

**Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
Of the Village of Bergen at
6:30pm on March 10th, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Barclay at 6:30pm with the following present:

Trustee Joseph Chimino
Trustee Kevin Donovan
Trustee Paul Robinson
Trustee Emily VanEenwyk

Also present: Village Administrator Cortney Gale and Grace Gallivan

Approval of Bills

A motion to approve the bills was made by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee Donovan. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 10th, 2021 was made by Trustee Chimino and seconded by Trustee VanEenwyk. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor

Grants

- **Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization (GVRR)** – I have been researching background information, sent requests for letters of support, and have received a great response, and working to answer the questions and complete narratives for the application. The work to repair and preserve the exterior bricks on the east and south sides of the building will be extensive and costly, the grant will pay 100% of the cost. Secured quotes for masonry and painting work for the grant application.
- **Main Street** – the sign on 16 N Lake fell during the windstorm (2/25), Sign Language replaced the sign (3/8) with more extensive supports. They have double checked the others.
- **FEMA** –waiting to hear that check has been sent for expenditures during the meal delivery program. Due to a change in Covid relief directed by the President, we will receive 100% reimbursement for COVID meal program instead of 75%.

Planning Board

- At the 2/17 committee meeting, we worked through Articles 7 -9 (off street parking, loading and accessibility, landscaping and screening, nonresidential design), the updated Zoning Map, Non-conforming parking, and solar.
- Rene Vurraro and I met (zoom) with Molly B. Gaudio and John Steinmetz (Barton & Logiudice) to discuss details of solar, table for Site Plan triggers, and other clarification.

Park Committee/Tree Board – We met on 3/3; I updated the committee on park plans for this year, Boy Scouts will assist with cleaning community garden plots.

Traffic/Safety – A draft amendment will be presented to the board for parking fines, public hearing to be held March 24, 2021.

COVID-19

- We have updated protocols for renting the Sage Pavilion according to the “new” procedures and start dates released by the state.
- Daily updates are posted on the Genesee County website for testing and vaccinations.
- We are planning for the opening of the office to the public, masks continue to be required.

Sage Pavilion

- Reservations have been coming in steadily. All protocols are discussed before agreements are signed.
- Bricks inside the building have been sealed to preserve the bricks and prevent chips and dust. Ceiling repair work is being done.
- Quotes were received to repair the foam sealing; it was determined the work will be done in house at a much-reduced cost compared to outside estimates.

State of State for Genesee County – Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul – I participated in the webinar on Feb 17 during which the Lt Gov. covered the following topics: county revenue loss with increased expenses due to COVID, continued initiatives for Batavia and rural communities, retraining opportunities for workers, increase COVID vaccine availability in the county, telehealth training for health care workers to allow increase availability to public, tax increases to schools if funding continues to be cut, marijuana legalization, reopening of NY public facilities and schools, Nourish NY program, gender and domestic violence increases, police, etc.

Staff Planning meetings – DPW – Zach Kuter, Kirk Roberts, Cortney Gale and myself, 3/3, to discuss season plans – Sage brick and ceiling repairs, cleaning schedule for events, *Hartland Park* – chip seal on metal bridge, stain wooden bridges, brush hog creek, hydroseed, *Carpenter Park* – plan with Lawn Medic for lawn, 2 trees from Tree City grant, working with Bergen Water garden and nursery for fountain, *Hickory Park* – clean up, prepare bathrooms to be open (May), plant 2 trees, tree trimming, replace swing seats, repair playground tube section, install security cameras, *Ward Park* – plant tree, *Community garden* – clean up, prepare for gardens, *sidewalks* – quotes for repair, sections to be repaired documented, *Streetscape*- installation of new planters, building replacements for small ones, *roadwork* – plans continuing.

WWTP – Chris Fay, Cortney Gale, and I met on 3/10 to discuss plant updates; investigating process to heat raw influent during winter months to reduce impact on plant, replacement screen will be ordered and installed, phosphorus chemicals will be ordered 4/1 to prepare for treatment 5/1 (weekly tests for phosphorus done from May 1 to Oct 31 for DEC), pumping of tanks to begin in April, we will be looking for part-time help same as last year,

Meetings, ETC

- GAM meeting on February 18th, county leadership call to take place Sat. 3/13. American Rescue plan indicates \$11.11 mil distribution to Genesee County, \$320,000 to Town of Bergen.
- Weekly staff meetings continue Wednesday mornings.
- Hometown Hero Banners – applications for 9 banners to be hung by Memorial Day along 19 have been submitted
- Interviewed a candidate for village historian, will continue to look to fill the position
- Completed a spreadsheet of information collected from survey of commercial businesses who send chemicals to the WWTP. The spreadsheet has been sent to Clark Patterson Lee for review.

- Cortney Gale and I discussed solar requirements for opportunities on village property with NYMPA representatives (2/17), TJA Clean Energy continues to express interest in working with the village on a solar project
- Meeting for the Imagination Library program 3/5
- BBKA meeting 2/15 – planning Easter Egg Hunt for 3/27 in Hickory Park, COVID edition of Park Festival on June 12 to include chicken barbecue, music, and fireworks.
- Gypsy moths – trees throughout the village have many egg cases on them, DPW staff researching how to limit the impact to village trees.
- Chris Suozzi, GCEDC, reached out to discuss housing development possibilities in the town and village of Bergen in response to the housing study in the county.

Administrator

Sewer

- There have been several issues at the sewer plant mostly due to the snow melt. The plant has shut down numerous times due to high pressures on the membranes. Basically, there was more liquid coming in than the plant could handle. Chris had to divert to the retention ditch, and I approved AD Call to haul loads to Batavia to reduce the ditch so Chris could take part of the plant offline to clean the membranes in hopes that it would reduce pressure.
- The Annual Flow Certification Report for 2020 was submitted to the DEC along with the February Discharge Monitoring Report on March 8th.
- I was contacted again by the Town residents that would like to hook into our sewer system. Chris will inspect the tank and I have the Village Attorney working on an agreement for the tank.

DPW

- Zach received three bids for sidewalk replacement. The lowest bid was \$9,500 from Cook Enterprises out of Avon.
- The Genesee County bid for road paving and material is being opened today. We should have all the information we need for our proposed road work by early next week.
- I expect to receive a quote from Grippo Asphalt for sealing the parking lots and Quonset area by the end of the week.
- There was a water main break on Kaymar Drive. Monroe County Water Authority fixed the issue but unfortunately had to cut into the road.

Electric

- The Governor has once again extended the moratorium on utility shut offs through March 25th.
- The Mayor and I met with the New York Power Authority on February 17th to discuss the solar project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They do not believe the project is feasible due to regulations. We put them in touch with the developer who expressed interest in the project.
- The MEUA Semi-Annual Meeting is April 20th and 21st and will be held via ZOOM.
- The Linemen replaced poles behind the downtown businesses and moved the lines. Holley came over today to assist so a new employee could learn.
- Churchville came to assist with a transformer replacement on South Lake and cut outs on Buffalo Road.
- Liberty Pumps is adding a large warehouse which will require a change to their electric service.

Office

- The bid process for the new refuse contract has begun. The notice was placed in the Batavia Daily News on March 2nd. Bids are due on March 31st by 12:00pm
- We received a curious letter from the IRS about a late reporting document regarding a \$2,731 tax free bond issuance. I spoke to Municipal Solutions and our Bond Council and we cannot explain what it is in reference to. I called the IRS, and they did not have the information available and are investigating.
- Deputy Clerk Barb Zinter reconciled the bank statements and filed the regular reports. She has been organizing and filing documents from her end of calendar year work. Barb is also working on reviewing town policies, civil service and retirement reports for our Code Enforcement Officers, and fraudulent unemployment claims.
- Deputy Treasurer Rene' Vurraro billed companies that are attached to our utility poles and billed residents for electric and sewer. She is going through each property file to ensure everything is filed properly. Rene reports that there are a larger than normal number of accounts on the shut off list.

Miscellaneous

- With the passing of the American Rescue Plan Act the Village will receive funds from the Federal Government. I have been researching to find out how much we will receive.
- Genesee County changed drug testing companies so we can no longer piggyback off their program. I enlisted the help of Safe Driver Solutions. They will come to our facilities so our employees will not have to travel, and they are less expensive than the previous provider.
- The Mayor and I met via conference call with the DEC about the Village's Flood Plain, which is minimal. It was a routing call as they verify information for an upcoming update with the county.

Privilege of the Floor

None

Trustee Concerns

Trustee Robinson stated that there is a pothole near Bergen Sales on Park View Drive that needs to be repaired.

New Business

Parking Violation Fees

Mayor Barclay discussed the need to add fees to the Village's parking law. A public hearing was scheduled for March 24th at 6:30pm to hear input on the proposed addition of fees to Local Law 2 of 2015.

Resolution 1 of 2021 – Support of GVRR Grant

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR GENESEE VALLEY RURAL REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, A \$750,000 grant was awarded to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP) from the National Park Service's Paul Bruhn Rural Revitalization Grants Program, the Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization (GVRR) Grant Program, administered by The Landmark Society of Western New York (LSWNY) and NYS OPRHP

WHEREAS, the grant aims to support historic restoration and rehabilitation projects throughout rural communities in the Finger Lakes and Western New York regions

WHEREAS, The GVRR program allows NYS OPRHP and LSWNY to offer \$5,000 to \$50,000 reimbursable, unmatched sub-grants for eligible historic buildings to preserve the historic places that have shaped rural communities, their social fabric, and economy.

WHEREAS, the Village of Bergen is an eligible applicant for the Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Bergen would like to apply for a grant under the Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant Program to restore, renovate and preserve the brick work on the East and South Walls of the Tulley Building; and

WHEREAS, municipalities applying for the Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant Program projects encouraged to provide a resolution supporting the application for funding;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Bergen Board of Trustees do hereby enthusiastically support the submission of an application to the Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant Program for up to \$50,000.

A motion was made by Trustee VanEenwyk and seconded by Trustee Robinson to pass Resolution 1 of 2021 supporting Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant Program. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Old Business

Chickens in the Village

A motion was made by Trustee Robinson and seconded by Trustee VanEenwyk to proceed with development and implementation of a local law that would allow the keeping of chickens in the Village. The motion **failed** by the following vote:

Trustee Joseph Chimino - Nay
Trustee Kevin Donovan - Nay
Trustee Paul Robinson - Nay
Trustee Emily VanEenwyk - Aye

Considering the vote, the Village Board discussed the moratorium on enforcement of the current law that does not allow chickens in the Village and agreed to lift the moratorium effective immediately.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Chimino and seconded by Trustee Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cortney W. Gale
Village Administrator