

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

PRESENT: Trustee Gifford, Mathes, Rizzo, Tiberio and Mayor Kastberg

DISCUSSION OF 2 WILMARTH REGARDING VILLAGE CODE 119-5

Mayor Kastberg stated that 45 Cuthbert Street AKA 2 Wilmarth Street burned on November 27th. The Village of Scotia Building Inspector condemned the building on November 29th. The building must now be demolished. Based on Village Code §119-5 Determination; notice to secure, repair or demolish and remove – The Board of Trustees shall consider the report of the Building Inspector and, if in its opinion the report so warrants, shall determine that the building or structure is an unsafe building and order its securing, repair, if the same can safely repaired, or demolition and removal, and serve a written notice to the owner ordering that the unsafe building be secured, repaired or demolished and removed as stated in the code. The owners of the building were present at meeting. The homeowner agrees that the building needs to be demolished, she has received two quotes and is waiting on a third. She is also waiting on Niagara Mohawk to disconnect the gas line to the structure. The Board of Trustees agreed that if a demolition date is not set by the January 11th regular meeting, the process for §119-5 will commence.

SOLAR CITY UPDATE

Mayor Kastberg and Superintendent Kohout met with representatives from Solar City regarding placement of panels at the water pump station located at 589 Vley Road. According to Town of Glenville code, the solar panels would require a variance since they would not comply with the current code. Mayor Kastberg discussed with Supervisor Koetzle the possibility of placing the panels at the old landfill site off of Vley Road. Solar City will review this site to see if it is feasible.

REVIEW OF 2016 INITIATIVES

The Mayor and Board of Trustees reviewed the following Initiatives and Priorities for 2016:

- Bike Trail * - *Hurricane Irene stalled progress*
- B & M Bridge * - *Rotary working on "Welcome to Scotia" signage*
- New Treatment Plant *
- New Village Hall/Fire House *
- Burr Bridge*- *Looking for Grant funds to finance*
- Make Use of Dock Piece/Fishing Pier * - *Elks Club has a plan for installing fishing pier*
- ~~Albion/Albermarle Sidewalk~~
- Security Cameras in Collins Park
- Village Open House 2017
- Attract Businesses to Mohawk Avenue
- Implement a Roofing Permit and Other Fees
- ~~Review Overnight Parking~~
- Mohawk Avenue Gateway Median
- ~~Village Property Inventory and Plan~~
- Solar Panels on Municipal Buildings
- Review Clerk Compensation

- ~~Review Code Enforcement~~
- Storm Sewer Catch Basin Maintenance- *Trustee Rizzo working with Superintendent Kohout*
- ~~Promote Municipal Docks~~
- ~~Define Historian Program~~
- ~~Lions Club Water Park~~
- Vacant Property Registry
- Generator for Village Hall

*Projects rolled over from last year. Underlined projects are in progress. Strikethrough are completed.

The Mayor asked each board member to be prepared with their own initiatives for the regular February Board of Trustee meeting. The Mayor asked that the initiatives have measureable results that the Trustees can report on.

REVIEW OF PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

The Mayor distributed a copy of the current Guidelines for Privilege of the Floor which states the following opening paragraphs: “The Board of Trustees has adopted guidelines for privilege of the floor. The reason for these guidelines is to reinforce the purpose of privilege of the floor and to enable the board to conduct Village business in an orderly, informed and efficient manner. The purpose of privilege of the floor is to give concerned citizens a public forum to make a statement to the board concerning topics affecting the Village of Scotia. The purpose is not to provide a forum for a question and answer session, to engage in a debate with the board or to direct comments to other people attending the meeting.” Trustee Mathes would like the opportunity to speak to residents while they are using privilege of the floor. The current guidelines state that Board members will not respond during privilege of the floor. Board members, at their discretion, may respond during later portions of the meeting. The current guidelines were not amended.

TAX CAP REVIEW

Clerk Treasurer Schmitz provided the Board of Trustees with a packet of information regarding the Property Tax Cap for Fiscal Year beginning June 1, 2017. The Allowable Levy Growth Factor, as set by the Office of the New York State Comptroller, for the upcoming year is set at 1.15%; this is an increase from the .12% factor for the current fiscal year. Information was also provided regarding the Property Tax Relief credit which is a program that replaces the Property Tax Freeze Credit. The Property Tax Freeze Credit was a two –year tax relief program that reimbursed qualifying New York State homeowners for increases in local property taxes on their primary residences. In order for the credit to be available to the homeowners in a local taxing jurisdiction, the jurisdiction must comply with the New York State Property Tax Cap and, after the first year, must also have an approved Efficiency Plan. The Village of Scotia met each of these requirements. This program has been replaced with the Property Tax Relief Credit. This program will extend through 2019 to provide direct relief to qualifying New York State homeowners. For each year the resident is eligible for the property tax relief credit, they will automatically receive a check if they meet the following qualifications:

- live in a school district that is complying with the New York State property tax cap
- receive either Basic or Enhanced STAR property tax relief, and

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- have an income of \$275,000 or less.

For the first year of the program each upstate eligible taxpayer will receive \$185. This program is administered through New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

DESIGN GUIDELINES PROJECT

Mayor Kastberg provided the Board of Trustees with a copy of the Design Guidelines for the Central Business District that were adopted by the Board of Trustees in November 2000 with revisions made in January 2006. The guidelines have not been adopted into Village Law; they were developed to provide guidance to the Planning Board for potential projects. The Mayor asked each of the board member to review the Business District Design Guidelines prior to the February work session, to determine which parts should be adopted as code and which guidelines should be left to the discretion of the Planning Board. Mayor Kastberg appointed Trustee Gifford and Trustee Tiberio to work with the Planning Board on incorporating those changes into an updated document. Trustee Marola suggested that each of the board members also receives the Central Business District Master Plan for review. The Mayor will forward that document to each of the members.

Mayor Kastberg stated that the Traffic Safety Committee met with representative of the CVS project to review the traffic pattern for the drive-thru. The Traffic Safety Committee has revised their recommendation to the Planning Board which will be discussed at the January 9th Planning Board meeting.

Mayor Kastberg stated that each of the elected officials must complete a Workplace Violence Training Program; a link to that program has been emailed to each of them.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Trustee Gifford to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Ayes: Trustee Gifford, Mathes, Rizzo, Tiberio and Mayor Kastberg

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted,

Maria A. Schmitz

Clerk to the Village Board of Trustees