

A Regular Meeting of the Village of Potsdam Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 4:28 P.M., in the Civic Center Board Room, Park Street, Potsdam, NY.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Lori Queor, Clerk/Treasurer
Mark Murray, Police Chief
Greg Thompson, Administrator

Mayor Tischler opened the meeting at 4:28 P.M and pointed out the exits on the North and East walls of the Board Room.

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:

May 18, 2020	Regular Meeting	4:30 p.m.
May 18, 2020	Executive Session	5:25 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: There have been a few peaceful marches for Black Lives Matter that I, the police chief and others have participated in. They were well done and there was a great turn out.

Trustee's Comments:

Trustee Warr – Nice to see everyone.

Trustee McKenna – Complaint about truck sound on Elm Street and it is worse where I live which is Lawrence Avenue/Leroy Street area. I have been told that Jake Brakes are illegal and that is not being enforced. The sound is really bad and we need to resolve this issue. I have attending some marches for the Black Lives Matter movement along with attending a community forum in Canton that was discussion based. I have learned a lot and have done some of my own research. I have heard the sentiment that people do not feel more safe with the police and I do not want anyone to not feel safe. We need to create a community action committee to have discussion and advocate for a plan.

Trustee Jacobs-Wilke – I agree with Trustee McKenna and there are two resolutions on the agenda tonight in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and LGBTQ+ pride month. We need to start with words so that everyone knows they are welcome and cared for in our community. We then need to take action to prove those words. We need to involve the community, churches, schools to help advise us and Potsdam can be a model for the North Country.

Trustee Lee – Echo the trustee’s comments. We met with the building use committee and the contractor this afternoon regarding the Library building project and everyone was happy with the answers to their questions.

Administrator’s Comments: Administrator Thompson provided the board with a written report which is on file with the Village Clerk. He then went over his report with the Board.

Police Chief’s Report: Chief Murray provided the board with a written report which is on file with the Village Clerk. He then went over his report with the Board. He addressed the Jake Brake issue stating that the police department has the authority of NYS traffic laws to ticket for vehicular noise. He stated that part of the issue right now is that the court has been closed since March and will not open until August 5th. He stated that his department does enforce trucking routes. The Chief also spoke to and read some of the information he received from Chief Santimaw regarding training which outlines training initiative. Trustee Warr commented that he has a list of all the training our officers do and compared it with the training that Rochester does, and they have half the training our officers have. Chief Murray also spoke to the fact that our department is the only one to have body cameras and recently the Mayor authorized the purchase of two additional cameras bring the number of cameras the department has up to six.

Public Comment:

John Youngblood, a SUNY Potsdam professor addressed the board. He asked if citizens could help raise money for the purchase of body cams and donate it to the Village. Clerk/Treasurer Queor stated that the Village can take donations for the purchase of specific items. Mr. Youngblood asked when it comes to the Citizen Review Board will there be a focus on race. He then stated that he has had nothing but great experiences with police in this area.

The Mayor stated that he sees the committee to have 6-10 people from all aspects and will take in everyone’s input.

Jennifer Braxton then address the Board. She thanked the board for the resolution in support of Black Lives Matter. She asked if someone rolls their window down and calls her the “N” word and she has their license plate or a picture of them, what happens? She stated that training police or not training police will not get the racism out of a racist police officer. She stated that she still will not feel safe. She stated what would make her feel safe is racist police or any racist person in business is put out.

Alexandra Cocher-Williams then address the board and showed a diagram of who should be included in the committee according to Governor Cuomo’s NYS Police reform. She stated it includes police, community, non-profits, faith groups, local D.A., and local elected officials. She stated her main concern is ensuring everyone that needs to join the process does indeed join and that every sector of all groups need to contribute to get the full picture of the community needs.

New Business:

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution approving the partial expenditures for the month of June 2020 in the amount of \$112,637.37 chargeable to the following funds:

General Fund	\$ 82,855.14
Water Fund	1,747.00
Sewer Fund	10,585.31
Hydro Fund	38.00
Trash Fund	17,093.88
Recreation Fund	<u>318.04</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 112,637.37</u>

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

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution approving the additional expenditures for the month of May 2020 in the amount of \$475,564.34 chargeable to the following funds:

General Fund	\$ 64,016.22
Water Fund	35,847.49
Sewer Fund	187,362.17
Hydro Fund	1,052.54
Trash Fund	52.72
Capital Fund	80,031.05
Payroll Fund	105,412.25
Recreation Fund	1,739.90
Planning & Development Funds	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 475,564.34</u>

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

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution approving the expenditures for the May 2020 year end in the amount of \$135,168.64 chargeable to the following funds:

General Fund	\$ 84,356.73
Water Fund	21,176.59
Sewer Fund	17,741.00
Hydro Fund	970.00
Recreation Fund	<u>10,924.32</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 135,168.64</u>

Ayes 5 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 0
(Trustee Warr, McKenna, 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 \$1,164.00 for professional services rendered through May 2020 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Technical Services Agreement

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

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

TO: Environmental Design & Research in the amount of \$4,000.00 for professional services rendered through April 2020 for the Infiltration and Inflow Study.

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

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

TO: Johnson & Laws, LLC in the amount of \$349.65 for professional services rendered through May 2020 for the JEDA Capital 56 LLC v. Village of Potsdam case.

Ayes 4 (Mayor Tischler) Nays 1 (Trustee Warr)
(Trustee McKenna, Jacobs-Wilke
& Lee)

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution awarding the high bid for the surplus 1970 Case Tractor to Cory Wildman for his bid of \$1,400.00.

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

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution approving the permanent appointment of Justin McGrath to the position of Water Treatment Plant Operator I effective June 1, 2020 at the hourly rate of \$26.57 per hour. Mr. McGrath has received his Grade IIA Filtration Plant Water System Operator certificate.

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

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution accepting, with regret, the retirement of Van Peets from the Village of Potsdam Department of Public Works effective June 30, 2020. Further thanking Mr. Peets for his 30 years of service to the Village of Potsdam.

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

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution to hold a public hearing on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Civic Center Board Room, Park Street, Potsdam, NY. This public hearing is at the request of Frederick D. Robar Sr. for Notices to Comply pursuant to Chapter 125 Junk Storage of the Village of Potsdam Municipal Code. The notices to comply are for the following addresses: 82 Market Street, 84 Market Street, 81/83 Maple Street, 79 Maple Street, 87 Maple Street, 85 Maple Street and 10 Pine Street, Potsdam, NY 13676.

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

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution to hold a public hearing on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. in the Civic Center Board Room, Park Street, Potsdam, NY. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on a proposed local law to allow chickens within the Village of Potsdam boundaries.

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

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Seconded a resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence defined the United States of America as a democracy based on the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and government by the consent of the people; and the 14th Amendment instilled equality of the races into the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, from slavery to Jim Crow laws to the modern criminal justice system, Black people in this country have been brutalized and dehumanized for centuries; and

WHEREAS, the struggles of Black people have been highlighted most recently by alarming findings that Black Americans are dying from COVID-19 at a much higher rate compared to white Americans due to systemic, structural racism; and

WHEREAS, in the 21st Century, Black people in America continue to live in fear of losing their lives at the hands of law enforcement or members of white supremacist groups; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, 46-year-old father of two, George Floyd, pleaded for his life while handcuffed and on the ground, while a police officer pushed his knee into George Floyd's throat for over nine minutes, ultimately killing George Floyd; and

WHEREAS, racism and death continue to plague our country, despite many pleas for change; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020, nearly one thousand community members peacefully marched through the Village of Potsdam in protest of these acts; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2020, hundreds more community members peacefully marched through the Village of Potsdam, joined by Mayor Tischler, Chief Murray and members of the Village Board; and

WHEREAS, "Equal Justice Under the Law" is a phrase engraved on a pediment in front of the United States Supreme Court, the Village Board believes all law enforcement officials should work toward making this a reality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Potsdam Village Board condemns the killing of George Floyd, and condemns any and all acts of racism and discrimination; and

LET US RESOLVE, individually, to search our own hearts and to decide, in a moral crisis — which in truth is always what we should do, what we can do, and determine what we will do; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Potsdam Village Board aims to make the Village of Potsdam an even more welcoming, inclusive, and safe community to all, regardless of race or ethnicity.

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

Trustee Jacobs-Wilke Moved and Trustee McKenna Seconded a resolution declaring June 2020 Pride Month in the Village of Potsdam. The Village will raise the Pride Flag on June 29, 2020 in recognition of this declaration.

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

Trustee Lee Moved and Trustee Warr Seconded a resolution to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Village of Potsdam Board of Trustees of June 15, 2020 at 5:51 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lori S. Queor
Village Clerk