

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on October 26, 2021 at the Village Hall - 20 LaFayette Park, Oxford, NY 13830. Audit Committee met at 7:00 P.M. and Regular Board meeting started at 7:30 P.M.

**Present were:** Mayor Terry Stark, Trustee Dale Leach, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Richard Rice, WWTP Operator Kirk Noetzel, OIC Adam Francis, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks

**Absent:** EMS Captain Mark Forrest, DPW Superintendent Rick Paden, Zoning Officer/Dog Warden Roger Barrows, Fire Chief Ron Martin

The Village Trustees (Audit Committee) reviewed each of the invoices in the abstract for October 2021.

Mayor Terry Stark called the Regular meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

Jessica Henning was present but had no Public Concerns.

**ABSTRACT:**

Trustee Leach seconded by Trustee Marks made a motion to approve Abstract #005 as presented. All voted aye and motion was carried.

General Fund	\$ 63,877.60
Water Fund	\$ 4,059.26
Sewer Fund	\$ 8,515.56
Water Project	<u>\$ 3,059.00</u>
	\$ 79,511.42

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Trustee Rice moved and Trustee Hendricks seconded a motion to approve the September 28, 2021, Meeting Minutes. Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to approve the October 12, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes. All voted aye and motion was carried.

Minutes should be made available to the public within two weeks of a board meeting. In the past, minutes were not posted to the Village website until the following month's meeting and approval by the Board. In the future, minutes will be posted within two weeks of a meeting with the words that they are pending approval by the Board at the next meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Marks seconded the motion to approve the August and September Treasurer's Report.

**JUSTICE REPORT:**

Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Rice seconded the motion to approve the September Justice Report from Judge Matott. All approved.

April, May and June monthly reports from the Acting Village Justice need to be filled out and submitted to the NYS Comptroller. The Village would pay the Acting Village Justice \$100 per month for completing these reports. Mayor Stark asked that the Acting Village Justice write the Village a letter stating that he isn't comfortable submitting this paperwork. Mayor Stark is waiting for this to be done so we can be instructed on what to do next from the Comptroller's office.

**OFD REPORT:**

The 2.8-million-dollar Capital project was passed on September 28<sup>th</sup> to fix the riverbank and projects at the fire station. There will be a kickoff meeting on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the engineers on the next steps that need to be taken. Julie Burline, our grant writer spoke to Mayor Stark regarding the Grants Gateway.

**EMS REPORT:**

EMS Captain Mark Forrest said that the department needs a heart monitor. Last time he checked on these, they were over \$33,000 each. Possibly the EMS could ask for two heart monitors and write a grant to be sent to three local agencies (RC Smith, George & Elisabeth Mead and Mirabito and Higley).

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

There are more residents that have chickens in the village and this is an issue. Zoning Officer Roger Barrows has been working on this. Mayor Stark will meet with Colette Kappauf regarding her request to allow chickens in the Village.

**WWTP:**

WWTP Operator Kirk Noetzel submitted his monthly report to the board. In August of 2021, he received 71,250 gallons of septage and took 22.08 ton of sludge to the dump. In September of 2021, he received 55,000 gallons of septage and took 26.53 ton of sludge to the dump. As of October 26<sup>th</sup>, he received 46,000 gallons of septage and took 18.25 ton of sludge to the dump. This is a total of \$15,200 received in three (3) months for septage received. The Village of Greene is taking septage now but the City of Norwich is not. There was a trial run in Norwich for Rentals-To-Go but this is not being done now.

There is a sewer lateral that keeps backing up on Alice Street (Williams Home). Bill Kelsey and Dustin Ross dug it up and found tree roots had gotten in a joint and obstructed the line. This was repaired on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

The truck has 15,000 miles on it.

WWTP Operator Noetzel told the Board that he is taking a month off at Christmas as he will be closing on his house.

Brenton Rideout will be starting work at the WWTP on November 15<sup>th</sup>. I will double check that date with Brenton.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

OIC Francis sent his monthly report. He reported that there will be no coverage for Halloween night due to other conflicts from the part timers and Officer Sherman asked for the day off a month ago and OIC Francis will be out of state. OIC Francis is trying to change his plans so there will be some coverage but he is not sure if it will be during the hours of 5:00 – 8:00 for trick or treat.

He asked about the water at the Garage on Mechanic Street. There is no drain at the police garage currently. There are a few options for getting water to the garage but the best option seems to be getting water from the DPW garage on Water Street and running it over to the police garage.

\$36,000 has been budgeted in the past for fines and forfeitures. The Board is asking OIC Francis what his thoughts are. Drug activity was very strong and that was a priority over handing out traffic tickets in the past. Going forward, OIC Francis said it depends on what happens over the next six (6) months.

Cannabis dispensaries and sites in the village of Oxford (MRTA). This is no different than a bar. There are more accidents with drinking than marijuana. A Police officer can take a liquor license off the wall of a bar and tell them they can't serve for whatever reason.

Officer Francis submitted information on an EAP for the Village. This plan offers financial advice, substance abuse, etc. to employees. This plan would cost the village \$1,100 annually for the village for up to 17 Eligible Employees and Board Members.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

No report from DPW.

The Park Street Extension project has been completed. Greene Street isn't being done at the moment. Yacano Paving wants to get this done but SPW Paden doesn't want it completed at this point in time.

The Board would like Bill Kelsey to come in the office at the next board meeting with instruction from SPW Superintendent Paden.

SPW Superintendent Paden feels that we can get through winter without the help wanted position that was advertised. Bill Kelsey thinks we should hire someone that can eventually take retiring Rick Paden's place next year.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Post Office parking space-Mayor Stark has been over to the post office three (3) times but can't catch up with the postmaster as she is out delivering mail or some other reason out of the office. They want the space taken away (not the handicap space) in front of the post office. The Board doesn't see it as a major issue and Mayor Stark will talk to OIC Francis to get his view.

Petition for MRTA-schedule a vote within 60 days but not less than 10 days. Nov 9 or 16-not a good time of year due to the holidays. Nothing at public hearing was mentioned on dispensaries in 2022. Rules and regulations aren't going to be out there yet. 50% of licenses will go to disadvantaged communities. License has to go to the village/town/city for their review before they are issued.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

Trustee Rice asked about 15 Taylor Street – Roger is working on the garbage behind the house. Digging on Greene Street – neighbor is digging. Chenango Street pedestrian bridge needs to be taken care of. It is Community Project by Chenango Housing Improvement Program.

Trustee Hendricks spoke to Spectrum. They are pretty high but he is working on communications in the village.

Trustee Leach asked about the railing on the village building. One of them is all rusted again. Mayor Stark will talk to the DPW about this.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Next Regular meeting will be November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Marks  
Clerk-Treasurer