



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
243 MAIN STREET • JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790
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Village Board

Gregory Deemie, Mayor

Richard Balles, Trustee

Deborah Fuller, Trustee

Martin Meaney, Trustee

John Walker, Trustee

Minutes of a Work Session of the Johnson City Village Board held at 5:30pm on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 in the Municipal Building, 243 Main St., Johnson City

Present: Gregory Deemie, Mayor
Richard Balles, Trustee
John Walker, Trustee
Deborah Fuller, Trustee
Martin Meaney, Trustee

Absent: None

Also Present: Cindy Kennerup, Village Clerk/Treasurer
Jeff Jacobs, Attorney for the Village

The Board met with Director of Public Services, Robert Bennett to discuss the Baldwin Street Sewer Separation Project. Mr. Bennett explained that the project is from the railroad tracks to Faatz Alley on Baldwin Street. South of the tracks it is a combined system. Even though there is no storm sewer south of the tracks, he asked Delta Engineers, who are also the engineers for the project at 135-139 Baldwin Street, to look at putting a storm line and getting it over to Willow Street in case we need it for future use. The reason we waited is because the developer of 135-139 Baldwin Street had delays in getting their funding. Once he found out that the project was moving forward he asked Delta to give us a proposal to put a storm line in. There is storm on Arch, Faatz and Corliss. Mr. Bennett said that since Binghamton University had to put storm in on their site, he asked them to put in a catch basin on Willow Street. They did it on the west side of the street but he couldn't get them to put one in on the east side of the street. He will be proposing to install a catch basin there in the spring and tie into their system and that separates all of Willow Street. Mr. Bennett explained the reasons behind the request for them to bring it out to Willow Street and gave an update on interceptor B between Grand Avenue and Floral Avenue – combined system. The Town of Union has funding to separate that through their flood mitigation program. They had a different pot of money to separate Grand Avenue.

Trustee Balles asked if we are being reimbursed for this work. Mr. Bennett stated not for this. This is out of the sanitary line – repairs to system and since we are removing storm water from the sanitary sewer we will come up with some hydraulic calculations and submit it to the sewer board to get flow credits. It will also look good with the DEC on our annual sanitary report that we have to submit every year. Trustee Walker asked where we are getting the \$18,200 for the engineering from. Mr. Bennett explained that it is already in the budget. They always keep a pot of money in repairs to system in the sanitary line and anything that is done out of that line to improve the sanitary sewer, it is his understanding that goes back to the sewage plant when we get billed – a good portion of it comes off our sewer bill. Trustee Walker asked what a ballpark figure would be for the entire project. Mr. Bennett explained that if the railroad wasn't involved \$60 – 80,000.00. The big unknown is, whenever you deal with the railroad, how much they are going to charge for a permit. Trustee Walker asked if



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the Town of Union is still going to do their part of the project. Mr. Bennett stated yes and reviewed the boundaries for that project.

Trustee Meaney asked about the funds for the actual construction. Mr. Bennett explained that it will need to be budgeted for in the next budget.

Mayor Deemie stated that according to the railroad the tracks are still considered a live line. It goes all the way over to National Pipe. He is waiting to hear back from their engineer but has gotten permission to remove the 2 extra sets of tracks at Willow Street because they are not being used anymore.

Trustee Meaney asked about the suspension of yard waste for the season and the number of bags that can be put out. Can that be increased? Mr. Bennett explained that if they waived the limit they would be packing out the trucks faster.

Trustee Walker asked if we have flashing yellow lights on the garbage trucks. Mr. Bennett stated as far as I know we have them. They come that way. Trustee Walker stated that he never sees them on and asked Mr. Bennett to make sure they are using them.

The Board reviewed the agenda and the resolutions.

Trustee Balles asked about a \$6,000 bill for the library. Mayor Deemie explained it was an emergency repair on the roof.

Trustee Meaney stated he still has concerns with the Verizon bills. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup stated that they are meeting with another company on Friday.

Trustee Meaney asked if the members of the various boards have to be Village residents. Mayor Deemie explained that Planning & Zoning Board members yes but not for the plumbing and electrical boards.

Trustee Meaney asked about the Tri-County contract with DPW and Water – Mayor Deemie stated he will ask Bob.

Trustee Meaney asked why the sudden influx of forgiveness requests. Mayor Deemie said he doesn't know why. The Board discussed the requests in detail.

Trustee Meaney asked Attorney Jacobs if he could explain why, if we are a 45% owner of the sewage treatment plant, we only see 18% of the money generated in flows. Attorney Jacobs stated he doesn't know why.

Mayor Deemie explained to the Board that he received a letter from a resident asking for forgiveness of her taxes. Clerk/Treasurer Kennerup sent the person a letter explaining that the Board can't do that.

Mayor Deemie informed the Board that the Town of Union receives \$1.00 from the NYS Police for rental of their building.

Mayor Deemie asked the Board to look at the water & sewer rates for discussion at the next meeting.



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Regarding the on-going situation on Nassau Street – Trustee Balles asked if there is anything preventing us from designating a handicap space in front of a house. Attorney Jacobs explained no but that has not been the Village’s policy in the past.

The Board met with Police Chief Dodge to discuss a car that was involved in the recent rape case at the UHS parking lot. The victim’s car, a 2007 Toyota Camry, was stolen and crashed. The car was a crime scene so it was taken to the Police Department. The car can now be released from evidence and the owner wants nothing to do with the car and was going to send it for scrap. The Police did some research and got an estimate – for \$3,000 they can fix it and have it in good condition again. The owner has agreed to sell it to the Police for \$600.00. The Kelly Market blue book value is \$7,000 - \$7,500.00. Trustee Walker asked what the mileage was. Chief Dodge stated 110,000. Trustee Meaney asked if we could contact BOCES to cut down the labor costs. Chief Dodge said he would look into that. They would use drug seizure money to purchase the car. Attorney Jacobs asked if there were any liens on the car. Chief stated no there are not. The Board gave Chief Dodge permission to buy the car.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

A motion to enter into executive session at 6:29pm to discuss Personnel in the Clerk’s Office was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit the executive session at 6:39pm was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Balles. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

A motion to enter into executive session at 6:40pm to discuss the contract with the Police Department was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Fuller. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit the executive session at 6:43pm was made by Trustee Balles and seconded by Trustee Meaney. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

Trustee Meaney asked about the drainage project on Reynolds Road/Anna Maria Drive and a tree issue. The easements were expanded and an owner has a tree that may not survive. Mayor Deemie said we would look into it if the tree dies.

Trustee Meaney asked about the Time Warner renegotiated Time Warner franchise fee that appeared on recent campaign literature. Mayor Deemie stated he didn’t know anything about it.

Trustee Meaney asked about the status of the e-mails that he requested back in March. Mayor Deemie stated that the first batch should be ready for him soon.

Trustee Balles provided an update on the Code Committee report and asked if the Mayor wanted him to review it with Board separately or include the Town of Union as well. Mayor Deemie stated he would rather the Village Board review it before it is given to the Town. Trustee Balles explained that the Town does have an option with this. They could terminate the IMA.



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Trustee Meaney asked who receives the building permit fees. Mayor Deemie explained that the Village gets the fees. Trustee Walker expressed his frustration with several Code Enforcement and Planning issues. He mentioned the 8ft fences around the UHS lots and asked if they were to code. He thought code was 6ft for fences. Mayor Deemie stated he isn't sure and would look that up. Trustee Walker stated that he feel a lot has been taken away from the Village including decision making. Attorney Jacobs explained that there are aspects of the new code that was adopted 5 years ago that does allow the staff to make certain decisions. Speaking about Planning, Attorney Jacobs stated that the Village could change the code so everything would have to come before the Planning Board but that would take a very long time to get things done. There is a gray area were the Planning Staff and Code Enforcement are interpreting our code and making certain judgments, maybe different than what others would make. Trustee Walker reviewed the issue with the convenience store on the corner of Harry L. Drive and Lester Avenue that never came before the Planning Board – the consistency isn't there. Attorney Jacobs explained that anyone in those positions is going to have the same issues because of the way the code is written. Mayor Deemie explained that he has spoken to both Marina and Dee at the Town and things will be okay for a little while and then it reverts back.

The Board discussed 9-11 Avenue C being auctioned off. Mayor Deemie explained that the owner is auctioning off all of their properties. The Board also discussed the future development of the Main Street area. Trustee Walker stated that St. James Church has purchased a portion of the Verizon property.

Trustee Meaney asked how things were working out with our grant writer and asked if she has made any inroads with marketing the Village. Mayor Deemie stated that he doesn't think she has made any inroads with that because she is so busy with getting grants ready. She is out there and talking to a lot of people. She did present the Mayor with a grant report. He will get copies to the Board.

Trustee Walker asked if there is any word on when the Kradjians will be knocking down the old stag hotel. Attorney Jacobs explained that they had until the end of the year to demolish it. Trustee Meaney asked what happens if they miss the deadline. Attorney Jacobs stated they would have to start the process all over again.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Cindy Kennerup
Village Clerk/Treasurer

CK/db

Recordings of the Village Board meetings and work sessions are available for review through the Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office.