

MINUTES
Overseers Meeting
April 12, 2015

Attendees:

President: Denis Wang
Treasurer: Steve Kazilionis
Village Agent: Bill E. Paige

Overseers:

Lee Houghton
Judy Metcalf
Jo Huntoon
John Spritz
Marge Brockway
Steve Flowers, **absent**
John Woolsey, **via skype**

Visitors: Dick Brockway, Jane Phillips, Judy Rohweder, Cindy Bravo

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Wang.

Minutes:

Judy Metcalf moved to approve the revised minutes from the March meeting, seconded by John Woolsey - **Voted and approved.**

Warrants were circulated for approval.

Treasurers Report:

Steve Kazilionis discussed P & L for General account – Land closing costs was accounted for and reconciled.

Due to the severe winter, plowing and sanding were overspent. There is a need to better coordinate scheduling to balance workload and to avoid unnecessary overtime.

Steve outlined the process for sanding and recommended the Overseers consider purchasing a sander for the truck. At current spending levels the payback would be less than 5 years. Lee Houghton said he could find a used sander for the job so we would not have to spend \$5,000 for the device. Another issue which will be addressed is where and how the sand will be obtained as loading a sander with a shovel is simply not practical. It was suggested that we look into Belfast Roads department for buying sand.

Additional funds were spent with Dean Brown Construction to push back snow on the road corners with a bulldozer.

Utilities:

Discussed a reclassification of line items for the Utilities.

Water testing budget was overspent due to performing new lab testing and outside testing as well. This will change when DEP certifies our lab work and double testing will not be necessary.

Steve explained the Cash Flow Report that will help to keep track of Checking accounts.

The Village will be billed the same as all others. Any necessary changes will be made to conform and be billed as follows:

The lab has its own water meter and is also tied into the public sewer. For water it should be billed for water usage plus the standard base amount and for sewer, just the sewer base amount. Both should be billed, per order of the Utility Board, to the General Government.

The fire house does sit adjacent to the lab, but has its own water meter and public sewer service. They are not tied into together with the lab. Thus, no plumbing changes are needed at this building. Billing for water at this location should be for water usage plus the standard base amount. For sewer, just the standard sewer base amount. Both should be billed, per order of the Utility Board, to the General Government.

The library was billed for water only. It is not tied into the sewer since the water was used only for watering flowers and perhaps a drinking fountain. Therefore, there was no account set up for sewer at this facility. Since the water service for the library will be discontinued, so should the account, and no bill for water or sewer for the library should be generated going forward.

For the NVC office, no changes have been ordered. Both the water and sewer accounts are being correctly billed for the proper usage and base amounts. Payments for this facility are split three ways among water, sewer and general and will continue going forward.

The metered water service to the NVC wharf; in addition to usage, the standard base amount for water should also be added to this account and accordingly, be billed to general. There is no sewer service for this location.

The Ruggles Park Fire Hydrant was put back into working order. John Spritz moved that the Village and the Sewer Department split the cost of \$190.00 per year for the hydrant, seconded by Lee Houghton **Voted and approved.**

Discussions:

Steve said that the NVC had paid their contribution to the Town of Northport for the reprogramming of Trio Software to fix the exemption errors on the Village taxes. Tax collections are coming in at the normal rate. The Tax Commitment letter needs to be completed including the cost of the land purchase.

Lee Houghton announced that Bob Smith has resigned from the Runoff Committee. He also said he will be resigning at the end of this meeting due to his feelings about the purchase of the land next door which will raise taxes, as voted by the residents, and his dissatisfaction with the presentation from the interim school superintendent about the impact of Northport's vote to withdraw from the RSU on town of Northport taxes.

Steve reinforced that the overseers were charged by a majority of the citizens to buy the land Steve also reminded all that the potential saving numbers presented by the interim superintendent were only estimates, The Northport School Committee will prepare a formal budget for presentation to the Selectpersons and voters of the Town of Northport. The hope is that this budget will require less funding to operate the school independently, and if this proves to be the case, taxpayers could see a reduction in tax rates.

Lee was thanked by all for his service to the Board and, in particular, for his willingness to speak his point of view, even if he perceived that at times it was not shared. . Jo Huntoon pointed out that Lee is our voice of conscience and asked him to please reconsider, Lee gestured that he would not.

Steve indicated that the auditors report is complete, the Village has a "clean" audit – the auditors did not recommend any changes to current accounting policies and practices

Steve expressed concern that there is some bookkeeping carelessness with regard to payroll practices used by our bookkeeper. He is working with the bookkeeper to verify that the amounts paid to employees were correct and that the NVC is adhering to all State and Federal wage and hour laws. He requested authority to consult with the NVC labor counsel to ensure we are in compliance, the Overseers so approved.

Village Agent:

Bill could not find an independent licensed inspector besides Prock Marine and felt they would have a conflict of interest. He was instructed to use Prock and if any work needs to be done put it out for bid.

Dirigo's estimate for Maple Street was presented. Three options were given; paving, used paving, and gravel. Steve said that the Water and Sewer departments could cover their part with reserves. General Government would have to obtain a bond. Steve suggested and the Board agreed that the warrant for the annual meeting should include a request for this borrowing authority. There was discussion also about assuring that the warrant article include as much of our capital improvement projects, such as the seawall area, as possible so that the authority to borrow is in hand so as not to delay these identified projects.

In light of the resignation of Houghton, the overseers committed to work directly with Billy as part of the Surface Runoff issues so as not to slow this project down. Trash Pickup Contract is up in June. John Spritz reviewed the response of the online inquiry about the trash pickup. He reported 9 responses to the request for comments. All but 1 expressed satisfaction with the current system. (1 person questioned the necessity of having curbside trash pickup at all.) Judy Metcalf moved to publish a request for bids for the trash pickup as we have in the past for a duration of one year ending September 15, 2016, seconded by John Spritz – **Voted and approved. The overseers will assure that the conversation about the efficacy of curbside pickup is discussed at the annual meeting so that there is an inclusive discussion re: same.**

Billy asked for clarification on the dates for mowing contracts, and that they should include fall and spring cleanup. The contracts were updated earlier in the year to reflect those changes and now include both fall and spring cleanup.

The Pump house storage shed is not salvageable and should be removed. Bill will get estimates building an addition to the Lab building which will be a multipurpose space.

Private repairs to the sea wall south of the wharf is moving along. Elwell, the contractor, has shown proof of liability insurance and was told he could proceed when the roads are no longer posted by the town.

Centennial:

Judy Metcalf moved to approve the April budget request as presented by the Centennial Chairperson, seconded by Marge Brockway – **Voted and approved.**

John W. was instructed on the procedure to get expenses paid and to get reimbursed for advances he has made

Judy Metcalf moved to approve additional days requested by the Centennial Committee for functions in the Community Hall, seconded by John Woolsey – **Voted and approved.**

Marge Brockway reported that the MMA Risk Management will not provide at any cost an events binder for our insurance policy to include the right to serve or bring alcohol.

Communications:

John Spritz said he would be putting together a web site to give NVC an internet presence.

John will arrange a meeting with Barbara Ashley (Northport Town Administrator) and Bill Paige to discuss road maintenance and snow plowing. The goal will be to clarify the scope of the plowing responsibility for the village and the town.

Judy Metcalf moved to approve Community Hall reservations for Robinson dance classes and Emerson Smith's wedding breakfast, all as in accordance with the rental policy, seconded by Jo Huntoon – **Voted and approved.**

Safety:

Dick Brockway reported an anonymous donation of \$1,000.00 towards the purchase of an AED. The committee will coordinate the purchase of it and where it will reside.

Utilities:

Reviewed the financials and discussed a few over budget item in sewer P & L. Our sewer system remains compliant with license agreement.

Meters will be later than usual this year due to the depth of the frost in the ground.

The water department urges residents to be on the lookout for water leaks as the ground thaws out and the temperatures rise.

Policy and Procedures:

Judy reported that the committee met at 8:30 AM before the Overseers meeting. They analyzed the data prepared by Paul Bartels and created an action list.

Executive Session:

Judy Metcalf moved to enter executive session at 11:15 AM, seconded by Marge Brockway – **Voted and approved.** Returned from executive session at 11:43 AM.

Adjourn:

The next Overseers meeting is scheduled for May 10th at 9:00 AM.

Judy Metcalf moved to adjourn at 11:45 AM, seconded by Marge Brockway – **Voted.**

Respectfully submitted by Paul Bartels.