

January 14, 2025- Village of Cape Vincent Board of Trustees

Mayor Jerry Golden opened the meeting at 5:30 PM with Trustees Robert Ewing, Pamela Youngs, Christine Stark and Michael Chavoustie present. Mayor Golden welcomed the attendees and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board then reviewed the minutes of the December 10, 2024 regular Board meeting and Trustee Ewing made the motion to accept them as written with Trustee Chavoustie seconding the motion and all voting yes.

The Board then reviewed Abstract 08 as follows:

General: \$ 35,108.78	Vouchers 5007-5039
Water: \$ 7,574.99	Vouchers 2435-2449
Sewer: \$199,606.96	Vouchers 2435-2448

Upon review of the abstract, Trustee Stark made the motion to approve the payments of all vouchers with Trustee Youngs seconding the motion and all voting yes. Mayor Golden then signed Abstract 08 and ordered the Clerk/Treasurer to pay the Abstract.

As the room was full of attendees interested in the EV Charger status, Mayor Golden gave a briefing. There are two portions of the grant and one for National Grid and one for the State. There would be roughly \$400,000.00 upfront costs that would a portion of would be reimbursed upon completion of the project. The Board is still gathering information and has concerns about the financial impact on the Village. Attendee George Sperry then inquired as to why he has reached out to several Board members and was told different figures as to the cost of the project. Mayor Golden explained that we don't even have concrete figures, and the costs will vary depending on the number of chargers. Attendee Mary Farrell, CVLDC director, then added more information on the project and costs. Mary concluded with the request for the Board to consider the timeline of February 28<sup>th</sup> for the state application. Mayor Golden also stated that the Board would like to find out about other funding sources. Trustee Stark inquired if there is a cost to apply? Mary Farrell informed the Board that there is no cost to apply and she feels that there is minimal risk to applying. No decision was made at this time.

Attendee Colleen Knuth then addressed the Board. She gave a brief update on the water issues at her home and inquired if the storm drain on Murray Street is going to be fixed, as she was under the impression that it would be fixed. Mayor Golden spoke to DPW Superintendent, Dustin Cooley, and he stated that the space has been marked and the repair is on the schedule for repair.

Attendee Lisa Parker then spoke to the Board about the drain in the front of her residence on Garden Wall Drive. Ms. Parker has had contractors at her residence to assist with the water issues and she continues to lose trees. After a brief discussion, Mayor Golden and Dustin Cooley will go to the site and evaluate what the Village can do to assist.

Christine Stark, CVIL President, then spoke to the Board. She stated that the CVIL would like to host along with the museum a tour of historic structures in the Village and she inquired if the Village would allow the Community House to be part of the tour. It is now set to take place on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The Village Board supports the idea.

Attendee Tucker Wiley then addressed the Board. He owns property on/near Garden Wall Drive. Mr. Wiley is gathering information on potential uses of the property to include a small development of

homes. He has not decided on anything at this time, but interested to learn more about what is allowed in the Village. As a result, Dustin Cooley will go to the property to evaluate water/sewer potentials. Mr. Wiley will continue to research ideas and evaluate costs before moving forward.

Dustin Cooley, DPW Superintendent, gave his report as follows:

- The point at East End Park has been rebuilt with the rocks and one of the trees will be removed. The crew will then fix up that area with stone and picnic table. The middle tree on the point is the tree that will be removed at this time.
- Trees: There are two trees that need to be taken down in the Village, one on James Street and one on Centre Street. They are both in very bad shape. There are two quotes, Davis Tree Services for \$3100 and One Cut Better for \$1820. Both quotes include the stump grinding as well.
- The PM's for the Water and Sewer plants, raw water building and the clinic are all complete. There have been issues with the boiler at the Water plant. After evaluation, it needs to be replaced. At this time, Dustin has obtained two quotes at this time. Hyde-Stone is coming to clean it again as a temporary fix. Mayor Golden has requested that Dustin obtain a third quote before making any decisions.
- Employee Anthony Maracle is eligible to attend the 2A Water course. The two-week course is in Cortland and the cost is \$1,150 plus room and board. The course is set for March, but no definite dates given at this time.
- The crew will continue to monitor the wave attenuator and ramp/dock at the East End Park. There has been ice buildup and some cosmetic damage.

Shaun Cuddeback, OIC, then gave his report as follows:

- Officer Knapp has been working some day shifts.
- There are printer and computer issues at the police office.
  - Trustee Stark then spoke to OIC Cuddeback and stated that the French Festival committee is still requesting traffic/fire/police and ambulance plans, complete with costs, to get ahead of the process and have it completed by the end of the month of January.

Mayor Golden then addressed the "old" business as follows:

- Lot on James St: No new report, but Mayor Golden gave a briefing to Trustee Chavoustie on the history of the lot.
- Chamber/French Festival: Trustee Stark stated that there are many changes happening at the Chamber, with two more members/officers resigning. The Chamber is having a meeting at the same time as our Board meeting, so Trustee Stark will have more information after our meeting. Trustee Stark stated that the group will meet next week to vote in new officers and the Chamber will need some time to restructure and also stated that she has high hopes for the future of the Chamber. The French Fest committee has started working on permits and has its first meeting in early February. The Board then moved on to discuss the proposed event/tourism promoter

position for the Town and Village. It is proposed at a 60/40 split with the Town and Village respectively. The position would be roughly 20 hours per week as a independent contractor. The Town still has to review the MOA and the job description. After a discussion, Trustee Stark made a motion for the Village to support the position as presented and the MOA and agree to have the position posted after approval from the Town with Trustee Ewing seconding the motion and all voting yes.

- Zoning: Trustee Chavoustie was updated on the Zoning department and Mayor Golden stated that he can set up a meeting with Cody Higgins, Mayor Golden and Trustee Chavoustie.
- CVLDC: Trustee Youngs then updated the Board on the CVLDC. The small projects fund under the NYForward grant is moving forward. The letters will be mailed out to commercial property owners in the NYForward boundaries. There will also be a kick-off meeting soon. There will be a debrief after the Village was not awarded the grant for the phase two of the EEPark. For Club Street, there will be a call to update the group. The LDC will be participating in the ZOOM call at 7:00pm tomorrow evening from one of the keynote speakers from the Tourism conference. All are invited to attend, but the call will be recorded for any that can't attend. At this time, Trustee Stark then made a motion to submit a grant application for the EV Chargers from NY State with Trustee Youngs seconding the motion and all voting yes.
- Fire Dept./Youth Commission: Trustee Ewing stated that the youth commission is all set at this point. The fire department has added some museum pieces to the front of the fire hall with new garage doors with glass windows on the east side of the building. They are continuing to do improvements and the costs to date are at \$25,000.00. Also, he spoke with them about a contingency plan as wildfires are raging in California.
- Horne's Ferry: There is no new update. Trustee Chavoustie offered to assist Mayor Golden with the situation with the ferry.
- NYForward: There is some funding paperwork for the small projects fund and the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer need to sign.

Mayor Golden then addressed the "new" business as follows:

- Emergency Shared services: The current contract is set to expire January 26, 2025. After review, Trustee Youngs made the motion to approve the Mayor to sign the new contract for a 4-year term from January 14, 2025 to January 14, 2029 with Trustee Stark seconding the motion and all voting yes.
  - Mayor Golden then returned to the tree quotes review. Trustee Stark made a motion approve the \$1820.00 quote from A Cut Above for the 2 tree removal with Trustee Chavoustie seconding the motion and all voting yes.

At 6:43pm, Trustee Ewing made a motion enter into an executive session to discuss salaries/employee evaluations with Trustee Stark seconding the motion and all voting yes.

At 7:40pm, Trustee Youngs made a motion exit the executive session with Trustee Stark seconding the motion and all voting yes.

Trustee Stark made a motion to approve the \$2,000 raise for Dustin Cooley and a new rate of #30.00 per hour for Gareth Hogan with Trustee Chavoustie seconding the motion and all voting yes.

At 7:42pm, Trustee Youngs made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Trustee Stark seconding the motion and all voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Rupp, Clerk/Treasurer