

# Village of Portville

## Board Meeting

### July 18, 2022

**Present:** Anthony Evans, Mayor  
Joseph McLarney, Deputy Mayor  
Vincent Pascucci, Trustee  
Michael DeBarbieri, Trustee  
Francisco Morales, Trustee  
Thomas A. Crosson, Treasurer  
Oriana Osgood, Clerk  
Andrew Hall, DPW Supervisor  
Mark Crosson, Police Chief  
Benjamin Smith, Village Attorney

**Excused:** Ed Jennings, Code Enforcement

**Attendees:** Syd Evans  
Bob Fischer  
Holly Fischer  
Chad Caldwell  
Becky Johnstone  
Bob Johnstone  
John Krist  
Mindy DeYoe  
Cindy Wagner, Olean Times Herald

Meeting opened with the pledge to the flag at 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** was made to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2022.

**Motion:** Vincent Pascucci

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Joseph McLarney

**ALL AYES**

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**MOTION:** to resubmit and approve Abstract #013 as Abstract #001 to accurately reflect the first month of the new Fiscal Year with the following changes: Abstract #001 Vouchers #6, #230-#233, #518-#533, #535-#561 in the amount of \$35,772.81 and previously paid Voucher #534 deleted from Abstract #013, now Abstract #001. Mr. Crosson explained this easy error to everyone's satisfaction.

**Motion:** Michael DeBarbieri                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Vincent Pascucci                      **ALL AYES**

**MOTION:** to approve current Abstract #002 Vouchers #3, 4, and 5, #230-#231, #600-#650 in the amount of \$91,514.13

**Motion:** Joseph McLarney                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Michael DeBarbieri                      **ALL AYES**

#### **MAYOR REPORT**

The Pine Street property survey has been completed. A Quick Claim Deed will be drafted with Chad Caldwell, who had the highest sealed bid for the property. Ben Smith will review and begin the closing process.

Mayor Evans approached Cubic Storage about purchasing the small piece of property on Maple Avenue from the Village. The Village Salt Barn once stood on this property but it is no longer used. They agreed to an \$800 price. The property is approx. 50x50 and is next to Cubic Storage property. It is too small for anyone to build, etc. Ben and Tony will discuss how to proceed with this sale. Board previously voted that said property was useless to the Village and to approve the sale.

Tony thanked the PCS Drama Club and showed the t-shirt & poster the kids all signed to be presented to the Board for their appreciation as the Village does not charge the school for Park use. Andy/DPW reported the group was very respectful and made sure to clean up after each day. About sixty kids participated in the program with approximately 300 in attendance at their final performance on Thursday evening. This followed a good attendance for Wednesday's "Music in the Park," which further demonstrates the vast usage and popularity of Pioneers Park.

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Also held in Pioneers Park on Saturday was Heritage Day 2022 (7/16) which was a HUGE success with hundreds in attendance! Bob Fischer reported the day went very well with the vendors, visitors & car show, which had 109 vehicles, 2 bikes & a tractor. The community contributions for the car show door prizes were outstanding. So many people donated baskets, gift cards, etc. that a raffle evolved and was held to raise money for the bandstand/park restoration project. A rough estimate of how much was raised was \$2,500 from the raffle and an additional \$1000 in cash donations were received! Karen Cornell organized the basket raffle and did an awesome job. Her son, Dana Cornell, kicked off this fundraising event with a \$500 donation! Bob stated he couldn't have organized and held this great event without the community volunteers and was appreciative to each one.

The Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce (GOACC) Santa Claus Lane Christmas ornament (of the Bandstand) began being sold at Heritage Day. 82 were purchased! Anyone interested in purchasing one can pick them up at the Village office, Rusty Rooster store or GOACC office in Olean; soon online with GOACC. The cost of the important piece of Portville memorabilia is \$25.

Andy Hall & Todd Shaw continue to work on obtaining estimates for the Mayor for work needed on the bandstand, electrical system, walkway & parking lot. Tony has approached some private funding for this as well but the request won't be reviewed until October. He and others will continue to fund-raise.

No smoking/alcohol law signs arrived from Reality Check who paid for them. They will be put up in our parks once the new law has been registered with NYS. Tony will contact Dave Suain regarding same signage for the Little League Park as the Village leases (\$1/year) and maintains this

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property for use by our kids. A standard and uniform approach to all parks used by children, youth and families within the Village is optimal.

The Village received notification that we will receive the second payment (received \$49,000 last year) of ARPA money (\$49,000.) NYCOM and Barton/Loguidice both encouraged us not to spend this money yet and to carefully consider the reporting guidelines.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, July 19, our Chief Engineer Matt Zarbo will be touring Portville with several engineers from B&L to work on their plans for the submission of pre-construction documents. Tony, Bob Fischer, Andy Hall & Todd Shaw will meet with them as well.

Tony reports that he is very pleased with the current “team” of Village officials we now have who all are working hard and we are making strides in moving the Village forward.

The Clerk was out of the office for a couple of weeks, our very old computers crashed so we had to purchase new computers for the office. Due to all of this, the office got behind on a few things and are working hard to catch up. In spite of FOILS, etc. the Mayor asked for patience as we are catching up and all requests will be considered accordingly.

181 S. Main Street, which is in the Town, is now owned by Cattaraugus County and last week the Sheriff’s Dept was finally able to remove the “squatters” who had “lived” there for 2 years. Calls to the Town Supervisor and Code Enforcement by several citizens have gone unanswered so Tony received and fielded many and frequent calls. Finally, he and Legislator Joe Snyder intervened with Cattaraugus County to get some “movement.” Recently, Tony visited the outside of the property with Chief Crosson, County Sheriffs and State Troopers and the place is deplorable and absolutely disgusting with garbage, clothing, household items, food, etc. strewn about the large lot. The inside was worse. No one

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can fathom that such has been going on for so long. The County Land Bank will be taking possession and will soon be tearing it down and property sold.

Cattaraugus County Legislators proposed a Redistricting Proposal to reduce the number of Legislators and to redraw the district lines. As proposed, this will lump Portville in with the City of Olean, which will not be beneficial to the Village. Mayor Evans wrote a letter to the County Legislators stating our opposition to the proposal, as it stands. After discussion, all Board members read and signed the letter, which will be sent to all County Legislators. The Towns of Portville, Hinsdale and Ischua also plan to do the same.

**JUSTICE REPORT** – Placed on file

**POLICE REPORT** – Placed on file

Mayor Evans read Police Chief Crosson's report, as he was present at a trial at the Town of Portville Court. Chief Crosson requested AED's for both police cruisers (he's performed CPR 3 times on residents,) body cameras/tasers and a Stinger type system. Ben Smith, Village Attorney reported that body cameras will become law in the near future and that all law enforcement should wear them. He added that AED's are required by law. Mark arrived from court during the discussion and explained the need for each and what each piece was used for. Mark also discussed the idea of leasing Police Vehicles instead of purchasing them. Other locales are doing this and they receive a fully loaded new vehicle every three years at a cost of \$13,500/year. Both of our cruisers are in good shape but he would like to start thinking about trading in our 2018 model and possibly leasing. Discussions to continue on this topic. After much discussion, the Board agreed to purchase 2 body cameras/tasers (about \$3,600/year & includes training and are replaced every 5 yrs. with new ones) 2 AED's (\$1500 each) and 2 Stinger systems (\$1500 for both) so each vehicle will be equipped with each. Also discussed was the shortage of law enforcement to work

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nationwide. It was agreed to increase the officer's hourly wage from \$18 to \$20/per hour in order to keep up with neighboring communities and to help with retention of our current officers/enticing others to work for the Village. Austen Darcy has verbally resigned but Mark hasn't received his resignation letter. Austen plans to leave law enforcement to follow a different path. The Town of Portville approved a new 5-year contract with the Village Police Department for shared services.

**MOTION:** was made to approve purchases of 2 (two) body cameras/tasers, 2 (two) Stinger System, 2 (two) AED's and purchases not to exceed a total of \$8,500.00.

**Moved:** Vincent Pascucci                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Michael DeBarbieri    **ALL AYES**

**MOTION:** was made to approve a new rate of pay for the Village of Portville Police Department. The current compensation rate of \$18 per hour was established. The change in the hourly rate will allow the Portville Police Department to help with retention of current Police Officers and to effectively recruit Police Officers. The new rate of pay for the Portville Police Officers is set at an hourly rate of \$20.00 effective August 1, 2022.

**Moved:** Vincent Pascucci                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Francisco Morales    **ALL AYES**

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** – Placed on file.

**DPW REPORT** – Placed on file

Andy reported that things are going well. He has met with the school, cemetery staff and all plan to work together. Shared services continue with the Town and is going great. They had a water main break recently on Temple St. There was a problem at the Sewer plant that Todd Shaw helped resolve. Andy, Matt Chiapuso, Teddan Shaw as well as Todd Shaw attended 2B & D water courses at Jamestown Community College/Olean, so all staff will eventually be licensed. Bed 1 at the Sewer Treatment Plant has been weeded. A root rake was fabricated to help dig the huge weeds in

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the other beds with a mini-excavator. They have contacted someone about having the main septic tank pumped. Water meter readings have been completed. Mowing continues, parks and park bathrooms are being cleaned daily. Landscaping was completed on the corner of Maple Ave/Main Street where the bushes were removed due to a hydrant repair months ago. Andy has been gathering estimates for work to be done on the Bandstand in Pioneers Park.

#### **CODES COMMITTEE:**

Not much to report as of now, as Bob Fischer and others have been busy planning Heritage Day.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

John Krist invoiced the Village for his back up water treatment coverage as required by Cattaraugus County Health Dept. When John left his employment with the Village on April 1, 2022, he and the Mayor had a “gentleman’s agreement” and John said nothing about charges. The Village paid for John to become licensed. John has just now begun billing the Village \$139 for each license and dropped off an April statement at the Village Office recently. He informed Village staff that the Village could expect monthly statements going forward, with penalties for late payment. Tony publicly inquired about this with John and requested an itemization of work. John replied that it was on a per diem basis. He stated that he is also in daily contact with the current licensed operator (Tony Aloï), frequently stops at the Sewer Plant make sure the testing is done correctly, was on hand for a water main break within the past couple of weeks, etc. The Board had no problem paying the bill but wanted to know what it was for as it was not documented on the bill. John also stated he gave a letter to DPW worker Matt Chiapuso to obtain his water license but no one on the Board, nor the DPW Superintendent was aware of it.

The Village previously received a letter from Terri Mott reporting she was overbilled for refuse and asked the Board to look into this, to which they

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agreed. Mr. DeBarbieri is working on this and a few other issues with about 8 residents.

**Next Board Meeting will be held on:** Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to Enter Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations at 7:37 p.m.

**Motion:** Vincent Pascucci                      **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Joseph McLarney                      **ALL AYES**

Motion to Adjourn Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

**Motion:** Vincent Pascucci                      **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Francisco Morales                      **ALL AYES**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

**Motion:** Vincent Pascucci                      **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Francisco Morales                      **ALL AYES**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Oriana Osgood