

Village of Schoharie – Regular Meeting
November 14, 2023

Presiding: Mayor Caza

Present: Trustees Medak, Palmer, Robinson-Bullock, Clerk/Treasurer Leslie Price, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Debby Byrne, Colleen Henry, Patsy Nicosia From Times Journal, Diana Bell, Bob Tines, Ken Bernhardt, Jason Temple, and Doctor Elbially

Attended via Phone: Peter Johnson

Meeting brought to order: By Mayor Caza at 6:43 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Privilege of the Floor:

- a. Dr, Elbially.
 - i. Dr. Elbially is asking for help from the Village Board. He desperately needs space for his waiting room and parking. He is beginning to lose clients because of this situation. He has met with his attorney. The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2023, and he is worried that once winter weather hits, the project will be stalled until the Spring. Dr. Elbially stated that he does not see how a vacant house can be more important than a successful growing business. Mayor Caza suggested that he apply for a demolition permit and tear down the house while working with the local Code Enforcement Officer. Colleen Henry who sits on the Planning Board, suggested he contact his attorney to see if any progress has been made. There is a meeting scheduled for November 30, 2023, including both attorneys.
 - ii. Diana Bell informed the Board that Promotion is in the process of hanging lights and everything should be finished the weekend of Thanksgiving.

2. Minutes: Review and Motion to approve

- a. October 10, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes
- b. October 18, 2023, Employee Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Trustee Robinson-Bullock second by Trustee Palmer unanimously carried to approve the October 10, 2023, Monthly Meeting Minutes as written.

Motion made by Trustee Johnson second by Trustee Robinson-Bullock unanimously carried to approve the October 18, 2023, Employee Meeting Minutes with corrections/ to POF, Diana Bell's statement regarding veteran banners. Heather Smith-Fretto is working on this project.

3. Abstracts and Bank Statements:

- a. General \$ 85,932.37 October 11, 2023 – November 14, 2023
- b. Water \$ 73,778.40 October 11, 2023 – November 14, 2023
- c. Sewer \$ 15,659.54 October 11, 2023 – November 14, 2023
- d. Pool \$ 806.19 October 11, 2023 – November 14, 2023

Motion made by Trustee Palmer second by Trustee Medak unanimously carried to approve paying the invoices and the approval of the Abstract Amounts as written.

4. Public Hearing Budget 2024

Motion: made by Mayor Caza seconded by Trustee Medak unanimously carried to approve opening the November 14, 2023, Public Hearing at 7:06PM.

- a. Mayor Caza reviewed highlights of the new budget announcing there will be no increase in Village taxes. Trustee Robinson-Bullock questioned line item A7110.4 for Cultural and Recreation. Trustee Medak explained that the budget line was higher last year because of expenses for pavilion repairs and tree removal at our Parks.
- b. Colleen Henry asked if the new interest rate for the Water Improvement Project was included in the new budget to which the Mayor answered yes. Ms. Henry also questioned the line titled Bookkeeping for the amount of \$15,000. Mayor Caza explained that the Board had agreed to hire Evening Star Bookkeeping and that Clerk/Treasurer Price as Treasurer will oversee the Bookkeeping Company. Clerk/Treasurer Price also questioned the necessity of hiring an outside Bookkeeping firm to which the Mayor responded that the Board wanted to lighten the financial burden on Ms. Price and leave her more time for her clerk duties.

Motion made by Trustee Robinson-Bullock second by Trustee Palmer unanimously carried to approve closing the November 14, 2023, Public Hearing at 7:21PM.

Motion made by Trustee Palmer second by Trustee Robinson-Bullock unanimously carried to approve the 2024 Village Budget.

5. Incoming Correspondence:

- a. The Village Office received an email from J. Tracy Booth with her resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mayor Caza read the letter to the Board.
- b. The Village Office received an email from NYSDCP letting all participating employers that they now offer Roth (After Tax) contributions beginning 1/1/2024.
- c. The Village Office received an email from Lamont Engineers requesting approval for initial pay of \$139,507.50. Lamont Engineers will be requesting a drawdown.

6. Outgoing Correspondence: N/A

7. New Business:

- a. Trustee Johnson asked to discuss the residency requirements for the Clerk/Treasurer position. Mayor Caza explained that the Board has been consulting with NYCOM to begin the procedure to extend the location for Clerk residents. The Board has discussed holding a Public Hearing next month in regard to this matter.
- b. Trustee Johnson also mentioned that the Depot Lane POW needs to be signed by the Mayor and by Ruth Ann Keese. Leslie had the Mayor sign this paperwork which was notarized by Leslie Price. Trustee Johnson will contact RuthAnn and ask that she come into the Village Office next week to sign and notarize the paperwork.

8. Old Business: N/A

9. Other: N/A

10. MOTION to Adjourn.

Motion made by Trustee Palmer second by Trustee Robinson-Bullock unanimously carried to adjourn meeting at 7:28 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Price,
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved