

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MEDINA HELD ON MONDAY MAY 20, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER.

Present: Mayor Marguerite Sherman
Trustees Jessica Marciano, Diana Baker, Deborah Padoleski, and Mark Prawel
Fire Chief Jackson, Code Enforcement Officer Daniel Gardner, and Superintendent of Public Works Jason Watts

Excused: Attorney Matthew Brooks, Police Chief Todd Draper

Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sherman opened the first public comment period.

Ms. Jean Wetherbee said there are low hanging branches at the corner of Elm Street and Hedley Street and that they are eye level. She requested that they are trimmed.

Ms. Mary Hare questioned the residential reassessments and asked if commercial properties were reassessed also. She said she was trying to understand the process.

Mayor Sherman said that herself, Deputy Mayor Padoleski and Clerk-Treasurer Burgess had met with Julie Cecchini, the assessor for both towns and with Dawn Allen who is the director of real property in Orleans County as the Village had the same concerns. Trustee Padoleski said that the Village was assured that every property was reassessed. Trustee Prawel said he had also talked with Ms. Cecchini and that property owners could stop by her office to discuss any concerns. Trustee Marciano said that it was her understanding the both the commercial and residential properties went through the same process at the same time. She said there are a lot of residential properties to compare to whereas the commercial properties did not have the data since commercial properties do not sell like residential properties do.

Ms. Hare said we are in the middle of inflation and some residents felt it was untimely to do reassessments. She also said that residents are under a lot of stress.

Mr. Michael Maak asked if the county assessor also handles assessments. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess said it was her understanding the County assessor is contracted with other municipalities to handle their reassessments.

Ms. Gabrielle Barone said that the EDA looked at thirteen businesses in Medina. Of those, the Village received \$217,000.00 in taxes. The Town of Shelby received \$177,000.00, the County received \$336,635.00 and the school received \$678,000.00 in tax revenue.

Ms. Hare said there are also three taxes residing in the Village. She said the economic impact is an understatement.

Mr. Joe Cardone asked about the sign ordinance and if the Village was looking into it. He said he had approached the Village Board about upgrading the sign in front of the theatre on Main Street to a lighted digital sign.

Mayor Sherman said she believed his request went to the Planning Board. Code Enforcement Gardner said at that time, the Planning Board decided not to change the ordinance.

Mr. Cardone said if the ordinance is not going to be changed, then when is the current ordinance going to be enforced. He said there are lighted, neon digital signs in several storefronts on Main Street, including the one in front of the Village office and he asked what the Village's position is on enforcing the ordinance.

Mayor Sherman said she would speak with the Planning Board and involve the Strategic Visionary Planning Committee.

Trustee Marciano asked Code Enforcement Officer Gardner if the Planning Board decided not to make a change. Code Enforcement Officer Gardner said there was no action taken. Code Enforcement Officer Gardner said he would add it back to the agenda.

Mr. James Mirand asked if there was a timeline established on the New York Forward small business grant.

Mayor Sherman said she would contact Kim Baptiste from Colliers Engineering & Design.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawl.

RESOLVED, that there be levied and assessed against the real property of the Village of Medina the following sums for Village Government and other charges for the fiscal year 2024-2025, with an estimated tax rate of \$13.96 per thousand, subject to a levy apportionment using applicable 2024 Town of Ridgeway and Town of Shelby equalization rates.

General Fund	\$3,903,200.00
Delinquent Water Rents	10,901.13
Delinquent Sewer Rents	9,129.77
Property Maintenance Charges	38,650.00
Vacant Building Registry Fees	73,245.18
Total Taxes and Charges	\$4,035,126.08

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The Clerk-Treasurer is authorized to make appropriate budget transfers within the General, Water and Sewer Funds to balance the budget.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said that the Village has been awarded a \$10,000.00 grant as part of the NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program. She asked for input on where to spend the funds. Mayor Sherman said it could be used for speed signs. Trustee Marciano said they had talked about LED holiday lighting. Superintendent Watts said that he believed Decorate Medina is looking to change to LED lighting in the next five years. He said a lot of the lighting had already been changed over. Trustee Marciano said she would check with her contact at NYSERDA about purchasing a mobile speed limit sign. The CEC Grant was tabled.

Mayor Sherman said that the Board had met with Barton and Loguidice and that they had taken a tour of the Fire Station. At that meeting it was requested that Barton and Loguidice prepare three options for the Board to review. Mayor Sherman said she had received a quote from Barton and Loguidice in the amount of \$26,000.00 to prepare the three different options. Mayor Sherman said the Board would be paying for two options they may not choose. She said she had also consulted with another engineering firm. She suggested the Board decide what direction they would like to go in in reference to the Fire Station addition.

Trustee Marciano suggested putting out a request for proposals to see if anyone comes in less. Trustee Padoleski said this amount is not budgeted. She also said she did not think the Village could afford a two bay or even a one bay. It is estimated to be an additional \$280,000.00 in debt service and she did not think the Village could handle that type of increase in debt service.

Mayor Sherman said they need to move on the project and that the USDA needs engineering plans to move forward.

Trustee Padoleski said she had sent out an email asking if the ladder truck could be canceled and instead find a truck to fit the building. However, it would be approximately \$180,000.00 to cancel it. Mayor Sherman said she looked further into this with Chief Jackson and said it would be \$172,000.00 to cancel the ladder truck. Fire Chief Jackson said previously it would be difficult to find a truck to fit the building. Fire Chief Jackson said he believes there was a disconnect between the Board and the engineer. He said we did not sit down as a group and peel back the layers on the needs versus the wants. He said a ladder truck is needed and it is a safety concern.

Mr. John Parada said he had talked with former Mayor Sidari, and he stated that the Village could have a ladder truck built to fit the building, but it would be an additional \$90,000.00 to \$100,000.00 more. He said would not that make more sense. Mayor Sherman said she has asked Fire Chief Jackson, and a ladder truck is not able to be built to fit the building.

Trustee Baker said she is in favor of putting out an RFP on the project. Trustee Prawel said it is a lot of money and a difficult decision. Trustee Marciano said she would be more comfortable having an RFP broken down between the three options and a cost associated with each option.

Trustee Prawel said he did not think the Village could afford a two bay, let alone a one bay.

Fire Chief Jackson said he has thought a lot about it, and he believes a single bay with a door in the front would be the most cost effective.

Trustee Marciano said we need a public safety building. Putting a single bay in is putting a band-aid on the problem that will continue to be a long-term problem.

Mr. Maak asked if there were any engineering reports on the structural integrity of the building and that a public safety building is a need. He said we need to continue to find funding resources. He said no one likes taxes but a public safety building should have been built forty years ago.

Mayor Sherman said she agreed, the taxpayers cannot afford a new building and that she would be meeting with a grant writer to pursue more options.

Trustee Padoleski said she believes that we are all in agreement not to approve the agreement as submitted by Barton and Loguidice.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The Clerk-Treasurer is authorized to put out a Request for Proposals for an engineering plan for the construction of a single bay addition, a shell of a building.

All ayes
Motion carried.

The establishment of a reserve for water infrastructure was tabled until the Village Attorney is present. Trustee Padoleski said that the board could establish a savings account to be used specifically for water infrastructure improvement and replacement. Mayor Sherman said something needed to be in place to take care of one of the Village's assets.

Mayor Sherman said that purchasing equipment with CHIPS funds had been discussed during the 2024-25 budget process. She said the Town of Shelby had a 2016 Plow Truck that they would like to sell to the Village of Medina. Superintendent Watts said he thought this could be a savings to the Village and that their current ten-wheeler is tired. He said he would like to declare that truck surplus. He said he would like to try and use a plow and wing inside the Village. He said the Mains take four trucks to plow and salt. He said this truck would plow one lane all by itself. He said he also knows the history of that truck. He said he has not negotiated with the Town and that they are interested in trading for two trucks the Village owns.

Mayor Sherman said this could be a shared service.

Trustee Prawel asked how negotiable the price is. Trustee Padoleski said her concern is that it is not worth what they want for it. She also questioned whether the Village of Medina's taxpayers had already paid for it back when it was initially purchased. She said her idea is for the Town of Shelby to keep the truck and let them plow for the Village. It is too much money for a used truck, and it is possible Village residents already paid for it.

Ms. Linda Limina said wouldn't that purchase be listed in their B fund.

Mayor Sherman said she would like to set up a time for the board to visit the different departments. She said they would be able to see the equipment.

Superintendent Watts asked if the Board would like him to negotiate a price. Trustee Marciano said yes, but to not make any promises on their behalf. The matter was tabled.

Mayor Sherman said the Board had been considering repaving the parking lot behind Mark's Pizza and that would be on the CHIPS docket for next year.

Mayor Sherman said the Village had received a grant to install EV Charging Stations. She said the project total is \$318,000.00. She said she had talked with Matt Zarbo from E&B Squared and they are ready to begin the preliminary work on the project. The money is put up front and the Board would need to consider taking out a short-term BAN to finance the project until the grant is received. Ms. Gabrielle Barone asked if these are fast charging stations. Mr. Jim Sipple asked why the Village was putting these in if it is something the Village then needs to maintain. He asked what the Village would be gaining since the sales tax goes to the County. Trustee Marciano said the Village would be making money from the electricity. She also said the Village is not signing a contract that says that the Village is responsible for maintaining these stations. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess expressed concern that the grant is only for \$245,184.00 and the Village would be responsible for the additional \$72,000.00 unless an additional grant is secured from National Grid. Mayor Sherman said Mr. Zarbo was looking into the grant from National Grid. The matter was tabled.

Mayor Sherman said there were pump stations within the Village that needed to be replaced. The Village has been actively attempting to secure grants to put toward the project.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. The Village of Medina is authorized to pursue the WIIA Grant in reference to the pump station project.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said that the Orleans Renaissance Group and the Print Shop have requested to place a banner across Main Street throughout the concert season. Trustee Padoleski asked if there was a policy on banners. Mayor Sherman said only in Rotary Park. Trustee Prawel asked if there are any issues hanging a banner across Main Street. Trustee Padoleski asked if this would be hanging for two months. Trustee Baker said the concerts ran from June 20th to August 8th. Trustee Marciano said she loves Blues Thursdays, but it is not a Village of Medina event. Trustee Padoleski suggested considering a policy for hanging banners across Main Street. Code Enforcement Gardner requested that he be able to look at the Village code. Mayor Sherman said if there isn't anything in the code, the Board will look to have a policy in place. The matter was tabled.

Mayor Sherman asked that Trustee Padoleski discuss the sandstone plaque in front of the Clerk's Office. Trustee Padoleski said a sandstone plaque had been placed in front of the Clerk's Office and that the intention was to have the sandstone engraved in memory of former Mayor Herb Brant. She said the quote to have the sandstone plaque cleaned was \$375.00 and the cost to engrave it was \$856.00. Mayor Sherman asked who would be responsible for paying for the costs. Trustee Padoleski said the Village would be responsible as no one has stepped forward. She also suggested taking it out of buildings as there was still \$1906.00 remaining in the appropriation. Trustee

Baker asked why this has now come about. Trustee Marciano said he passed away while in office. Trustee Marciano asked if it would need to be maintained in the future. Mayor Sherman suggested looking at another option to memorialize the former Mayor. Ms. Gabrielle Barone said that an insert could be placed over it. The matter was tabled.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. Mayor Sherman is authorized to sign the engagement letter with Allied CPS, PC.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel. The Village of Medina accepts the funds in the amount of \$850.00 to be held and used specific to the Hometown Heros Program.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. The minutes of April 22, 2024, April 25, 2024, and the special meeting held on April 29, 2024, are accepted as submitted.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Baker. The bills as submitted are authorized for payment.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said the Board had previously discussed changing the Board meeting times from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. She asked for feedback from the board members. Trustee Marciano said she had talked with multiple people, and they were in favor of changing the meeting time to 6:00 p.m. Both Trustee Baker and Prawel said they were in favor of changing the time to 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Trustee Prawel and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. The Village of Medina workshop meetings and business meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. going forward.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman asked for a day to tour the departments in the Village. It was the consensus of the board to begin tours of the Village Departments on June 21, 2024, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Fire Chief Jackson said both Firefighters Schreader and Baxter are in their final week of the Fire Academy. He said Lieutenant Crooks and Firefighter Adam Fisher provided Fire

Extinguisher training for 275 employees at Brunners last week. He said Firefighter Tim Miller and Andrew Steel provided First Aid and CPR/AED training for Baxter's First Aid Squad. He said he would be attending an event at Strong Hospital where Captain Higgins and retired Firefighter Jeff Tuohey would be recognized for a life saving intervention.

Code Enforcement Gardner said he attended the Town of Ridgeway Court and a trial date had been set for July 29, 2024, for the building located on Main Street that had caught on fire. He said he had three other properties that would also be addressed at court on July 29th. He said grass violations had begun. He said Pride Pak was doing enclosures for their dumpsters.

Superintendent Watts said milling had begun and it would take about two weeks to clean up. He said the Hometown Hero banners were going up. He said the basketball hoop posts were up and the backboards and hoops would be installed tomorrow. He said the docks were hooked up and a ramp was placed in the canal basin. He said the boaters' bathrooms are now open. He said the VFW had asked that the State Street bathrooms be open for the Memorial Day parade. He said a new informative sign was installed at the cannon. Flowers would be placed on Main Street on Thursday. Superintendent Watts said he would be out of town during the Memorial Day weekend.

Trustee Baker asked if there would be borders placed around the basketball courts with all the traffic and cars going through there. Trustee Marciano asked if the one-way sign had gone up. She also asked who she would contact if there was an emergency during the Memorial Day weekend. Superintendent Watts said he would let her know by the end of the week. Trustee Prawel said he had concerns about the parks and keeping up with the mowing. He asked how many people were mowing. Superintendent Watts said he only had one person mowing and that it was difficult to keep up this time of year.

Trustee Marciano said National Night Out would be held on August 6, 2024. She said everything is free and the event would be even bigger this year.

Mayor Sherman said the New York Forward awards were announced last week. She said they were excited to have the projects move forward. She also said the Village will be featured as a field trip when the canal is celebrated during the bicentennial to be held on September 23, 2025.

Mayor Sherman opened the second public comment period. Ms. Gabrielle Barone said she was in court to listen in on the Fuller case. She said his building is a serious public safety hazard. She said the Judge said he would sign an order to remove the building. She said if it falls on the railroad you will have five businesses impacted. She said the liability to the Village is stunning. She said the issue with this building has been going on for over a year. He wasn't inspected and he hasn't cooperated. She also asked how you can pave the canal basin if you are placing charging stations in that location. You are losing a lot of parking spaces with the New York Forward project and now you are adding charging stations. She advised the board that they all needed a microphone.

Mr. Jim Sipple suggested having a private company install the EV Charging Stations and maintain them. He said the Village should be run like a business.

Trustee Marciano said she has reviewed the agreement, and it does not state that the Village needs to maintain the charging stations after they are installed.

Ms. Mary Hare said she grew up in this town and she has concerns. She said this is not Amherst or Clarence. This is a new board. She understands Trustee Marciano is trying to get more funding from the County. She said the new fire truck and building is not what people want. She said we are surrounded by other departments with state-of-the-art equipment. She said the topic of dissolution is coming up again. People are wondering if they can afford to live here.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. The meeting is moved into executive session at 9:13 p.m. to discuss the financial or employment of a particular individual.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The meeting is reconvened at 10:32 p.m.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The following salaries are approved for fiscal year 2024-25:

Police Chief	\$86,000.00
Fire Chief	\$81,486.16
DPW Superintendent	\$70,371.20
Code Enforcement Officer	\$66,327.69
Clerk-Treasurer	\$71,000.00
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer	\$22.68 / hour
Senior Account Clerk	\$20.50 / hour
Account Clerk	\$19.00 / hour
Keyboard Specialist	\$20.00 / hour

The stipend to record the Planning Board and Zoning Board minutes is increased to \$30.00 per meeting.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Marciano. The meeting is adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jada A. Burgess
Clerk-Treasurer

