**Present:** Anthony Evans, Mayor

Vincent Pascucci, Trustee

Michael DeBarbieri, Trustee

Francisco Morales, Trustee

Thomas A. Crosson, Treasurer

Ben Smith, Attorney

Ed Jennings, Code Enforcement

Andrew Hall, DPW Supervisor

**Excused:** Mark Crosson

**Attendees:** Chad Caldwell

Bob Fischer

Holly Fischer

Bob Johnstone

Becky Johnstone

Steve Bell

Tysheen Roundtree

Meeting opened at 6 p.m. with the pledge to the flag.

**MOTION:**  was made to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting of January 17, 2023

**Motion: Mike DeBarbieri**  **2nd: Joe McLarney ALL AYES**

**MOTION:** to approve revised Abstract #009, Voucher #14, #259-261,

#876-913 in the amount of $ 65,278.03

**Motion:** Joe McLarney **2nd:**  Vince Pascucci **ALL AYES**

**Mayor’s Report** –

* Mayor Evans met with Deputy Mayor Joe McLarney & Ward Near and they have been working on the updated Village Policy/Procedure. Copies were given to the Board members, Dept Heads and Village attorney at the meeting to review and make suggestions, questions or concerns to be returned to the Village Office by Tuesday, February 28th. A final review will be scheduled with McLarney, Near & Evans in the near future.
* Met with Tom Simon/PCS Superintendent and Bob Fischer to re-examine the old Safe Routes to School grant. Tony has also been in contact with NYS DOT. We hope to possibly get new sidewalks, new trails, etc. It was first proposed about 11 years ago.
* Attended 2 NYCOM workshops at JCC/Olean re. “Municipal Ethics” and “Local Official’s Training.”
* Attended the Republican caucus at the Village Court Room
* Obtained Letters of Support from Senator Borrello and Assemblyman Giglio for a new round of funding that Schumer has announced. He also continues in talks with new Representative Nicholas Langworthy regarding our infrastructure projects.
* The DEC Consent Order Park Project re-draft needs to be completed and submitted to DEC by April 2023. We have been working with DEC on a reduced fine involving an environmental benefit project. DEC attorney, Karen Draves shared that we provide our fine of $7,830 to a third party for the creation of a hellbender habitat in our community. Motion to support this project and to alleviate our penalty/fine.

**Motion:** Mike DeBarbieri 2nd Vince Pascucci ALL AYES

- Today we were informed that our Village has been approved as a Tree City USA. On March 23 in Baldwinsville, NY there will be a celebration that Tony and Bob Johnstone/Tree Committee Chairman will register to attend.

- The Mayor introduced Tysheen Roundtree of Solar on Earth who

attended today’s meeting. He is vouched for by Tim Emley/Town Supervisor. Solar on Earth will sign residents up for a 10% credit back on their National Grid electric bill due to having Solar Farms in our community. All residents, businesses and the Village are eligible for the discount. Tysheen explained we all pay a “clean energy” fee on our utility bills and since we pay it, we are eligible for the 10% credit. RG & E utility is only eligible for a 5% credit since there are not many solar farms in their catchment area. Tysheen obtained a Peddler’s Permit from the Village and will be going door to door. Residents and businesses may also drop off a copy of their National Grid bill (pages 1 & 2) and complete an application at the Village Office and Tysheen can pick them up weekly from the Office. There was a motion to support the efforts of Solar On Earth and their “door to door” presence in the Village (and other ways to facilitate savings).

**Motion:** Mike DeBarbieri 2nd: Vince Pascucci All YEAs except McLarney voted NO.

**Justice Report** - Full Report placed on file.

**Police Report** - Full Report placed on file.

- Patrols responded to 30 calls for service (16 in the Town and 14 in the Village); two arrests & 15 traffic tickets issued.

- Chief Crosson & Officer Crosson attended an on-line training class for changes with the “raise the age” and changes in NYS Juvenile Justice System.

- We are still waiting on the body camera grant from NYS.

- The Department remains short of police officers. We are hoping to hire retired personnel from nearby agencies. Seth Farrand was recently hired as a part-time patrol officer.

Motion to accept the hiring of Seth Farrand

**Motion:** Joe McLarney 2nd: Mike DeBarbieri

**Code Enforcement Report** – Nothing to report

* A Village resident (SB) expressed concerns regarding his neighbor’s yard, dog feces/urine (large dogs void and is never picked up.) Grass rarely mowed in summer months. Codes will look into this. DeBarbieri stated that this has been an ongoing issue for about 20 years, as he was involved with this resident years ago regarding these same concerns. Code Enforcement will look into this.

**DPW Report** - Full Report placed on file.

- Andy Hall reported the garbage cans have been full of construction materials lately. The DPW dumpster is also being used by others (home garbage.)

- 22 Temple St will be torn down by the Baptist Church – also dealt with a water leak at this location

- continued work on the S. Well computer system

- Cleaning DPW shop, installed water lines/hoses so trucks & equipment can easily be washed.

- plowing/salting continued

- fabricated metal railing for in front of Subway which will be re-installed.

- Andy reported we are going to need to replace one of our mowers this spring, as we have been having issues with it running. He obtained estimates last Fall.

**General Codes Committee** – The committee has begun meeting again and are working on completing this project. Park hours and inspection of rental of apartments is being discussed. Code Enforcement and Police Chief will be having input as well.

**Old & New Business –**

-Resident (BH) addressed the Board as he has remodeled 96 S. Main St. Had 4 water meters, a couple were pulled (no record of it in the water books) and is still being charged the minimum fee on meters not being used. His bills were reviewed and only 1 meter is in use. No shut off fees have been paid. DPW & DeBarbieri will physically look at the meters at this location tomorrow. It was agreed that once the 3 lines are capped and no longer accessible, the extra water/sewer billing will stop. Since BH has been overpaying for years, the $50 shut off fees will be waived. User will continue to pay the quarterly sewer debt on one meter.

* Mayor Evans introduced a new resolution to be able to hire staff

from outside Cattaraugus County. Tony spoke with the NYCOM attorney’s, our Assemblyman & Senator. They stated they need this resolution first and then it will be addressed at the State level on our behalf. Preference is to be given to candidates who live in the Village vs. outside the Village but we will obviously hire the best qualified candidate. Home Rule Law issues were presented by our attorney who will check into best way to proceed. This was tabled to allow our attorney to discuss this with John Mancini of NYCOM.

Park Rentals: The Village has historically had the Board officially approve applications in a formal vote and years ago, this practice stopped, therefore we would like to once again have the Board approve such rentals for transparency.

\*Abby Irving requested to rent Pioneers Park on June 10 for a wedding. This was approved by the Board.

Motion: Joe McLarney 2nd Vince Pascucci All Ayes

Request to use Pioneers Park on July 10,11,12 (8-4) ,13 (8-9 pm) by Cheri Maxson PCS Drama Camp Advisor discussed. Rental fee for the school is waived.

Motion: Mike DeBarbieri 2nd: Fran Morales ALL AYES

Village elections will be on March 21, 2023. Trustees Vince Pascucci & Frank Morales will not seek re-election. A Republican caucus was held in February. Tony Evans was nominated to run for Mayor. Ron Lott and Matt Reisman were nominated to run as Board Trustees. No Democratic Caucasus was held.

Debit card for Village expenses still being looked into and needed. Tony discussed this with Community Bank. There are no fees and individual staff names will be on each card so if they leave their employment, the Bank will remove their name from the account.

Tony spoke with Five Star Bank regarding possibly switching to their bank for our financial needs since Community Bank closed in the Town & Village. Deposits must now be driven to the Olean bank by various staff. If our Clerk does the deposit, we must pay her overtime. As of now, we will remain with Community Bank and Tony or other Village staff will complete the deposits to prevent overtime. There is legislation in with NYS to allow municipalities to utilize Credit Unions. As it is now, Credit Unions cannot handle public funds.

Online/electronic water-billing payment services are being looked into and information from Williamson & Law was disseminated to the Board to review.

Next Board Meeting will held: Monday March 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. where the preliminary 2023-24 Budget will be presented.

On Monday, April 3 at 6 p.m. is the Annual Organizational Meeting

On Monday, April 17 at 5:00 p.m., there is a Public Hearing on Budget and the regular Board meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Motion to go in Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. Called to order at 7:25 p.m.

**Motion:** Joe McLarney 2nd: Mike DeBarbieri **ALL AYES**

**Executive Session/Board Meeting Adjourned at 7:53 p.m.**

**Motion to end the meeting:**

**Motion:** Mike DeBarbieri **2nd:** Vince Pascucci **ALL AYES**

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Tony Evans, Mayor**