

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 15, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Upper Nyack was held at Village Hall on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Those participating: Mayor Karen Tarapata, Trustees Michael Esmay, Jeffrey Epstein, Ken Rothchild, Village Clerk Heather Candella, Village Land Use Attorney Noelle C. Wolfson

Absent: Trustee Laurie Dodge

MINUTES – Trustee Epstein made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 17, 2021 seconded by Trustee Esmay and so approved.

On call for a vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustee Esmay, Trustee Epstein & Trustee Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

POLICE REPORTS – Clarkstown Police Officer Niles Davies and Sgt. Burke were out of town for this meeting. PO Davies will provide the Village with the monthly report next week.

TREASURER’S REPORT – The Town of Clarkstown taxes totaling \$13,920.28 that were paid at closing on the preserve have been reimbursed by Rockland County.

To date the Village has collected 720 out of 770 Village tax bills. 50 residents were billed with the 5% added interest late fee, these numbers are in line with the past few years.

Year-to-date financials were provided to the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Rothchild made a motion to adopt the Resolution to approve four individuals: Karen Tarapata, Mayor; Heather Candella, Village Clerk; Jeffrey Epstein, Village Trustee; Richard D. Fortunato, Village Treasurer; to sign checks on behalf of the Village. Any check over \$50,000 would require two signatures. Trustee Esmay seconded and so moved.

On a call for a vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Epstein, Esmay, Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

CLIMATE SMART / COMMUNITY SOLAR – Village Residents Peggy Kurtz, Addison Chappell, and Harry Vetter discussed the benefits of the Village becoming a Climate Smart community.

By implementing Climate Smart certification actions, communities experience the following benefits: cost savings through greater efficiency, greater energy independence and energy security, improved air quality from switching to clean energy, conservation of green spaces for recreation and biodiversity, reduction of future flood risk through climate change adaptation strategies, investment in an economy that supports sustainability and green businesses, and greater engagement with residents.

Some of the benefits of participating in the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification program include the following: better scores on grant applications for some state funding programs, streamlined access to resources, training, tools and expert guidance.

Trustee Epstein will act as liaison between the Climate Smart community volunteers and the Village. Energy costs for the Village will be tracked for a full year on a spreadsheet going forward, tracking energy usage and possibly reduce it. Peggy Kurtz will provide a full list of volunteers.

Trustee Epstein made a motion to adopt the resolution to make the Village of Upper Nyack a Climate Smart Community. Trustee Esmay seconded and so moved.

On a call for a vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Epstein, Esmay, Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

Village Resident Peggy Kurtz spoke to the benefits of solar and renewable energy. Community Solar is an opt-out, no contract, no exit fees, no extra bills – credits would appear on residents Orange & Rockland bill, the program provides guaranteed savings. Grants are also available through the program. The goal of the Community Solar program is to encourage

residents to use renewable energy without increasing costs.

Trustee Rothchild made a motion to adopt the resolution to adopt Community Solar with the amendment “subject to the approval of the Village Board.” Trustee Epstein seconded and so moved.

On a call for a vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Epstein, Esmay, Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

UPGRADE TO PHONE SYSTEM AT VILLAGE HALL – Proposed package includes eight phones split between Village Hall and the Old Stone Meeting House. The Board approved the 36-month package.

RIVER HOOK BUILDING CONDITION REPORT – The Village did not receive a grant for the River Hook Building Condition Report. Dennis Letson will be asked to provide the Board of Trustees with a Structural Report of the building, before a building condition report is considered by the Board.

OLD STONE MEETING HOUSE RESTORATION – Three bids were reviewed for rebuilding the platform at the Old Stone Meeting House, one bid from Sinnott Construction and two from A&J Construction. Mayor Tarapata will follow-up with A&J Construction regarding a discrepancy in wood plank size.

Trustee Epstein made a motion to accept the lowest bid. Trustee Esmay seconded and so moved.

On a call for a vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustees Epstein, Esmay, Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

JUNETEENTH FEDERAL HOLIDAY – The Mayor made the following proclamation:

I, Karen Tarapata, Mayor of the Village of Upper Nyack, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 19 as Juneteenth Day of Observance. I call upon the people of the Village to acknowledge and celebrate the end of the

Civil War and the emancipation of Black Americans, and commit together to eradicate the systemic racism that still undermines our founding ideals and collective prosperity.

I ask for the Board of Trustees to ratify this action and add Juneteenth to the list of legal holidays in the Village of Upper Nyack.

Trustee Epstein motioned to declare Juneteenth to the list of legal holidays in the Village of Upper Nyack. Trustee Rothchild seconded, and so approved.

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustee Esmay, Trustee Epstein & Trustee Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

VILLAGE 150th ANNIVERSARY KICK-OFF – SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 –

Mayor Tarapata brought to the attention of the Board that the Friends of River Hook will be meeting next week to begin planning the 150th Village of Upper Nyack Anniversary kick-off.

FRIENDS OF RIVER HOOK GIFT – COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES –

The Friends of River Hook will need concrete pads for the commemorative benches they are donating to the preserve. They are working on getting the concrete pads for the benches to be donated as well, if they are unable to be donated The Friends of River Hook request the Village provide them if necessary.

DISCUSSION: ORGAN AT OLD STONE MEETING HOUSE SURPLUS

Mayor Tarapata is in the process of working with a dealer in Scranton, PA in to purchase the organ currently located at the Old Stone Meeting House.

Mayor Tarapata asked the Board of Trustees to surplus the organ so that it can be sold.

Trustee Esmay motioned to surplus the Old Stone Meeting House organ. Trustee Epstein seconded, and so approved.

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustee Esmay, Trustee Epstein & Trustee Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Esmay moved to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Trustee Rothchild seconded the motion, and so moved.

On call for a vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustee Esmay, Trustee Epstein & Trustee Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

Trustee Epstein moved to end the Executive Session. Trustee Rothchild seconded the motion, and so moved.

On call for a vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustee Esmay, Trustee Epstein & Trustee Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

DISCUSSION: DROP-IN SALTER FOR DPW – The DPW is requesting an upgrade for the 2009 International Truck. The drop-in salter was bought in 1992 and rebuilt in 2003. Chain redone in 2011, and still has original gear box. DPW is unsure if it will last another season as it has become dangerous to operate. The body of the 2009 is rusting out, but the truck is perfect, according to the mechanic who just serviced it.

There are currently two options: 1) A new drop in salter. It would have to be put in and taken out each season - ½ day each time. The truck can only be used for salt and not available for storm cleanup/leaf pickup. Installed \$12K - Body needs \$5K in repairs now. 2) Stainless steel body with integrated truck with a built-in salter. Benefits of a built-in include: pull three pins and spinner comes out, plate slides in and four bolts, can be used as a dump truck, has dual auger set up, no chain, and will not wear out. The equipment also includes a hitch for the trailer and chipper, the tailgate is low enough for the chips to go directly without having to install a temporary a plywood "doghouse" in the bed. Cost for installation is \$65K.

2012 and 2017 have stainless beds with integrated salters and have needed

no repairs. 2012's size means that you put up the doghouse and make more trips, chipper has come off each trip. The 2017 Mack has a high tailgate so it cannot be used for chipping, the cost of a new truck is \$250K.

No decision was made.

DISCUSSION: ZOOM NECESSITY – The Board discussed whether there was still a need for the Zoom Pro account since meetings have been moved to in person. The Board decided to cancel the Zoom Pro account in the near future and look into the possibility of using Microsoft Teams in the future for possible hybrid meetings.

DISCUSSION: FESTIVAL PERMITS – The Board discussed adding a Festival Permit charge to the schedule of fees. Mayor Tarapata to research what other Villages charge and protocol.

DISCUSSION: POSSIBLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT – Mayor Tarapata received information from Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick for a possible Department of Transportation grant to fund sidewalks on Birchwood Avenue, Old Mountain Road, and repair the sidewalks near the schools on North Broadway, as well as pave a bike/pedestrian path at the River Hook Preserve.

Trustee Esmay motioned to close the meeting. Trustee Rothchild seconded and so it was accepted.

On call for a vote:

AYES: Mayor Tarapata, Trustee Esmay, Trustee Epstein & Trustee Rothchild

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Dodge

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Candella
Village Clerk