

January 23, 2024- Village of Cape Vincent Board of Trustees

Mayor Jerry Golden opened the meeting at 5:30 PM with Trustee Robert Ewing, Pamela Youngs and Dave Bonney present. Trustee Christine Stark attended via phone. Mayor Golden welcomed the attendees and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board then reviewed the minutes of the January 9, 2024 regular Board meeting and Trustee Youngs made the motion to accept them as written with Trustee Bonney seconding the motion and all voting yes.

Attendee Chris Rubel, volunteer for the NY citizens audit for voter rolls, then addressed the Board to see if the Villag Board will be participating in the audit with a support letter. There was a discussion. The Board asked Mr. Rubel to return to the second meeting in February so they can do more research.

Marty Mason, DPW Superintendent, then gave the DPW report as follows:

- After the most recent windstorms, the crew did a branch pick-up and no Village trees were blown down. There are a few trees that need to be evaluated for removal.
- Travis Docteur was called in to assist in plowing, due to staffing issues. After a brief discussion, Trustee Ewing made the motion to have Travis Docteur as a subcontractor, on a call-in basis at a rate of \$25.00 per hour with Trustee Bonney seconding the motion and all voting yes.
- The crew will continue to work in the Law Building to repair the flooring. They also will be working to fully complete the police garage with the bathroom shower partition, the heater and a few small items.
- Drying beds: The cattails were all cut back at the end of the season and the flooding has been completed. The beds are ready for the upcoming season. The Village will be getting in contact with Michael Hunter from Cornell Cooperative Extension about pesticides that can be used in the beds for the vegetation that grows that could hinder the process.
- Dustin Cooley has passed his second course and test for his continued work toward obtaining his sewer license. He has one more course in February and then he will be eligible to sit for the State exam.
- DPW Superintendent Marty Mason announced that his last day will be June 1, 2024. The Board further discussed posting the position.
- Water line: Marty has been looking for replacement piping for Lake Street water main near Esselstyne Street. The replacement will take roughly one week, and the replacement won't cause disruption to service other than the actual hookup.
- Sidewalk program: The State sent paperwork to the Village about the upcoming sidewalk work that the State will be doing this summer to make the crosswalks along Market and Broadway ADA compliant. There is no start date, just Summer 2024.
 - Trustee Stark stated that she is still looking into the CDL class for James Johnson. There is a program also done through the Workplace of Watertown. More research needs to be done.
 - Trustee Ewing inquired if the sidewalk program will affect Lee and Broadway. Yes.

Shaun Cuddeback, OIC, then gave the police department report as follows:

- Working on getting background checks for the 2 new prospective officers. They will have to be fingerprinted as well. The timeframe for starting these new officers would be as the weather improves, closer to summer.

Mayor Golden then addressed the “old” business as follows:

- Lot on James St: Nothing new to report.
- REDI: The projects are all near completion, as well as the LWRP. Mayor Golden spoke about his displeasure with the engineers and has concerns that the bond will be more than anticipated due to their errors. He would be in favor of taking legal action if necessary as he has voiced concerns about the budget from the beginning of the project and has assured along the way that the budget was ok. More information to follow as the project wraps.
- Zoning: Trustee Stark has no report. She is working on getting the permit ledger from 2023.
- French Festival/Chamber: Nothing to report.
- CVLDC: Trustee Youngs stated that the committee had a very productive meeting last week and had Kristy Dippel from Clayton Improvement League attend the meeting. They spoke about joint efforts moving forward and that she has housing data that she will share with the committee. There is also a new Board member, Mr. Snow.
- Club St: There was a discussion. Trustee Stark is not getting correspondence from the steering group that she chairs. Further discussion took place and Trustee Stark plans to work on this when she returns to the area.
- Citizens audit for voter rolls: There was a discussion. Trustee Stark has done a great deal of research. After giving her briefing of her findings, she would not support the Village giving a support letter to the group. It could result in our taxpayers monies to be spent for the State audit. Surrounding municipalities are not getting involved and doesn't feel it is a good thing for the Village to become involved in. Further discussion took place.
- Fire Dept. & Youth Commission: Trustee Ewing stated that the ice fishing derby is still goon got happen, even with no ice and will be a no boundaries derby.
- Horne's Ferry: Mayor Golden has been emailing with the attorney for Mr. Horne. More to follow.
- Memorial Stone: Trustee Stark has no new report other than they continue to fundraise.
- NYForward: Mayor Golden sent an email to the State representatives that have been working with the Village and they have no update at this time. The Mayor did share his feeling about the prospect of being awarded the grant and how that will work with the REDI projects coming in above budget. More to follow once announcements of grant are released.

Mayor Golden then addressed the “mew” business as follows:

- Mayor Golden spoke about the letter from Scott Gray about the State's budget and the proposal for 4-5 prisons being closed. After a short discussion, Trustee Stark stated that she would reach out to Mr. Gray to see if a support letter template has been created for the Village to do in support.

At 6:22pm, Trustee Ewing made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Trustee Bonney seconded the motion and all voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Rupp, Clerk/Treasurer