

**Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
Of the Village of Bergen at
6:30pm on November 8th, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Chimino at 6:30pm with the following present:

Trustee Michael Fleming
Trustee Emily Marble
Trustee Paul Robinson
Trustee Todd Cargill

Also present: Village Administrator Cortney Gale

Approval of Bills

A motion to approve the bills was made by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Cargill. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 11th, 2023, was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Robinson. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor

Grants

- **Consolidated Funding Application.** A park grant for improvements to Hickory Park was submitted in July. We await notification from the state if our application was awarded.
- Empire State Development- A grant was submitted on October 27th. This grant if awarded would greatly offset the cost of our electric substation's replacement/upgrades.
- Go Art Community Arts Grant (REACH) The village has applied for funding for summer concerts to be held in Hickory Park during the 2024 summer season.

Miscellaneous

- 10 large caliper trees have been planted in Hickory Park along the back trail. Landscaping along the front fence along route 19 and around the restroom and shed area has been completed.
- We are still awaiting contract language from National Grid concerning an interconnection agreement.
- A new lease has been drafted by our attorney to replace the expired lease with NORTERA FOODS who own the property where our electric department facility is located. This proposed 50-year lease is pending board of trustee's approval.
- Planning is in the works for this year's Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony to be held on December 4. Special thanks to the Village of Bergen office staff for organizing this holiday event.
- The Hallows Eve Festival & Historical Ghost Walk held on October 28th at Hickory Park was a great success. Thanks once again to the Bergen Business and Civic Association for organizing this awesome community event.

DPW

- Brush/ leaf pickup and cutting of grass continues to November 20th.
- Installation of the catch basin on Hunter Street has been completed.

- Zack Kuter, our DPW employee, has left employment with the village. Zack has taken a job with the Village of Churchville. We thank him for his years of service and wish him the best in his new endeavor.

Sewer

- The annual pumping of sewer tanks is complete for this year.
- Rehabbing of manholes that need sealing to prevent infiltration has not yet begun.
- The natural gas generator to back up the Gibson Place lift station is in house. We are awaiting natural gas service from RG&E for final installation.

Electric

- Received mutual aid from Holley, Akron, Castile, and Silver Springs for tree trimming around the electric lines.
- Lineman attended safety class on November 6 and will be attending engineering workshop on November 8th and 9th in Syracuse.
- I attended the MEUA annual conference and NYMPA semi-annual conference which was held in Clayton NY on October 10-12. Renewable power such as solar and wind were heavily discussed along with energy efficiency. The realization of NYS meeting future goals of 2030 seems to be losing momentum. Cost projections for renewable projects have been greatly underestimated and a lack of contractors is an ongoing problem.
- National Grid has scheduled a system wide electric shutdown of our system on November 14th with a rain date of November 15th from 10:00pm to 4am. A mailing has been sent out to all village electric customers informing them of the outage.

Administrator

Sewer

- Chris Fay and I are working on the Monroe County Sludge Permit.
- Odyssey Controls fixed a valve actuator last month, there is another part in the valve that needs to be replaced. We have decided to purchase one additional part to have on hand as there are two more twelve-year-old valves with actuators in the membrane building.
- The generator for the Gibson Street lift station is in place, the gas line was installed but is awaiting a meter from RG&E.

DPW

- We interviewed three very qualified applicants for the vacant MEO position and am happy to report we have selected Peter DePuy. Peter is a resident of the Village.
- Both landscaping projects in Hickory Park have been completed and look wonderful. Additionally, Rene' Vurraro and I planted almost 600 tulip and daffodil bulbs around the village as well as painted the shed in Hickory Park.
- The last payment on the Western Star plow truck was made, which will free up \$23,000 in the next budget.
- The old Ford F-550 is being sent to Thru-Way springs for repair before we send it to auction.

Electric

- In more good news... the village also made the last payment on the bucket truck. However, those funds will go towards the new Digger Derrick.
- The linemen attended safety training in Fairport on November 6th and will attend the MEUA Engineering/Accounting workshop along with Rene' Vurraro and Barb Zinter on November 8th and 9th in Syracuse.

Office

- Tax collection season is now over. The last day to pay was October 31st. Payments that were not made will now be sent to Genesee County to collect. The county will send a check for the full amount, whether they collect the funds or not, to make us whole.
- Town residents who are on our sewer and have arrears were sent to the town for collection on their town tax bill.
- Barb is working on closing the last fiscal year and preparations to complete the AFR (annual financial report) which has replaced the AUD.

Miscellaneous

- We haven't had any leads on the person who stole three pumpkins last month. We had a group of boys try to smash two more. There was no vandalism on Halloween.
- The reimbursement paperwork for the summer recreation program was sent in last week. We should receive \$2,160. The grant application for next year is due December 1st.
- The Hallows Eve Trunk or Treat and Ghost Tour on October 28th went wonderfully. We sponsored the scavenger hunt during the event. We had 140 kids complete the hunt and enter a win a gift basket.
- The Empire State Development Grant was submitted by CPL. The Mayor and I completed the Go-Art Reach Grant

Approval of Officer Reports

A motion was made by Trustee Cargill and seconded by Trustee Fleming to approve the officer's reports. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Trustee Concerns

None

New Business**Nortera Lease**

A motion was made to the 50 year lease with Nortera Foods for the parcel of land that includes the electric substation, electric shop and community garden. The lease will be sent to Nortera for their review. The motion was made by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Cargill. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Bergen Fire Department Member Approval

A motion was made by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Fleming to approve Scott Newman as a member of the Bergen Volunteer Fire Department. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Old Business**Empire State Development Grant**

Trustee Robinson inquired about the percentage the grant would cover and how it relates to job creation. Mayor Chimino advised that ESD allowed the Village to apply for 50% without job creation being a factor.

Privilege of the Floor

None

Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Cargill to enter executive session to discuss union negotiations.

The board entered executive session at 6:55pm

A motion was made by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Fleming to exit executive session. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

The board exited executive session at 7:50pm

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Marble and seconded by Trustee Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cortney W. Gale
Village Administrator