

VILLAGE OF EARLVILLE

Regular Monthly Meeting
Village Hall

Nov. 13, 2007
7:00 pm

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Village Mayor Toni Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Board members present were Trustees Amy Clark, Mark Doeberl, Gerald Hayes and Kim Boomhower. Also present were Village Clerk Christian Vischi, Brian Skidmore of Barton & Loguidice (B&L) and approximately 17 members of the public.

A motion was made by Trustee Doeberl to accept the minutes from the Oct. 9, 2007 public hearing, seconded by Trustee Boomhower, and the motion carried 4-0. Trustee Clark made a motion to accept the Oct. 9, 2007 regular monthly meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Doeberl, and it carried 4-0. Trustee Doeberl made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of Oct. 23, seconded by Trustee Boomhower, and it passed 3-0-1 with Trustee Clark in abstention.

Trustee Clark made a motion to accept Abstract #531 (Vouchers #5245 – #5266), seconded by Trustee Boomhower. The motion carried, 4-0.

Trustee Boomhower reported that the Code Enforcement Officer issues three permits over the previous month, two with a fee and one without. He also reported that Justice Frank Faulkner oversaw 12 court cases over the past month, generating \$485 to be sent to the State Comptroller.

Trustee Clark said there have been no FOIL requests received and no youth activity to mention. On the Earlville Fire Department front, she said the pancake breakfast was well attended, with over 400 served, and the annual banquet was a similar success.

There was no planning board news, Trustee Doeberl reported. He said DPW was being kept busy with leaf pick-up. The new A-frame and plow have been installed by the DPW, the holiday decorations are ready to be set up and the gazebo – courtesy Streetscape monies – was scheduled for delivery this week.

Trustee Hayes reported no activity of note for his departments.

Mayor Campbell made a request of the DPW to have the downtown area cleared of snow as soon as possible after snowfall, along with the walkway through the park.

Parking will be prohibited on Village of Earlville streets from midnight to 6 a.m. between Dec. 1, 2007 and April 1, 2008.

As we are nearing the end of the calendar year, Mayor Campbell requested the trustees meet with their respective departments to identify financial need for the coming fiscal year. She asked for preliminary numbers into the clerk by Jan. 8, 2008, specifically contractual and equipment expenses. The first budget meeting of the new year is scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 22 and she said the board will be aiming to stay within a three percent increase overall.

The planning board will be judging entrants the week of Dec. 3 in the House Decorating Contest, with the winners announced at the Dec. 11 regular board meeting. The prizes will be \$100 to first, \$75 to second, \$50 to third and two honorable mentions.

The annual Winter Fest is scheduled from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. The parade will be held on Dec. 1 at 6 p.m., and Mayor Campbell urged all board members to participate.

The Village of Earlville employee holiday party will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 in the upstairs Courthouse Room. Trustees are asked to bring a dish to pass.

Trustee Clark made a motion to approve Resolution 27-43 "Removal of Former Employee from Municipal Banking Accounts", seconded by Trustee Boomhower, and the resolution was unanimously approved 4-0.

As Real Property Tax Law 987 provides that a municipality may assess a penalty against delinquent parcels for the remuneration of a late payment mailing, Trustee Boomhower made a motion to approve Resolution 27-44 "Remuneration of State Mandated Mailing for Delinquent Taxes," seconded by Trustee Clark. The resolution was approved 4-0.

Trustee Clark made a motion to approve Resolution 27-45 "Return of Unpaid Village Taxes and Water Bills to Chenango County" for collection from the County Treasurer's Office. The parcels totaled \$5,090.05 in unpaid taxes, \$13.00 for the "Remuneration of State Mandated Mailing for Delinquent Taxes," \$357.21 in interest and \$5,011.77 in delinquent water rents. This will be due to the Village of Earlville on or before April 1, 2008. Trustee Doeberl seconded the motion and it carried, 4-0.

Under old business, Local Law #1 of 2007 "A Local Law Prohibiting Non-Domestic Animals Within The Village of Earlville." Trustee Clark said she has spent a lot of time and energy investigating another avenue the village could pursue, but said that research for potential zoning within the Village of Earlville is not practical. Trustee Hayes said the village has only had two issues in the past two years and that this is not really an issue numbers-wise. Trustee Boomhower said the trustees were put into their position to make decisions that are the best for the village as a whole. Trustee Hayes said again he does not feel that the new law is a good law. He said the old one is adequate and with the few incidents that are presented the board could handle it.

Trustee Doeberl moved, seconded by Clark, to approve Resolution 27-46 "Repealing of 1963 Village Ordinance Article 9, Section 3". The motion passed with a 3-1 vote, Trustee Hayes voted nay.

Trustee Doeberl then made a motion to approve Resolution 27-47 Local Law #1 of 2007 "A Local Law Prohibiting Non-Domestic Animals Within The Village of Earlville." The motion was seconded by Trustee Boomhower and was approved 3-2, with Trustees Clark and Hayes voting nay. Mayor Campbell said she wanted to thank the residents who gave input, and the board members and village clerk who gave the new law a lot of time and energy.

Trustee Clark asked for approval of the water fact sheet so that the Water Committee could begin distribution. Skidmore of B&L said, looking at the draft fact sheet, that it provides what the village needs it to. Mayor Campbell said she was pleased with Trustee Clark's revisions. It has not been decided yet as to hand-delivered or USPS mailing, but the goal is for distribution in January. Trustee Clark then made a motion to allow the fact sheet to be printed, seconded by Trustee Boomhower, and it carried 4-0.

Trustee Hayes made a motion to approve the transfer of \$30,000 from the recently matured CD plus \$50,000 from savings to a new one month CD maturing on Dec. 14, 2007, seconded by Trustee Clark. The motion carried 4-0.

David Sadler of Canastota wrote a letter to the board requesting to be named the village's historian, if the position is vacant. The board said they thought the position was filled and will try to verify that.

Trustee Clark moved, seconded by Trustee Doeberl, for the board to enter executive session at 7:54 p.m. to discuss litigation and personnel issues. The motion was approved 3-0-1, with Trustee Hayes abstaining. With all trustees present, the board voted 4-0 to offer the village clerk a full-time position with health benefits and state retirement. No motion was made on the litigation issue. A motion to adjourn executive session was made by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Doeberl at 8:16 p.m. and was approved 4-0.

During public comment, Nancy Schell and Richard Pancoe voiced their opinion that the local law should not have been passed. Trustee Clark noted that without zoning the village had a challenge addressing the issue. Melody Thompson thanked the board for thinking of the people in the village.

Updating the community on where the potential water project currently stands, Skidmore of B&L said they have been trying to reach the Rural Communities Assistance Partnership which helps communities identify affordable funding for planning, infrastructure improvements, facilities' improvements and more. Now is the time to start applying for funding, Skidmore said. Mayor Campbell said the water at the source is great; the problem is the village's antiquated transmission system. Trustee Clark said the board is really looking forward to getting the project underway. The tentative timeline is a preliminary eligibility determination within a couple of months for financing - approximately three months for Rural Development to present the village with a funding package - and job completion prior to snowfall in 2009.

A resident asked about the non-functioning hydrants in the village and Mayor Campbell said the fire department is aware of this and has taken extra steps, including automatic mutual aid from surrounding departments.

With no further business, Trustee Clark made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Trustee Doeberl. The motion carried 4-0. The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 11.