

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on April 25, 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, Trustee Dale Leach, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Richard Rice, OIC Adam Francis, DPW Superintendent Bill Kelsey, WWTP Operator Brenton Rideout, Zoning Officer/Dog Warden Roger Barrows, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks.

**Absent:** Fire Chief Ron Martin, Captain Mark Forrest

The Village Trustees (Audit Committee) reviewed each of the invoices in the abstract for April 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:**

James, Lori, and Jimmy Kipp were in regarding the home they purchased at 7 Mechanic Street on tax sale. This was purchased at auction in October and went through an eviction process which took four (4) months to get the people out. He paid prior water bills of \$1,800 and village taxes also. He just received the bill for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023 in the amount of \$632. The tenants that were living in the house used 35,000 gallons of water in 3 months. The back door had to be kicked open (with the sheriff present) and the water was just running full blast out of the kitchen faucet. Roger Barrows attested that the water was just being wasted. They are not legally allowed to shut off the water while the home is occupied. There were pigs living in the house with the tenants that were there. The board appreciates them cleaning up the property and removing the garbage. There were rats and all kinds of critters coming out of the property where the garbage was. There was no heat, no boiler, no hot water, or water heater in the house. He is saying the house is not even worth all he has put into it this far. The mayor said they could only forgive ½ of the sewer at the most. However, in the next month or two there are other things that could be done to help them out but the village will not be able to help with the water/sewer bill. There have been eleven (11) trips to the dump and he has spent \$1,000 between the mini excavator and trips to the dump.

**ABSTRACT:**

Trustee Leach seconded by Trustee Marks made a motion to approve Abstract #011 as presented. All voted aye and motion was carried.

General Fund	\$76,894.41
Water Fund	\$ 7,242.10
Sewer Fund	\$ 7,420.10
Water Project	<u>\$ 482.50</u>
	\$92,039.11

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Rice seconded a motion to approve the March 14<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 Meeting Minutes. All voted aye and motion was carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Trustee Rice moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to approve the February and March Treasurer's Report. All voted aye and motion was carried.

**JUSTICE REPORT:**

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

### **OFD REPORT:**

Chief Martin was not present. Mayor Stark was riding around the village looking for an address but there are no house numbers on several of the houses. He asked the village clerks to have the DPW check on this when they are reading water meters next time. That has been done and letters have been mailed out to property owners that did not have numbers on their houses/apartments.

Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> the bids were opened for the RFP Capital project. They wanted to get new bids for the General Contractor as the bid that was received was high. We are hoping to get more bids for the General Contractor within 60 days.

### **EMS REPORT:**

Mark Forrest was not present. There was talk about expanding the hours for the ALS/BLS workers. We have lost money over the past two years. There was not as much billing over the winter. This may be a seasonal issue or Medicare/Medicaid.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

OIC Francis presented his monthly report to the Board. The dogs from Greene Street that were seized had another evaluation done. One of the dogs is fosterable and is at a training facility at no charge. OIC Francis has put in 35 hours of overtime that he has not claimed.

There is an interview technique course that OIC Francis has been trying to get into for two (2) years. The cost will be \$600 for him and Officer Sherman to attend. This course will help when interviewing witnesses, suspects, and anyone involved with an arrest. This is being held May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and payment is due ahead of time. Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Marks seconded the motion to approve the training for \$600 to be held at the Sheriff's office in Norwich. All approved, carried.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Roger Barrows was present and said James Jablonski is due back in court in May. They are making progress with the cleanup of the property at 16 Merchant Street that burnt in December of 2021 but it is going slow. He was asked to get a quote for the cleanup of the house that burnt on Merchant Street along with the house next door on Greene Street that has been condemned.

Ross and Fayette Streets are having other issues with a car port and trash all over it. Roger has given them a week to get it cleaned up.

Mayor Stark told Roger to write a citation for anyone that does not comply with spring cleanup and told the Board to let Roger know the properties that have issues or give addresses to the village clerks so Roger can take care of it.

### **WASTEWATER PLANT:**

WWTP Operator Brenton Rideout went over his monthly report. The blowers that they took to Auburn to be rebuilt are ready to be picked up and get installed. They will now have a spare. One of the pumps at GP5 broke so they currently have only one pump working over there. A bolt snapped and they lost a washer. They will get this replaced once they get the pricing for this. He took the dump trailer to be fixed at Little Boys Shop. It is rusted pretty bad from being used during the winter. Legs are supposed to go up and down but are no longer working. They switched the secondary tanks and cleaned out the one that they took offline so it is ready to be put back online when they need to.

Brent handed out reports for sludge hauling totals for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. He had bullet points regarding the increases in our sludge hauling. There is an \$11,000 difference just in straight up sludge hauling costs. The difference in man hours in hauling sludge was just under 100 hours. The cost of hauling expense went down when they did not receive any septage. This doesn't include the fuel cost to haul that many more loads to the landfill, the number of man hours taken to haul that many more loads, the extra chemicals used to treat the extra solids taken in by the septage, the wear and tear on the equipment such as pumps, truck and trailer, RBC loading, the sludge press, etc. They feel that their time could be better

spent taking care of things that were neglected at the plant and around the village since taking in sludge was/is so time consuming.

Larson from Appalachian can come in for free to see about the odor at the WWTP. Mayor Stark told Trustee Rice to go ahead and contact them so they can look things over at the plant for the smell and septage receiving station.

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

SPW Kelsey mentioned that the planted hanging baskets are ready to be picked up from Pires. RFP or other processes on the streets-we buy stone and other supplies. Greene, Pleasant, Fairview and Franklin are the streets for this year using up our budget. Suit Kote will do the work on the streets. Yacano will be booked for September to do the streets.

Trees have to be down by the end of April. Cook's will have the trees in question down and will bill the village as soon as they are able.

Bill has been in contact with Lance Thorne regarding working up to 25 hours this summer. The Town could pay Lance directly and he can use our equipment to mow at the town pool using our equipment. Will have the town pay him directly or pay us back if we pay Lance. Do a swap by trading stone for pool maintenance with the town.

Riverview Cemetery is looking to have their water bills waived. They pay the minimum quarterly fees and are not charged the \$50 turn on fee each time we turn it on. There are 27 non-profits in the village that could make the same case. The Board has decided not to allow them any relief with the water.

Boname Park – two picnic tables have seats that have snapped off. Others are in one piece. Fire pit is the same as it has been in prior years. There are security lights but the wireless is bad up there for cameras. They do not want to put blacktop at the park and a couple picnic tables needs to be repaired. Bill said the DPW can do this using 2x4 rough lumber.

Trustee Rice and SPW Kelsey went to the spring house in Preston. The electric could be turned off up there as it is not used and would save the village money. The water tastes good he said. \$25,000 was offered for this piece of property. Mayor Stark asked what the board wants to do with this property. This used to supply ½ of our water and it is softer water. Bill said that it is a shame if we cannot put this into our system again. Susquehanna River Basin is requiring that sensors be purchased to show us what the wells are and part of our contract to draw water out of our wells. Chlorine building to the end of Georgetown Road to connect with our system. Bills feels we should keep the Preston Springs.

We should have a review of all 28 deeds and review what these properties are and what value they have. On Chenango Street (before going into the apartments) there is a triangle piece of property. These should be put on a map to show what village property is. Two more in Preston for a total of 30 properties the village owns.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bill Tefft Trucking has not picked up garbage for two weeks now. Susie had surgery and Becky has been in the hospital. I asked the Board to give it some thought. They suggested contacting Zakk Smith of Dick Davis Trucking to see if he would be interested in picking up our garbage on a temporary basis. Trustee Marks will contact the Tefft's regarding garbage pickup.

The current court clerk is leaving at the end of June. The Judge would like to see a separate clerk for the village and town. She has three individuals that have shown interest and the Judge asked me to run this by the board. Clerk-Treasurer Marks will ask the Judge to talk to the three and get their resumes or at least fill out an application so the Board can discuss them.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

NONE

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Terry Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelly W. Marks  
Clerk-Treasurer