

April 10, 2024

The regular meeting of the Village of Cassadaga was held on April 10, 2024, at 7:00PM with Mayor William Dorman presiding. Trustees present included Bill Astry, Danna DuBois, Cindy Flaherty, and Cathy Cruver. Also present were Clerk Annette McChesney, Deputy Clerk Roxanne Astry, and Superintendent of Public Works Sam Alaimo. Absent was Attorney Joe Calimeri.

RESOLUTION # 45

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Astry to approve the minutes of March 27, 2024, second by Trustee Cruver. VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

RESOLUTION # 46

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Trustee Cruver to approve the agenda, second by Trustee Flaherty. VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET

GUESTS:

Susan and John Sipos, Historian, 5 Pennington, Rudy Abersold, 43 Putnam, Jacob & Abigail Landean, 11 S Main, Kimberly Collins, 49 Lakeview & 88 Frisbee, Deborah Metzger, 134 Maple

Rudy Abersold opened with questions on the budget:

1. What is A.1910.400 Unallocated Insurance for \$36,000 – Its is the Village's total Insurance Policy for all vehicles and buildings, including liability and cyber coverage, this also covers the same for the fire department.
2. What is A.1990.400 contingent for \$12,000 and why is there also \$20,000 going to capital reserve – the \$12,000.00 is for emergency contingency, and the \$20,000 is to transfer \$10,000 each to the fire department's and the DPW's equipment reserves which are very low
3. What is A.7310.100 Youth Agencies Personal \$24,675 – it is for the lifeguards and the beach director. He questioned why the cost was so high for a 6 week program? The beach program is 8 weeks and requires 5 lifeguards and 1 beach director on duty when the beach is open which could potentially be 7 days a week for 8 weeks weather permitting. He also asked if they also received a 5% pay increase. Trustee Flaherty confirmed they had which brings them to \$15.75 per hour with minimum wage being \$15.00 per hour
4. What is A.7310.431 Youth Agencies Bathhouse and why is it budgeted for \$60,000 for 3 years and what is \$180,000 being used for – it was explained that this is the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) that was received for one year and is being held over in the bathhouse budget line to keep it separated until it is expensed or reallocated elsewhere
5. What are the salaries for the three village employees?

**Clerk McChesney- \$ 28,000.00 yearly
Sup. Public Works Sam Alaimo- \$ 50,788.00 yearly
Utility Worker Bianca Riggle \$ 21.00 hourly**

Kim Collins mentioned that there is a new bathhouse on Route 60 that is near the Front Door Promise Barn and cost around \$10,000.00 maybe the village could look into that for the beach. Trustee Flaherty said there are requirements by the department of health that it most likely would not meet, such as having a shower, ADA compliant fixtures, hooked into the sewer system etc. but agreed it may be worth looking into

RESOLUTION # 47

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was made by Trustee Astry to close the public hearing on the budget, second by Trustee Flaherty at 7:15. VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

GUESTS & COMMENTS:

Rudy Abersold stated he has been asked by numerous residents' why there needs to be a clerk and a deputy clerk taking notes at the meetings – Deputy Clerk Roxanne Astry stated that we have had a clerk and deputy clerk at meetings for the last few years, but Rudy requested the board answer instead. Trustee Astry stated that there will be both in attendance at the meetings until the training is done. Rudy also stated that when he was on the board he was told the DPW Supervisor only answered to the Mayor but he hasn't read anything from that department that doesn't involve Trustee Astry so who is directing Sam – Mayor Dorman stated that he is directing Sam and that Trustee Astry was appointed during the organizational meeting as the liaison with the DPW, no different than Trustee Flaherty being the liaison with the beach program. He also questioned if village equipment was being used by Sam Alaimo on the Mayor's personal property, there was a heated exchange, and it was determined that it was Sam's personal equipment being used on his own time on the Mayor's personal property. Rudy then asked Trustee Flaherty that since the beach program will be open in approximately 74 days will the bathhouse be completed, she deferred to Trustee Astry who stated that it would be ready

Trustee Flaherty introduced the new owners of 3 Lakes Café, Jake and Abi, the Mayor asked how the progress was going and they stated it was going well, the Code Enforcement Officer and the Health Department have stopped in to give them pointers on things that need addressed prior to inspections and they plan to be open by Memorial Day

John Sipos, Historian, stated that he does not get paid as the village historian but he presented two huge notebooks filled with the last year of articles, clippings, and more for the village and he asked if the village board would like him to continue as the historian? Kim Collins asked if he would be interested in being

hired to look up and present the history of old homes, but he is already too busy. Trustee DuBois stated that the board would love to have him continue on as the historian. John also noted that he has a photograph from 1902 of the 3 Lakes Café, Jake stated that he and Abi would like to have a book or information on Cassadaga, John will look into, but the Bicentennial books he had for sale are all gone

Deborah Metzger asked if John had information on the history of 72 Lakeview Ave, discussion was had back and forth on it being Indian burial grounds the house sits on, John noted that there are several large burial grounds in our area, he receives calls from time to time from people who uncover bones and artifacts but he isn't an archaeologist, John stated the house was built in 1915, but Deb's research shows it was 1899, she also heard that the village stopped the current owner from making improvements back in 1999, however there is no paper trail or recollection by anyone on the board of that happening. Trustee Cruver stated the only concern the village has currently with the property at 72 Lakeview is from a safety standpoint with the current condition of the dwelling and the large trees near the lake shore, Rudy brought up numerous properties in the village that look worse and Trustee Flaherty stated that the zoning rewrite committee is working on these things being addressed in the new zoning laws once it is completed

Kim Collins asked about the snowflakes being removed, Sam Alaimo stated that he had borrowed the boom truck to take them down and after the second one they blew a hydraulic line, so once it was repaired they went and started again and then they had an electrical problem after they removed two more, so they repaired that and will attempt to remove the rest soon. She also asked about replacing the worn street signs and village signs, etc and Sam Alaimo stated he has ordered and received multiple new signs and will get them installed once they have all of the equipment set up for spring work

Deborah Metzger brought up the speeding issue on Maple Avenue, and how concerned she is that someone is going to get hit by a speeding vehicle, discussion was had on using the speed signs the village purchased or slow down signs etc, but it may not stop people from speeding if there aren't any consequences. Trustee Flaherty asked why it couldn't be a school zone any longer like it used to be, but the consensus was because it's privately owned and no kids are walking to and from the school they are all bussed in, Trustee Cruver thought the board could reach out to local law enforcement to see if they can increase patrol on Maple. Rudy Abersold stated that the speed limit sign placement can be a hindrance to ticketing so that could be an issue as well with enforcement

Jake Landean asked about no parking signs in front of their dumpster at 3 lakes Café, the bard thought putting a "NO PARKING" sign on the front of the dumpster made the most sense

ATTORNEY JOE CALIMERI REPORT – Absent

MAYOR DORMAN’S REPORT – No Report

CLERK MCCHESENEY’S REPORT

- She reported that the clerk’s office received over \$6,500 in past due water bills from the water shut off notices that were sent out
- She has received calls on a stick pick up schedule
- She received an email from the National Parent’s Organization asking if the village was interested in declaring April 26th as “Shared Parenting Day” she passed along the email with the information if the board wants to act at the next meeting
- She also gave information to the board of trustees on their invitation to the 66th Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau Meeting and Dinner on May 21st @ 6pm

DEPUTY CLERK ASTRY’S REPORT – No Report

OLD BUSINESS

1. BATHHOUSE AT BEACH – No new activity to report
2. FUTURE WATER PROJECT UPDATES – SEQR under New Business

NEW BUSINESS:

1. APPROVE BUDGET

RESOLUTION # 48

APPROVE BUDGET

A motion was made by Trustee Astry to approve the 2024-2025 budget with a total tax to be billed of \$143,010.80 an increase of \$1,156.21 and a \$.02 tax decrease to \$3.24 per thousand. Total General Revenue \$266,213.00 Total General Appropriations \$621,169.77. Total Water Revenue \$285,300.00 Total Water Appropriations \$314,200.500. The water fund balance has no water rate increase, second by Trustee Flaherty. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.

2. APPROVE CONSTITUTIONAL TAX LIMIT

RESOLUTION # 49

APPROVE CONSTITUTIONAL TAX LIMIT

A motion was made by Trustee Cruver to approve the prepared constitutional tax limit of \$696,256, second by Trustee DuBois. VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS

3. SEQR PART 1 FUTURE WATER PROJECT-The board reviewed and had no questions or concerns

**RESOLUTION # 50
LEAD AGENCY DESIGNATION
A motion was made by Trustee Astry as follows, second by Trustee Curver**

**LEAD AGENCY DESIGNATION RESOLUTION
VILLAGE OF CASSADAGA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Village of Cassadaga (Owner) is proposing the Village of Cassadaga Water System Improvements Project (Project), located in the Village of Cassadaga, Chautauqua County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Project has been classified as an "Unlisted Action" as defined by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in 6 NYCRR Part 617.4; and

WHEREAS, a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) Part 1 has been completed and will be sent to all Interested and Involved Agencies for the purpose of establishing the Village of Cassadaga Village Board as the "Lead Agency" per with 6 NYCRR Part 617.6(b).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the Village of Cassadaga is authorized to sign the SEQR FEAF Part 1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Cassadaga intends to establish itself as Lead Agency and is authorized to take all actions, complete all necessary documentation, and send the FEAF Part 1 to all Interested and Involved Agencies.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

William Dorman, Mayor – *Aye*
Bill Astry, Deputy Mayor – *Aye*
Cynthia Flaherty, Trustee – *Aye*
Cathy Cruver, Trustee – *Aye*
Danna DuBois, Trustee – *Aye*

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Date: *April 10, 2024*

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted on *April 10, 2024* and is recorded in the Meeting Minutes of the Village of Cassadaga.

Annette McChesney
Annette McChesney, Village Clerk

4. ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION –

Mayor Dorman read the Arbor Day Proclamation to observe Arbor Day in the Village of Cassadaga

WHEREAS in 1872, the Nebraska Board of Agriculture established a special day to be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and WHEREAS Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS trees — wherever they are planted — are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Mayor of the Village of Cassadaga, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2024 as the official day and the Village will celebrate October 12, 2024, as ARBOR DAY in the Village of Cassadaga, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations. DATED THIS 10th day of April 2024.

SUPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS: SAM ALAIMO REPORT

- **He reported that he is proposing doing stick pickup once a month, discussion was had amongst the trustees and the residents in attendance on what can be done to get a schedule in place, Sam will get a schedule together so it can be posted**
- **He reported that the bucket truck being used to remove the snowflakes is fixed once again and they will resume removal as soon as possible**
- **Trustee Flaherty asked him about the concrete pieces being removed from the four corners, he stated that a letter was being sent to the owner of the property so they could coordinate removal, Rudy Abersold questioned why they couldn't just work together directly to get this taken care of**

TRUSTEE ASTRY'S REPORT – No Report

TRUSTEE FLAHERTY'S REPORT

- **She wanted to remind everyone that Clean Up Cassadaga is this Saturday from 9-3 at the Village DPW, there will be a dumpster for residents to utilize, see details on flyer on the website if needed**
- **She reported she is almost finished with the Community Events Calendar and asked to please contact her if anyone would like to add to it**

- She also reported that May 18th is the CAP (Child Advocacy Center) run/walk event beginning at the beach
- She noted the CBC is meeting on 4/11 @ the library

TRUSTEE CRUVER'S REPORT

- She reported that she attended the Small Business Pop Up Event uptown at Valley Outdoors and it was great, had a number of attendees, and multiple businesses represented, some she wasn't even aware were in the area
- She also wanted to personally thank the board for their patience and understanding recently as she has had some personal matters to attend to and has missed a couple meetings

TRUSTEE DUBOIS' REPORT

- She reported that the emergency contact list for the low water pressure alarm at the firehall has been updated with DFT Alarm Services
- She reported that the article that was in the paper talking about the youth sport's leagues needing AED's lead to a Village of Cassadaga property owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, to reach out and offer to purchase the AED so the ball teams can use it when they need to, she also wanted to confirm that the line item for youth equipment could cover the future purchase of AED pads, and noted that she spoke with B.J. Monacelli who is the contact for the youth baseball program, and they are all set with certification for CPR and AED and wont need assistance with getting a training program set up
- She asked Sam Alaimo on the progress of the men's restroom in the community building, he stated that Pro Drain came and cleared the clog and now he needs to replace some of the old cast piping with PVC, should be done by next week
- She asked Trustee Astry for an update on the firehall man door replacement, he has no bids yet or any other information at this time
- She reported that the fire department was installing the flags on the fire hydrants and found that multiple hydrants on Maple Avenue were seized up and could not be turned, this is a great concern for fire protection purposes, they broke multiple tools trying to get them open, she asked Sam Alaimo if there was a recommended tool they should be using, he stated there is but they can take a little finessing as well. Trustee DuBois questioned if the hydrants should be in the future water capital improvement project, but he stated they just need to be greased again and should be good for a while, he will make sure they all get taken care of tomorrow. Rudy Abersold thought maybe the company he works for manufactures and sells these types of tools, he will look into
- She also reported that the fire department wondered if they could get contact information for the property owners at 130 Maple Avenue to see if they would allow the tanker truck to use their drive to access the lake if there were ever a fire

RESOLUTION # 51

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee DuBois to approve financial reports for March 31 2024, and April 10, 2024, second by Trustee Cruver VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

GENERAL FUND 03/31/2024	\$	329,118.58
WATER FUND 03/31/2024	\$	107,048.46
GENERAL FUND 04/10/2024	\$	332,464.85
WATER FUND 04/10/2024	\$	113,586.50
RESERVE CVFD EQ.	\$	20,962.32
RESERVE DPW EQ.	\$	12,480.21
RESERVE WATER REPAIRS	\$	50,356.88
RESERVE FOR DEBT SERVICE	\$	339,270.62

RESOLUTION # 52

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL

A motion was made by Trustee Astry to approve bills & payroll as follows, second by Trustee Cruver VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

PAYROLL General Fund, 04/12/2024	cks: 6019-6020	\$	3,532.32
PAYROLL Water Fund, 04/12/2024	cks: 6019-6020	\$	2,136.00
ABSTRACT April 10, 2024	General Cks: 10093-10105	\$	4,127.69
ABSTRACT April 10, 2024	Water Cks: 10093-10105	\$	1,239.16

RESOLUTION # 53

Being no further business, Trustee Astry moved to adjourn, second by Trustee Cruver at 8:48 PM. VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette McChesney
Clerk Treasurer