

Village Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

March 11, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees was held on the 11th of March at 7:15 PM, in the Auditorium of the Snow Memorial Building, 4917 North Jefferson Street, Pulaski, NY 13142.

Members Present: Jan Tighe, Mayor; Jeffrey Fowler, Trustee; Amy Dobrzynski, Trustee; Scott Pello, Trustee; and Alan Engelbrekt, Deputy Mayor.

Absent: None

Village Staff/Officials in Attendance: Michael Martin, Chief of Police; Catherine Spinney, Village Clerk/Treasurer; John Howland, Code Enforcement Officer; and Jennifer Gibbs, Deputy Clerk.

Guest(s): Mark Dobrzynski, Sandra Langer, Bruce Gilbert, Shelley Joss, Ed Gilson, Gary Haynes, Sue Haynes, Rebecca Alfred, Jeff Edick, David Rockwell, Jane Rockwell, Ken Trawick, Donald McChesney, Ann and Art Dekalb, Jesse Cornell, Paul M. Baxter, Nick Patel, Chuck Balcom, Kelly Balcom, and Nathaniel Ellis. Other guests either did not sign in or their names are ineligible.

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM with Mayor Jan Tighe leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Agenda Items #2: Public Comment

Mayor Jan Tighe addressed the rumors concerning the public about migrant housing at a local hotel and the pro-housing designation of the Village of Pulaski by New York State. It was pointed out that there is a ban against housing immigrants put in place by the Oswego County Legislature and a federal stay in place as the lawsuit against counties banning the transfer of migrants to hotels and shelters in Upstate New York. The pro-housing designation was not a grant. It serves as an additional point towards grants that the Village is and has applied for to restore the Village buildings along Main Street and support business and housing in that area generally.

Questions and concerns regarding the new marijuana/cannabis dispensaries were answered and addressed as well. It was noted that the illegal business that opened on Main Street never came to the Board and was not approved. Both the Village and the State worked to shut it down. It was shut down by NYS for selling illegal products. The Village had to opt-in or opt-out of allowing dispensaries and/or businesses allowing consumption of cannabis in the Village by the end of December 2021. The Board voted 3-2 to opt-in.

Concerns about traffic congestion in the Village if a major construction grant was awarded were discussed. It was made clear that traffic would be managed in such a way that emergency vehicles would be able to safely and timely arrive where they need to be as needed.

Agenda Item #3: Report from Tug Hill Circuit Rider

Paul M. Baxter reviewed the Tug Hill Commission's monthly newsletter.

Agenda Item #4: Approval of Minutes

Alan Engelbrekt made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 12th, 2024, meeting. Jeffrey Fowler seconded the motion and it passed 5-0. There was no discussion.

Agenda Item #5: Approval of Staff Reports

The motion to approve the Building & Code, DPW, and Police staff reports was made by Amy Dobrzynski and seconded by Jeffrey Fowler. The motion passed 5-0.

Agenda Item #6: Approval of Vouchers

Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to approve the General and TA vouchers with a second from Amy Dobrzynski. The motion passed with all in favor.

Agenda Item #7: Treasurer's Reports

The motion to approve the January 2024 Treasurer's Reports was made by Jeffrey Fowler and seconded by Amy Dobrzynski. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8: Old Business

- A. The Village Board received a copy of the Town of Richland/Village of Pulaski Comprehensive Planning Board minutes for their review.
- B. The Village will finish the SEQRS for the Local Law changes at the next monthly meeting on April 9, 2024.
- C. Review of Grants
 1. Amy Dobrzynski made the motion for a resolution for the Highschool Project to go out for bid. Jeffrey Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed with Alan Engelbrekt and Scott Pello voting no and Jan Tighe, Jeffrey Fowler and Amy Dobrzynski voting yes.
 2. The motion to have a permissive referendum to borrow for the Sidewalk to School program for half of the total costs of the project was made by Jeffrey Fowler and seconded by Amy Dobrzynski. It was noted that the other half of the other project will be reimbursed through an already awarded New York State Department of Environmental Conservation grant and the Village has already borrowed from this grant for project expenses as the Board previously approved the project. In a roll call vote, Jan Tighe, Jeffrey Fowler, and Amy Dobrzynski voted yes. Alan Engelbrekt and Scott Pello voted no.
 3. The NYS DOT approved a speed reduction in front of the High School and the installation of a crosswalk also in front of the High School. The request for a crosswalk on Route 11 at Castle Drive was not approved at this time.
 4. The Arbor Day Foundation named the Village of Pulaski a Tree City to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management.
 5. Mayor Jan Tighe reviewed the debriefing received at a meeting on March 7th, 2024, at the Village offices regarding the DRI/NY Forward grant the Village applied for and was not awarded 2023.
 6. The Village is applying and still looking for grant money to subsidize installation of water meters in residents' homes. The Village will investigate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs.

7. The Village is on track to receive a \$150,000 grant to apply towards energy saving projects including possible EV's added to our police and/or DPW fleet.
8. Jan Tighe reviewed the status or various other grants. Amy Dobrzynski made the motion to allow Jan Tighe on behalf of the Village of Pulaski to apply to Northern Boarder Regional Commission for daycare and Restore NY Round 8. Scott Pello seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.
- D. The Village had a Zoom meeting about the Dam with the DEC and the DEC agreed to put more work on hold and continue monitoring until the Village can find more money to do the repairs that will take it off the hazard list.
- E. The Department of Labor stopped in for an inspection and pointed out that the Village requires an updated policy for discrimination and harassment. It was also requested that the Board members bring in their policy books for updates.
- F. Jeffrey Fowler made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NYS DEC, the Town of Richland and the Village of Pulaski regarding the purchase of Public Fishing Rights (PFR) to the DEC at the Haldane Center. Amy Dobrzynski seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

- A. Mayor Tighe requested the Board members send dates they are available to gather and work on the 2024-2025 Budget. She also requested that the members review the subdivision law suggestions to discuss at the next regular meeting.
- B. Tug Hill
 - a. The annual local governance conference hosted by the Tug Hill Commission will be held May 2, 2024, at Turning Stone. The office will be closed for the day.
 - b. The Village will be hosting the Tug Hill Commission meeting of commissioners on March 18, 2024, at 10:00AM at the Snow Memorial Building.
 - c. The first 2024 meeting of the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments is tentatively scheduled for March 26, 2024. Location and time to be determined.
- C. Scott Pello made the motion to accept the resignations of Mark Dobrzynski from the ZBA and Benjamin Ives from the Planning Board. Jeffrey Fowler seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.
- D. The motion to appoint Mark Dobrzynski to the Planning Board and Joe Bryant to the Water Board was made by Scott Pello and seconded by Jeffrey Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. The Village wastewater treatment plant is in the last stages of preparation before its improvement project which includes changing from chemical treatment to ultraviolet. Over the previous weekend the sewer plant employees were called to a backup. It seems that a tanker truck dumped its contents of sludge and grease into a storm drain near the River Street pump station. Mayor Tighe requested that if anyone notices a tanker at a storm drain, please contact 911. Grease trap inspections will also be stepped up to protect the damage caused by grease backups to the sewer system. There was some discussion regarding who was going to be inspected.
- F. The new Village police car has been ordered.

- G. Jeffrey Fowler made the Resolution for Increased AIM Funding for Municipalities to encourage Governor Hochul to work with leaders of the Senate and Assembly to increase the funding in the 2024-2025 state budget. Amy Dobrzynski seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.
- H. The next regular Village Board meeting will be held Tuesday April 9, 2024, due to the eclipse on April 8, 2024.
- I. PROP will be buying all the benches for South Park to match the picnic tables. Two marble benches to be placed on either side of the monuments in North Park have been donated.
- J. The 2nd Annual Resource Fair will be held at the American Legion from 3:00 – 6:00 PM on April 19, 2024.
- K. NYCOMM’s annual meeting will be held in Bolton’s Landing on May 15, 2024.
- L. Eastern Shore Insurance offered to create a video of Pulaski. Scott Pello made a motion to approve the creation of the video with a second from Amy Dobrzynski. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #10: Other

Thank you notes will be sent to the following:

- Benjamin Ives for his service on the Planning Board.
- Millie Newcomb for her service on the Water Board.
- Mark Dobrzynski for his service on the Zoning Board.
- The redemption center for replacing the window.
- Prop for donating the benches.
- The donor of the marble benches.
- Dede Barclay for the Christmas decoration donations.

Agenda Item #11: Executive Session or Adjournment

A motion was made by Jeffrey Fowler to go into Executive Session at 8:50 PM. Scott Pello seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

A motion was passed to suspend an employee for three days without pay. The vote was 4-0.

Alan Engelbrekt made the motion to leave the Executive Session at 9:16 PM. With a second from Jeffrey Fowler, the motion passed with all in favor.

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM was made by Jeffrey Fowler and seconded by Alan Engelbrekt. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Village Board Meeting and Public Hearing will be on April 9, 2024, at 7:15 PM.

Draft & Unapproved

Jennifer Gibbs, Deputy Clerk