

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Palatine Bridge was scheduled for July 16, 2024, but was delayed due to weather. The regular board meeting was held next day, July 17, 2024, at 6:30pm at the Village Hall.

In attendance were Mayor James F. Post, Trustees Susan Barker and Peter Briele, absent: Trustee Aaron Rorick and Trustee Sarah Davidson. Also absent: DPW Supt. Rodney Sutton, CEO Anthony Howland.

Also in attendance, Beth O'Leary and Thomas O'Leary.

Public Comment: The O'Leary's were asked to attend the meeting so that their request for a variance to 141 W. Grand Street could be acknowledged and their next steps outlined. The O'Leary's own the retail business Freedom Liquidators and their purchase of the 141 W Grand St location requires they obtain a variance as the site is in an R1 district. Mayor Post obtained their phone numbers and explained the process, first the request goes to the Planning Board for their interpretation of the Zoning Law. Mayor Post will make sure the Planning Board Chairman is aware of the request.

CEO Report: Anthony Howland was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in his family.

The minutes for the June 16, 2024, meeting was accepted by a motion of Trustee Barker and seconded by Trustee Briele, all in favor.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by motion of Trustee Barker and second by Trustee Briele, all in favor.

DPW report was filed with the board. The mayor gave an update on the storm cleanup, the Village of Fort Plain sent a truck, a chipper and a 4-man crew to help. The Village of Fort Plain expects to be back Monday July 22 to help in the ongoing cleanup. The DPW has been told to only make sure roads were clear, pickup smaller debris on the curbside and stay off private property and let the public know that any major branches or trees down on their property were the homeowner's responsibility to get cleared up. Some people are without power. Trustee Barker asked that DPW get the sweeper from a neighboring Village when most of the storm debris is picked up.

Old Business: The mayor led the discussion of many topics that have been under consideration by the board:

*The Geers have requested the Board consider adding them to the outside water users. Trustee Barker felt very strongly that a full board and the DPW supervisor needed to be present to make an informed decision. One of the questions was is there sufficient water to supply this new site and what about in the future if there were more requests. Mayor Post added that the improvements made to the Village will not be covered by water users outside the Village. Trustee Barker asked if there were any existing contracts with outside users, Mayor Post said he did not believe there were existing contracts. Trustee Barker wondered if it would be wise to have contracts, possibly including establishing escrow accounts to cover nonpayment of water rent.

Trustee Barker made the motion to table this discussion until the full board meeting in August. Second Trustee Briele, all in favor.

***Update on Solar** Solar Street Lights are off the table.

Town Solar Project: Is now in the hands of the lawyers. There has been no final determination regarding the language of the Solar company covering Engineering and attorney fees regarding Staley Road being used by heavy equipment and trucks to get into the site of the future solar project. Now the question of crossing Village water line has been raised.

Well House Solar Project: This project is designed only to run the well house. The cost now to run the Well House is \$7,200.00 per year. The Village is up for a \$50,000.00 grant with a \$25,000.00 bonus, the grant application was filed at 3pm July 17, 2024. The cost of the project is \$68,000.00 without fencing. The Village became eligible for this grant due to points earned, part of which was the battery-operated equipment purchased with a previous \$5,000.00 grant.

Village Hall Improvements: A \$15,000.00 Grant has been approved to add Heat Pumps to the basement and the main floor of the Village Hall. A price was obtained from Mormile for \$13,387.00 for a combined system into 1 system, 3 zones. There will also be a charge for electrical work. Motion by Trustee Briele, second by Trustee Barker to accept the grant for the Heat Pumps only. All in favor. The original grant for the Basement map room has been turned down, as soon as the letter from the state arrives it will be attached to the minutes.

Battery operated Equipment: DPW is waiting for a leaf blower to complete the order for the equipment.

***Update on Other Old Business:** The lease agreement the attorney Ayers rewrote has made sure that the Village is not responsible for the cameras, any damages or disputes. When the lease agreement comes the mayor will sign it and make sure all board members receive a copy.

If the board is of the mind to pursue the Nuisance Law presented by the Canajoharie Volunteer Fire Department, it will require a Local Law be written up and a Public Hearing be held.

There has been an invitation to join the Elves Night Out, Trustee Barker feels that some event needs to be held in the Village if the village wants to be a part of the Elves Night Out.

Change orders have been received for the work on the West End Project. The State inspection found work that needed to be redone. Lamont engineers feel that the Village should wait to pay until final inspection.

Lamont Engineering is working on a price The Crosswalk at Dollar General, (in writing) and the verbal plan for the Duncan Donuts Crosswalk.

Motion by Trustee Barker, second by Trustee Briele to accept the resignation of Village Clerk Millington and to make sure she turns in the keys. All in favor.

Motion by Trustee Briele, seconded by Trustee Barker to pay the bills. All in favor

Motion by Trustee Barker, seconded by Trustee Briele to adjourn the meeting at 8pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by

Diane Rumrill-Hall Village Clerk