Present: Mayor Andy Matviak, Trustee Sheri Youngs, Trustee Steve Crawford, Trustee Tom Ford, Trustee Vic Tartaglia

Staff: John Redente - Grant Administrator, Clarissa Walrath – Grant Administrative Assistant, Mike Mercurio – Superintendent of Public Works

Guests: Michael Allouf, Alexander Artis, Denise & Joe Singlar, Brenda Philpott, Harold Wicks, Gene & Therese Walsh and Mike Tiska

Mayor Matviak opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Michael Allouf, guest, recently bought a house at 18 Hatfield and has an issue with paying the amount due on the water bill. The account is billed ahead and Clerk Felzak explains that Mr. Allouf is responsible for most of the water bill as of the closing date. Mr. Allouf doesn’t feel he should have to pay anything since he can’t turn the water on and use it but Clerk Felzak states that the Code book states, even though there is no usage the bill is still to be issued unless service is terminated. The Mayor encourages Mr. Allouf to return the next morning and see someone in the Village Clerk’s office to resolve the issue.

Trustee Tartaglia moved, Trustee Crawford seconded to approve the minutes from December 12, 2016 as written. All Ayes, Carried.

Trustee Ford moved, Trustee Youngs seconded to approve the minutes from December 21, 2016 as written. All Ayes, Carried.

Mayor Matviak mentioned there was an Eagle Scout project being presented and asked Alexander Artis to give a summary on the proposed project. Alex wants to put in 2 dugouts at the softball field #1 near the firehouse at Keith Clark Park. When talking to the players they said they could really get good use out of them. He’s going to put up a full roof and a bench to sit on. Alex said it should take a couple weekends to complete and it will be done before the season starts back up. He has volunteers that will be helping him along the way; the Mayor suggested he speak with the Superintendent of Public Works and the Recreation Director once the approval is given so it all runs smoothly.

Trustee Ford moved, Trustee Crawford seconded the motion to waive all building permit fees for the proposed Eagle Scout project to construct two Dugouts at softball field #1 near the Firehouse at Keith Clark Park in the spring of 2017. All Ayes, Carried.

Mayor Matviak explains to the board the office was in receipt of a letter from NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation just before Christmas. The Village applied for an interest free loan for the Water Improvements project and were turned down, then applied for it again expressing it was a hardship and received approval. The total amount approved for was $5,852,683 and a small portion of that is set aside for the demolition of Peckham Dam and new well drilling. This is a 30 year grant with no interest to the Village, the portion to go towards Peckham Dam is for the river crossings and other underground pipes that will have to replaced, and can be used until the funds are received from FEMA.

Mayor Matviak announces that elections are in March and two trustee seat terms will be up. A meeting on the Main Street Gant will be held on January 17th in the board room open to the public at 6:30pm. They are hoping the construction will be completed by the next holiday season in the fall of 2017.

An item on the Treasurers report is all Trustees contacting the Village Attorney first need the Mayors approval before doing so. Delaware National Bank of Delhi still has the highest interest rates in this area so all CD’s will stay there. A question came up about what accounting classes were being offered that John Redente, Grant Administrator, was referring to. Clerk Felzak explained the NYS Comptroller’s Office holds two rounds of Government Accounting classes a year for both beginners and advanced. These classes are great for someone new to the field or an experienced employee looking for a refresher or to stay up to date on all the processes.

The board receives and accepts the Treasurers report for December 2016.

Clerk Felzak updates the board on some issues with the building during the transition period but they are all being handled immediately. Toby Umbra with the Waste Water Treatment Plant is cleaning the Getman Building every morning before 7am and in the afternoon if the Chief of Police gives notice. Chief Gorshack says it’s working out great so far. Mayor Matviak asks what arrangement was set up for the building. Clerk Felzak says 2 Plus 4 management team is taking care of it all until a new employee is hired. Brenda Philpott, Guest, asked if the Village was cleaning the space and maintaining the snow removal, she did not feel it was legal for the Village to do the work and use Village equipment and bill a business for the work. The Mayor says it will be looked into.

The board receives and accepts the Clerks report for December 2016.

Clerk Felzak talks about the Local Law #1-2017 that is being introduced for Wireless Communication Towers. The Planning board had a few changes they suggested and it is currently being updated by Cohen Law Firm as a final draft. The Village board will set the fee schedule on an annual basis.

Trustee Youngs moved, Trustee Crawford seconded the motion to send the newly proposed local law #1-2017 to the County Planning Department for review before the Public Hearing is held and final approval can be given. All Ayes, Carried.

Trustee Crawford moved, Trustee Ford seconded to approve the hiring of Melissa Morlano-Johnson as a Part-time Court Clerk at an hourly rate of $11.71 per hour starting as of January 10, 2017, no benefits or holiday pay will be included. All Ayes, Carried.

Trustee Ford moved, Trustee Tartaglia seconded to approve the hiring of Kristen Fowlston as a Part-time Court Clerk at an hourly rate of $11.71 per hour starting as of January 10, 2017, no benefits or holiday pay will be included. All Ayes, Carried.

The Village board received two proposals to list the two vacant properties the Village owns. One was from Coldwell Banker Timberland Properties and the other one was Realty USA. Normally the commission on a vacant land is around a $1000 flat fee. Trustee Tartaglia recommended a price decrease on both properties to help them sell quicker. The ultimate goal is to sell the lots and make them attractive to perspective buyers. The motion to make a final decision on which real estate company to list the properties with will be tabled until the next meeting. The finance committee will contact Realty USA to see what the offer will be on commission.

Trustee Tartaglia moved, Trustee Crawford seconded to make a price decrease on 231 Johnston Circle to $5,500 and 161 Johnston Circle to $6,900. All Ayes, Carried.

Clerk Felzak explained the office is requesting to publish a bid notice to purchase approximately 1500 water meters over a 4 year period. The Treatment plant needs to replace about 40 meters right now that are currently not being read by an outdated handheld. They are being manually read at this point and if the resident isn’t available during our hours of operation the office needs to estimate which is not recommended.

Trustee Youngs moved, Trustee Crawford seconded the motion to publish a notice of bid for the purchase of water meters totaling approximately 1500 meters over a 4 year period. All Ayes, Carried.

Trustee Ford moved, Trustee Crawford seconded the following resolution #100917-1:

WHEREAS, a Village Election of the Village of Sidney will be held Wednesday, March 21, 2017. The polling place will be in the Board Room of the Sidney Civic Center, 21 Liberty Street, Sidney, NY 13838 from 12 noon until 9:00 PM.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED this resolution shall take effect immediately. All Ayes, Carried.

Trustee Crawford moved, Trustee Youngs seconded the motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Beth Westfall, Esq. with Coughlin & Gerhart as our attorney on the Water Improvements Grant for $175/ hr not to exceed $10,000 in services for the length of the project. All Ayes, Carried.

John Redente, Grants Administrator, updated the board on the grants. Billings went in for the GOSR and Department of State grants the total billed will be around $110,000. Both are grants pertaining to the Main Street project. Currently the Grants department is looking to bill for all funds expended on the Peckham Dam project and the Green Plain Project. The buyouts should starting moving forward shortly. The surveying and studies are all complete for the two parcels up by the Lutheran Church off of West Main Street.

The Mayor asked if the boat ramp would be accessable to the public, John Rednete confirmed yes it would be open to the public as well. Brenda Philpott asked if the Lutheran Church closed on the property 2 Plus 4 offered to purchase, John said no they have not. He further explained it got held up with the attorneys but they ar working on clearing up the issues. Brenda asked for the full amount of the Boat Ramp Grant, which was not to exceed $40,856.00.

The Board received and accepted the Code Enforcement report which had an annual summary of the Fire Inspections and Building Permits.

Trustee Crawford mentioned how busy the Police Department was. The annual report the board usually recieves will be available in February or March. The Chief has to start from scratch when creating the Annual report so he is trying to condense it all. There used to be a cellphone Chief Hood had and paid the village any overages that were on the bill. Chief Gorshack is asking for a cell phone allowance for his personal phone. John Redente mentioned Chief Gorshack was looking for a grant to put in a small addition to the German Building for extra storage. Trustee Crawford explained the need for a ninth officer and many of them can retire and any time. The Mayor suggests getting the figures together so the finance committee can look at it closer.

The Board received and accepted the Chief of Police monthly report for December 2016.

The Board received and accepted the Animal Control Report for December 2016.

Mike Mercurio, Superintendent of Public Works, tells the board about the need for an electrician since Charlie Washburn retired a couple weeks ago. The Mayor had an electrical contractor that is not employed by him and will get his contact information to the Clerk. Trustee Crawford asked if there was an equipment that needed to be surplused down at the garage, Mike Mercurio said that he gave the list to Clerk Felzak and within the next few meetings they will be added in to be surplused after board approval. Trustee Crawford thanked Mike and his guys for everything they do for the Village because they pick up a lot of added duties for all the events the Village accomidates.

Mike explained he was contacted by Amphenol about the crosswalk over at the new plant and wanting to put in a traffic light of some sort and knew it would be expensive. Harry Goss reached out to Mike for a possible solution and due to the fact the area down there is very dark he asked if a street light could be added. After talking with Tad Palmer with NYSEG about adding in the pole and theost would be a one time fee for the pole then monthly costs that would be billed to the Village.

Trustee Crawford moved, Trustee Ford seconded to approve the installation of a new street light located at the Amphenol crosswalk which would cost the Village a onetime fee of $823.00 for the wooden pole and monthly fees of $11.18 for the facility of the wooden pole and $7.43 for 2550W HPS cobra head light. All Ayes, Carried.

Trustee Youngs moved, Trustee Tartaglia seconded a motion authorizing the Treasurer to pay the January 9, 2017 audit from the following funds:



Trustee Ford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37PM; seconded by Trustee Tartaglia. All Ayes, Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheena N. Felzak, Village Clerk