

MEETINGS: 8  
NO. OF REGULAR: 8

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF DEPEW  
July 12, 2021 7:00PM**

ROLL CALL: Trustee Ziemba  
Trustee Kucewicz  
Trustee Hamernik  
Deputy Mayor Stempniak  
Mayor Peterson

**ON A MOTION BY**, Trustee Ziemba and seconded by Trustee Kucewicz, the June 28, 2021 Village Board Minutes were approved.

**ON A MOTION BY**, Trustee Kucewicz and seconded by Trustee Ziemba, the June 24, 2021 Zoning Board Minutes were accepted.

1. Barbara Battistella of 97 Norman Dr, Chapter 260, §260-14B(b)(1) to replace fence which is encroaching on the required side setback (10ft) on a corner lot. Variance granted as orally amended for 5ft relief by petitioner

**ON A MOTION BY**, Deputy Mayor Stempniak and seconded by Trustee Hamernik, the July 1, 2021 Planning Board Minutes were approved.

1. 5651 Transit Rd, Nicholas Marcezin on behalf of Casey's Truck Salvage World for site plan review to erect 60x100ft steel building. Approved with the following stipulations: 1. Keep fire hydrant clear 2. Get a light over the fire hydrant 3. Keep roadway clear for emergency vehicles 4. As much greenspace as possible 5. pending Erie County and New York State approvals.

**APPOINT POLICE OFFICER**

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I Mayor Kevin Peterson, do hereby appoint:

Travis Small

AND

Marcellus Jones

to the position of Police Officer, pending the Civil Service medical evaluation and personal history check, effective July 12, 2021 at a starting salary of \$46,175.21. This appointment is from Exam No.64-264.

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

Trustee Hamernik - Y  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kucewicz - Y  
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**APPOINT PT SENIOR CENTER**

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I Mayor Kevin Peterson do hereby appoint the following to the Senior Center

Michelle Sirianni

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

Trustee Hamernik - Y

Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kucewicz - Y  
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**PERMISSION – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

**WHEREAS**, Depew Fire Department would like permission to take Engine #6 & Rescue #7 to the Millgrove’s Fire Station, 11621 Genesee St, Alden, NY 14004 on Monday July 19, 2021 from 7 PM – 9 PM for training.

And

**WHEREAS**, Depew Fire Department would like permission to conduct our monthly department drill on July 27 at the Twin District Fire Training Center (4999 William St, Lancaster) and at the Townline Fire Department Training Center (6507 Broadway, Lancaster). Department apparatus will be split between both training events. Apparatus attending will be determined by the Fire Chief. The training will take place from 7pm - 10pm. Apparatus will still be in the Village to respond to any calls during this timeframe.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** The above foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Ziemba and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kucewicz -Y  
Deputy Mayor Stempniak -Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**PERMISSION – FUNDS TRANSFER**

Deputy Mayor Stempniak, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED;** the Administrator is authorized to make the following transfer of funds from the general to Community Development to cover the deficit in previous years for overages in project spending.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** The above foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Kucewicz and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik – Y  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kucewicz - Y  
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

## **Authorize Additions to Founder's Day Summer Concert**

Trustee Hamernik, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, as permission has been previously been granted for the Hit N Run Band to perform a concert in Veteran's Park on Friday July 23rd, 2021 from 7-9PM, it has now become a part of a Founder's Day: Lite Edition.

At 6:00PM the Annual Village Employee Awards will be handed out to members of the various Departments. Also at this point a number of local elected officials will be presented to recognize local Village businesses.

The entertainment and Awards presentation will be held at an events trailer that will be located on Terrace Blvd. The section of Terrace Blvd. between Marengo and Meridian Streets will be closed to vehicular traffic between 12PM on July 23rd, 2021 and no later than 12PM on July 24th, 2021.

Also from 5-9PM, there will be two bounce houses that children will be able to play on under the supervision of Village Recreation Department staff members.

The following resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor Stempniak, duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kucewicz - Y  
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

## **PERMISSION – FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

**WHEREAS**, Depew Fire Department would like permission to take Ladder 5 to attend the funeral of South Line Asst. Chief Michael Altenberg on Tuesday, July 13th from 9am-12pm at The Tabernacle, 3210 Southwestern Blvd, Orchard Park.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** The above foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Ziemba and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - Y  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kucewicz - Y  
Deputy Mayor Stempniak - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS** - Police – David Passalugo Jr., DPW – Jacob Smith, Nicholas Szklanka, Senior Center – Michelle Sirianni

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS** - Police June 2021

Fire Chief's Report Village Board Meeting July 12, 2021

- 1) Current Roster: 118 Firefighters, 6 Junior Firefighters
- 2) July 2021 Calls to Date: 12 YTD Calls: 153
- 3) 3) YTD Damages: \$213,000

- 4) Our crews continue to train hard every week, and we are using local training facilities from the county and local departments to accomplish our training needs. I want to thank every firefighter under my command for their continued dedication to the fire department and to the residents of the Village. As I often say, we don't train until we get it right. We train until we can't get it wrong.
- 5) 5) The evening of July 4th was a busy time for us. We had two residences within 200ft of each other that improperly disposed of the remnants of illegal fireworks into their garbage totes, causing them to start on fire. One of the residences had the garbage tote start their attached garage on fire. Thanks to the quick response of a neighbor, who called 911 immediately to report the incident, we were able to respond quickly and knock the fire down. At that time of notification, we were just a few houses down extinguishing another garbage can that also ignited for the same reason. Thankfully, there was no extension to that house. In addition, during these two calls, the fire department was dispatched as mutual aid to a structure fire in the Village of Lancaster. Depew crews were on scene quickly, and assisted Lancaster with fire operations and water supply.
- 6) 6) Early Sunday morning around 2am, the Depew Fire Department was dispatched to a reported structure fire on Main Street. The fire building had multiple families living in multiple apartments. All residents were able to get out of the structure, and no injuries were reported. I want to thank my personnel, along with our mutual aid partners (Lancaster, Bowmansville, and Twin District) for their quick response. Fire personnel on scene had the fire under control in a short amount of time, preventing further fire spread throughout the structure

#### DEPEW POLICE REPORT

##### New Hires:

Travis Small – Travis had great experience and comes to us fully trained. We fully expect it will take approximately 1 month of FTO (Field Training Officer) for him to understand our procedures but will have an immediate factor on staffing needs. Travis has two years' experience as a Marshal with the Seneca Nation, two years with the Village of Gowanda Police Dept. and two years with the Village of Blasdell. In the past two years Travis was a part time officer with both village agencies, often changing uniforms from one shift to the next. He moved to Depew four months ago with the hope of getting a full-time position.

Marcellus Jones – Marcellus also has great experience as a Police Officer. Marcellus was a Police Officer with the Chesterfield County Police in Virginia for five years. He grew up in the area and attended Lancaster High School and returned to the area in 2019. He will need to attend the Police Academy, but his previous experience will allow us to reduce the necessary FTO time.

The administration is continuing to work on our new policy manual, we've begun releasing new policies for our members to read and acknowledge. Our officers are giving extra attention to areas where residents have had traffic concerns (speeding vehicles, vehicles disregarding stop signs).

I'd like to thank the members of the Department for their continued dedication and commitment to keeping the residents of Depew safe. Please keep all first responders and public servants in your prayers as they continue to serve their community.

Capt. Timothy Norek

#### DPW REPORT

DPW will be starting our first phase of milling and paving streets this Wednesday or Thursday (July 14 or 15)

We hope to have the streets paved as soon as possible after the milling process. As always, we are asking residents for their patience through this process, especially when paving is being done. The less traffic on the street that day, the better.

Again., we will be working with the Town and Village of Lancaster through the shared services agreement.

Streets being done:

Harvard – the circle to University

Buchanan

Bissell off Walden Ave.

West 4<sup>th</sup>

Ledyard

Mayor Peterson read a commendation letter from a resident who wanted to express her gratitude to two fine men in the DPW for their efforts in taking care of a neighboring, abandoned property. While on a slant, in water and on a hot day they never stopped until the work was done. So she wanted to say thank you to Kyle Bicknell and Dan Wypij!!!!

Bob Brandon of Senator Kennedy's office explained the new traffic law that the Senator worked on. For those that qualify, if they receive a minor infraction and cannot pay their fines, the new law allows people to apply for permission to make payments on their fine in order to keep their license active and not suspended. The cost is \$25 or 2% of their net income, whichever is lower. Again, people must apply for and be approved for this option. The Senator was also able to secure \$500,000 for health crisis services. During the trying time of the Pandemic, stress, anxiety and depression have increased dramatically and the operations of health crisis services is in need of this funding to help support their efforts. He was also able to secure \$1,000,000 for sewer infrastructure to Municipalities who are currently under a consent order.

Liz Brinkworth, for Councilwoman Wallace stated that for those businesses that did not qualify for loans during the Pandemic, please call the office, the staff is in and ready to answer calls and to try and help them in any way they can.

Rec Dep't – Yoga is going strong, 40-50 people at each session. It is so popular that they will add Monday as another day for the program. Pool is open and family and single passes for residents is going very well. There is lacrosse and softball almost every day. The park is busy with a lot of activity and it's just great to see!!!! Ice sales for the fall are almost all sold out.

OEM – just working on action plans for the upcoming events each week. Mayor Peterson thanked RJ and Galen for the enormity of hours they spent during the onset of the pandemic. They were obviously dedicated because their positions earn no salary. So thank you both!!

Attorney Alba told everyone that on 6/21 another paper street sale closed and we are just waiting on Sanilac Street which should be any day now!!! The new animal law will be ready for the next meeting he is hopeful for.

Code Enforcement – The Village is excited to see new businesses opening in the area. Many are big projects and they are close to being open!!! Also, the Village was awarded a grant for Archiving!!!! This is fantastic news!!!

Administrator gave an update on the building renovations. The roof is approximately 98% complete and HVAC work is probably at 75% completion. Windows will be the final phase of the borrowing on this BAN and should begin by the end of July or early August.

Trustee Ziembra thanked the Village's two new police officers for stepping during these times when not many people are willing to work in this field! Thank you!

Trustee Hamernik reported that approximately 120 families were fed over the weekend.

Deputy Mayor Stempniak wanted to give a shout out to the Recreation Department. While walking through Fireman's Park, it's obvious the buildings have all been painted. Great job to Director Kevin Ferguson and his Team.

Paul Sprada, 58 Argus wanted to clarify what he thought Attorney Alba said about the new refuse service having a electronic recycling day collection. Mayor Peterson corrected him and said that no, there will not be a regular collection of electronics in the Village. However, in the fall, one will be scheduled as a general "drop off" where Village Residents only, will be able to bring their electronics to recycle them. The date and time, along with location, has yet to be determined.

#### **CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

**ON A MOTION BY** Trustee Kucewicz and seconded by Trustee Hamernik, the following claims are to be paid: \$144,865.27 General, \$4,873.27 Community Development, \$12,251.79 Capital Projects \$279,556.50 Capital Projects Building Reno, \$441,546.83 Capital was **CARRIED**.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**ON A MOTION BY** Trustee Hamernik seconded by Deputy Mayor Stempniak the meeting was adjourned A moment of silence for Mayor Peterson's dad, James D. Peterson, passed away on Saturday July 3, 2021 and for former County Executive Dennis Gorski at 7:50 **PM**. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Wachowiak  
Village Administrator