

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF
WELLSVILLE HELD ON JUNE 19, 2017 AT 5:00 PM AT THE DAVID A. HOWE LIBRARY,
155 NORTH MAIN STREET, ALLEGANY COUNTY, WELLSVILLE, NEW YORK.

PRESENT: Mayor: Randy Shayler
Trustees: Dawn Ketchner, Jamie Herman, Jeremy Cole, Ed Fahs
Dir. DPW: Bill Whitfield
Treasurer: Earl Johnson

VISITORS: John Giopulos
Shirley Giopulos
Mike Tronetti
Rosie O'Grady
Tom O'Grady
Doris MacFarquehar
Dennis Hall
Brian Quinn
Robert Toney
Tabitha Matson
Rosemary Cole
Dean Giopulos
Lisa Giopulos
Carol Williams
David Williams

The meeting opened at 5:00pm with Mayor Shayler asking Trustee Herman to lead the pledge to the flag.

Mayor Shayler announced the purpose of this meeting is to hear public comments on the Village of Wellsville's community development needs and to discuss the submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the 2017 program year administered by the NYS Office of Community Renewal.

Mayor Shayler first opened the floor to community issues other than the Madison Creek Culvert, which he understands as the main concern of residents in attendance.

Shirley Giopulos thanked the Board for the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. She's served on Village committees and was a long-time business owner. She touched on the Municipal Building's renovation needs, as well as the dead bushes and lack of flowers at the four welcome signs to the Village needing attention before the summer activities and visitors are here. She noted addressing those areas would help show our pride in our community.

Mayor Shayler responded that he'll make a request to the Otis Eastern summer-hire crew, who work on these very types of beautification projects throughout the Village each summer.

Dennis Hall requested to build and install a flower box himself, although the location of that flower box would be located in the Town.

Trustee Herman noted we are investigating costs to renovate the Municipal Building, primarily to address accessibility in response to comments. Mayor Shayler added we are looking at the costs to renovate the existing Municipal Building, specifically the addition of an elevator.

Mike Tronetti noted his concerns with the blight issues. He says there are quite a few homes needing paint, repairs, clean up of extra vehicles and that residents do not have the money to attend to these issues. He asked for more active Code enforcement.

Trustee Herman noted the cars must be unregistered or be a blocking concern and that there is a process requiring hearings, etc., and complaints should be made in writing to assist with compliance efforts. The Code officer is actively busy working on blight issues and to include all as mentioned.

John Giopulos asked why we can't find grant money for things like demolition and other needed community assistance and noted the building across from 25-33 N Main St (Burrous).

Dennis Hall noted other towns (Belmont, Andover) have had success receiving grant funds to address these problems.

Trustee Herman replied the board is working on applying for assistance. There have been other contractors used, as well as LaForge, for demolitions but we know tax payers cannot pay for all that I needed as the tax rate is already high. The building referenced has been structurally improved by the private owner and not just window replacement. Trustee Cole noted there is a cover on the back of the referenced building in response to a comment the back was all still open.

Mayor Shayler also noted we are aggressively pursuing grants, and that the force behind today's meeting is seeking a specific grant to help address the culvert collapse and threat.

Tom O'Grady then addressed the board regarding the culvert collapse and closed road on Upper Pearl Street area and all the residences that are affected by the condition of the sluiceway. The roadway has been closed for two months now and it's only five months until snow season when the concerns will be even worse. It's a narrow street area already, only half of the width of Madison Street. His family has resided there for 49 years and has observed, with growing concern, the condition of the sluiceway. In the 60's, it was maintained (brush was cut). The flood of '72 significantly damaged a section of the concrete wall and, with permission to work at the site, the Village crew poured a new footer and solved the problem. Ten years ago there was an inspection by Village officials and two consulting engineers who determined it needed work and funding; however, nothing more was done. The result is the safety issues that currently exist in the neighborhood. He stated because of the closed road there is a blind curve at the top of Pearl Street leading to Madison Street with vision obscured by overgrown bushes and trees to the edge of the road. The road being closed creates issues with excessive speed and traffic turning around (UPS, FedEx, Lowes, contractors, cars, LaForge) also causing use of private driveways not built for that kind of traffic. Yet another emergency issue is that fire trucks and emergency vehicles have trouble accessing the neighborhood. He also asked why Scott Avenue wasn't closed as well due to the collapse.

Mayor Shayler responded that on the 4/20/17 failure, engineers immediately inspected the area and determined it unsafe and Pearl Street had to be blocked. Scott Avenue was allowed to remain open per engineer report.

Lisa Giopulos stated there is a 12" gas pipe that had been above ground years ago, but has since been buried. There is a National Fuel tank buried which is a concern without repair. There were also many children in the area.

Trustee Herman agreed the primary concern is safety which is why the village is trying to get assistance with repairs as quickly as possible.

Mayor Shayler added that the issue was immediately presented to the Governor's office, Senator Young's office and all other local officials such as Representative Tom Reed and Assembly Member Joe Giglio and requesting support. He mailed, emailed and visited in person to show the extent of the problem. Now we have the assistance of Program Director Charlie Phillion in applying for the Imminent Threat Grant through the Office of Community Services, as part of a Community Development Block Grant of \$45M, that is available for cities, towns and villages of less than 50,000 residents. They have money available when a community faces a serious and imminent threat, including storm sewer and culvert issues.

Rosie O'Grady expressed their concern with flooding. From the flood of 1972 and other experiences it is only a matter of time before there is a problem with flooding. With winter coming she also asked how soon the threat could be fixed.

Mayor Shayler noted he would be happy if repair could happen by the start of winter and that is the goal but it is certainly not going to be quick.

Mike Tronetti asked if there were other entities to help us and if anyone else responded.

Mayor Shayler said that everyone got back with us. He didn't mean to misrepresent them. It's a \$700,000 project, which is a third of the Village's annual budget. We need help. Our scope is the closed road and the open culvert.

Discussion was held regarding the linear footage in question, which was said to be 180 linear feet. And questions were asked about repair to sidewalks, driveway, right of way, fencing, as well as the cost of the engineer report.

David Williams showed concern with a solution on the table being to close off the end of the road, making it a dead end. He said that would be disastrous.

Mayor Shayler stated that is not an option. He added we cannot continue to kick the can down the road, and that we're looking for money. We will repair it, it cannot be left like it is. Any information we have, we'll provide.

John Giopulos asked if we'll continue with the status reports included with the utility bills.

Mayor Shayler replied yes. He continued that at each Village Board meeting, every agenda automatically includes the important topics currently being addressed and that this issue will now be added to those.

Shirley Giopulos noted this upcoming weekend is alumni weekend. Those people who lived here in Wellsville's prime time will be visiting and have in the past asked, "how is plywood city?"

Dennis Hall brought up his concerns regarding a public officers law and police officers being bonded. He stated he heard New York State Troopers haven't been bonded in 20 years.

Treasurer Earl Johnson noted bonding is per position when required. He added that we work with Richardson and Stout, who provide our insurance through NYMIR who provides coverage to the majority of municipalities in NYS. We follow all the rules and regulations per their recommendations.

Trustee Herman asked if he was speaking specifically of our police officers. And that Mr. Hall can check with the County regarding all of our employees. Mayor Shayler asked Mr. Hall to leave his documentation regarding this topic with us, which he did.

Trustee Cole asked where we are at with the grant application.

Mayor Shayler said we're ready to apply after this public hearing which is part of the process. The grant application will be out Tuesday or Wednesday. It is an imminent threat and he's had conversations with Charlie Philion who is administering the grant process. He is optimistic, but we cannot count on it.

Carol Williams addressed the bushes and trees on Pearl Street again, concerned for safety. Requests different road closure signage since it's causing additional issues with driving safely.

DPW Director Bill Whitfield stated if there is a public hazard, they can maintain it.

Mike Tronetti voiced his concerns with disposal of a mattress and box spring. He asked at the Village Clerk's office, who advised him we no longer have bulky trash pickup and to contact LaForge for that. LaForge's response to him was that the Village doesn't have a contract to do that.

Trustee Herman stated the Village does not pay for that service and that the village does not do bulky trash pickup any longer. He noted we can make a list of other options and Mike requested it to be added to the utility bill notice.

John Giopulos asked about the culvert, upstream and downstream falling in.

Jamie Herman stated the preliminary engineering report was done for the grant application.

Rosie O'Grady brought up a large tree growing through the pipe fencing that could become an issue.

Jamie Herman noted it is the landowner's responsibility to take care of those types of issues. If it is not municipally-owned property, there are not grants available.

Rosie O'Grady stated deeds will state "up to" the sluice. The tree noted has grown from an owner's lot.

Robert Toney stated he's 100% in agreement with going for the grant money. No objections with culvert, sidewalks, driveway, garage demolition. He asked some questions regarding the scope of the grant. He appreciates what the Village has done so far communicating with him about the problem.

Mayor Shayler stated he doesn't have a 100% understanding of the scope and details yet. He added that anyway we can work together, we can and will.

Mayor Shayler stated his thanks for everyone attending the meeting tonight. He also invited everyone to attend the Board meetings, which will be held in the library for the rest of the summer.

Trustee Herman noted meetings are the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Seely
Deputy Village Clerk

Per NYS Amendment to the State's Open Meeting Law, public records already available under FOIL, in addition to any resolution, law, rule, regulation, policy or any amendment, that is scheduled to be the topic of discussion at an open meeting, is available upon request to the extent practicable as determined by the Village of Wellsville. The Village of Wellsville will post board meeting agendas and minutes on its web site at www.wellsvilleny.com.