

VILLAGE OF CORNWALL-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 13, 2014

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened at 7:00 P.M., with the Pledge of Allegiance, at 325 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y.

The following Board Members were in attendance:

Mayor Brendan G. Coyne
Deputy Mark J. Edsall
Trustee James P. Kane
Trustee David Carnright

Also present were: DPW Superintendent David Halvorsen, Police Chief Steven Dixon, Storm King Engine Co. #2 Fire Chief Robby Vought, Code Enforcement Officer Ben Maggio, and Village Clerk Jeanne Mahoney

Absent was: Water Superintendent Robert June (vacation)

Mayor Coyne announced that there is a binder on the back table for anyone interested in looking at the draft budget and meeting-related documents that will be discussed this evening.

PUBLIC HEARING 2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

Proof of Notice and Publication having been furnished, and copies of the budget having been distributed, Mayor Coyne made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2014-15 Budget at 7:01 PM which was seconded by Trustee Kane and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Deputy Mayor Edsall reported that there has been approximately 1 ½ months of input between the Village Board and the Budget Officer, and he has made the requested changes to the budget.

Having no one further wish to speak, Mayor Coyne made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:02 PM which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

PUBLIC HEARING TO SET SEWER RENTS

Proof of Notice and Publication having been furnished, Mayor Coyne made a motion to open the Public Hearing to set sewer rents at 7:03 PM which was seconded by Trustee Kane and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Trustee Kane stated that in order to make up the operation and maintenance shortfall in the sewer fund, sewer rents need to increase. He suggested they be increased to 10-15% above current water rents.

Mayor Coyne reported that the sewer budget shortfall is on the revenue side. Sewer fund expenditures are in line with the budget.

Deputy Mayor Edsall stated that sewer rents are calculated as a percentage of water rates (currently 85%). There has been no increase in water/sewer rates since the 2010-2011 budget. The Village's revenue has been stagnant while Town rates for shared expenses of sewer operation and maintenance has steadily increased (approximately a 40% increase over the past 4 years). This year alone the increase was 11%. These increases are the result of DEC mandates, increased operational expenses, and Hurricane Irene damages at the jointly owned sewer plant. Mr. Edsall suggests we "find a balance" to help get us back on track.

Peter Russell, newly elected Councilman in the Town of Cornwall, stated that a meeting/hearing has been scheduled with the DEC to discuss the sewer plant on January 23rd.

Mayor Coyne stated that he will speak with the Town Supervisor about this meeting.

Having no one further wish to speak, Mayor Coyne made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:10 PM which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

DRAFT MONTHLY REPORTS - DECEMBER

The Village Board reviewed the draft Treasurer's, Building, Fire, Police, Public Works, and Water Department Reports for December.

Cumberland Farms – Discussion took place regarding the number/time of deliveries and where the trucks park. Code Enforcement Officer Maggio agreed to contact a representative of Cumberland Farms to set up a meeting with the Village Board to discuss these concerns.

Vehicle Lease/Purchase – Police Department

Upon the recommendation of Chief Dixon, Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion authorizing Mayor Coyne to execute a lease/purchase agreement for a Ford Explorer AWD with flexibility to add an extended warranty, which was seconded by Trustee Kane and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays

RESOLUTIONS

INTERFUND TRANSFER

Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion to authorize an interfund transfer of \$107,402.71 from the Water Fund to the Sewer Fund, to be paid back before the end of this fiscal year, which was seconded by Trustee Kane and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

NOTICE OF POLLING PLACE/TIME – VILLAGE ELECTION

Deputy Mayor Edsall introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the next annual election of the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson will be held in the Board Room of the Village Hall, 325 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y., on the 18th day of March 2014, between the hours of Noon and 9 PM by voting machine. The office and terms for which are as follows: Trustee – Two Years, Trustee - Two Years.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

ELECTION INSPECTOR APPOINTMENTS

The Clerk requested the following be appointed Election Inspectors for the upcoming March 18th election at a rate of \$75 per day:

Registration Day:	Margaret Flint, as Chairperson and Elsa Cameron
Election Day Table:	Margaret Flint, Elsa Cameron, Martha Diederich, and Colette Fulton
Alternates:	Lauren Anderson, Robert Anderson, Barbara Fletcher, Floranne Moulton, Susan Ostrander, and Carmela Yerdon
Election Day Machine:	Brigid Flynn and Barbara Gabhart
Voting Machine Inspector:	Ray Torracca (rate of \$150 per machine)

Trustee Kane moved to accept these appointments which was seconded by Mayor Coyne and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

OTHER BUSINESS

RESIGNATION - TRUSTEE PETER RUSSELL/APPOINTMENT - KENNETH SCHMIDT

Mayor Coyne made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Village Trustee Peter Russell effective January 13, 2014, with regret, which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Mayor Coyne stated that he is very grateful Mr. Russell ran for Trustee and for all his contributions to the Village. He is certain that Mr. Russell will do a great job for the Town.

Deputy Mayor Edsall thanked Mr. Russell for the knowledge, expertise, and insight he brought to the Village Board. Mr. Edsall “learned a lot” from him.

Trustee Kane stated that he and Mr. Russell campaigned together back in 2012. Mr. Kane enjoyed working with him and learned a “bunch of things”. Mr. Kane is confident that the Town Board will benefit from his expertise and he wished Mr. Russell the best of luck.

Trustee Carnright stated that he and Mr. Russell were friends before working together on the Village Board and will remain good friends. Mr. Carnright is thankful that the Village will now be represented in the Town.

Mr. Russell thanked the Village Board and Village employees - it was a “great team”.

APPOINTMENT OF VILLAGE TRUSTEE

Mayor Coyne introduced the following resolution.

WHEREAS, based upon the resignation of former Trustee Peter Russell, a vacancy exists in the office of Village Trustee; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Village Law section 3-312(3)(b)(1), vacancies occurring in the office of Trustee, which are not caused by the expiration of their term, are filed by the Mayor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Mayor of the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson,

THAT Kenneth A. Schmidt is appointed Trustee of the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson, for a term to expire at noon on the first Monday in April, 2014.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

Mayor Coyne reported that he has been worked with Victor Cornelius on this grant application and is hopeful that it is near completion.

Deputy Mayor Edsall reported that the Hazard Mitigation Plan, a joint venture between the Town and Village, was prepared by Turner Miller Associates. The plan has been completed, all open items have been addressed, and has been resubmitted to the NYS Office of Emergency Management. The plan is now awaiting FEMA review and approval, which will then make the Town and Village eligible for some “non-emergency” grants when they become available.

SEWER RATES – OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

Mayor Coyne stated that increasing sewer rates to 115% of current water rates is a good “starting point” and is necessary in order to make any headway.

Deputy Mayor Edsall added that the Village will be “deeper in the hole” next year if sewer rates aren’t increased. This is a good interim step.

Trustee Kane stated that an increase to 115% of water rates will help with the shortfall in the sewer fund.

Mayor Coyne made a motion to raise Sewer Fund Operation & Maintenance (O&M) rates from 85% to 115% of water rates effective with the February 15, 2014 billing which was seconded by Trustee Carrington and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

SEWER RATES – CAPITAL

Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion to establish a Sewer Fund Capital Rate of \$10 per “point” (\$100 per single family dwelling) to be paid annually, and authorize the Village Clerk to compute rates based on the point system adopted by the Village Board July 15, 2013, effective with the April 15, 2014 billing which was seconded by Trustee Kane and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

BOARD ACTIVITIES/COMMENTS

Trustee Kane announced that he plans to run for another term as Village Trustee. He feels that the current Board is making “good progress” and he is looking forward to running again.

Having concluded the business set before them, Mayor Coyne moved to adjourn the special meeting into Executive Session, with Attorney for the Village Joseph McKay who arrived at approximately 8:30 PM, in order to discuss a disciplinary matter in the Department of Public Works, and CSEA/PBA Union Negotiations, which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

The Special Meeting was reconvened at 9:50 PM upon a motion by Trustee Kane which was seconded by Mayor Coyne and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

DPW – DISCIPLINARY HEARING

Mayor Coyne made a motion to authorize the Mayor to appoint Judge William E. Sherwood, P.C. as hearing officer for the DPW Disciplinary Hearing, Case 2013-01 at a rate of \$225 per hour with all powers of the Board to conduct the hearing, and provide a recommendation to the Village Board upon completion of the hearing. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Having concluded the business set before them, Deputy Mayor Edsall moved to adjourn the special meeting at 9:55 PM, which was seconded by Mayor Coyne and upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.