

September 12, 2024 – Joint Meeting – Village Board, Town Board and CVLDC

At 6:02pm, Mary Farrell, as director of the CVLDC, opened the meeting with the following in attendance: Mayor Golden, Trustee Youngs, Trustee Stark, Supervisor Aubertine, Councilman Maloney, Councilman Wiley, Councilwoman Jones and from the CVLDC Carol Thomas, Amanda Mason, David Snow, William McDonough and James McQueeney (remotely). Mary Farrell welcomed the group and attendees and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Farrell began with informing the Boards on the recent achievements of the CVLDC. The group did publicity for the Club Street project, they secured and were awarded a \$6,000 grant for French Festival for security, a Strategic Plan has been drafted and a grant communication process has been put in place. Also, they have worked on partnerships with Frontenac Island and also with the CV Arts Council, Clayton LDC and with Scott Gray's office. Mary then spoke about the CVLDC operations to include that they passed their audit, hired an Admin. assistant to be in the office on the 1st Saturday of every month for 3 hours and that a few of the members of the CVLDC have been attending educational courses.

Member Dave Snow then spoke about the strategic plan that was divided into short, middle and long-term goals with the priority being to improve the quality of life in Cape Vincent. Ideas discussed included a master information portal, master event map/calendar, bike routes and access to proper childcare. There was a brief discussion and question period. Many of the ideas could potentially be combined with the services that the Chamber supplies and also to combine with surrounding communities for timeline of events. Mr. Snow then moved on to the medium priority topics to include identifying vacant properties that have commercial potential, short-term rental laws, high-speed data/cell services, expanding outdoor activities and a standardized signage for potential walking tours. Lastly, the lower priority items were a sidewalk/bike path from EE Park to the Village on the northern side of Broadway, eco-tourism, volunteer database, standardizing Town and Village aesthetics. There was a discussion again and it was identified that the volunteer database and the Ferry service should move up the priority list. Mayor Golden stated that he will keep the group updated on the Ferry.

Member William McDonough then spoke to the group about the communication form that the CVLDC created. The Boards supplied feedback and it was discussed that the MOU form used by the Clayton LDC has more information that would be helpful. Mr. McDonough will work on merging the forms. It was stated by Mary Farrell that the forms will work if the Town and Village commit to using them to share information. Both Board agreed to use the forms in a timely manner going forward.

Member Carol Thomas then reviewed the financial status of the CVDLC. She stated that the CVLDC is operating currently at a surplus. They are now splitting the rent at the office space with the CVAC and also the contract with WCP will be cut in half as of July 1, 2024. Mrs. Thomas then spoke about the budget that the CVLDC approved at their August meeting. The budget would require \$100,000 from the Town and the Village at a 60%/40% split respectively. Mayor Golden began the discussion by first stating that the Village fully supports the CVDLC but stated that a sliding scale of funding was discussed by the Town and Village Boards. Trustee stark and Supervisor Aubertine both echoed the Mayor's statement and stated that a 50% cut in the funding for 2025 could be reevaluated next year. Director Farrell was not supportive of the cut in funding. It was then discussed that a few of the line items on the budget

could potentially be reduced if the CVLDC could combine certain services with the Chamber. There was a brief discussion about bed tax that the Town receives from the County. The budget funding reduction was further discussed. Many of the CVDLC members are supportive of the 50% reduction for 2025. It was concluded that Director Farrell would draft a new IMA for 2025 that will reduce the funding from the Town and Village to \$50,000 with the 60%/40% split.

For privilege of the floor, attendee Sarah Dayton then spoke to the group. She inquired about the cost of the consultation for the economic development plan. Director Farrell stated that they currently have one quote for \$25,000 by they continue to get quotes. Ms. Dayton informed the group that Cornell has resources and there is potential that graduate students may be able to help with this kind of task as a portion of their graduation requirements. She then did express her concern about the large fund balance that the CVLDC and that the Town and Village have large expenses upcoming and so the funding reduction is a great idea.

At 7:37pm, Mr. McDonough made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Mr. Snow seconding the motion and all voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Rupp/Village Clerk/Treasurer