

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – July 2017

Since the minutes from our regular monthly Board meeting are not formally approved and posted on the Village website until the following month, it seems that our residents might be more fully informed of Village affairs by having regular updates posted on our website sooner, rather than later. To that end, it has been decided to provide our readers with some monthly updates, and if there are any concerns or a need for more information, please call (673-3112) or email (marboard@twcny.rr.com) the Village Office.

Fixed Monthly Cell Phone Stipend – a motion was made to offer a fixed monthly cell phone stipend, for full-time employees only, in an amount to be determined per month. The reasoning behind this motion is to have full time employees of the Village carry one phone rather than carry two phones, one for the Village and one for personal use.

Authorize Mayor to sign contract documents for Paul St. Sidewalks – a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign contract documents for the Paul Street Sidewalk Project was made and approved.

Approve the Village's Joint Application with Salt Springs Paving Corp for NYSDOT Work Permit for Paul St. Sidewalks – a motion was made to approve the contractor's request that the Village apply as part of a joint application for the NYSDOT work permit for the Paul Street Sidewalk Project.

Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement – a motion was made to again table the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Spectrum Cable.

Budget Modifications for May 2017, Fiscal Year End 2016-2017 and June 2017 – a motion was made to approve budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General Fund and Sewer Fund for May 2017 and Fiscal Year End 2016-2017 and in the General Fund only for June 2017.

June Informational Meeting on Sewer Upgrades – the Board would again like to thank those who were able to attend and participate in the public information meeting that preceded our June Board meeting on June 26th. The meeting has been most informative and it provided some insight as to what has transpired in the past, how things stand at present, and how we continue to address the issue of sewer upgrades in the future. It might also be noted that another meeting took place later that week with Matthew Marko, the newly appointed Regional Director at the DEC as well as other engineers at the local DEC to discuss some of the items mentioned that evening, in an attempt to search for additional funding for the mandated upgrade to our treatment plant. That meeting was also very productive and the Director conveyed some very positive comments about our chances of receiving WQIP funding following review of our applications. Our local, state and federal representatives have written letters of support and the Board, in a Special Meeting approved two resolutions in support.

EFC Funding – Treatment Plant Upgrade – Phosphorus Removal – the Board will, at its August Board meeting, propose a motion to close on EFC funding for mandated phosphorus removal and other upgrades to the treatment plant. That financing package will include a \$4,220,100 short term (30 year), interest-free Hardship loan and a \$1,379,900 WIIA Grant (formerly called a NYS Water Grant). In anticipation of this expense, the Village Board has increased the sewer rents significantly within the last year. Having raised sewer rents twice in recent months to offset the cost of design, this funding opportunity will enable the Village to meet the mandated requirements for phosphorus removal as well as prepare our Treatment Plant for operation well into the 21st century, without breaking the backs of sewer users.

Brush Pick-up – as was mentioned at earlier meetings, the Village Board and DPW are trying something new for the 2017 Brush Pickup. Spring brush lasted from April 3rd to May 8th. During the summer months (June, July and August), brush may also be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on the first Monday of each of those summer months. Village residents should not to put yard waste out to the curb for pick-up until then. They are welcome to bring debris to the compost pile next to the Highway garage. Also, please do not sweep yard debris into the road. This often causes storm sewers to become obstructed.

The Paul Street Sidewalk Project – at our last meeting, the Board was awarded the bid for completion of the sidewalk project on Paul Street to Salt Springs Paving Corporation at a cost of \$35,800.00. It is expected that the contractor will begin the project soon, and will have it completed in a matter of a few weeks. The project will include the construction of 450 feet of new concrete sidewalk along the north side of Paul Street, between North Street (NYS 174) and Austindale Ave. Minor drainage improvements such as cleaning existing drainage pipes and replacement of catch basin grates are also included. The new sidewalk would eliminate a gap in the existing Village sidewalk system by connecting to existing sidewalks at North Street and Austindale Ave. Pedestrians, including Seniors who live at Nine Mile Landing and school children now have no choice but to walk on the pavement of the roadway. It is expected that construction will be completed within the next several weeks.

Lower Mill – at a Public Hearing held on June 27, 2016, the Village Board discussed the demolition of the lower mill, and at this Board meeting, the Board has authorized, as a public emergency and at the behest of the Code Enforcement Officer, the immediate demolition of the remaining structures of the lower mill. The Board awarded the bid to Scanlon Trucking and Excavation in the amount of \$85,250.00 and to a third party air monitoring company in the amount of \$700 per day, not to exceed ten days. The Board also approved a Bond Resolution for the financing of the demolition of the unsafe structures at 71 North Street. Combining the demolition expenses with those of legal, engineering, bonding and administrative (mailing, etc.) costs, the amount, billed to the owner, Mr. William Lucchetti, will total approximately \$100,000. If the Village does not receive the payment by October 31, 2017, the Village will take immediate steps to assess these costs against the property at 71 North Street. If the Village tax bill along with the re-levied expenses of the demolition are not paid by October 31, 2017, the Village taxes will be re-levied to the Town and County taxes which will be mailed in January of 2018. If those Town and County taxes are not paid, the County of Onondaga will make the Village whole in April 2018.

Creek Walk Project – following the opening of bids on April 12, 2017, a bid was awarded at the Board's April meeting to complete the remaining work on the construction of the Creekwalk to JL Excavation of Chaumont, New York with a base bid in the amount of \$113,328 and a Alternate Bid #2 in the amount of \$9,502 for a total of \$122,830. A pre-construction meeting was held on May 4, 2017 with all parties involved and the contractor was able to start construction soon after Olde Home Days. This part of the project, which involved the building of a wall, installation of fencing and bollards, paving, striping, etc. is now complete, with some final items, such as other fencing and plantings to be completed by Village D.P.W. over the summer months. We would also note that this company is probably one of the finest construction firms with which we have dealt. In addition, the cooperation of Scott McClurg and his employees in rendering help to the contractors and to the Village has been outstanding, and we would like to publically thank them. If some residents are not familiar with the project, we urge them to click on the Village website and then on Village News.

Code Enforcement and Officer – inspections continue for house renovations, sheds and decks and unlicensed vehicles. In addition, several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance as well as some buildings on Main Street.

Compost Project – compost continues to be available for residents and if any residents cannot pick up compost during normal business hours, please call the Treatment Plant (673-4491) to make an appointment with one of the operators. The operators are available to answer questions and to help load compost for residents.

Street and Sidewalk Repair, Tree Removal and Plantings – per the D.P.W. chief's recommendation, Wilson Drive and Dunlap Avenue will be reconstructed this summer – probably late summer – as well as the corner of First and Slocombe. Budgetary constraints have limited the ability of the Village Board to add other street repairs in this year's budget. Also, sidewalk repairs will be made to selected areas on South Street.

Trees – some tree removals have been or will be done on South, and Bradley Streets, and perhaps another on Orchard Street, along with some trimming. Some tree plantings are expected to take place in late summer or early fall, but the locations have not yet been determined.

Planning Board – met recently to discuss the proposed Library Parking Lot, including Site Plan Review

New Businesses – we welcome a new business to the Village – Pizza Boise, which occupies the space previously occupied by J & J Pizza. Owned and operated by Brian Boise, they had a grand re-opening earlier in July and have experienced some very welcome crowds. We enthusiastically welcome them to the Village and encourage residents to patronize the pizza establishment. They are most welcome.

Announce Village Meetings for August 2017 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. A reminder to residents that July is Battery Collection Month. Residents should place old alkaline batteries into special yellow bags and place them on top of a closed trashcan or trash bag. Do not place the battery bags in the blue bin. There continue to be a number of Summer Community Events at Marcellus Park – Thursday nights from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Annex Pavilion. Concerts are free and appropriate for the entire family.