

**Regular Meeting  
Of the Board of Trustees  
Of the Village of Bergen at  
6:30pm on**

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

Trustee Robert Capurso  
Trustee Todd Cargill  
Trustee Michael Fleming  
Trustee Bernadette Thompson

Also present: Village Administrator Cortney Gale

**Approval of Bills**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Capurso. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

**Mayor**

**Grants**

- Fast New York Grant -This grant application has met the initial criteria to be considered for the next phase of the grant application. We await further correspondence from NYS.
- Summer Recreation Program- This grant will fund the 2024 summer recreation program.
- Genesee County Legislature has once again made available in their budget to fund professional grant writing services up to \$5,000.00 dollars to municipalities on a first come first served basis. Discussion on a grant writer will be brought before the board at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Clean Energy Communities -The village has been awarded a grant from NYSEERDA.in the amount of \$10,000.00 for clean energy projects, The village has requested one or two car charging stations to replace the two current stations that are not fully operational.
- We were unable to obtain a grant for an adaptive playground swing for Hickory Park. A swing has been ordered and paid for with funds from the current park budget.

**Miscellaneous**

- We were blessed to have the 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Byron-Bergen middle school on hand for community beautification and to take part in our celebration of Arbor Day on May 14th
- The Tree and Park committee - Happy to report eight new benches were installed along with the cement pad at the front pavilion at Hickory Park in time for Park Day. Thanks to the committee for all their dedication and to all our employees for their part in completing those projects.
- The Town of Bergen has offered the services of an intern from the Cornell Asset Management Program to develop a pavement management system through the local roads program. All streets in the village will be evaluated and prioritized for recommended maintenance.
- NORTERA - A 50-year lease for the property on Church Street which houses our electric facilities has finally been signed by NORTERA.

### **MEUA/NYMPA Meeting**

- Attended the semi-annual NYMPA and MEUA meetings along with Cortney in Syracuse NY on May 21-22. NYPA has informed the municipals that their rates are going to increase as of January 2025. Their last increase was 11 years ago. Rate change scenarios will be brought to MEUA for discussion. NYPA will be undergoing a 1-billion-dollar Niagara Power Project upgrade.
- IEEP members voted and passed a motion to raise the current 1 mill adder to 2 mills for energy efficiency pending PSC approval. We here at the village (BEEP) are currently collecting 1 mill from our electrical customers. One mill is the equivalent of 1/10 of 1 cent.
- At the MEUA conference we learned of federal funding which NYPA is overseeing (IIJA) we have been in contact with their reps to start an application in hopes of obtaining grant funding for our substation project.
- Renewable energy credits which are being billed on customer electric accounts will temporarily not be charged by NYS. The money they have stockpiled is large and they do not have enough contractors to start and complete projects such as solar fields. Rest assured these charges will return and will increase as the years go by.
- Electric Bus propositions are failing to pass at many school budget votes.
- Eastern NY during peak cold conditions may overstate available capacity of natural gas. Pipeline-constrained natural gas supply is struggling to meet this demand. With the closing of Indian Point nuclear generation plant more burden is placed on natural gas generation plants to make up the shortfall.

### **Administrator**

#### **Sewer**

- A new water line has been installed. The additional water pressure has allowed the screw press to self-clean properly after all these years.
- The sewer manholes rehabilitation bid opening was May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The only bid was Arold Construction for \$208,000 to work on 12 manholes.
- We replaced the mixed liquor probe because the old one failed after 25 years at a cost of \$2,340.
- Eric McGrain has completed enough hours at the sewer plant to take his 2A test and be the backup operator.

#### **DPW**

- All the concrete pads have been poured and benches installed. Concrete was also poured in the front pavilion and handicapped picnic table area. The park looked great for Park Festival.
- Rene' Vurraro and I weeded and planted flowers around the village signs and flower bed behind the office.
- I ordered a new Bobcat skid steer per the budget. The DPW have decided on a new mower and that should be ordered this week.

#### **Electric**

- The pole attachment agreement has been reviewed and sent back to Charter Communications. Hopefully we will have a signed copy shortly.
- I completed the FAST-NY grant application in the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA), it was submitted May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The new Digger Derrick arrived and has been registered. The bond closing was May 21<sup>st</sup>, the funds were received May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Oxbo requested a "Will Serve" letter that they need for financing, which I provided. They were approved for tax-breaks through GCEDC and have submitted plans to the Town Planning Board.

- The \$10,000 Clean Energy Communities Grant request has been submitted. We asked for two charging stations, which are pre-approved items.

#### **Office**

- I would like to set up a reserve for equipment instead of earmarking funds. If the Board agrees I will set a public hearing for the next meeting.
- The new fiscal year began June 1<sup>st</sup> which means work to close the previous fiscal year and submit reports to the State has begun. This will be an ongoing process for the next few months.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Preparation for the Summer Recreation Program is underway. Evie Rodriguez will be our leader again this summer. The program runs July 1<sup>st</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm, Monday through Friday.
- The transfer of refuse companies did not go as smoothly as I would have liked. Both companies ran into issues. Waste Management apologized and guaranteed this pick-up would be much better.
- The closing for the Gibson Place property has been completed, the property is now owned by the Village.

### **Code Enforcement Officer**

#### **2022 Permits**

- 83 South Lake Ave — Remodel to Apartments: Temporary C of O

#### **2023 - Permits**

- 60 South Lake Ave — Hot tub and electric service, Waiting for electrical inspection.
- 62 South Lake Ave. — Verizon// Dish wireless (1)
- 11 Buffalo Road— Addition
- (41) 51 Kaymar Drive — Shed
- 1 McCabe Court — Front Porch
- 2 Munger Street- Remodel: Temporary C of O
- 21 Canterbury Lane — Addition

#### **2024 - Permits**

- 38 South Lake Ave — Front Porch
- 27 Leroy Street — New House
- 38 Canterbury Lane — Pool and deck to pool
- 20 Canterbury Lane — Remodel upstairs
- 14 Munger Street — Driveway
- 8121 Buffalo Road — Fireworks tent
- 15 Trisha Lane — Driveway
- 20 Canterbury Lane — Fence
- 27 Clinton Street — Roof
- 29 Clinton Street — Roof
- 51 Munger Street — Roof

Number of Building Permits — 19

Number of C of C's - 5

Temporary C of O's -1

Total Number of inspections -12

Fire Inspection - 3

**Approval of Officer Reports**

A motion was made by Trustee Thompson and seconded by Trustee Fleming to approve the officer reports. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**Trustee Concerns**

**Trustee Tompson** would like to set up a tour of Village facilities and asked about drainage on Munger St

**Trustee Fleming** praised the Village employees for their hard work especially the DPW who has the village looking great.

**Trustee Capurso** talked to the Code Enforcement Officer, and they will be getting together soon to discuss dilapidated properties.

**Trustee Cargill** also commended the DPW employees and pointed out a small grate in front of the Hartford House is bent and should be repaired.

**New Business**

**Designate Equipment as Surplus**

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Capurso to designate 2009 International Digger Derrick, 1984 Sewer Jetter, 2022 Gravely zero-turn mower, and 2021 Bobcat Skid Steer. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

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**Manhole Restoration Project Bid**

A motion was made by Trustee Capurso and seconded by Trustee Cargill to award the manhole restoration project bid to Arold Construction in the amount of \$212,000. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

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**Bergen Fire Department Member Approval**

A motion was made by Trustee Capurso and seconded by Trustee Thompson to approve Christopher Zaxtrocky, Alex Kulikowski, Anna McLaughlin, and Arianne McLaughlin as members of the Bergen Fire Department. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

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**Tulley Building Painting**

Mayor Chimino and Mr. Gale asked the Board permission to seek quotes for the painting of the front of the Tulley building. The quotes would be brought to the Board at which time they would discuss if they would like to proceed. The Board granted permission.

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**Grant Writer for Park Grant**

A motion was made by Trustee Cargill and seconded by Trustee Fleming to hire LaBella Associates to write the Park Grant application in the amount of \$5,000. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

**Community Garden**

A motion was made by Trustee Thompson and seconded by Trustee Capurso to remove the Community Garden. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

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**Village Parking**

Mayor Chimino informed the Board that he has discussed the parking and speed issues in the Village with Deputy Hale and Chief Deputy Graff. He is setting up a meeting with the sheriff’s department to discuss it further and will invite them to a board meeting if the Board is so inclined.

**Old Business**

**Tour of Village Facilities**

Mayor Chimino and Mr. Gale talked to the board about setting tours of the Village facilities. Mr. Gale suggests it be done on a meeting night as any gathering of more than two board members is considered a meeting and must be advertised to allow the public to attend. Tours are scheduled to start at the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Privilege of the Floor**

None

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**Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

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**Unadjourned**

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Capurso to reopen the meeting to discuss grant funding. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was reopened at 7:47pm

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**Park Grant Award Request**

A motion was made by Trustee Capurso and seconded by Trustee Fleming to ask for \$150,000 for the Park Grant application with the understanding that the Village would contribute \$75,000 if awarded. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

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**Readjournalment**

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Capurso to close the meeting again. The motion was carried by a unanimous and humorous vote.

The meeting was adjourned for good at 7:52pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cortney W. Gale  
Village Administrator