

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MEDINA HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE RIDGEWAY TOWN HALL.

Present: Mayor Marguerite Sherman

Trustees Jess Marciano, Deborah Padoleski, Diana Baker and Mark Prawel

Attorney Matthew Brooks

Mayor Sherman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sherman opened the first public comment period. Ms. Nicole Weltzer addressed the board stating she had moved to Medina from Rochester and was reading both sides of the fire station addition and ladder truck topic. She said she is a survivor of a seven-alarm fire and the brave first responders need to have safe equipment that they can use. She said there needs to be a fair unbiased decision.

Mr. Dave Berry said the meeting schedule for the Zoning Board lists 7:00 p.m. and not 6:00 p.m. (Clerk-Treasurer Burgess has reviewed the website- both the calendar and main page list 6:00 p.m.).

Mayor Sherman said the Boxwood Cemetery Commission was working on updating the Boxwood Cemetery By-Laws. Mr. Jake Hebdon said he looked forward to meeting with the Board to go over the By-Laws and answer any questions. Mayor Sherman said the board would schedule a meeting and that the board appreciated all the Commission has done to put the By-Laws together.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. The resignation of Nicki Fredericks from the Boxwood Cemetery Commission is accepted with regret.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. Kathryn McKinney is appointed to the Boxwood Cemetery Commission.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman introduced Linc Swedrock from BME Associates requesting to re-zone a portion of 450 West Oak Orchard Street from Light Industrial to Multi-Family Residential. He said they would like to meet some of the needs of the Village of Medina, re-zoning approximately forty-six acres to allow for multi-family development. He said the proposed action is a Type I Action under SEQRA and requests that the Village Board declares their intent to be the Lead Agency for re-zoning and complete a Coordinated Review of the proposed rezoning action. Code Enforcement Gardner said the first step is to change the zoning to R3 then it would go to the Planning Board and then the County Planning Board.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. The re-zoning of 450 West Oak Orchard Street is sent to the Planning Board for review.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said the Senior Citizens had received three quotes to install air conditioning units in the Senior Citizen Center. Mayor Sherman said the Village owns the building and the seniors lease it for free. The Village pays for the water and the Seniors pay for the utilities and upgrades. Mayor Sherman said the Seniors have requested funding from the Village Board. Mayor Sherman said the board has not begun the budget process yet. Code Enforcement Gardner suggested that it go to the Planning Board as it is a historic building. He said it may not be on the registry but suggested the Planning Board reviews. Attorney Brooks said an agreement could be written or the board could list conditions in the resolution approving the air conditioning unit to be installed.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel. The Planning Board will review the request to install air conditioning units in the Senior Citizen Building.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. To accept the anonymous average ambulance rates as presented by Fire Chief Jackson effective March 1, 2025.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Fire Chief Jackson suggested increasing the mileage rate from \$35.00 to \$38.00 per mile, stating it has not been increased in eight years. The matter was tabled pending additional information.

Mayor Sherman said Orleans County Tourism had contacted the Village of Medina requesting the board pass a resolution in support of establishing the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway (HTURB). Orleans County, Tourism has joined this initiative because designated byways from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) have demonstrated a significant economic impact on local communities. The HTURB will cover 550 miles, stretching from New York City to Niagara Falls and passing through 22 counties. The proposed HTURB in New York State aims to connect notable "Travel with Tubman" sites and other heritage locations throughout the state. This initiative will enhance heritage tourism opportunities and promote the rich cultural history linked to Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad, and the African American cultural and heritage attractions, sites, and experiences in the area. To gain eligibility for State Byway designation from NYSDOT, we need Resolutions of Support from local governments along the route. These resolutions should express your commitment to the byway and confirm that no new outdoor advertising signs will be allowed in the designated areas. While this will restrict future billboards,

existing billboards will remain and will be grandfathered in. There are no additional property restrictions tied to a NYSDOT Scenic Byway designation.

Attorney Brooks said his main concern is the sign guidelines as the Village has strict guidelines. He said the code may need to be amended. The matter was tabled for more information.

Mayor Sherman said Local Law # 1-2025 had been filed with New York State. Mayor Sherman asked if the board had considered establishing a late fees schedule. Currently Orleans County charges five percent for filing late and an additional one percent for each month after the first month.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel. The Village of Medina will follow Orleans' County lead on the late fees associated with the Occupancy Tax, charging 5% for filing late and an additional 1% for each month after.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Mayor Sherman said she was working with the Clerk-Treasurer on the worst case scenario and what it will cost the taxpayers for the Fire Station Addition if grant funding was not received.

Trustee Marciano said the New York State Auditor was reviewing the Village of Medina claims process. Trustee Marciano had distributed a new claim voucher for board consideration. The board agreed to utilize the new claims voucher as presented.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. The bills as submitted are authorized for payment.

Trustee Baker abstained from the Parade of Lights Promotional Event Expense payable to the Medina Band Boosters as she is acting Treasurer for the Band Boosters.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The Minutes of December 16, 2024, January 13, 2025, and Executive Session Minutes from February 10, 2025, are accepted as submitted.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Code Enforcement Gardner said he was in the Town of Ridgeway Court for the building on Main Street that burned. He said the building was still for sale. He said the property on East Center Street that caught on fire two years ago also got postponed in court. He said 720 Church Street sold at auction, with the owner being from Georgia. He said he realized the house is in extremely poor

condition and is currently looking for a buyer. He said he would be attending the Finger Lakes training the week of March 10, 2025.

Superintendent of Public Works Watts said his department was busy salting and plowing. He said there had been a water main break on Florence Avenue and that valves in that area need to be replaced. He said they had to pull a pump at the Bates Road Lift Station, rags were discovered in the pump again. He said Wendel is working on a GIS system for Boxwood Cemetery. He said all the items from the auction were paid for and most of the items had been picked up.

Mr. Dave Berry asked about the streetlights that were out. Mr. Jim Sipple asked if a light could be put at the front of Zacher Drive. Trustee Marciano asked if the one-way sign at the end of Proctor Place had been put up yet. Superintendent Watts said not yet.

Police Chief Draper said Officer Brandon Brown would be starting his Supervised Field Training for approximately eight weeks. He said recruit Alex Sepulveda would begin the Niagara County Police Academy on March 3, 2025. He said his department would be distributing a monthly call report through their social media account. He said Lieutenant Navas would be spearheading this report. He said his department had completed in-service training that consisted of blocks of instruction on search warrants, taser, deferred comp and child sexual abuse training. He said he has turned in his 2025-2026 budget projections.

Fire Chief Jackson said a couple members of his department had taught Stop the Bleed and CPR classes. He said the department was working on credentialing more skillsets to ensure the best possible care. He said he would be going to read and discuss firefighting/EMS careers to a group at Wise Middle School. He said his department had responded to mutual aid at a house fire in Hartland and a chimney fire in Shelby.

Fire Chief Jackson addressed the board stating a discussion happened about ten years ago, on the Capital Project for a new ladder truck and fire station addition. He said five years ago he started to put things in place. He said on October 26, 2021, he presented to the board what these capital needs are and what was needed to improve the safety of his department. He said in June of 2023, a contract was signed to build a new ladder truck. He said a two-bay building was scaled back to one bay.

Ms. Carol Collina said there are fire hydrants that was not working. She said the fire hydrants are not shoveled out.

Mr. Ethan Weeks said, didn't we put the cart before the horse, ordering a ladder truck without having a place to store it.

Mayor Sherman said a 6.4 million dollar building was requested, but no action was taken. Trustee Marciano said you don't need a building to save a life, you do need a ladder truck. Trustee Marciano said the former engineer was not on board with making changes to the 6.4-million-dollar building. The Village Board has now gone with a new engineering firm. She said the building is a bigger ask and she was willing to get creative when it came to a building a having a place to store the ladder truck. She said she still felt the ladder truck was a necessity.

Mr. Ethan Weeks said a few administrations ago there was discussions about the Village of Medina tax base and that it is too high. He said expenses continue to pile up on this Town (he meant Village). Trustee Marciano asked if he was talking about shared services in general. Mr. Weeks asked how many calls the Fire Department puts in. He said now there is an occupancy tax. He said if you are increasing taxes on businesses, are you being fiscally responsible adding additional costs to the taxpayers. Trustee Marciano said she is very passionate about shared services and hopes that these discussions continue.

Attorney Brooks said he had attended court that morning and was answering board and department head questions.

Clerk-Treasurer Burgess said the General Fund had earned \$52,935.57 in interest year to date, the water fund has earned \$32,079.32, the sewer fund \$10,650.52 and the permanent maintenance fund \$2,644.45. Clerk-Treasurer Burgess requested an executive session to discuss the particular appointment of a person or persons.

Mayor Sherman said State Representative Mosley came to the Village to review the New York Forward Projects. Mayor Sherman said she met with the Canal Corporation on January 8, 2025. The Canal Corporation was investing ten million dollars on the north side of the canal. She said there would be an artisan festival in September. She said she had met with Wendel Engineers who would be working on submitting for grants for water infrastructure improvements as well as pump station improvements. She said she had met with the grant writer, and they had discussed the needs to the Village.

Mayor Sherman opened the second public comment period.

Ms. Carol Collina asked if the owner of the burned building on Main Street was paying taxes. She also asked about the sink hole by the canal. She asked if there was a limit on how high the snowbanks could be piled up. She said it is dangerous as some of the snow banks were nine to ten feet tall and difficult to see around.

Firefighter Steve Miller addressed the board stating in August of 2020 a six-year strategic plan was put in place. He said in October of 2021, the need for a new ladder truck as well as the 1930 year old building were presented to the Village Board. He said there are two other vehicles in their fleet that were also aging. He said these are not wants, these are needs. He said it is concerning that they do not have the support of all the existing board members. He said they stand behind Fire Chief Jackson and that this is public safety and employee safety. He said they urge the board to take immediate action.

Mr. Colin Zimmerman asked if the current vehicles were unsafe to drive.

Trustee Padoleski addressed Firefighter Miller asking why the union feels like they are not supported. Trustee Padoleski stated just because she asks questions, and did not back a 6.4-million-dollar building, does not mean she does not support the Fire Department. She said she is not going to make a rash decision and that the Village Board should have sought out funding first. She said this is not the 1980's, times are very different, especially with the reassessments. She also said it does not compute that if the ladder truck is so dangerous, why is it still in service. She also asked why the Village taxpayers are funding a ladder truck that is responding to more mutual aid calls than in the

Village. She said she met with the Emergency Management Officer at Orleans County and that more of these discussions need to happen. The taxpayers in this Village are wanting something different.

Fire Chief Jackson said there were multiple tests performed and the ladder truck did not receive its full certification. The pumper truck could not pass due to a deteriorating radiator.

Firefighter Miller said it is not an attack on the current board. He said this has been an action of the past. The union is constantly doing more with less. He said there is also a decrease in volunteers.

Trustee Padoleski said it isn't appropriate the Village is paying the brunt of the costs. She said if we are going to be worried about the safety of the community, we need to work together. Business has to be done differently. People can't afford it.

Mr. Parada said people are struggling with the reassessments.

Ms. Linda Limina said she can see both sides of it, people want the services, but the reassessments have affected people. They can't afford it. She said she heard what Trustee Padoleski is saying and applauded her for trying to find a better way.

Mayor Sherman said they need to get the facts out there. She said these people are giving up their lives to protect this Village. She said they try to save the taxpayers money. She said the Village Board goes line by line to see where they can save money. She said she doesn't want to raise taxes but if her house is on fire, she wants a ladder truck that will respond. She said people are investing in the community and it may help with grants.

Mrs. Lorraine Limina said the things we want and the things we can afford don't always match up.

Mr. Colin Zimmerman asked when the board will have an answer on how much taxes will be increasing.

Mr. Jason Bessel addressed the board, stating he is a twenty-year-old member of the Town of Ridgeway Fire Department. He said you have to have a ladder truck, the longer you wait, the more it will cost.

Mr. Dave Berry asked about creating a fire district at the west end of the county.

Fire Chief Jackson said a fire district is definitely doable down the road.

Trustee Padoleski said the caution with that, if we bond a ladder truck and a building, the debt stays with the Village.

Firefight Higgins asked if there is any legal recourse to go against Orleans County for more sales tax.

Trustee Marciano said a few years ago the towns got together and passed a resolution asking for more sales tax. She said she has tried to push this at the Legislator's meetings. She

said all the municipalities need to get together and say this is not sustainable. Village residents and Town residents are also County residents. They are not required by law to distribute any additional sales tax, but they need to be responsive to all County residents.

Ms. Carol Collina asked that the board is doing about the water infrastructure. Mayor Sherman said the Village continues to pursue grants.

Ms. Penny Miller said she lives in Ridgeway and that their taxes are lower than in the Village of Medina. She said she is willing to pay more in taxes to have a ladder truck respond in the Town of Ridgeway.

Mrs. Lorraine Limina asked if the Village knows if they need more housing. She also asked that the entryways into the Village are cleaned up. She said we have become complacent.

Ms. Christine Limina asked if residents are required to have their sidewalks cleaned off.

Mr. Dave Berry asked what the Village Board was going to do for the tax base for the future. He said Mr. Wilson Southworth wanted to put twenty-five cents per 1000 toward infrastructure. He asked if there are plans for the future.

Ms. Christine Limina asked if there was a study done by Orleans County on housing. She asked if the Village of Medina needed more rental properties.

Mr. Ethan Weeks said there needs to be forward thinking.

Mayor Sherman said the Town of Shelby has reached out about the water contracts. Trustee Marciano said the Town of Shelby believes they are being billed 1.6 times the rate. That is not the case. The Village of Medina is only charging what is appropriate in the contract.

A motion was made by Trustee Baker and seconded by Trustee Padoleski. The meeting is moved into executive session at 8:52 p.m. to discuss the appointment of a particular person or persons.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Padoleski and seconded by Trustee Prawel. The meeting is reconvened at 10:13 p.m.

All ayes
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The New York State Comptroller's Office is granted read only access of the Village of Medina bank accounts through the duration of the audit.

All ayes

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Marciano and seconded by Trustee Baker. The meeting is adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

All ayes
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jada A. Burgess
Clerk-Treasurer