

**Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
Of the Village of Bergen at
6:30pm on November 13th, 2024**

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 Capurso. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 9th, 2024, was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Thompson. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mayor

Grants

- The Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Park Grant was submitted. We await notification, which will be forthcoming in January.
- Summer Recreation Program grant has been submitted for the summer of 2025 event at Hickory Park
- Go-Art Grant (REACH) has been submitted for the 2025 Concert in the park series.
- Northern Borders Regional Commission Catalyst Grant-This \$1,000,000 grant application has been submitted and has been approved to move forward to the final round. This grant is also for electric infrastructure upgrades. Cortney has worked with the assistance of NYPA staff on this project. We await notification.
- NYSERDA PON 5737 Grant \$200,000 for electric infrastructure upgrades have been submitted by our Administrator with assistance from PLM engineer Mike Barrett who is overseeing our substation project. We await notification.

Miscellaneous

- The installation of underground electric is ongoing at Hickory Park and will continue as work scheduling permits. We are looking for spring of 2025 for the completion of this project..
- NYSDOT – Zachary Starke has informed the village that the installation of two solar powered speed signs have been approved along Buffalo Road. Permit paperwork is in the works PERM-33 & PERM-34 to be filed with DOT
- I will be attending the Genesee Association of Municipalities (GAM) meeting scheduled for Thursday 21 in Batavia.
- Tree and Park committee met on November 6th, Topics of discussion were the results of a Farmers Market survey, Cornhole tournament, playground improvements and summer concerts in Hickory Park for the 2025 season. Jen Sawyer gave a presentation on healthy living alternatives and informed the

committee of the upcoming health fair being held at Gillam Grant Community Center on November 22. Rene' and I will be attending this health fair to promote the walking trail and exercise equipment available at Hickory Park. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4th.

- The contractor has informed us that sidewalk replacements around the village have been rescheduled to spring of 2025 due to scheduling conflicts.
- Utilizing Genesee Justice Labor for clean up at Hickory Park
- PLM, our electric engineering firm has informed me that he has received manufacturing specifications outlining necessary information needed to form a site plan for the placement and anchoring of the new substation equipment. He will be putting the bid specs together for this phase of the substation upgrade. This onsite work is scheduled to be started in the spring of 2025
- NYMPA- Proposed changes to the electric generic tariff have been submitted to the PSC. Rider B will add a service classification to LED lighting and Rider C has to do with Purchase of Renewable Energy from New Distributed Generators (Solar-Solar combined with energy storage) Specific limits on interconnection generation will be set if the Village of Bergen decides to adopt the rider.
- We are still awaiting delivery of the electric car charger to be installed by our employees in the rear of the Tulley Building parking lot on Buffalo Street.

Administrator

Sewer

- Arold is not completely out of the manhole project, yet. They are looking to hire local subcontractors to complete the work. As it is late in the season, it's unlikely that work will begin before the spring.
- NYS DEC inspected our composting operation and were happy with what they found. The only thing they cited was that they would like the floor drains to be plugged.
- The blower motor and VFD (variable frequency drive) have been replaced and are working well.
- Septic tank pumping is about two-thirds completed.

DPW

- Five trees were planted around the village. Two on North Lake, two on Clinton and one near the bathroom in Hickory Park.
- I submitted the documentation to be reimbursed for road work through the CHIPS program. We should see the funds in early December.
- The Tulley Building roof has been sealed by DPW staff and should be good for at least five years.

Electric

- On October 18th I submitted the Northern Border Regional Commission Catalyst Grant for \$1,000,000 and the NYSERDA PON-537 Grant for \$200,000. Now we wait to hear word if we have been approved, which should be sometime in January.
- Electric crews from Castile, Akron, Spencerport and Churchville were in the village Monday to trim tree limbs from power lines. We thank them for their help.

Office

- Barb is putting the final touches on the AFR and will be sending that to the state and closing out the last fiscal year shortly.
- 3rd Quarter sales tax and reimbursement for the Summer Recreation Program have been received from the County.
- The Mayor, Rene' and I delivered LED Christmas lights from the BEEP program to every residential customer with information about BEEP and our Tree Lighting Ceremony which will be held on December 9th at 6:30 on Rochester Street.
- We also put on a Scavenger Hunt at the Trunk or Treat in Hickory Park approximately 150 kids and families participated finding all the scary items. A basket with goodies was raffled off at the end.

Miscellaneous

- The last date to pay taxes was October 31st, unpaid taxes are now sent to the county. Only four properties did not pay in the amount of \$3,965.10.
- CPR and First Aid training is scheduled for November 21st at 10:00am in the Village board room This session will be held jointly with the Town.
- Integrity Painters completed work on the Tulley Building, there were some bumps in the road, but the result is wonderful. We have received a lot of positive feedback.
- I submitted the grant applications for the Summer Rec Program and Concert Series.

Code Enforcement Officer

2023 - Permits

- 60 South Lake Ave -Hot tub and electric service, Waiting for electrical inspection.
- 62 South Lake Ave. - Verizon
- 1 McCabe Court - Front porch

2024 - Permits

- 38 South Lake Ave - Front Porch
- 51 Munger Street - Roof
- 17 Hunter Street -Mud room with washer and dryer in existing garage
- 28 Clinton Street - Pool
- 20 South Lake Ave - Gazebo
- 40 South Lake Ave -Pool
- 33 Buffalo Street - Roof
- 12 Buffalo Road -Roof over existing deck
- 37 Rochester Street -Roof
- 2 Munger Street - Fence / Front porch
- 53 Rochester Street - Fence

Number of Building Permits -14

Number of C of C's - 4

Number of C of O's - 0

Total Number of Inspections -19

Fire Inspection - 0

Approval of Officer Reports

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

Trustee Concerns

Trustee Thompson – Park looks Great

Trustee Fleming – There has been issues with neighbors on Buffalo Street, police have been involved. What is the plan with the electric car?

Trustee Capurso – There are residents in the subdivision that are not following the brush policy. How is the purchase of the land on Gibson Place going?

Trustee Cargill – Thanks to Chris Fay and Eric McGrain for doing a great job pumping his septic tank and putting the grass back in a way he can't tell it was dug up.

New Business

Resolution 10 of 2024 – State Aid for Local Governments

Resolution in Support of Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments

Whereas, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

Whereas, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

Whereas, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

Whereas, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

Whereas, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and

Whereas, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

Whereas, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Village of Bergen calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

Be it further resolved, that the Village of Bergen urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Borello, Assemblymember Hawley and the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM).

A motion was made by Trustee Fleming and seconded by Trustee Thompson to approve Resolution 10 of 2024. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

Privilege of the Floor

None

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cortney W. Gale
Village Administrator