

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on January 31, 2023 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 (via zoom), Trustee Dale Leach, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Richard Rice, OIC Adam Francis, DPW Superintendent Bill Kelsey, WWTP Operator Brenton Rideout, Fire Chief Ron Martin, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks.

**Absent:** EMS Captain Mark Forrest, Zoning Officer/Dog Warden Roger Barrows

The Village Trustees (Audit Committee) reviewed each of the invoices in the abstract for January 2023.

Mayor Terry Stark called the Regular meeting to order at 7:27 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

Mr. and Mrs. John Martarello attended the meeting. The Board spent quite some time on the issues that he has been having. Mayor Stark talked to our village attorney regarding the water issues that are going on at his property on Butler Street and he also talked to the property owner that has the tires. The owner was supposed to come to Oxford and look at the tire situation. The tires will be removed after speaking to Mr. White, owner of the property. Mr. Martarello and Mr. White have spoken regarding Mr. Martarello buying some property from Mr. White.

There was a conversation with the DOT and our village attorney regarding the drainage in the ditch. Their staff have looked at it and they said it is not their responsibility and they are not going to do anything about it. The Village cannot go on private property. His concern is water coming from across his property and it is flooding his basement. He said that it is against the law and someone has to take care of this issue of the running water.

**ABSTRACT:**

Trustee Marks seconded by Trustee Rice made a motion to approve Abstract #008 as presented. All voted aye and motion was carried.

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| General Fund  | \$ 88,992.44        |
| Water Fund    | \$ 6,253.27         |
| Sewer Fund    | \$ 19,451.50        |
| Water Project | <u>\$ 10,086.88</u> |
|               | \$124,784.09        |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Trustee Rice moved and Trustee Hendricks seconded a motion to approve the December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Meeting Minutes. All voted aye and motion was carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The December Treasurer's Report is being worked on.

**JUSTICE REPORT:**

Trustee Marks moved and Trustee Leach seconded the motion to approve the December Justice Report from Judge Ross. All approved.

**OFD REPORT:**

Chief Martin was present. The Manufacturers were shut down for the making of PPE's. This was during covid time and items could not be purchased. Chief Martin has a small supply of items on hand that did not have to be purchased. The cost of PPE is sky high. He has \$11,000 on a budget to continue to update on a rotational basis. They used to have enough for 4-5 sets in the past and it is not even close this year. The cost has increased about \$1,572 per person and it is now \$5,872 for a complete fire fighter gear. There is a mandatory 10-year life span no

matter how many times the gear has been worn. They need about 10 sets currently. It will be \$58,000 to get 10 sets into play. We have gotten grants three separate times. Coats and pants are the biggest issue right now. Helmets and gloves he can work in on other line items. They will be needing \$30,000 to play catch up on the gear.

The Old truck 261 has been advertised for 4 months. There was one bite only and it was selling to another fire department. They do not want to discuss this once they know the issues with the truck. He asked the value of the truck and they would give us \$5,000 due to engine and chassis. Mayor Stark suggested we put it on Auctions International to see what we could get from it. If we transferred \$12,500 to Upstate as an in-kind trade, we could have a barter service and this is a possibility.

There are no problems with the new 261 on any call that it has been on. That truck has been working well.

\$1,500 DEC Grant and this is a 50/50 match. He has pants and jackets for wildfires and got helmets. Grass and brush fires are brutal to the gear, it tears it. Equipment budget is where the match will come from.

MVA on Saturday and one accident turned into two. Someone ran into the guardrails due to watching the person directing traffic and got too close to the guardrails.

Governor Hochul passed a law in December for volunteer firefighters (adopted by Village, etc.).

The intent is to retain the status of current firefighters we have and pick up new firefighters.

This would only effect five (5) firefighters due to the rules. Active firefighters (must remain active), have to respond to so many calls and training per year. There are currently 58 volunteers but all are not active and their average age is 48.6 years (late 30 to 60 range).

#### **EMS REPORT:**

Mark Forrest was not present. We have been successful in fulling the schedule for the EMS. That is good news as we were having problems filling spots in the past.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Roger Barrows was not present.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

SPW Kelsey went over his report. Fixed catch basin on Taylor Street, the barrel had been there for 12 years but it is gone now and fixed. Control quote came in for the water/wastewater system. He talked to Jodie at Lamont and they found more leaks. The hydrant needed to be fixed as that is where the leak was. Still running on Well #1. The others have not been run. Well #3 is run on controls and cannot be run manually. Extension of time but not of work or dollars. Lamont should be aware of this.

Working with the state and storing the salt there. They load the 750 (truck), weigh it, load it, and take it back to the plant. This has been working great. They back right to the salt and use backhoe to scoop it up. If he bought the salt on state bid, he would have to purchase an exorbitant amount and they never use this much. 350 ton a year is the amount and the village does not use that much. 250 ton a year is the most the DPW has used.

Equipment maintenance has been neglected and they are trying to get that done. Benches and signposts have been painted along with barricades being painted. Spare parts and equipment that need to be thrown away since the equipment is no longer in use. Both the DPW and the WWTP have been cleaned and organized.

Jerry Prince from Suit-Kote came through with quotes on all the streets in the village.

Clarks Creek with NRCS (governs the creeks). It is being inspected this year – major inspection and improvements, etc. Trustee Hendricks will be involved with this for the village and he will copy Mayor Stark and SPW Kelsey on this.

Someone called Mayor Stark regarding the purchase of Preston Springs. We have been asked to sell in the past. He only wants to buy the spring not the chlorination house. SPW Kelsey does not see the benefit in selling this and neither do the rest of the board. Maybe some day it can be resurrected or make a source to sell bulk water. Market value is close to \$100,000 and it

is assessed at \$33,000. The Board agrees to have Mayor Stark let the guy know what its value is and see what he says.

Justin Plow from NYSEG called SPW Kelsey when Burrell's Excavating re-did the road. NYSEG's substation was now getting all the water and soot. Some was the sloping and the other part is the ditch and the road was washed out and did not find its way on either side of the road.

**WasteWater Plant:**

WWTP Operator Rideout mentioned a blower seized up at the plant. The manufacturer is in Indiana. There is another company in Auburn that will give them a quote to rebuild. They have been cleaning up all rooms at the plant. Emergency generator and skid steer has been stored in the plant now instead of outside.

Kutik's had a sewer backup and they helped them figure why they were backed up. Someone drove on top of the clean out causing it to back up. Burrell's was there today and fixed this. There are two primary pumps from the project. Retired WWTP Operator Noetzel told him they only ran one pump. Bill Kelsey and Brent Rideout pulled the plate to check it out and it was plugged with rags and never did anything with this but it is up and running now. They will then look at the pump that has been running forever and they will start alternating these pumps monthly once they are both working efficiently.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

OIC Francis sent in his monthly report. 140 and 142 radar are approximately 20 years old. NYS will not repair these at all, if they are broken, too bad. There are more errors in reading and he has to order a radar or go without one. He would like to buy one now and then the other one with the new budget. He will get one ordered tomorrow and let the board know the information on that. Motion by Trustee Marks and seconded by Trustee Rice to authorize the purchase of radar equipment for approx. \$3,500. All in favor, opposed, carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Farmers Market Banners. The village will pay this invoice for \$800 and inquire about being reimbursed from Lions and Rotary for \$200 each and the village would kick in \$200. Motion by Trustee Hendricks and second by Trustee Marks to approve paying the bill for the Farmer's Market banner and to get reimbursed from Rotary and Lions Club \$ 200 each. All in favor, approved.

Clarks Creek Liability Insurance - David Craine gave Terry information on \$45,000 Not to add this to the insurance from David Craine. Why are we not already covered as part of the policy. Rural Sewer and Water should be covered and go after them if the damn breaks, etc. FEMA should cover this. We will wait a month and not do this.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Terry Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Oxford Fire Station.

Next monthly board meeting will be Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Marks  
Clerk-Treasurer