

**OPERATIONS MEETING, VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015
5:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Marty Hubbard, Trustees Marc Angelillo, Sue Dove, Jim Lanning and Carol Stokes-Cawley, Village Attorney Byrne

Police Department Procedures – Mayor Hubbard said Police Chief Perkins has been saying that his last day with the Village is August 9, 2015, but we have not yet received formal notice. Until it is official, we can't make any plans about procedures, staffing, etc. Trustee Angelillo said we certainly want to recognize Chief Perkins' contributions to the Village at a meeting before he leaves. Given that the Village Board Meeting of July 23 is the last meeting before August 9, Trustee Angelillo said he will talk to Chief Perkins tomorrow and advise the Board accordingly.

Parking Meters – Mayor Hubbard recognized that DMO Harty and the DPW have picked up on parking meter repair and collection. Trustee Lanning noted that some meters by St. James Episcopal Church had green bags on them. Mayor Hubbard said if we are aware of a problem, we should let DMO Harty know. Village Attorney Byrne said DPW Laborer Dave Short deserves credit for stepping up and helping with parking meter repair. Trustee Dove said she is waiting a while to start up the committee that will address parking meters. Mayor Hubbard noted that Sgt. Gates and Jim Brown are out weekly collecting meter money. Trustee Angelillo said he was in Johnson City recently and talked to the gentleman who is the "meter guy" for the city. He works 19 hours a week unjamming meters, fixing the meters, writing tickets, etc. He indicated that he'd be willing to come to Skaneateles to explain his job and share his experiences. Trustee Lanning said he thinks we are going in the right direction with Jim Brown. Mayor Hubbard agreed, adding or someone similar to Jim – a retired, trustworthy individual with mechanical ability. Mayor Hubbard said officers should not be tampering with meters and DMO Harty ought to be notified if that is witnessed.

Parkside Trees – Mayor Hubbard recognized that Trustee Stokes-Cawley asked about dying trees in Parkside and the need for the developer to address this before the sub-division is turned over to the Village. Trustee Stokes-Cawley said she walked the area yesterday and she has heard that the residents are frustrated. Atty. Byrne said it is a private arrangement. The Village can't get involved – it is up to their homeowners association that was formed with the filing of a declaration. Dr. Elstein is on the governing board until the last lot is sold. Trustee Lanning recalled that originally Dr. Elstein was responsible for the creek walk. Atty. Byrne explained that it was turned over to the Village as we wanted the ability to address any drainage issues. Mayor Hubbard recalled conversation about the final pavement and whether or not to accept the streets prior to the sub-division's total completion. Atty. Byrne said we have \$200,000 in an escrow account so we have some leverage now with only a few lots left to be sold. He advised that we don't have an obligation to maintain trees.

Vacation Rentals – Trustee Dove asked if there is any appetite to start a conversation about if and where we think there might be a place for vacation rentals in the Village and how they should be regulated. Trustee Lanning said the Planning Board wants a comprehensive review. Mayor Hubbard said the Planning and Zoning Boards are protected from the political arena, and should be the ones perfecting zoning laws. They can make those determinations without fear of not being elected because of their choices. The Village Board should not consummate laws. Mayor Hubbard said we have to be careful; he reviewed the letters received and they are genuine and sincere. For a local law, a public hearing would be necessary and we'd have a packed house. Our residents are not up for short-term rentals. Trustee Angelillo said we are remiss with enforcing laws. Mayor Hubbard said that is true. Atty. Byrne said CEO Crompton knows when he gets a complaint that he has to react. Trustee Angelillo said he had occasion to talk to County Executive Joanie Mahoney who suggested that enforcement will most likely curb the problem. Trustee Dove said we should put laws on the books that can be enforced. Trustee Lanning said short-term rentals may be more appropriate in certain areas of the Village (i.e. on Jordan Street, Fennell Street, but not Leitch Ave., etc.) He asked if they (Planning and Zoning Boards) can come up with their own ideas, suggestions, etc. Atty. Byrne clarified that they only make recommendations. Trustee Lanning said they asked for permission to look into the short-term rental issue. Atty. Byrne said he wasn't aware of that as it is not in the Minutes. Trustee Lanning explained that there was a conversation

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after a meeting. Atty. Byrne said those Boards have the inherent authority to look at something and make a recommendation.

Public Restrooms – Trustee Dove reported that Arnie Rubenstein called expressing dismay about the port-a-potties at the Masonic Temple. She explained to him that the Village is well aware of the problems with the public restrooms and the need to budget for a long-term fix. Mayor Hubbard said the criticism will be that we are using Village funds for a fix for tourists. Not all Village residents think we need so many tourists or that we need to attract more. Mayor Hubbard suggested that we think about expanding the Parking Trust fund to be able to use the money for other tourist related projects. Atty. Byrne explained that the Parking Trust fund currently has specific restrictions. Mayor Hubbard said we must be accountable to Village residents. Trustee Lanning commented that promoting “Disneyland” downtown is not as resourceful as it was when we received sales tax from the County. Mayor Hubbard said this is something the parking committee can discuss as they can consider more than just parking. Atty. Byrne said a legitimate use of the Parking Trust funds is for the new parking spots at Village Hall. The funds can’t be used for maintenance, such as re-paving the Municipal Lot. Currently the Parking Trust has \$175,000 and new pay stations will cost approximately \$31,000 or so. Atty. Byrne said a local law would be needed so the Village Board should think about how they’d want to relax the Parking Trust. Trustee Dove commented that our facilities are inadequate for the number of people who come here. Mayor Hubbard said he’d be willing to attend the first meeting of the parking committee to discuss the mission of the committee.

Sidewalks – Trustee Lanning said the West Elizabeth Street sidewalk ends at Dave Wawro’s and there are ten properties interested in having walks to the Village line with the option to pay for the walks over three years. Trustee Lanning said he checked on handicapped accessibility. The sidewalk is eleven feet from the street up to Wawro’s and that could be pulled back. He said there are tremendous safety issues and several residents have requested walks for the narrow street. Trustee Lanning asked how he can move this forward. Atty. Byrne asked if the Village would be willing to have the DPW play a role in the work. We’d need to ask DMO Harty if the DPW could do the initial step (excavating, setting the forms, etc.) and secure consent from the homeowners. Mayor Hubbard said there is a lot of sidewalk work in the Village that needs to be done - perhaps a good size quantity for a contractor. Mayor Hubbard agreed that DMO Harty needs to be consulted so she can advise to what extent the DPW could be involved. Mayor Hubbard recalled that years ago, then Codes Enforcement Officer Jorge Batlle put together a sidewalk list. Clerk/Treasurer Couch suggested that Trustee Lanning talk to former DPW Superintendent Bob Green for additional history about sidewalks.

Adjournment – The Operations Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



Patty Couch
Village Admin./Clerk-Treasurer