, you have to be ready to work. This sales tax issue is huge. It's going to hurt everybody. I want board members in this office weekly to talk to the Manager and see what is going on.

Dave Radin - ZBA is taking cell tower seriously. I think this will come down to whether we believe our consultant or Verizon. We can't just say we don't like how it looks. On the other hand I don't think my board should be the ones who say to our young people that we're the ones who say no to technology. We want to do what is right for the village. Question becomes do you have to build it there.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

/rmb