

# *Village of Leicester*

## **January 22, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Briffa called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor:** Barry Briffa

**Trustees:** Don Jacobs, Ken Rizzo, Tom Frantz, Dan Christiano

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Deborah Beardsley

**Deputy Clerk:** Sam Bodratti

**Fire Chief:** James Kane, President John Yasso

**Highway Superintendent:**

**Water Operator:**

**Zoning/Code Enforcement:**

**Residents:** Karen Roffe

**EXCUSED:**

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the December 18, 2023 Board Meeting were accepted on a motion by Trustee Christiano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Rizzo. [Motion Carried 4-0]

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Fire Company Report:** President Yasso submitted the attached report and reported the following:

- 4 Calls in the past month (3 in the Town/1 in the Village)
- Training – Driver Training and Switching drivers.
- Trucks are currently all back in service. Mini pumper 133 had new computer installed and turbo. There is a new maintenance program in place for the trucks: always keeping fuel tanks full, using a fuel additive for diesel fuel to reduce any moisture and taking trucks out in between calls.
- 2023 Forestry Grant has been denied which was expected as the 2022 grant money was just received.
- Gutters are now done on the Fire Hall.
- Fire / EMS Study- First draft review/vision meeting was held December 21, 2023 with each fire department. One more draft presentation before the final presentation which should be in February. Discussion and decisions to be made between Town and Village Boards after final presentation. Trustee Christiano asked if CGR's analysis of the equipment was by their own inspection or from Fire Department members. President Yasso confirmed it was done with interviews and meetings with Fire Department personnel, same as with the facilities. Mayor Briffa stated he attended the presentation and none of the information is new or unknown. He believes the departments should be consolidated and he doesn't want the process to be dragged out, but is not convinced that both departments will be able to work together towards this goal, however, there should be a Fire District. Mt. Morris's Fire District is a great example. Trustee Christiano gathers from the initial report that the strength of Leicester's department is equipment and the strength of Cuylerville's department is membership, and it seems like the two are made to "marry" together and it is just a matter if personnel can work together toward a common goal. He feels neither can survive on their own as things become more expensive and the tax base is not getting larger. The initial report bears this out.
- President Yasso presented financial information for negotiations for the Fire Contract with the Town and presented the information to the Board for their input. As a large portion of calls are within the Town, a 75/25 split on budget costs seems most logical. Town Board member Roffe explained how

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the Town Board determined how they came to increase Cuylerville's Fire Department monies and not all they requested was funded. Board member Roffe further stated that the best part of the CGR meeting was that everyone was talking in public, and some good things came out of that conversation. She would like to see a Joint Fire District with Village, Town and Fire Department officials with funding still coming from Town and Village, however unless changes are made to the Fire Tax, funding is limited Mayor Briffa provided that if a Fire District was formed, the funds would increase because Village taxpayers would then also pay a Fire Tax. Board member Roffe does not like that there would be a lack of control with a Fire District. Fire Chief Kane stated that there would be requirements for financial training for those involved with finances in the Fire District. Trustee Christiano stated that accountability would come from the fact that positions are elected and the experts should be in charge of what they do so well in serving the community. Mt. Morris's Fire District was brought up as an example and Chief Kane shared that there are individuals on their Board that have no Fire Department background, but have a knowledge base in budgets and financials. Board member Roffe stated that she agreed that something needs to change and Mayor Briffa states the two Boards have to work together and move forward. Mayor Briffa and President Yasso will present the Fire Contract proposal at the Town Board meeting.

- New grant program for the Fire Department - President Yasso stated both the Village and the Fire Department need to be approved and then determine what to apply for. Applications can be up to one million for buildings and up to \$500,000 for equipment. The Senator is aware the Village will be applying for funds.

### **Highway Department Report:** Mayor Briffa presented the following:

- New Contract with the Town is pending.
- Work on Smith's property
- Brush to be cut on Mahoney Street along the railroad tracks.

### **Water Report:**

- Discussion on new Telemetry System to be installed by Plant-IQ. Proposed cost of system: \$46,936; Electrician costs: \$4500; Engineering costs: \$3,000. for a total of \$54,436. Potential savings of \$9,000 per quarter on lost water. Project to take approximately 6-8 weeks to obtain materials and two months to complete. Project will allow pumps at the pump house and at the tank to communicate with each other regarding water levels and make it easier to keep track. Mayor Briffa questioned if the upgrades to the water system will qualify toward the grant monies earned by upgrading to LED lighting, etc. The grant program mentioned is the Clean Energy Communities which is focused on eliminating fossil fuels so likely would not be part of that program.

Motion by Trustee Christiano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Jacobs to approve new telemetry system at a cost not to exceed \$55,000. [Motion Carried 4-0]

### **Zoning Report:** Mayor Briffa reports the following:

- Otis property permit continues to be outstanding.
- Garage behind house at 36 South Street is falling down and needs to be addressed.
- Two surveys forwarded to Code Enforcement Officer Cagle.

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### OLD BUSINESS:

**Budget** - Mayor Briffa asked the Board to review the budget paperwork by the February Board Meeting to put the budget together for a budget proposal in March. There is a carryover of approximately \$13,000 in CHIPS funding. AIM funding is not increasing.

**Grants – Main Street Grant** – 4 signs with LivCo branding being added to the 4 Welcome signs are on order. Planters and banners (2 summer / 2 fall) are here. Waiting for better weather to install banners.

**SAM Grant** – Deputy Clerk Bodratti to contact Liz Krueger of the Senate Finance Committee. Mayor Briffa spoke with DASNY who stated the Senator of Financial Committee has the grant paperwork and the package is complete and waiting for approval. Lima and Manchester have both received monies owed from 2018.

**Playground Grants-** Kaboom Grant and Ralph Wilson Grant were researched. Ralph Wilson is not an option as it does not serve Livingston County. They also partner with Kaboom and we are waiting for an answer back from Kaboom. Deputy Bodratti is looking at other grant programs for playgrounds. Mayor Briffa suggested turning the old tennis courts into pickleball courts which is big right now. Received letter from Kiwanis who is hoping the Village will again contribute \$1500.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Lawn Mower** – Village will take delivery of new mower on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Received \$1700 trade in along with the discount.

**NYSEG** – Contracted with Ironwood to trim trees around Village power lines.

### MAYOR'S REPORT:

### CLERKS REPORT:

**CNB CD Rates:** Clerk-Treasurer Beardsley provided information on rates for various short and long-term CD's for Board consideration for investment options as interest rates are expected to drop this year. The Village representative at CNB bank shared that most municipalities are currently investing in 30-, 60- or 90-day term CD's. If all funds are put into one CD, if a need arose to withdraw funds, there is a penalty for removal of funds before end of term and it was suggested to split funds into two separate funds with separate terms. It is recommended to split the funds into a \$300,000 CD and a \$100,000 CD with any remaining funds coming back to the General Fund.

On a motion from Trustee Rizzo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Frantz, the monies at Canandaigua National will be invested as follows: \$300,000 for a one year term (12 months) at 4.5% and \$100,000 for a 90 term at 5.25% with the remaining balance transferred to the General fund.

[Motion Carried 4-0]

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**Request to Use Fire Hall:** York-Leicester Kiwanis has requested to use the Fire Hall on April 6, 2024 for a Drive-Thru Chicken BBQ. Motion by Trustee Christiano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Jacobs to approve the request for the use of the Fire Hall on April 6, 2024. [Motion Carried 4-0]

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Trustee Christiano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Frantz to enter Executive Session at 7:42 pm regarding the Fire Contract. [Motion Carried 4-0]

**EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Trustee Christiano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Rizzo to exit Executive Session at 7:55 pm. [Motion Carried 4-0]

Motion by Trustee Christiano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Frantz to negotiate a contract with the Town of Leicester for \$37,700 for Fire Protection Services. [Motion Carried 4-0]

### **AUDIT OF BILLS:**

Trustee Christiano motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Rizzo to accept the bills as audited. [Motion Carried 4-0]  
General Fund Vouchers 3015 – 3036 \$16,319.01    Water Fund Vouchers 1116 – 1128    \$40,836.74

### **NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:**

Board of Trustees Meeting February 26, 2024, at 6:30 pm at Village Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Trustee Christiano motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Jacobs to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm. [Motion Carried 4-0]

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Beardsley  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Village of Leicester