

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MEDINA HELD ON OCTOBER 17, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE RIDGEWAY TOWN HALL.

Present: Mayor Marguerite Sherman

Trustees Jess Marciano, Diana Baker, Deborah Padoleski, and Mark Prawel

Attorney Matthew Brooks

Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sherman introduced Michael Cocquyt from LaBella. Mr. Cocquyt said Mr. Tom Snyder had received a New York Forward Grant to rehabilitate 409-413 Main Street. He said it is a \$740,000.00 project, with Mr. Snyder contributing fifty percent or \$370,000.00. He said he had met with Mr. Snyder, who would like to pursue the Restore New York Grant in correlation with the New York Forward grant. He said if the Village would not be pursuing a Restore New York Grant, he would like the Village to sponsor the grant on behalf of Mr. Snyder. He said the first step is submitting a letter of intent, which is due by October 23, 2024. Attorney Brooks asked what responsibilities the Village would have when it came to accounting and monitoring the grant. Trustee Padoleski and Mayor Sherman expressed concerns over the additional workload on the Village and maintaining the records. Mr. Cocquyt said the Village acts as a pass through for the grant and that LaBella would be completing all the paperwork. He said the Restore New York is through the State, so a single audit would not be required. Mr. Snyder said he is looking at completing a \$1.2 million dollar project and this would help offset some of the costs. Mr. Cocquyt said the application is due by December 20, 2024, and the letter of intent is the first step in pursuing the grant. He said he would need signatures for the resolution, the SEQR process and that the Clerk-Treasurer would need to publish a public hearing three consecutive weeks. Mayor Sherman asked if there were any costs to the Village. Mr. Cocquyt said that Mr. Snyder would be responsible for any administrative costs, including the costs of the public hearings.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. LaBella is allowed to submit a letter of intent to pursue the Restore New York Grant for 409-413 Main Street, listing the Village of Medina as the sponsor.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. Medina Area Partnership is allowed to hold Beggars Night on Friday October 25, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said Kate Hardner and Hannah Villegas had submitted a request to the Village board, asking the board to amend the Village code to allow chickens to be housed in the Village.

Trustee Marciano said she would like the Planning Board to look into allowing chickens as long as there are certain regulations. Trustee Padoleski said chickens do not belong in the Village. She said people are concerned and that several properties are way too small to be housing chickens. Trustee Prawel asked Ms. Villegas if these are considered pets or a food source. He also expressed concerns if the chickens were to get out of the pen and that they may draw rodents. Ms. Villegas said chickens are restricted to the coop and the run. She said chickens benefit her family from the eggs. Ms. Hardner said rodents are not a concern if the feed is stored properly. Trustee Baker said there are positives and negatives. She said she is in favor of the Planning Board reviewing to determine what is best for the Village. Mayor Sherman said she grew in the country around animals but has some concerns about allowing chickens in the Village, the enforcement when people do not follow the regulations and potentially more neighbor disputes both of which could add to the responsibilities of the already short staffed code enforcement and police departments. Ultimately this could cost the taxpayers more money. Mayor Sherman said another concern is that eggs may attract more skunks and foxes. The canal could also attract snakes looking for eggs.

Attorney Brooks said the Village board should decide at the business meeting whether to send it to the Planning Board for review. Ms. Kathy Blackburn said, as a Planning Board member, that the Planning Board had a preliminary discussion at their last meeting, in anticipation of the Board possibly forwarding this to them and they are not seeing the benefits of a code change. She said if it did come to the Planning Board, they would look at the topic in depth and would make recommendations after their December meeting. Ms. Mary Hare said sometimes you just have to say no. It's a slippery slope. Open that floodgate up and you are asking for it. The matter was tabled.

Ms. Kathy Blackburn said Bents Opera House is requesting to allow overnight parking in front on Main Street during the summer months. She said they do not want their guests to get parking tickets if they stay overnight. She said they are looking to place statement pieces out front, either large reindeer or nutcrackers for the holiday season. Trustee Baker asked if the code specified what could be on the sidewalks. She also asked if they would be secured down. Mayor Sherman asked that Bents provide sizes and dates for the business meeting.

Trustee Marciano asked the Village board to consider adopting rules on people recording during a workshop or business meeting. Trustee Marciano said it could state there are rules regarding equipment and personnel used to photograph, broadcast, webcast, or otherwise record a meeting so as to conduct its proceedings in an orderly manner. She said it could state the Village of Medina Board of Trustees reserves the right to require that personnel and equipment engaged in photographing, broadcasting, webcasting, or otherwise recording a meeting to move to the back of the room, behind the final row of chairs, so that the board can conduct its proceedings in an orderly manner.

Attorney Brooks said several municipalities record their meetings, but it is not a requirement. He said it is difficult to restrict someone from filming but there are some individuals who make it difficult. He said he sees a benefit of being prepared.

Trustee Baker said as a board, we try to be transparent, and this is something that would make the Village board prepared. Mayor Sherman asked if a policy would need to be created. Attorney Brooks said it could be a resolution established as part of the Village's meeting policy.

Mayor Sherman said the vehicle use policy had been distributed to the board. Trustee Padoleski said this had been discussed at budget time and that she had used the driver and safety handbook from NYMIR. Mayor Sherman asked if this applied to our entire fleet and department heads. Trustee Marciano asked if it would discontinue allowing family in parades or when a ride is raffled off. She said she agreed with the policy but asked if there could be an exception for parades.

Mayor Sherman said it is important for the department heads to be able to take their vehicles home. Trustee Padoleski said she did not think a Village owned vehicle should be taken out of the Village and the vehicles were not being used just for Village use. Mayor Sherman said there hasn't been a policy and it hasn't been enforced. Trustee Padoleski said there is a sense of entitlement and ownership. Vehicles belong to the Village, and it is not appropriate that vehicles are being used for personal use, using gas purchased by the Village. Trustee Marciano agreed. She said it may seem like it is something they are taking away, but she didn't think it should have been granted to begin with. Trustee Prawel said he agreed, Village owned vehicles belong to the Village and no vehicle should be assigned to one individual. Trustee Prawel said the board should be checking on the department heads to know how Village owned equipment is being used. Trustee Padoleski said she tried to make this policy about the treatment of Village owned equipment. She said it is their role to safeguard Village property. She said it is about the Village of Medina taxpayers and the use of Village property. Mayor Sherman said no one has been told what the expectations are. The matter was tabled.

Clerk-Treasurer Burgess said she had received a letter from the bank, stating the Trust Fund would be placed in a dormant state due to inactivity. She said the trust fund had been used for payroll purposes, but the state required the general fund to be used.

A motion was made by Trustee Prawel and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess is authorized to close the Trust Fund and move the balance of \$45,232.59 to the General Fund.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said two different firms had been out to look at City Hall to quote the cost of doing an asbestos survey. She asked if there were any questions about the quotes. Trustee Padoleski wondered about the number of samples included in the quotes. The matter was tabled.

Mayor Sherman said two requests for proposals had been received on the Fire Station addition. She said she has scheduled a meeting for Monday October 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. to interview both engineering firms. She said this meeting will be held at the Senior Citizen Center and would be open to the public.

Mayor Sherman said the Village Clerk's Office currently had an employee out on leave. The board discussed allowing overtime for the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and the Senior Account Clerk.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and Senior Account Clerk are allowed to earn overtime while an employee is out on leave. The overtime will be capped at \$2,800.00 and will be paid out of the water fund.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The meeting is adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

All ayes  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jada A. Burgess  
Clerk-Treasurer