

January 22, 2025

The regular meeting of the Village of Cassadaga was held on January 22, 2025, at 7:00PM following the organizational meeting, with Mayor William Dorman presiding. Trustees present included Bill Astry, Cathy Cruver, Cindy Flaherty, and Danna DuBois. Trustee DuBois left shortly after the start of the meeting to attend an emergency call with the fire department and returned later. Also present were Clerk Annette McChesney, Deputy Clerk Roxanne Astry, and Attorney Joe Calimeri. Absent was Superintendent of Public Works Sam Alaimo.

RESOLUTION # 6

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Cruver to approve the minutes of January 8, 2025, seconded by Trustee Flaherty. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.

RESOLUTION # 7

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Trustee Cruver to approve the agenda, seconded by Trustee Flaherty. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS.

GUESTS & COMMENTS:

Deb Metzger, Maple Avenue, Rudy Abersold, Putnam Road, John Sipos - Historian, Pennington Road, Jeffrey Frick, Maple Avenue, Matt Zarbo – Square Engineering, Bob Reuther, Cassadaga Lakes Association, Lakes Manager

Rudy Abersold – He read his prepared statement below:

I had prepared a lengthy statement in regards to the previous VBOT meeting. While reading the draft agenda it occurred to me that several important decisions might be made this evening. I will say this though, the request to purchase the Ventrac equipment was a reminder of what occurs in the back room in Albany. Senior Leadership had previous knowledge of the scope of the purchase. They were able to ask questions of Sam the DPW Superintendent. It was presented in such a way that any board members question would have not been answered by the department head. Roberts Rule reads, a proposal is made through a motion. A second motion is then made. After second motion further discussion can and often occurs prior to a vote. Roberts rule wasn't followed and those in attendance witnessed the conduct of the meeting to an out of order status. I recently visited with the DPW Superintendent, it's my opinion several other options are worthy of discussion. The state within the past two years made available to communities the ability to purchase equipment necessary as snowstorms warrant state of emergencies. The Town of Pomfret took advantage of this program and purchased a new grader with pennies on the dollar. I applaud Trustee Cruver for her actions for wanting her questions answered. Three former trustees were present at the last meeting. I believe each of us agreed with Cathy's decision.

Deborah Metzger - she stated she sees Bianca Riggle out there first thing clearing the sidewalks and she thinks things have been going smoothly with snow removal from her perspective. Sam and Bianca are up early plowing and late into the evening to keep things clear. She's very grateful that she lives in this community.

Jeff Frick – he stated he agrees with Deb’s prior statement and that snow removal has been going much better with this storm, even in the cold weather they have been keeping the streets and sidewalks clear

John Sipos – He read a brief history he had prepared, see below:

Boats on Cassadaga Creek

At a recent Cassadaga Village Board meeting; one of the former members asked me if there were ever boats on the Cassadaga Creek which carried cargo and passengers. As the historian for the village I did some research and found information in three sources. There may be more. Yes is the answer. The Cassadaga Creek flows into the Allegheny River which flows to Pittsburgh. Boats known as Keel Boats and flat bottom boats were used. The first time in the early 1800's a Keel boat brought a load of salt to Cassadaga which was used for preserving food. On the return trip was cargo included building supplies and furs, and some passengers. The Cassadaga Navigation Company was formed but short lived because navigating the boats on Cassadaga Creek was difficult due to the many twists and turns. The Dunkirk, Allegheny Valley and Pittsburgh railroad was used from 1871 on for carrying cargo and people. The railroad basically followed the route of the Cassadaga Creek. A dam was built by the Maple Avenue bridge near the firehall and constructed for sawmill purposes by holding the water. Today beaver dams are now one of the causes of high water. When a beaver dam is built by the beavers and destroyed, it is back in a few days. This was not a problem years ago when there were trappers for the beavers, but there are not many trappers anymore. About three months ago a group of people planted new trees in the yards of those who requested one. At one location on Maple Avenue the new tree was gone the next day taken by the beavers! Today, one can navigate the Cassadaga Creek in a small boat or kayak. So that is a brief history of navigation on the Cassadaga Creek. ~John Sipos, Historian

Bob Reuther – he has met with Chautauqua County Planning & Economic Development and they are offering their assistance with trying to address the high lake levels. Any letters from residents and board members are encouraged and should be sent to PJ Wendell. He has a list of property owners to contact along Putnam Road, they are the ones required to file for the beaver trap permit, and also give permission to the nuisance trapper to access the creek. This permit does not allow for the beaver dams themselves to be removed, that is an entirely different permitting process, the beavers have created a whole ecosystem in this area so it’s a delicate balance. The Cassadaga Lakes Association (CLA) is also working with Engineer Andy Johnson and Watershed Chair Dave McCoy on funding sources and to get the DEC permit application completed to have the area under Maple Avenue bridge dredged going around 500’ down creek, it’s been around twelve years since this has been done. The CLA is willing to put \$5,000.00 towards the engineering/permitting costs and is once again asking the board to contribute \$2,000.00. Legend Excavating will be donating their services. Another approach the CLA would like to apply for a permit for is to drain/pump water from the lower lake into the area of the old Town of Pomfret Park to control the lake levels when needed. This would be an extensive permit process as there are a lot of factors to consider. Per Matt Zarbo there are grants available that could possibly apply to some of these projects.

RESOLUTION # 8

APPROVE \$2,000.00 TO CLA

A motion was made by Trustee Cruver to approve expending \$2,000.00 from the village budget to the Cassadaga Lakes Association towards the engineering/permitting process for dredging Maple Avenue bridge area and 500' downstream, seconded by Trustee Flaherty. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS

Matt Zarbo – he came to give an update on the next steps the village will need to take if they are moving forward with the Capital Water Project. His firm put together the initial engineering report for improvements needed and submitted the grant application that the village was awarded. As noted in his initial report, the village is faced with multiple deficiencies i.e. inadequate source capacity due to well # 5 being inoperable for long periods of time, water mains that need replaced and aging equipment overall. The two main options are to overhaul Well# 5 or locate a new source well, as confirmed by Trustee Cruver, either project would also include replacing as much aging water mains as possible, repairing Well # 5 for emergency source only, if a new well is sourced, updates to Well # 1 & 4, control & monitoring system upgrades, and upgrading as many water meters as possible. Trustee Flaherty inquired why lake water could not be used, Matt stated, this is a great question that is frequently asked, but treating ground water and lake water is completely different, they cannot be mixed as there is an adverse reaction. Treating lake water is an expensive and extensive project way beyond the scope of the current ones presented in their report. Mayor Dorman inquired what the improvements to Well # 5 could entail, per Matt this would include scouring or replacing the current pipe and having bag filters to remove iron, but this is only a solution to be used as an emergency backup not as a main water source. Having Well # 5 online as a dependable main water source would entail an extensive overhaul. The village can continue to apply for congressional appropriations, additional water grants, and Community Development Block Grant funding (this requires an income survey at a potential cost of around \$8-10,000). The potential impact to village residents, if all of the suggested improvements are made, would be an additional \$188.00 per year added onto water bills, if no other funding source is secured for the project. If the village board chooses to move forward, they will need to proceed with reviewing the Engineering Request for Qualifications, Per Clerk McChesney there have been three submitted by today's cut off date. Trustee Astry and Trustee DuBois will conduct the interviews and bring their recommendations to the board at the next meeting.

ATTORNEY JOE CALIMERI REPORT

- He stated that he is available for any questions that the future water project committee might have regarding the interviewing process etc
- Mayor Dorman inquired about the status of the property at 72 Lakeview Avenue, Joe would like to have the new Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) reach out to him so they can review and continue where the prior CEO left off, Clerk McChesney will give Dan Delcamp Joe's contact information

MAYOR DORMAN'S REPORT – No Report

CLERK MCCHESENEY'S REPORT

- She reported that she forwarded an email from Job Corp with an invitation to the board to attend a Community Relations Committee Luncheon on 2/12/2025, 11:30 – 1:30pm, please rsvp if you plan on attending
- She printed the service line inventory letter for the board to review, once the board confirms they have no recommended changes, she will mail them out
- She printed the Department of Environmental Conservation permit application for the dredging under Maple Avenue bridge that the Cassadaga Lakes Association had filled out so far for the board to review
- She emailed the trustees the three submitted engineer request for qualifications that were submitted to the village for their review
- She printed the board out the most recent revenue and expense reports so the board can start thinking about the upcoming budget, she also asked trustee Cruver which line item she wanted the \$2,000.00 for the CLA to come out of and to amend her motion to include that

RESOLUTION # 9

AMMEND PRIOR MOTION TO INCLUDE FUND LINE

Trustee Cruver amended her prior motion to include taking the \$2,000.00 for the CLA from the contingent fund, seconded by Trustee Flaherty. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS

DEPUTY CLERK ASTRY'S REPORT – No Report

OLD BUSINESS

1. BATHHOUSE AT BEACH – No Update
2. FUTURE WATER PROJECT UPDATES – See Report under Matt Zarbo
3. NY FORWARD COMMITTEE – No Update
4. FRISBEE & LAKEVIEW ROAD CONDITIONS – No Updates until spring
5. SERVICE LINE INVENTORY – Mailing in final review stage, to be mailed soon

NEW BUSINESS:

SUPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS: SAM ALAIMO REPORT – No Report

TRUSTEE ASTRY'S REPORT – No Report

TRUSTEE FLAHERTY'S REPORT

- She thanked Clerk McChesney for taking care of the Christmas decorations at the beach and sending in the beach safety plan (it was due very early this year for staffing reasons, by January 15th) for her while she was absent
- She wanted to thank the community for their outpouring of love and support during a difficult time, there's no place she'd rather be
- She asked Trustee Astry to ask Sam Alaimo to plow a path at the beach to the water and between the gazebo and gatehouse, and also a spot by the gate for a porta potty, for the upcoming Winter Festival, see poster to follow, The Ice Scream Dip this year will be a Tribute the late Dennis Collins, all proceeds to benefit the library in his honor

Cassadaga Winter Festival

Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 2

FRIDAY

6:30-9:30PM The UNTOUCHABLES

Dance the night away at the American Legion Post 1280!
Dipers will be there with delicious food and Legion pizza also available.
Sponsored by the American Legion Post 1280

SATURDAY

8AM Frozen 50K

Walk or run around the lake – anything from 5K to 50K. \$25 -\$35 pre-registration fee.
All proceeds go to Chautauqua County Fire Police. Registration/check in begins 7am
at Fire Hall or go to www.coachmarkwilson.com. *Sponsored by Wilson Endurance Sports*

10AM – 3PM Vendor Show

Light lunch available. *Sponsored by American Legion Post 1280*

12NOON – 2PM Fun on the Beach

Fire pits, S'mores, Tether Ball and Street Hockey! Drawings!
Chili, hot chocolate provided by Park Church. *And an ICE SCULPTURE!!!*
Come see a pro make an ice sculpture! *Sponsored by the CBC*

1PM Ice SCREAM Polar Dip

Be brave and go for a dip! At the beach. \$20 entry fee. T-shirts for dippers!
Proceeds go towards the Cassadaga Library.
Register day of or at www.coachmarkwilson.com. *Sponsored by the Red House.*

2-4PM Tonya and her Goats

Live goats, stories, treats & a craft at the library! Fun and informative for
kids and adults. *Sponsored by Cassadaga Library.*

5-7PM Soup-er Bowl

It's a soup cook-off contest at Park Church! Salad and bread provided. No charge. Door Prize!
Call 716-962-2265 if you'd like to enter your soup in the contest. *Sponsored by Park Church.*

SUNDAY

1PM Corn Hole Tournament

Registration begins at noon. *Sponsored by American Legion Post 1280.*

1 – 3PM Sledding

At Cassadaga Country Club. Hot chocolate and cookies.
Sponsored by Cassadaga Country Club & Cassadaga Library

3PM - Country Skiing/Snowshoeing

Meet at Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park on Rt. 60 at 2:50 for a guided tour. Car-pool if you can.
Parking is limited. *Sponsored by Cassadaga Lakes Association and Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy.*



TRUSTEE CRUVER'S REPORT – No Report

TRUSTEE DUBOIS' REPORT

- She gave Cassadaga Volunteer Fire Departments' monthly Report for December 2024 as follows:

- EMS Calls - 20
 - Fire Calls – 1
 - MVA Calls – 2
 - Alarm Activation - 1
 - Service Calls – 0
 - Single Company - 5
 - Mutual Aid Given - 11
 - Mutual Aid Received – 4
 - Total Calls - 29
 - Total Man Hours 314.5
- She inquired if there was an asset list of equipment for the Department of Public Works so that the board can be prepared for upcoming purchases that may be needed instead of an immediate need brought to the board to make a purchase to replace something like at the last meeting and having to take money from multiple funds, Clerk McChesney stated there is an asset list updated yearly for insurance purposes , but confirmed with Trustee Astry that Sam Alaimo was working on updating a more extensive list as well

RESOLUTION # 10

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A motion was made by Trustee Astry to approve the financial report for January 22, 2025, seconded by Trustee Cruver. VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

GENERAL FUND 01/22/2025	\$	283,795.96
WATER FUND 01/22/2025	\$	139,779.46
RESERVE CVFD EQ.	\$	20,994.07
RESERVE DPW EQ.	\$	12,499.12
RESERVE WATER REPAIRS	\$	50,395.01
RESERVE FOR DEBT SERVICE	\$	363,751.37

RESOLUTION # 11

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLL

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

PAYROLL General Fund, 01/17/2025	cks: 6121-6123	\$	4,084.15
PAYROLL Water Fund, 01/17/2025	cks: 6121-6123	\$	1,735.04
ABSTRACT January 22, 2025	General Cks: 10328-10334	\$	14,571.34
ABSTRACT January 22, 2025	Water Cks: 10328-10334	\$	8,304.37

RESOLUTION # 12

Being no further business, Trustee Cruver moved to adjourn, second by Trustee Astry at 9:09 PM. VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette McChesney
Clerk Treasurer