Village of Constableville

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 9, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Constableville, a Municipality, was held on September 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm, at the Village Library on Main St., Constableville, NY.

Trustees Present: Mark Sullivan, Stephen Ward, Sonia Wendt, Cody McDonald

Others present: Christina Healt, Tug Hill Counsel
Mary Wilton, Water Plant Operator (In training)

Call to Order: Mayor Samantha Brown called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. A quorum of trustees was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Approval of Minutes: Clerk Failing presented to the Board the minutes of the August 5, 2024, monthly meeting. Trustee Wendt made a motion to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Trustee Ward, all in favor, motion carried.

Financial Review: Clerk Failing presented a comprehensive update of the Village's financial status. The Board reviewed the Financial Reports for August 2024. Trustee McDonald made a motion to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Trustee Sullivan, all in favor, motion carried.

Water Plant Operator's Report:

Interim Operator Tom Smith was not present at the meeting. He reported on the following to Mayor Brown:

- Reminder about the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Service Inventory which is due October 15th.
- Mary Wilton is doing well and has been taking care of the plant; he thinks she should be paid for half of August; he will continue to supervise her until mid-February when she is certified for $250.00 per month
- Lead & Copper Testing has been completed.
- Joe Genter received two alarms for the generator at the water plant because of loss of power. Joe contacted Dave Ward about it but still may need attention. Mary W said it seems to be working fine now.
- Generator – should be checking hours once a month, Mary said will continue to keep track of it.

Mary Wilton reported on the following:

- She has been reading the Class C course manual, Steve Freeman doesn't think the online course is acceptable in New York State. She will talk to Rural Water about taking the exam there after she reads the manual again. If not she will probably go to the Morrisville Class in January.
- Joe Genter, Tom Smith, Chris Sullivan and she went up to the water plant. They cleaned the turbidity meter; all readings have been very stable.
- They are switching over to bed #3 draining, refill, go online, then they will drain Bed #1.

Mayor Brown reported on the following:

- She received an email from BCA – WIIA Grant - we scored – 95%, we should know if we will receive the funds late fall/early winter.
- She asked Christine if she was going to the town meeting, she is curious what is going on with the Water District. Clerk Failing read an email from Casey to the board, he said that he had talked to Ed Hayes and they are working the cost into their 2025 budget. Mary Wilton said she had never heard any opposition from the board members at the meetings, Christine and Clerk Failing both said they have heard a lot of opposition.

Trustee Sullivan reported that the Town put in the culverts/driveways to the spring boxes, Chris is going to work on the roadways going in.

Clerk Failing reported that she received a call from Scott Goodhines and then an email from Barry Carpenter, asking whose responsibility it is to pay for the work he is doing for Sullivan's. He said that they are putting in 2 new curb stops and 2 new lines from the main to the barn. Boonville Municipal is coming to tap in to the Main. She said when she talked to Robbie previously, after getting the dig request, he said they were putting in one bigger line to the barn. Some questions that arose were: Why are they doing it? Is any of the cost the villages' responsibility if what they have now is perfectly fine? Will they be using more water? How does the water get from the House to the new house? Is someone taking photos/notes for Chris' records, so we know if there is ever a problem? Clerk Failing will look at the local law and send a copy to the board.

Sewer Plant Operator's Report:

Sewer Plant Operator Mark Sullivan reported on the following:

- He emailed Kat about switching over to Converse Labs, Clerk Failing asked if was receiving the test results that are being emailed to her and the mayor. He said he is only getting them by mail, she will send them to him.
- The Village is Non-Compliant with the SPEDES Permit, he added a comment on the last sample he sent in that our Sewage Disinfection Project is not completed yet.
- Nichelle Swisher (Lewis County Soil & Water will be walking Sugar River from Chris Earl's to Santamore's Farmland (Sewer Plant) looking at the washouts from the rain, she said an aerial view from 1960 to now shows a lot of riverbed gone. Trustee Ward commented that there is a lot of brush in there that the DEC won't let you do anything with, the water has to go somewhere.
- Mayor Brown said Nichelle is also still working on grant funding money for village drainage.

Other Business:

Trustee Sullivan reported that part of Church St. has been completed. Dave Becker had eye surgery and forgot about our project. Doug talked to Suit Kote, they had plenty of oil so they did it. It is unknown at this point if we will be charged for it. He would like to do the other part of Church St. and the Pavilion parking lot next year.

Clerk Failing reported that she received a letter that the CHIPS Guidelines have changed, you can use CHIPS funds on a street every 5 years now instead of 10 years.

Clerk Failing said there is a bill from G & G Consulting in the packet of vouchers for $450.00. BCA had requested they do an emergency hardship report for a grant application. The invoice said second request on it but it's the first one she had received. Mayor Bron sent a picture of it to BCA and said to hold off paying it until we hear back from them.

Mayor Brown reported on the following:

- A call from Courtney York regarding Evan's property next door. Mark Miller inspected the house as a favor to potential tenant – furnace is not safe. She passed the information on to the County Codes Dept.
- Upcoming Events: For Halloween Constable Hall is having horse drawn carriage rides and the Fire Dept. is doing their trunk or treat.
- She will be at conferences from October 18th through October 31st.

Discussion was held regarding the limbs sticking out over the sidewalk and into the street at Brenda Kelly's. Other limbs that could create a problem for the plows were discussed including in front of Donald Frank's, On West St. between High St & Failing's, the end of West Street, the hedgerow by Wayne's, going up High St by Garrimone's as well as others. Clerk Failing will get quotes from Eager Beaver Tree Service, To the Top Tree Service and Randy Ehlers. Tommy Hoskins was mentioned but he doesn't have a bucket truck, Herb Frost (Evercare Tree Service) was also mentioned as he is doing some work for Mayor Brown, but it isn't until the end of October and we want to get quotes before that. Clerk Failing will send out letters to the property owners notifying them that limbs are interfering with maintenance of streets/sidewalks and the village is in the process of getting quotes to have them cut back.

Trustee Wendt reported that the Zoning Commission has put out a final draft of the Law, she expects it will be approved at the next meeting in September. The next step will be for the Zoning Commission to have a Public Hearing. Trustee Wendt will notify Clerk Failing of when it will be held so she can publish the notice.

Clerk Failing gave the board a copy of the agreement between the Village and the Hockey/Skating Club that the Village Attorney has updated and approved. He added a section regarding insurance, however after Clerk Failing informed him that the mayor had checked with NYMIR (Kevin), Ian said he was OK with deleting that section if Kevin is confident with the Village's insurance being sufficient. Mayor Brown will check with Kevin again.

Clerk Failing also reported that when she contacted Keith Bates, he said their non-profit status is not approved yet and they will need to start over. He stated they are unable to obtain insurance until non-profit goes through.

Christine Healt reviewed announcements. Reservations for the Fall Dinner Meeting at Steak n' Brew on the 26th need to be in by the 19th if anyone from the board would like to attend.

Vouchers were audited and ordered paid.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm, on motion by Trustee Wendt and seconded by Trustee Ward and carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Failing, Village Clerk