

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MEDINA HELD ON MONDAY JANUARY 8, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER.

Present: Mayor Michael Sidari

Trustees Marguerite Sherman, Timothy Elliott, Jessica Marciano, and Diana Baker

Fire Chief Mathew Jackson and Superintendent of Public Works Jason Watts

Attorney Matthew Brooks

Excused: Code Enforcement Officer Daniel Gardner

Mayor Sidari called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sidari opened the first public comment period. No interested persons wished to speak.

Mayor Sidari introduced Julie Cecchini, the assessor for both the Towns of Ridgeway and the Town of Shelby. Mrs. Cecchini detailed the Senior Citizens Tax Exemption. She said it was her understanding that the Village of Medina was considering updating the local law income levels for the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption. She said Orleans County had increased the income levels for senior citizens and disabled property owners to receive a break on their property taxes. Trustee Elliott asked how many properties would be affected by this. Mrs. Cecchini said there are currently twenty-one properties in the Town of Shelby and eighteen properties in the Town of Ridgeway. Deadlines for filing are due by March 1st. Attorney Brooks said the Village would need to schedule a public hearing to update the Senior Citizens Tax Exemption. Mrs. Cecchini said she would send a sample resolution to the Village attorney and the Clerk-Treasurer for the Board's consideration. Attorney Brooks said he would make a modification of the law to mirror The Town of Ridgeway and the Town of Shelby. The matter was tabled.

Mayor Sidari stated we are close on time and asked for the direction of the Board in reference to the Fire Station Addition. Trustee Sherman said that the projected debt service would be approximately \$684,000.00 on this type of building including the cost of the ladder truck and that she was uncomfortable with those figures and asked that the Board do their due diligence. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess said the Board needs to determine the project scope and the costs associated with it. She said if the Board feels that this project needs to be re-imagined, then that needs to be the first step. She asked each Board member to determine what this project means to each one of them and to ask if they feel it will be affordable to the taxpayers. Trustee Elliott said this can has been kicked down the road. Trustee Sherman asked that the Board take another look before deciding on the project. Mayor Sidari said he would email Barton and Loguidice and schedule another meeting with the Board to review the designs of the project. The matter was tabled.

The naming of the street between Pride Pak and the Comfort Inn was tabled. The Board asked for suggestions from the EDA for the next meeting.

The no parking on Pride Pak Way and the unnamed street was tabled until the roads are named.

Mayor Sidari said he had received an email that said applications are open for the 2024 round of the Empire State Trail Town Program. No action was taken.

The NorthStar Cruises Boat Slip Rental was tabled.

Mayor Sidari said he had received a request from Mr. Jim Hancock asking the Board to pay \$500.00 out of the tourism budget for the remaining amount due to Takeform for the completion of the kiosk that was installed in the canal basin.

A motion was made by Trustee Elliott and seconded by Trustee Baker. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess is authorized to pay \$500.00 from the tourism budget, A6499.4, which is the remaining amount due to Takeform for the construction of the kiosk that was placed in the canal basin.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Elliott and seconded by Trustee Baker. The resignation of Firefighter Austin Mosher Jr., effective December 31, 2023, is accepted.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Elliott. The resignation of Police Officer Gregory Fraser, effective December 26, 2023, is accepted.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Elliott and seconded by Trustee Sherman. The resignation of Gabrielle Barone from the Boxwood Cemetery Commission is accepted with regret.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sidari said the letter received for the water bill located at 330 West Oak Orchard Street had been distributed to the Board. Ms. Blanco requested assistance from the Village to pay her water bill. Attorney Brooks said the Village cannot solicit donations. No action was taken. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess will notify the account holder that she is responsible for the past due amount.

Mayor Sidari said the Clerk's Office had been working toward having an online bill pay established so that taxes, water and sewer bills may be paid online. No partial payments would be accepted. He said the cost for having this service would be a minimum of \$100.00 per month with an annual software cost of \$1,200.00 which would be split between the general, water and sewer funds.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Elliott. The Mayor is authorized to sign the Xpress Bill Pay Agreement, selecting the revenue neutral option.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Burgess requested that the Capital Charge in reference to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project be tabled.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Elliott. The Village of Medina Election will be held at the Senior Citizens Center, West Avenue, Medina, New York on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and the polls will be open between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m.; and the Village will not hold a registration day, but rather utilize the Orleans County Voter Registration Roll for purposes of the Village Election.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Elliott seconded by Trustee Marciano. Resolved, that Judy Szulis, Linda Deyle, Norma Huth, and Mary Ann Ander and are appointed Inspectors of Election, with Judy Szulis as Chairperson, and the hourly rates of compensation for the Chairperson and Inspectors will be \$17.00 and \$16.00 per hour, respectively.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Fire Chief Jackson said several members participated in delivering MAAC gifts on December 16th. He said at a recent School Safety Commission meeting he had received positive feedback on the Stop the Blood classes presented to their staff. He said he would have his annual report completed by the business meeting.

Trustee Marciano requested an executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

Mayor Sidari said anyone interested in attending the Legislative Luncheon to be held on January 20, 2024, to let him know.

Mayor Sidari opened the second public comment period.

Ms. Gabrielle Barone said that several tractor trailers had been idling on the road between Pride Pak and the hotel. As a result, the road has been torn up. This road has been turned over to the Village and will need to be repaired. Ms. Barone said tractor tractors idling there are not a good selling point for the area. She said we need to do what we can do to make this area more attractive. She said projects can happen for both the Village of Medina and the Town of Shelby because the Village is able to supply water and has a wastewater treatment facility. Ms. Barone also asked if exit interviews are occurring when employees are resigning.

Mr. Jim Hemingway addressed the Board stating that he appreciated the openness of the Board as well as the discussions. He asked if the Village was aware of the property owners that are on a fixed income. He asked the Board if they understand what people are up against with the increase in assessments and tax rate. It is not making it affordable for people to live here. He said with substantial expenses facing this town, please consider that when moving forward.

Mayor Sidari said the Board does their due diligence during the budget process. He said we must consider the safety of the Village residents. Trustee Sherman said when doing the budget there is not a cushion and that the Board continues to move forward to make the Village a great place to work and live.

Ms. Gabrielle Barone said that the EDA is putting together a spreadsheet showing the revenue going to the County, Town, and School. She said they would not have that revenue without the Village infrastructure in place. It is something others need to be mindful of.

A motion was made by Trustee Elliott and seconded by Trustee Baker. The meeting is moved into executive session at 8:08 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Marciano. The meeting is reconvened and subsequently adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jada A. Burgess
Clerk-Treasurer