Meeting Minutes February 8, 2021

At a scheduled public hearing of the board of Trustees of the Village of Port Byron held in the municipal building at 7:00PM, the following people were present:

Mayor: Ronald Wilson Trustee: Jeff Emerson

Trustee: Patrick Fenton

Trustee: Mary Jump

Trustee: Jeff Girvin

Village Clerk: Sandy Hall

Treasurer: Ashley Huband

OIC: Meagan Kalet

Public: Michael Gray, Sheriff Brian Schenck

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Mayor Wilson asked everyone present to please stand for the Pledge to the Flag and a Moment of Silence.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing at 7:02PM regarding Local Law #1 of 2021- - Authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-C and about the Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative.

Mayor Wilson asked if anyone has anything to say regarding these public hearings.

Mayor Wilson asked OIC Kalet and Sheriff Schenck to talk about the police reform.

OIC Kalet stated that previously it was discussed on how to get the survey out to the residents. She said the best way to do this and less cost-efficient way was to send the police survey out along with the resident’s water bills. OIC Kalet stated that we did receive about 38 survey back from residents. There was a packet that was put together, which included graphs that showed what the residents are looking for the most. It was shown that the top 4 things that are not done and want to see put into place are as followed:

1. Training our officers
2. Supervision of our officers
3. De-escalation tactics/techniques
4. Ongoing bias awareness and diversity training

According to the residents most of them want to see more training. OIC Kalet stated that most employees are getting training, but she is looking into more. She stated that hopefully we can see what the other villages/towns around us will look like. OIC Kalet stated that she will be meeting with the Sheriff to investigate more serious crimes and looking into resources to come up with a plan.

Mayor Wilson discussed that in the past they did have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Mayor Wilson stated that they were sending our police officers to other counties. Mayor Wilson said he objected us being the only one or the first ones to be sent to other counties. OIC Kalet said she thought it would be nice to see the MOU in writing. Mayor Wilson said he thought that both sides should be called for this. Sheriff Schenck said that he does appreciate him saying that. Mayor Wilson addressed the board if they are okay with signing the MOU, so that we may give it back to the Sheriff while he was at the meeting. Sheriff Schenck said that he needs to get it approved by the county first, then he will get it back to us to sign if there are no changes to be made. Sheriff Schenck stated that they would be happy to help whenever they can. Mayor Wilson did ask the Sheriff how much the body camera would be. Sheriff Schenck said that it is very costly, but at some point; going forward that we may need it.

Mayor Wilson discussed to Sheriff Schenck that Michael Gray is attending the board meeting to address a concern he has regarding the snowmobilers, which may result in police involvement. Mr. Gray said that due to destruction of his property, he spent $1000 to repair his front yard last year. He also mentioned that he cannot afford to spent thousands of dollars every year. With his concerns, he said there needs to be a local law regarding snowmobiles. Michael Gray said that he cannot understand why he can get in trouble for protecting his property, but the person responsible for driving through his lawn can get away with it. Mr. Gray wants there to be a local law to give a penalty, but this cannot be done if there are no laws in place. Mayor Wilson stated that he spoke to the person in charge of the snowmobile trail. Mayor Wilson said that there were signs ordered that will be put up around the village regarding snowmobiles. Mayor Wilson said that a map was brought to us and main street was not part of the path. Trustee Jump stated that they were flying down her lawn and street. Michael Gray said that he put up a caution sign along his driveway in hopes to stop them from riding through his lawn. Mayor Wilson stated that they were supposed to go on the trail that was agreed upon, and not on sidewalks. Mayor Wilson said that down at the canal, they were going down the wrong side of street that they do not belong. Sheriff Schenck said if there is anything they can do to help, they will. The Sheriff mentioned that maybe they can get a detail together especially if the snow is bad.

Trustee Emerson said that he had a few questions for the Sheriff to shed some light on. Trustee Emerson asked the Sheriff about metal health issues, and if they will send anyone out to help. Sheriff Schenck said that they are working close with Cayuga County Mental Health mobile crisis team. If people call, they will come out to the scene to meet the officer if they can. The Sheriff said that the state will not help with funding. Trustee Emerson asked the Sheriff if an officer gets disciplined and they work for 2 agencies, would they be discipline in both places they work. Sheriff Schenck said most likely they are not going to be able to share that information with each other. OIC Kalet stated that with the fingerprint, they would get notice back if the officer got arrested. Sheriff Schenck said that it should not be released to public, so they cannot misuse information, but certain things the public should know. Sheriff Schenck states that he treats everyone equally no matter the skin color, race, etc.

OIC Kalet read her PD report out loud. She stated that Officer Bacon is still out with an injury and she is not sure if he will come back or not. OIC Kalet said that most of all of prints are through live scan. She said that the procedure for live scan is being worked on. OIC Kalet stated that she might need training. OIC Kalet said the police recertification for Josh Middleton has had some roadblocks they are hitting. OIC Kalet cannot be the school director. There is a refresher course, but he works a full-time job, so there are roadblocks into getting this done. There must be a master director and there needs to be an academy for him to go through. OIC Kalet stated that a foil request, muck rock has been asked for the Port Byon Police Department. OIC Kalet said that Clerk Hall reached out to attorney on what information could be released regarding this. Clerk Hall stated that she spoke to the attorney. The attorney stated that any information that has the officer address, ss, family history or anything personal information needed to be blocked off before sending any information in. The attorney also stated that they are only looking for any discipline actions against the officer that the village had. OIC Kalet stated that there is a WWII Veteran living in the Village of Port Byron who is turning 102 years old. She was asked if she would like to participate in a parade that will be held for him on 2/18/2021. OIC Kalet said that she would like to participate on behalf of the Village of Port Byron Police Department.

Mayor Wilson said that he wrote up a proposal about having a local law for snowmobiles, which he then read out loud. Mayor Wilson stated that any changes to the written proposal to let him know. He asked the board to make the decision on what dollar amount should be set for the penalty. Trustee Girvin stated that he thought that $500 for the first offense and up to $1000 for repeat offenders.

First motion for new local law for snowmobile, penalty for the first offense $500 and repeat offenders up to $1000 made by Trustee Jump.

Second motion made by Trustee Emerson.

All in favor: 5-0

First motion to have Public Hearing held on March 8th, 2021 on local law #2 for snowmobile made by Trustee Girvin.

Second motion made by Trustee Emerson.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson moved on to Kim Weber raise, due to the minimum wage going up to $12.50.

First motion for Kim Weber raise made by Trustee Girvin.

Second motion made by Trustee Jump.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson discussed the Village’s Holiday Schedule for the Calendar year 2021-2022. After reviewing the calendar, Mayor Wilson asked if there were any questions from the board- no questions arose. Mayor Wilson asked for a motion to approve the Village’s Holiday Schedule for the Calendar year 2021-2022.

First motion to accept the Village Holiday Schedule for the calendar year 2021-2022 made by

Trustee Girvin.

Second motion made by Trustee Emerson.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson discussed that he spoke to John Mancini from NYCOM. Mayor Wilson stated that as an appointed official, they do get paid holidays. This would mean that both Ashley Huband as the treasurer and Sandy Hall as the Clerk would get holiday pay. Mayor Wilson stated that holiday paid would apply to both the office staff and the guys in the garage. They would all be entitled for holiday paid time off.

First motion to give holiday pay to both the office staff and garage made by Trustee Girvin.

Second motion made by Trustee Emerson.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson moved onto transfers between accounts to cover invoices. Mayor Wilson said that there must be money in the accounts to pay invoices.

First motion to transfer between accounts made by Trustee Girvin.

Second motion made by Trustee Fenton.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson moved onto reports.

The Treasury report submitted by Ashley Huband can be reviewed. If any questions arose, you could ask her.

The DPW report, submitted by superintendent Sims, was reviewed. There was a small discussion held on plowing and why do they need to go out so early to plow.

Mayor Wilson asked if everyone got a copy of the police schedule. Mayor Wilson stated that it looks much better than it did in the past. Mayor Wilson stated that OIC Kalet is doing a great job.

The PD report, submitted by OIC Kalet, was already reviewed, and read out loud by OIC Kalet. No other questions arose.

The Fire Department report, submitted by Chief Rooker, was reviewed. According to the FD report, Mayor Wilson said that 75% of the membership got the vaccine. Trustee Jump stated that the vaccine is not 100%, you can still be a carrier, but will not make you sick. Mayor Wilson stated that the annual ladder testing is February 17. Trustee Emerson said that all ladders need to be tested, no matter what kind they are. Mayor Wilson asked if there were any calls from Montezuma. Trustee Emerson told the Mayor “no”.

First motion to accept the reports as presented made by Trustee Emerson.

Second motion made by Trustee Girvin.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson discussed that Blair sent out a second proposal. Mayor Wilson stated that Zenner stayed away from the repeaters/collector until later down the road. He said that we only have 2 meters left, once those are gone, we will need a new meter with encoders. Mayor Wilson said the guys will need to know which meter is which. Mayor Wilson said that they are all not going to change at once. The brass part is easy to fix, but not the electronic part, eventually we will need to put up.

Trustee Emerson stated that it would be nice if people know if they have a leak. Trustee Fenton stated its so costly. Trustee Girven said that maybe we should get a few to see how they fit on our meters. Trustee Girvin wants to get an encoder to see. It was then suggested that we buy at least 5 brass and 10 encoders.

First motion to do the first part and the second part, to get 5 brass and 10 encoders made by Trustee Girvin.

Second motion made by Trustee Fenton.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson discussed old business, an ad in citizens for code enforcer. Clerk Hall stated that the citizens bill was overdue, this needed to be paid up to date before they would put the ad in the paper for us. There was a small discussion around the overdue Citizens bill. Clerk Hall stated that this was never paid from the last time an ad was put in the paper, this was dating back to June 2020. Clerk Hall stated that it will now be paid up to date. Mayor Wilson also discussed old business on the 1995 fire truck; he stated that we did have someone come out and take pictures of the old fire truck, which then will go up on the action website.

Mayor Wilson asked if there was a motion to accept the meeting minutes from prior Village Board meeting, January 11th and January 25th, 2021 as presented to be approved.

First motion to accept minutes made by Trustee Girvin.

Second motion made by Trustee Fenton.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson asked if there were any questions on the unaudited bills that needs to be paid.

No questions arose.

First motion to pay bills as presented made by Trustee Girvin.

Second motion made by Trustee Fenton.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson discussed that he is handing out a rough draft of the budget for the board to look over and review. Mayor Wilson said that there may need to be some changes cause somehow, he deleted everything and had to restart. He stated that he would like to have another board meeting on February 22, 2021 to go over the budget and if anything needs to be changed. Mayor Wilson said that no minutes were required, so the clerk does not need to be present.

First Motion to adopt local law #1 Authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-C made by Trustee Girvin.

Second motion made by Trustee Jump.

All in favor: 5-0

Roll call vote as follows:

Trustee Girvin: Yes

Trustee Emerson: Yes

Trustee Fenton: Yes

Trustee Jump: Yes

Mayor Wilson: Yes

Village Clerk Hall to file Local Law #1 of 2021 with New York State.

First motion to close police reform hearing made by Trustee Emerson.

Second motion made by Trustee Jump.

All in favor: 5-0

Mayor Wilson questioned the Board if there was anything else to discuss. Nothing else to discuss. Motion to adjourn the regular scheduled Village Board Meeting of February 8th, 2021 made by Trustee Fenton.

Second motion made by Trustee Emerson.

All in favor: 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:49 PM

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Village Clerk Hall