

MEETINGS: 18
NO. OF REGULAR: 17

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF DEPEW
January 9, 2017

ROLL CALL: Trustee Jakubowski
Trustee Bukowiecki
Trustee Peterson
Trustee Kucewicz
Mayor Nikonowicz

ON A MOTION BY, Trustee Kucewicz, and seconded by Trustee Peterson, the December 12, 2016 Village Board Minutes were approved.

Depew Police Department Presented a check to the Breast Cancer Network of WNY for \$1,300 which they raised growing facial Hair

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None

ACCEPT RESIGNATION – DEPUTY CLERK AND REGISTRAR

Trustee Jakubowski, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, the resignation of Carmi Poss, as Deputy Clerk and as Deputy Registrar, effective January 1, 2017 is accepted.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Bukowiecki and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Jakubowski- Y
Trustee Bukowiecki- Y
Trustee Peterson- Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Mayor Nikonowicz- Y

DEPUTY VILLAGE REGISTRAR

Trustee Peterson, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Pursuant to Section 4121 (3) of the Public Health Law, is hereby appointed Lisa Shanley 13 Mona Court Depew, NY 14043 to the position of Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics for the remainder of the current term of one (1) year, said term to expire at noon on the first Monday in April 2017, at a salary of \$500 per year.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Kucewicz, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Jakubowski - Y
Trustee Bukowiecki - Y
Trustee Peterson - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Mayor Nikonowicz - Y

APPOINT DEPUTY CLERK

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I Mayor Jesse Nikonowicz, do hereby appoint Melissa Dabb 14 Humboldt Place Depew, New York, for the position of Deputy Clerk for the remainder of the term of one year to expire at noon on the first Monday in April 2017, at a salary of \$500 per year.

The forgoing nomination was acted upon in the following manner by the Board of Trustees:

Trustee Jakubowski - Y
Trustee Bukowiecki - Y
Trustee Peterson - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Mayor Nikonowicz - Y

APPOINT CUSTODIAN – FIRE HALL

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I Mayor Jesse Nikonowicz, do hereby appoint Jesse Herr, 1817 Como Park Blvd. Lancaster, NY 14086 to the position of Custodian at the West End Fire Hall, effective 12/16/2016, at a rate of 8.75 per hour.

The forgoing nomination was acted upon in the following manner by the Board of Trustees:

Trustee Jakubowski - Y
Trustee Bukowiecki-Y
Trustee Peterson-Y
Trustee Kucewicz-Y
Mayor Nikonowicz - Y

ACCEPT RESIGNATION – POLICE OFFICER

Trustee Bukowiecki, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, the resignation of Matthew Braun as a Police Officer is accepted effective January 22, 2017.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Jakubowski, and **CARRIED**.

AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – Cummings Northeast

Trustee Kucewicz, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Village of Depew is currently utilizing Cummings Northeast, LLC 6193 Eastern Ave. Syracuse NY 13211 for the maintenance of the Generators at the Village of Depew facilities;

WHEREAS, the Village of Depew would like to continue the Planned Maintenance Agreement for \$3,955.32 per year starting February 1, 2017 and ending January 31, 2018.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Jesse Nikonowicz is authorized to sign the Planned Maintenance - Renewal.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Peterson and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Jakubowski - Y
Trustee Bukowiecki-Y
Trustee Peterson- Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Mayor Nikonowicz - Y

PERMISSION – DEPEW FIRE DEPT

Trustee Jakubowski, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

Permission is hereby granted to Depew Hook and Ladder Company #1 to use the Southside Fire Hall for their Annual Holiday Party on Saturday January 14, 2017 from 4PM till 11PM.

and

Permission is hereby granted to Depew Central Hose Company #4 to use the Northside Fire Hall for their Annual Company Installation Banquet on Saturday April 8, 2017 from 6PM till 11PM.

and

Permission is hereby granted to Depew Central Hose Company #4 to use the Northside Fire Hall for their Annual Super bowl Party for member and their family on Sunday February 5, 2017 from 4PM till 11PM.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Bukowiecki, and **CARRIED**

PERMISSION – MEMBERSHIP – DEPEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

Trustee Peterson, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED, membership is hereby granted to the following in the Depew Fire Department pending the passing of his physical:

West End Hose Company #6

Erin Ziemba 780D Lancer Court Depew, NY 14043

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Kucewicz, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Jakubowski - Y
Trustee Bukowiecki - Y
Trustee Peterson - Y
Trustee Kucewicz - Y
Mayor Nikonowicz - Y

AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR CANVAS THE VOTE MEETING

Trustee Bukowiecki, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

The Administrator is authorized to advertise for a Canvas the Vote meeting to take place on Wednesday January 18, 2017 at 7 pm.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Jakubowski and **CARRIED**.

EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS

Village – Jesse Herr, Melissa Dabb, Lisa Shanley, Michael Hamilton
Rec Department – Andrew Garbacz

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

ON A MOTION BY, Trustee Kucewicz, and seconded by Trustee Peterson, the Building Department reports for November and December 2016, DPW reports for December 2016, and Police Department reports for November 2016 were accepted.

DPW – DEC Consent order, just finished Phase 2 now working on Phase 3. DPW helped save \$250,000 for this project

Fire Chief read their yearend, additionally he commented on a green paper that was being given out to residents from an unknown source. He Stated the information was false and he did not know where they got there “facts” from.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

Art Kilanowski 266 Seabert – 50 year resident, feels we have the finest and best around: DPW, Fire, Police, ect. He commented about the size of Cheektowaga and adding more to that with Depew. He commented “How can a med size Pizza become a large and become cheaper” He was against dissolution.

Mary Curr – 60 Forestview Drive – Stated that there is no way you can get rid of all of the police, fire fighters and highway workers and have things be the same. It puts the people in the village at risk and town residents too. She is an RN and knows that every minute matters. She got involved in the friends of Depew because she knew people were being lied to and did not feel it was right.

Brian Szary 45 JFK Lane – He said there is 8-10 million in debt, but with employee severances and other expenses he calculates 75-80 million. He sighted retiree’s payouts, healthcare. The Mayor stated that 6 million of the debt is sewer and he did not believe the calculation would be quite that high.

Jules Pecora – 38 Suffield – He has been on various boards, a trustee and former deputy Mayor, and says we need to vote NO. We can’t put a price on a life and our first responders come with bells on. During the storm our roads were clean. What would Chauncey Depew say?

Maureen Mineo – 196 S. Bryant - 48 year resident – She agrees with Mary but doesn’t know how things go so twisted with the money. No problem paying Depew taxes but doesn’t like paying the town taxes. We don’t spend frivolously, we keep fire trucks for 30 years. Keep Depew and walk away from Cheektowaga and Lancaster.

James Wolfe – 35 S. Wenona – He is looking at the President and Great Brittan leaving the union. He doesn’t want his government moving further away. He wants his issues addressed, Preserve local government.

Lou Heltman – 235 Olmstead Ave – He found a green sheet of paper on the ground saying he will save money if you dissolve the village. He believes the bill written on

dissolution is to help get rid of local government by the NYS Governor. We pay Cheektowaga and Lancaster, but we have everything we need here. He served in the Navy, Don't go in without a plan. Vote NO, then we take down the towns.

William Curr – 60 Forest View Drive – Friends of Depew are a group of not only village employees but every day residents. There is no way to get all the work done unless all the employees take and do all the work. This will be inefficient and we will be the last for responses. He wants to know what happened to the 3.5 Million the Cheektowaga takes from us. He spoke about being like David and Goliath, and the village is David to Albany and Como. He spoke about how the village debt is just like a mortgage. He spoke about the nastiness that is being said about our firefighters and how they are essential and vital to our village. They volunteer their time and use their own personal cars.

Trustee Peterson – Thank you! While he is only a six year member of the fire department, he did not join for a pension. He was there with his son and to help the members of his community. He has never been so ashamed to be told he was going to a playground at 1:30am. It is not like they are living in the Tasma hall, we have the prisoners paint the fire halls and other cost savings. He knows they are appreciated, thank you!

Ruth Shone – 91 Morango – She is a proud resident. She is angry and the only thing she knows to do about it is vote. She has been a resident most of her life, her father was a firefighter and had other predominate members of the community in her family. She doesn't want her anger to be misdirected and cause people to lose their jobs and have the village become a ghost town. She is proud of this village and the many people on the wall that have lead this village. Take your anger to the voting booth and please vote no.

William Manhard – 46 Claude Dr. – lived over 50 years in the village, 19 years in Cheektowaga and doesn't want to go back there. With the state of this country the people will not be represented the same. He urges the residents to vote No.

Frank Caparaso – 61 Wyandotte St. – He worked in the police department, he has also lived in the city. He will take Depew over the city any day. If there is a complaint people will need to go to the town instead of the village. He believed that most people on the Cheektowaga side does not know the name of the mayor. He believes the problem is if you have problems you will need to go to the town supervisor instead of the local mayor.

Irv Reining – 380 Columbia – 40 year resident – He believes he has gone about this in a professional manor. He did not tell lies, and believes he made things clear to the residents. He believes growth is stagnant. Taxes and fees are being raised. No long range plan. No one has solutions, for the last 6 years no one has studied dissolution. He has been asking since 2010. He believes the towns can give the same services. He believe there would need to be a 41% decrease to make the taxes comparable. Town has the same meeting like the village. He believes the village has limited resources and the response times will be comparable with the towns. If you're a volunteer with the village then volunteer with the towns. Employees can get new jobs as the process will take almost 2 years. He believes whether Lancaster or Cheektowaga we will save \$400.00.

Frank - 58 Eagle Terrace – At the first meeting Wade from NYCOM stated you do not know what you are going to get, and the towns will not need to follow it. How can you vote yes if you do not know. If you do not like the village leave.

Laurie Szary – 48 JFK Lane – Lived here for almost 40 years. If she did not want to live here she would not be living here. She has had to call 911 and immediately the police are here. Fire is also there when you need them. Additionally they keep kids off the streets on Halloween and the kids love the visits from Santa at Christmas. She doesn't like paying town taxes but doesn't mind the village taxes. She loves living here.

Kathleen Mc Donald – 417 North creek Dr. – Facts: 5 square miles, Police know our residents, fire knows the area, DPW takes care of us and drives around the village. The towns are much larger than the village and there departments are not bigger at the same ratio. If you're on vacation the police will do extra patrols if you let them know.

Cheektowaga has more commercial than residential. We would lose our small celebrations in the park. If we were to save \$400, that would be \$35.00 per month, she spends more on coffee. Vote No, not to save her job, she can make money else wear. She watches department heads think outside the box and the trustee work hard for residents. She see the grants we receive instead of using tax payer money. If we were part of Cheektowaga they could decide not to use any of the CDBG money on the portion that was the village.

Brian Starzy – 48 JFK Lane – He listened to Irv, but he believes home owners insurance would go up if our fire department was gone. He also noted that when firefighters sleep at the halls and leave there family alone, you can see some of what they are giving up.

Gary Cummings – 44 Cowing Lancaster – Property owner in Depew. 39 year firefighter, it takes 4 minutes for a room to burn up, every minute counts. We train at our “playground” . Save the village of Depew.

Maureen Mineo – 196 S. Bryant - She spoke about the village debt and how it was work to our sewers and if we became part of the town they would not assist with our sewer but we would have to assist with theirs. Dissolution stinks.

Craig Heirslin – 90 Candace Lane – PD/ Fire/ DPW all do a great job. He went to the high school for the meeting. The man said we could become a town but it would be hard. We want to work hard to get it done. Ask the board to make us a town.

Joan Priebe – 15 Howard Lane – They showed respect to everyone, they did not boo people. She told about her long family history in the village and how her father was one of the first water boys. She has shown interest in the village and comes regularly to village board meetings. She believes the room is filled will employees and firemen. She never said the employees did not do their jobs. She never said playgrounds and she did ask to have that retracted. She started this because there is no plan. She asked for a plan years ago too. She said everyone can vote their way. She doesn’t believe a lot of people came to the meeting because of retaliation. She said she has not lied. Our services are good, but the towns can give good services too.

Mary Curr – 60 Forest view drive – Joan said we don’t have a plan. Friends of Depew has a plan after the vote. Friends of Depew plans to work with the village Board and others to become a town. She has a plan to vote NO and then work hard to make it happen.

Art Kilanowski 266 Seabert – Spoke about DPW police and fire and the good job they do during the very bad storms in the village all the way back to the blizzard of 77.

Tony Fischione – Code enforcement – He wanted to talk to the claim of a lack of growth, in the last 5 years Niagara refining, HSBC, Senior housing in the old high school, majestic, cryotherapy. People want to be here if we let them. He will spend tax money taking down all the abandoned properties. If we work together we can make this right. If you have a political ax to grind run for office next time.

John Spencer – 38 A Street – Dissolution is not the answer Vote NO then we can move on and fix it.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

ON A MOTION BY Trustee Kucewicz, seconded by Trustee Bukowiecki, the following claims are to be paid: \$326,703.92 General, \$10,089.56 Community development, \$655.84 Sewer, \$337,449.32 Capital **CARRIED**.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION BY Trustee Peterson, seconded by Trustee Kucewicz, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Carol Giza, Fred Grzyb, Ray Lux and Florence Mazak at **8:26 PM**. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Jerackas
Village Administrator