

VILLAGE OF EARLVILLE

**Regular Monthly Meeting
Village Hall**

**Jan. 8, 2008
7:00 pm**

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Village Mayor Toni Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Trustees Mark Doeberl, Gerald Hayes and William Excell. Kim Boomhower was excused. Also present were Village Clerk Christian Vischi, Fire Chief Bob Tracy and approximately 11 members of the public.

A motion was made by Trustee Hayes to accept the minutes from the Dec. 11, 2007 regular monthly meeting as presented, seconded by Trustee Doeberl, and it carried 3-0.

Trustee Doeberl made a motion to accept Abstract #533 (Vouchers #5301 – 5329), seconded by Trustee Excell. The motion carried, 3-0.

Trustee Hayes reported that he has contacted the cultural organizations of the village, along with the fire department, about budgetary needs for the coming fiscal year. The Fire Department will be hosting Pancake Day on Feb. 16 at the fire house. The department is also currently working on building shelves for the back room. As the Fire Department and Fire Company are used interchangeably in the insurance policy, they had a question about liability and the bus garage. Diane Bensley was asked to contact our insurance representative David Craine for an explanation.

The DPW has plowed snow, painted the upstairs court room, hauled away Christmas trees and is finishing reading water meters, reported Trustee Doeberl. He said the wish list is done for budgetary reasons. There is no recent news from the planning board and Doeberl asked the mayor if there is anything for them to be working on.

Trustee Excell gave the justice's report, noting there were 17 statutes addressed for a total of fines, fees and surcharges to the state comptroller of \$315.00. The Code Enforcement Officer report cited no new permits in the past 30 days. The CEO also noted he has completed research on a South Main Street building project; has completed the inspection of the main village municipal building; and plans to mail letters to owners of public buildings for inspections in the near future.

According to our contract, the village pays the Chenango County SPCA \$70 to have a dog housed there by our Animal Control Officer, Trustee Excell said. The owner pays the SPCA \$35 to get the animal back. The village's 1977 Local Law "Dog Local Law" includes a penalty for a dog at large of not more than \$25 for each violation. He said that since the village has to pay \$70 and yet the owners only have to pay \$35, he suggested the board of trustees should look into increasing the fine and/or having the Animal Control Officer issue tickets when he knows the owner of a dog at large. The mayor asked if Excell could work with Clerk Vischi to see what it would take to update the law.

Mayor Campbell also asked Trustee Excell to discuss with the judge the reason why several cases are being dismissed each month, and if a surcharge or court fee could still be instituted in those cases.

The final payment on Fire Truck 153 will be made this April. Mayor Campbell said the fire department needs to replace 152 and said that over the past two fiscal years, the Fire Contracts have been developed with an increasing budget toward the fire truck in anticipation of the need to replace 152. Fire Chief Bob Tracy said he has preliminary looked around for fire truck prices and one company, Crimson Fire, quoted a bare bones truck at \$227,000 as of Dec. 1, but added that after the new year the cost would probably increase 10-12 percent. Tracy has also contacted Fire Trucks Plus in California. The fire department had been looking at a custom pumper, but with the cost too prohibitive, Tracy said they have focused on a commercial pumper. Asked what would happen if we

did nothing, Tracy said we are almost to the point where the vehicle no longer meets National Fire Protection Association and Insurance Services Office standards and ISO could pull it from service. Mayor Campbell said if the village did become serviced by only one pumper, that home owner rates could increase. Even if the village cannot secure another New York Department of State Emergency Services Revolving Loan, Tracy said a vehicle in the \$228,000 ballpark would only generate payments of \$17,000 per year and would only slightly impact taxes. The Fire Department could also sell 152, as Tracy noted there are several countries looking to purchase them.

In order for Fire Chief Tracy to show the intent of the board to purchase a commercial pumper in the near future, Trustee Hayes made a motion to approve Resolution 27-50 "Notice of Intent to Purchase New or Used Pumper Truck," seconded by Trustee Doeberl. The resolution stipulates that the Board of Trustees acknowledges in earnest their commitment to replace Truck 152 with a similar vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$230,000, with a down payment to be allocated from the village's Fire Truck Interest-Bearing account. Also, the approval of said purchase will be contingent upon board vote and the availability of financing. The resolution was approved 3-0. If a truck is found for possible purchase, Trustee Hayes will act as a representative of the board of trustees.

Trustee Excell will ask the judge his feelings on relocating his court to the first floor. Trustee Hayes asked if the village even needed a village court in Earlville and what about consolidating services with another area municipality.

With several unanticipated expenses allocated from the village justice's budget, Trustee Hayes made a motion to approve Resolution 27-51 "Planning Board Contractual Funds to Village Justice Contractual Expenses," seconded by Trustee Excell. The resolution was approved 3-0 to move \$1,200 into the village justice budget line to make up for the deficit.

As per a request from the village clerk, Trustee Doeberl made a request to approve Resolution 27-52 "Approval of Fee for Returned Payments of Insufficient Funds from Village Payees," seconded by Trustee Hayes. The resolution was approved 3-0 that the village will charge a fee of \$30 per check that is returned to the village for insufficient funds.

Though the Internal Revenue Service has increased its mileage reimbursement rate to 50.5 cents per mile in 2008, the village will keep its reimbursement rate at the current 44.5 cents.

Trustee Excell made the motion to approve Resolution 27-53 "Removal of Heather Sherwood from Fire Department Roster," seconded by Trustee Hayes. The resolution passed 3-0.

Informationally, Mayor Campbell reported:

- The NYCOM Winter Legislative Meeting will be held Feb. 24-26 in Albany;
- State Senator David J. Valesky has announced a Safe Routes to School Program with state and federal funding available for applicable projects;
- The \$8,000 the village expended to pay for Construction Management as part of the Streetscape Program will be reimbursed, in addition to the \$5,000 paid as a down payment toward the Streetscape products (benches, gazebo, trash receptacles, etc.)

Trustee Hayes has volunteered to attend Sherburne-Earlville's fifth grade classes' 12th annual D.A.R.E. Program graduation ceremony to be held at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 14 in the S-E MS/HS auditorium.

Mayor Campbell said she will have a project for the planning board before their February meeting.

The Partnership for Community Development contacted Mayor Campbell with an opportunity for the Village of Earlville to receive up to \$400,000 in grant assistance through a Small Cities Grant for projects for income eligible individuals. As it is currently presented, the Town of Hamilton portion of the Village of Earlville – through this Greater Hamilton Economic Development Initiative – would have \$400,000 available to individuals for furnace repair, roof remediation, septic work and the like, with no cost-sharing from the individual. Mayor Campbell said the PCD was positive the village could

apply for and get these funds. The PCD will be speaking at a special meeting Jan. 22 at the village office to present the full information on the grant. Mayor Campbell said it is important for the board to understand what the village's responsibilities would be, what the administrative cost would be and what the residential qualifications would be. Trustee Hayes asked if it would include Chenango County, and Mayor Campbell said that since this was part of the Greater Hamilton Economic Development it would not.

Douglas Smith, who has been temporary contracted in the past to do DPW work, will be a temporary on-call employee in 2008 and will be covered under the village's Worker's Compensation. A motion by Trustee Doeberl and second by Trustee Excell approved Smith's status as an on-call employee, with board support 3-0.

At the Aug. 14, 2007 board meeting, Trustee Hayes made a motion, seconded by Trustee Boomhower, to request reimbursement for water classes taken by two former DPW employees who had taken water classes at the expense of the village as per their employment contracts. As neither individual satisfied their respective contract with six months of employment beyond their water class, the board voted 4-0 to request reimbursement for the water classes from both individuals (\$400 each). A letter was written to each with said request and no response was received by the village clerk. The board informally approved the clerk discussing with the village justice a small claims action against the two individuals.

A question was asked about the gazebo and Trustee Doeberl said Solid Bilt of Madison built the structure and was paid directly from the state.

On local police coverage, Mayor Campbell said the Madison County Sheriff's Office will be meeting with the County Attorney on Thursday, Jan. 10 to hopefully finalize details of the contract with the village. It will then be sent to our attorney. If there are any issues with it the Sheriff's Office will have 30 days to resolve it.

Trustee Hayes said he wanted the record to reflect that he was not content with the way a June 2006 bill was handled for a stay by Mayor Campbell during a NYCOM Conference. The bill was paid in November 2007 without a signed voucher from the board for \$470.00.

Village Clerk Vischi will be meeting with Brian J. Skidmore of Barton & Loguidice, P.C. on Thursday, Jan. 10, to discuss the pre-eligibility determination package from Rural Development and what needs to be done on the village's end.

With no further business, Trustee Doeberl made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Trustee Hayes. The motion carried 3-0. The next board meeting will be a special meeting followed by a budget workshop at 7 p.m. Jan. 22, 2008.