

A Regular Meeting of the Village of Potsdam Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 6:00 P.M., in the Civic Center Board Room, Park Street, Potsdam, New York.

PRESENT: Mayor Tischler
Trustees Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke & Lee

ALSO PRESENT: Lori S. Queor, Village Clerk/Registrar
Mark Murray, Police Chief
Cara Adams, Treasurer
Trey Smutz, Recreation Director

Mayor Tischler opened the meeting at 6:03 P.M., pointed out the exits on the North and East Walls and advised that the board room has the capacity for 109 people.

The Mayor then stated that all members were present.

The Mayor then stated that the following sets of minutes had been submitted for Board acceptance:

February 7, 2022 Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Trustee Lee and Seconded by Trustee Jacobs-Wilke to accept the minutes as submitted. All Were in Favor – None Opposed – Motion Carried.

Mayor's comments: Tragedy this past Friday. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Beth Howell. Thank you to law enforcement including the Village of Potsdam Police Department, New York State Police, St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office, St. Lawrence County District Attorney's Office, SUNY Potsdam Police, and Homeland Security. There will be a memorial service concert at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow at Hosmer Hall.

Covid still with us even though some restrictions are being lifted, so please social distance, wear a mask and get vaccinated.

Trustee's Comments:

Trustee Warr – None

Trustee Tirion – None

Trustee Jacobs-Wilke – Echo what the Mayor said about the tragedy this past Friday. We are all heartbroken for the family and campus community. We are devastated and there are some answers we will never get. Echo the thank you to the law enforcement agencies for their dedication and thankfully there is a suspect in custody. All are welcome tomorrow to Hosmer Crane School of Music for the memorial concert. Spoke with the Village Administrator about increasing the wattage of some of the streetlights in the area of the campus to assist students in feeling safer walking in the area.

Trustee Lee – Community fibers are shaken due to this tragedy, but the weaves are still strong. Please support each other as there is an extreme sense of fear due to this random act. We appreciate all the law enforcement agencies and our community for caring.

Administrator's Comments – Not present – freezing rain so he went home. A written report is on file with the Village Clerk.

Planning Director's Report – Not present – he was out sick. A written report is on file with the Village Clerk.

Public Comment:

Roxanne Smith of Foxy Roxy's addressed the Board about the variance for their property and North Country Oil Change's property for the Stewart's project being turned down. She stated that they do not understand why it was turned down when other businesses got variances. She stated that Dunkin Donuts, Barstow's, Hamton Inn, Taco Bell, Verizon, 7-11 gas station, and Five Guys all were built recently with no issues, and she is not sure why their variance was turned down. Mayor Tischler stated that there is an antiquated law in our code that the St. Lawrence County Planning Board found that needs to be addressed. He stated that the Village Board will hold a public hearing in March to change the law. Trustee Warr stated that we will move forward by changing the law and making it right. The Mayor stated that at the March 7th a public hearing will be set for the March 21st meeting. Mrs. Smith stated that they are on a kind of time crunch as their contract with Stewart's expires on June 30th. Trustee Warr stated that the board will try to get this sorted out very quickly and hopefully the board will vote on the local law the same night as the public hearing at their regular meeting. The Mayor asked the Village Clerk if they could do that and she stated that yes, they can.

Dave Mooney of North Country Oil Change addressed the board about the variance denial also. He apologized for being late and missing Mrs. Smith's comments. He thanked the board for working with them regarding the zoning issues. He stated that he hopes this can be resolved by changing and updating the zones and laws to bring them up to 2022. He stated that his pumps are down, and it will cost \$17,000 for the computer to bring them back on line and he doesn't want to spend that big amount with not knowing what the future holds. He then stated that his life is dangling by a string, and he hopes the board gets things resolved quickly and their contract with Stewart's expires June 30th and they would like to get this going also.

Michael Edgar of 79 Maple Street addressed the board about snow on the sidewalk and cross walks. He provided the board with pictures and stated that he spoke with John Winter at the 99.3 radio station and John has agreed to do PSAs at no cost to the village.

New Business:

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution approving the partial expenditures for the month of February 2022 in the amount of \$236,750.90 chargeable to the following funds:

General Fund	\$ 38,965.66
Water Fund	29,193.27
Sewer Fund	23,536.27
Hydro Fund	38.00
Trust & Agency Fund	935.00
Recreation Fund	129,717.26
Trash Fund	<u>14,365.44</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$236,750.90</u>

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke
& Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution authorizing the Treasurer to pay the following invoice:

TO: Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux in the amount of \$1,950 for retainer for labor relations services for February 2022.

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke
& Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution authorizing the Treasurer to pay the following invoice:

TO: Development Authority of the North Country in the amount of \$42.50 for professional services rendered through January 2022 for the Crosstown Canal Project Phase II.

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke
& Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution authorizing the transfer of \$500 from the Rosse Reserve Account to the museum budget line 05-7450-465 (Equipment).

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke & Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution approving the membership of Brendan J. Tischler, 11 Riverside Drive, Potsdam, into the Potsdam Fire Department. Favorable vote of the department and satisfactory physical exam have been achieved.

Ayes 4 (Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke & Lee) Nays 0

Abstentions 1 (Mayor Tischler)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution approving the Probationary Appointment of Heather Wells to the position of Keyboard Specialist in the Civic Center Offices effective February 28, 2022. Probationary period not to exceed 12 months.

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke & Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Development Authority of the North Country to provide the Village of Potsdam with grant underwriting services in connection with the DRI funded Rebuild Downtown Potsdam Fund at a maximum guaranteed price of \$20,000.00 in grant administrative funds to be provided through the Village's DRI grant agreement with NYS Homes and Community Renewal project # 20210371.

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke & Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution to enter into an agreement with AOK Engineering, PLLC to provide the Village of Potsdam with renovation inspection services in connection with the DRI funded Rebuild Downtown Potsdam Fund at a maximum guaranteed price of \$1,600.00 per unit renovated through the project in grant administrative funds to be provided through the Village’s DRI grant agreement with NYS Homes and Community Renewal project # 20210371.

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke & Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution declaring February 2022 Black History Month in the Village of Potsdam, with deep appreciation for our black citizens and neighbors, past and present, and a shared determination to reflect on the lessons we all must learn from our history as we work to build a brighter and more inclusive future.

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke & Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution authorizing the Village to partner with the St. Lawrence County Arts Council in seeking funding for a Skateboard Park on Fall Island.

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke & Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution approving the appointment of the following individuals to the Citizens Advisory Committee:

Peter Anderson
Matt Manierre
Firaz Mohideen
Jay Pecora
Macayla Robinson
Sharon Toth
Pat Turbett
Austin Weakfall

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke & Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to send out a Request for Proposal for the repaving of the Pine Street Arena parking lot.

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke
& Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Village of Potsdam Board of Trustees of February 22, 2022, at 6:31 p.m.

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, Tirion, Jacobs-Wilke
& Lee)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori S. Queor
Village Clerk