

There was a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Clayton on Monday, September 25, 2017, at 5:30 PM in the Municipal Building.

**PRESENT:** Norma Zimmer, Mayor  
John Buker, Trustee  
Michelle Grybowski, Trustee  
Nancy Hyde, Trustee

**ABSENT:** Tony Randazzo, Trustee

**OTHERS:** Kevin Patenaude, Police Chief  
Terry Jones, DPW Superintendent  
Jeff Overstrom, W/WW Manager  
Geneva Phelps Miller, Treasurer/Interim Clerk

**VISITOR(S):** Ken and Melody Brabant

**Community Residents:**  
See sign-in sheet (on file in Clerk's office)

**Pledge of Allegiance/Call to Order:**

Mayor Norma Zimmer led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Visitor(s):**

Ken and Melody Brabant presented a check to the Village for \$6,000.00, representing donations raised by them during the course of the summer in order to purchase playground equipment for the Lions Field. The donations will be utilized to install a "pirate ship" at the Lions Field playground. The Board expressed its appreciation for the donation, noting that Mr. and Mrs. Brabant perform many charitable works and donate a great deal of time to the children of our community.

**Police Report:**

Kevin Patenaude, Police Chief, presented the activity report. Jazz Fest was a great success, with no incidents reported.

**DPW Report:**

DPW Superintendent Terry Jones presented the activity report. Supt. Jones requested permission to allow a high school senior to intern with the DPW for two or three days as part of the TICS graduation requirements. The Board approved the request. Trustee Grybowski requested that Supt. Jones check all Village road signs to insure the sidewalks and motorists' line-of-sight are clear and not obstructed by leaves and branches. Mayor Zimmer reported construction on the Water Project will begin shortly on James Street. Supt. Jones will utilize language provided in the public notice, modifying it for the James Street residents.

Request for Quotes (RFQs): Subsequent to the public notice on the Village's website and publication of the Request for Quotes in the *Thousand Islands Sun*, only two sealed quotes were submitted for insulation and other repairs at Hawn Memorial Library.

1. JW Construction - \$18,170.00
2. Steve Dorr Construction - \$12,403.11

Trustee Buker presented a **MOTION** to approve the low quote of \$12,403.11, submitted by Steve Dorr Construction, subject to review and approval by Supt. Jones. Trustee Hyde seconded; the motion was carried. Provided all items in the Request for Quotes are included, Supt. Jones is authorized to award the project to Steve Dorr Construction.

**Water/Wastewater Report:**

W/WW Manager Jeff Overstrom presented the monthly activity report. There were no permit violations, high flows or overflows for August. Maintenance was completed on the E. Union St. pump station generator, with the assistance of Village operators and DANC personnel. A meeting will be scheduled with the Clayton Yacht Club to discuss the easement for the Bartlett Point Grinder Pump Relocation Project. The office trailer for the Water System Improvement Project contractor will be located at the water treatment plant. W/WW Manager Overstrom is updating the "smoke and dye" spreadsheet with those who have completed repairs. There are quite a few, which is good news. As a result of the study, a roof drain at the Municipal Building was rerouted from the sanitary sewer system and tied into the storm sewers. W/WW Manager Overstrom and DPW Supt. Jones have explained the need for the repairs to residents and, they do not appear to mind compliance.

**Consent Agenda:**

Trustee Grybowski presented a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda, with the addition of General Fund Voucher #A18-265 to – North Country Storage Barns - \$5,990.00. Trustee Buker seconded; the motion was carried.

1. DRAFT Meeting Minutes September 11, 2017
2. Payroll #8 (Week #39)
3. Abstract #8 - \$71,194.42

General Fund	Voucher(s) A18-245 – A18-265	21,828.78
Water Fund	Voucher(s) F18-054 – F18-059	7,266.66
Sewer Fund	Voucher(s) G18-095 – G18-105	42,098.98
4. Request for Vendor Space – Frink Park (street area) – Kim Sherman
5. Request for Use of Municipal Building – TIHS SADD Chapter – 10/31/2017 – 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Clerk Report:**

Kelley Services: The temporary office assistant, Antoinette Watkins, has been a great addition to the office. She is ready to work, willing to learn, retains instructions, and is extremely pleasant to customers and employees alike. However, Antoinette has been offered an opportunity to pursue her field of study (she has a Master’s degree in education), resulting in her request to have Kelly Services agree to end her contract at the end of September. She will be missed.

BAN Renewal: The “Various Projects” Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the Mary Street Dock Electrical Upgrades, Village Square Park Improvement Project and the Municipal Building Boiler/Generator Replacement Project) was renewed for a fourth year. Watertown Savings Bank won the bid. The BAN has been reduced to \$413,600 at an interest rate of 2%, due September 2018. This is the final BAN; the next borrowing must be long-term. The plan is to bundle several projects next fall for a long-term bond offering, as larger offerings tend to be more appealing to funding agents.

**New Business:**

NYCOM “Fight to Preserve Deductibility of Local Taxes”: The New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) provides frequent updates to the Mayor and Trustees regarding pending and proposed legislation in Albany that affects local governments the people they represent. Recently, NYCOM has urged taxpayers and government officials to fight to preserve the deductibility of local taxes, by opposition the elimination of the deductibility of State and local taxes (SALT).

After discussion, the following resolution was offered by Mayor Zimmer for Board consideration:

**RESOLUTION #2017-23  
OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF THE  
DEDUCTIBILITY OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES**

WHEREAS Congress is giving serious consideration to eliminating the federal income tax deduction for state and local taxes;  
WHEREAS this deduction, which has been in place for more than 100 years, is heavily utilized by residents of our community and our State;

WHEREAS New York residents already pay more into the federal treasury than the federal government returns to New York;  
WHEREAS the state and local tax deduction is a fundamental principle of federalism and without it our residents would be faced with double taxation as they would be forced to pay federal income taxes on the taxes they pay to state and local governments;

WHEREAS this federal cost shift onto local governments would place extreme pressure on municipal budgets, including diminished revenue for essential local government investments, including public safety and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS increased federal taxation and reduced municipal services will harm our local housing market, decrease home values and erode our local tax base,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of Clayton expresses its strong opposition to any tax reform proposal that would eliminate the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction and urges Representative Elise M. Stefanik to join us in publicly opposing any such proposal.

A **MOTION** to adopt the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Buker and seconded by Trustee Hyde, and upon a roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Mayor Zimmer	Voting Aye
Trustee Buker	Voting Aye
Trustee Grybowski	Voting Aye
Trustee Hyde	Voting Aye
Trustee Randazzo	ABSENT

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The Mayor will write Representative Elise Stefanik urging her to vote “no” on this bill, and the Board urges everyone who may be affected by this proposed tax reform to convey their opinion to Representative Stefanik. An information sheet with SALT talking points and a copy of the resolution are posted to the Village website, and a copy of correspondence sent to Representative Stefanik is available upon request.

**Trustee Reports:**

Trustee Hyde reported the Red Cross and the Rotary Club installed fire alarms in many homes in the Village at no cost to residents. There are still many available from the Clayton Volunteer Fire Department, and people are encouraged to contact them to arrange for alarms to be installed where they are needed.

Trustee Grybowski reported Jazz Fest was a great time! Numbers were greater than ever before, and the bands were excellent. Several business owners reported increase in sales and foot traffic. Friday night every place with a band was SRO. Merchants paid for the bands that played in their establishment. The Jazz Fest committee is trying to get away from this being mainly a “bar event.” This year, the Koffee Kove offered Jazz Breakfast, and The Scoop made Jazz Fest ice cream sundaes. Many contributors to the festival do so “silently.” There were many, many volunteers without whom the event could not have taken place.

**Mayor’s Report:**

Riverwalk 3: Mayor Zimmer reported the contractor will be mobilizing soon. They are wrapping up a job in Henderson and should be able to get six to eight work weeks as predicted.

Joint Town/Village Meeting: The Joint Town/Village meeting scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> was postponed at the request of Town Supervisor Storandt, due to Councilmember Peterson being unable to attend. The meeting has been rescheduled to October 23, 2017, in the Municipal Building, at 5:00 p.m., immediately followed by the regular 5:30 Village Board meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Susie O’Neill, Village resident, inquired about a board meeting held in July or August to debate on ornamental lights for downtown. She read that at the last meeting it was voted on, and wondered what additional information was considered to make that decision. Mayor Zimmer stated a committee had been appointed some time ago, and that committee presented information to the Board prior to acting on the resolution. Trustee Buker said apparently a bit of miscommunication was construed, as he had questions about the ornamental lighting, and received answers to his inquiries. National Grid will purchase and own the lighting, the same as the current street lights.

Trustee Hyde noted the resolution was required in order for the design process to move forward, as NYSDOT would not move forward until we made that determination. Ms. O’Neill questioned whether the project budget is still on track. Mayor Zimmer responded there are no firm numbers for the project at the current time, as the project design has not yet been completed by NYSDOT.

Twyla Webb, Village resident, reiterated some of the same questions posed by Ms. O’Neill. She stated she feels the public should be informed in explicit detail before any Board decision. Mayor Zimmer responded the Board was elected to represent the best interests of the community, and decisions are carefully weighed before any action is taken. Mrs. Webb requested a report on how much has been spent or committed on the Historic District project, including amounts paid to Hage & Hage (one of the Village’s legal advisors on this project).

**Executive Session:**

At 6:25 p.m., Trustee Buker presented a **MOTION** to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matter(s) regarding specific individual(s); Trustee Hyde seconded; the motion was carried.

At 7:10 p.m., Trustee Hyde presented a **MOTION** to close Executive Session to discuss personnel matter(s) regarding specific individual(s); Trustee Grybowski seconded; the motion was carried.

**Adjournment:**

At 7.11 p.m., Trustee Hyde presented a **MOTION** to adjourn; Trustee Buker seconded; the motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geneva Phelps Miller, Interim Clerk