

Mayor Kastberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Trustee Rizzo, Gifford, Kohout, Neals and Mayor Kastberg
Attorney Marola, Chief Pytlovany, Chief Keller, Superintendent Cushing
Building Inspector, Dan Adams

CODE AND QUALITY ISSUES

Goal Statement:

The Village Board of Trustees wishes to implement a code enforcement initiative directed at more effectively enforcing building and property maintenance code in the Village of Scotia. The desired outcome of this initiative is a broader compliance with our existing code. Additions to our code, modifications to our enforcement model, and staffing are all topics of consideration that this board wishes to explore.

Policy Issues:

1. The Board wishes to be more pro-active in dealing with code offenses. We currently seem to work on a complaint basis. We desire a more aggressive approach to this issue.
2. We wish to explore the consequences of being more “by the book” when looking at the Village and our code. Why we don’t just cite everyone and let things shake out to compliance.
3. We wish to look at our compliance time frame on issues like property and building maintenance to determine whether they can be shortened.
4. We wish to review the policy of dropping a legal suit on a non-compliant owner once they comply.
5. The board wants to know how to better deal with repeat offenders. If a property has been cited for a violation once, does it make sense to then send the owner directly to court upon further violations?
6. We are looking at a recommendation for action to best deal with illegal home businesses like construction companies and truckers that degrade the quality of our neighborhoods.

Legal:

1. The board needs direction on what actions are needed to strengthen our code to reflect the desired look of our Village. We wished to address: doors to nowhere on second floors, lawns full of garbage, unfinished construction projects, backyard garbage collections, and the rest of the annoyances that closely packed houses and delinquent neighbors produce.
2. We need a recommendation for an action plan to aggressively pursue abandoned or neglected properties.
3. The board would like to investigate the legal possibilities of citing owners whose tenants regularly engage in illegal activities and disruptive behavior.
4. We would like to develop a notification program to allow us to address snow removal and property care with as few notices and as little time as possible for the entire summer and winter season.
5. The board looks for recommendations for new code to help with the above issues.

Chris Boniewski of 5 Bruce Street, Paul Shannon of 226 Ballston Avenue, Donald Pieronek of 44 Vley Road, Maria Rush of 3 Bruce Street and Christopher Patronis of 221 Ballston Avenue all spoke regarding the condition of 1 Bruce Street. The residents stated strong concern over the deteriorating condition of the building and the individuals that are living there. The board was asked to look into what other municipalities are doing to see how we can improve the Village of Scotia.

Code Committee

A code committee will be formed to address some of the above issues as well as:

- Recommend how to best address the State building code inspection law.
- Recommend any consolidation of code enforcement from the various departments that would enhance the desire of the board.
- Describe staffing modifications necessary to accomplish the goals of the board.

The committee will consist of the following members:

Trustee Kohout – Chair

Trustee Gifford

Mayor Kastberg

Dan Adams

Lydia Marola

Department Heads as needed.

MOVED by Trustee Neals, seconded by Trustee Gifford to authorize the Mayor to sign a subordination agreement with Jameelah Burnett, a participant of the First Time Homebuyers Program, to allow the refinancing of her home.

Ayes: Trustee Gifford, Kohout, Neals, Rizzo and Mayor Kastberg

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

AUTHORITY TO SIGN LEGAL DOCUMENTS

MOVED by Trustee Kohout, seconded by Trustee Gifford that

Whereas the Village of Scotia has received a special grant in the 2008-09 New York budget; and

Whereas there are specific requirements and regulations governing the expenditure of these funds;

Now, Therefore this body resolves the following;

1. Administration of all funds under this grant will be in accordance with all terms and conditions contained in *“GUIDELINES to prepare Grant Agreements for non-construction projects \$50,000 and under – Fiscal Year 2008-2009,”* provided by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.
2. That Kris Kastberg as Mayor of the Village of Scotia is hereby authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the Village of Scotia and that such signature is acknowledgement of the acceptance by this body of compliance with all terms and conditions of the grant agreement, to be executed for the grant.

Ayes: Trustee Gifford, Kohout, Neals, Rizzo and Mayor Kastberg

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

The Mayor asked Attorney Marola to draft a local law prohibiting parking on Albion Street and Albermarle Street between the hours of 8:00a.m.-9:00a.m. and 3:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Trustee Kohout to adjourn the meeting at 7:58p.m.

Ayes: Trustee Rizzo, Gifford, Kohout, Neals and Mayor Kastberg

Noes: None

June 16, 2009

Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted,

Maria A. Schmitz

Clerk to the Village Board of Trustees