

DRAFT
VILLAGE OF JORDAN
March 14th, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard Platten, Trustees Meixner, Chilson, Ferris, and Gustafson

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

POLICE OFFICER in ATTENDANCE: Officer Edward Healy

AUDIENCE: Jonathan Monfiletto with "The Journal", Liz Zieler and George Chester, John Nevin Jr. ZBA Chairman, and Judge Michael Weirs

REGULAR MEETING:

Mayor Platten opened the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:00 pm with Trustee Gustafson leading the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Motion by Trustee Gustafson, seconded by Trustee Meixner, to waive the reading and approve the minutes of February 22nd, 2016 Voting: All present in favor –Motion Carried.

AUDIENCE:

Ms. Zieler and Mr. Chester addressed the Board with a request to allow them a first floor apartment in their two-story building located in the village center. The Code Officer had denied their request, and they appealed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA could not grant them a variance as current Local Law prohibits first floor apartments in the village center. Ms. Zieler stated they would like to live on the first floor so that it would be more convenient for them to keep up the building maintenance. Currently, their commercial rental space is unoccupied. They shared their new idea is to create a space for a bed and breakfast upstairs, and convert their art studio into a bunch area for their guests. They stated they did not have any dogs to be problematic. They also felt bicyclists traveling the towpath would appreciate a place to stay, would in turn shop the antique shops in the area and thus helping local business. Ms. Zieler stated the village must adapt to changing needs.

Trustee Ferris stated they were located in a commercial area and Mr. Chester stated he felt a bed and breakfast was a commercial endeavor.

Trustee Meixner explained the village was currently involved with a three-year comprehensive plan and it would be at least another year and a half before all the research was completed and a plan generated. All aspects of the village were being evaluated, including local regulations; the idea of creating appropriate allowances for bed and breakfasts was already on the agenda.

Mayor Platten inquired whether they were still participating in the Main Street Grant Program along with other village center owners. Neither Ms. Zieler nor Mr. Chester agreed upon one answer, with Mr. Chester stating their tax status needed clarification prior to the award and that the grant would help defer the cost of painting some of the outside trim.

Mayor Platten stated the Board would take the matter under advisement. Ms. Zieler wondered when they could call to speak with him and they should return for an answer. The Mayor shared it would take more than a few days. Mr. Chester stated he would call the Mayor on April 20th, and it was decided they would return to the Board on April 25th. (7:23pm)

John Nevin Jr., Chairman of the ZBA, presented a dilemma his Board had encountered with zoning regulations and asked for guidance from the Board of Trustees. J&T Automotive, a business located within the highway commercial area of Route 31 within the Village limits, had approached the ZBA to ask for a special permit to sell up to two used cars at a time; they had already secured permission from the DMV. He shared the J&T Automotive had followed all the rules, been courteous and patient. As the ZBA researched through the Zoning Regulations, they discovered while a permitted use, regulations stated vehicles had to be displayed inside a building. This caveat was not enforced next door at the neighboring business. Mr. Nevin distributed to each member a sheet listing regulations in need of revision, including the current one in question. He understood the reasoning for regulation *Article V5.3a* as it applied to other areas but felt it was an unrealistic stipulation in the highway commercial area. His suggestion was to have it omitted from highway commercial only. He was not looking to cause problems for anyone, just to figure out how legally to grant the application before them. Discussion had on parking in the front of a building versus parking in the back as it relates to the two businesses. Current regulations stipulate back parking *Article V52B2g*, but it is not enforced. ZBA wondered, as enforcement is the issue, perhaps amending these specific regulations would be in order.

Trustee Ferris shared that she was very concerned about the current cramped parking at that location in light of the fact there was another new tenant starting a business in the same building. Mr. Nevin shared the owner of the building had submitted a new site plan that provided additional parking in the rear of the building for the newest tenant, plus perhaps an additional space or two for the front businesses. A brief review of the other regulations in

question followed. Mr. Nevin also asked to have the Code Officer be present at ZBA meetings when requested. They do not expect Codes to attend every meeting, but to have him present during violation meetings to help explain his reasoning would be most helpful. Mayor Platten asked Trustee Chilson to write down the need to speak with Code.

Mr. Nevin stated the ZBA understood the time required for changes, but would like guidance from the Board and for them to revise outdated regulations. Mayor Platten shared they would discuss it further. They need to take into consideration merit, longevity, and future protection for all. Focusing on just a current problem and solving it may not take into consideration the long-term effects down the road. Mr. Nevin will return March 28th to continue the discussion.

Judge Weirs addressed the Board stating although he cannot be involved with correcting this issue, he needed to make the Board aware of a problem. He has had to dismiss tickets based on insufficient wording. The parking ordinances were created in the sixties and there have been many changes within the village since. The Board needs to re-evaluate the content and wording of the local laws pertaining to parking. He stated a law must match the ticketable offense. Mayor Platten inquired if this was actually an issue with the way the tickets are worded by each police officer; some being very specific by citing sections of law that have been violated while others are too vague. Officer Healy stated there are five offenses preprinted on each ticket and perhaps these were not always exactly applicable. Mayor Platten asked for clarification and the rewriting of up-to-date tickets. Officer Healy shared the Department's supply of preprinted ticket forms is running low and they will need to order, thus this is good timing overall. He suggested that he sit with the Trustee(s) and create appropriate wording for new tickets as a start to the solution.

Judge Weirs requested a new phone line for the court that would be solely for their fax. The current line, which started as a fax line, has been repurposed into a direct phone line to the court. His lines, plus the two lines into the building, are busy enough to support the need for a new court fax line.

REPORTS:

Buildings & Grounds:

- Trustee Chilson inquired about the status of a damaged chain link fence on South Main Street. Superintendent DiRisio stated the damage to a side link piece had occurred last winter (2014) by the heavy snowfall and sidewalk plowing of the snow. Atlas Fence Company was hired to repair the fence during the summer; the problem lays in the fact the company repaired the wrong damaged area on the fence. The fact that the portion repaired, the structural fence posts on the opposite side of the yard than the damaged link portion was a more costly repair than that which should have been attended to, made no difference to the homeowner. The homeowner is now requesting repair of the link portion on the other side. Mayor Platten inquired whether the fence was the appropriate 18" from the sidewalk. No, the fence was erected next to the sidewalk. A trustee noted the fence had been replaced within the past few years. As fencing should be 18" off the sidewalk, it was determined the village will no longer take responsibility in the future for damage. The police also noted that a report of damage caused by a snowmobile smashing into the fence this winter (2015) was on record. Superintendent DiRisio will recheck the fence to see where this new damage occurred.
- Trustee Ferris inquired the time-frame for the cleanup of the towpath by the snowmobile club. The unusually nice spring like weather has more people out earlier and the material put down by the club is in need of attention. The Winter Wanders normally have it cleaned up in mid April.
- The School district's request to use the festival building adjacent to the school grounds during an emergency evacuation received brief discussion. The request cannot be granted as the building is used for necessary festival storage and there is not sufficient room nor would it be a safe haven for students.

Water & Sewer & IT:

- The monthly reports for January and February received review.
- The tank inspection and cleaning is scheduled for April 6th. The company will utilize divers.
- Meters and the ease of reading them received brief discussion. Replacement of old manual read meters is happening steadily, albeit slowly. As new owners purchase houses with such meters or as the meters slow & stop thus affecting the readings, they are upgrades to a touch or radio meter. Currently, approximately half of the meters are touch reads, one-third are radio frequency and the remaining are manual.
- Trustee Meixner distributed a copy of a quote from Optimal Technologies, LLC on suggested upgrades to the office technology. He explained the difference between a managed switch and a wireless connection. Equipment came in at under \$3,000 and there were additional options for an annual support contract or an hourly on-site rate. Additional research is ongoing.
- Trustee Meixner will meet with a representative from Time Warner Cable to discuss the village's internet

needs. They will investigate the telephone service at this time also.

Public Safety:

- Trustee Gustafson stated the Fire Department had sent a copy of a letter submitted to the Town of Elbridge, stating the Department had satisfied the annual conditions of their contract for fire protection services in the town. They attached a copy of their roster.
- Officer Healy reported on the meeting he attended regarding railway safety awareness and planning. Although the local responders are aware of the potential for a rail disaster and have a plan in place, the State Government is becoming involved throughout the state. Statewide sensitive response maps are currently in creation. Officer Healy provided updated local information for the presenters.
- Officer Healy shared the recent concert at KEGS did cause a noise complaint. He and a State Trooper responded and found the decibel readings were well within the allowable range. In addition, the patrons in the parking lot complied without complaint when asked to lower their voices by the officers.
- Trustee Ferris inquired if enforcement of the parking in front of the bank on North Main Street could be maintained. Often vehicles park too close to the corner and on occasion stick out into Mechanic Street. These parking practices cause great concern for motorists' line of sight while trying to navigate the four way stop.

Streets and Drainage:

- The monthly reports for January and February received review.
- Trustee Ferris shared a letter from a resident asking for help to restore the winter damage done by the sidewalk plow to the driveway. The DPW already has a list of damaged properties in need of spring touch-up repair; this residence is on the list.
- Residents on Water Street requested a "Deaf Child" sign. They also inquired if a "School Speed Limit" sign could be put into effect on their street. No; the street may run parallel to the school ground, it does not qualify for such a sign. The need for a deaf child sign was acknowledged and will be installed.
- Mayor Platten shared a complaint he received about sump pump water being pumped into the street on Clinton Terrace. The water was actually coming from a service leak, not a sump pump.
- The Mechanic Street drainage problem received discussion. Residents parking on top of a drainage pipe and crushing it caused the problem. The problem became intensified when the owners paved over it. The solution is to re-cut to insert under-drainage to allow the water to weep appropriately.
- Discussion centered on the Clinton Street Project; valley gutter versus upright curbing. Superintendent DiRisio expressed a concern with the plow blade possibly catching upright curbing on that street. Valley gutters are in place in the south side of the street. The height of the upright curbing was also a concern with some areas of sidewalk elevations. A meeting with the engineer tomorrow morning is at 10:00 am, Trustees were invited to attend if they had questions or concerns. Project fees will be constructed by unit fees; paving by the tonnage and gutter/curbing by the linear foot.

General:

- The water and sewer budgets received review. These budgets are acceptable with two exceptions: payroll and the impact the water contract negotiations with the Village of Elbridge may have on the rate charged to Jordan.
- Discussion centered on the immediate need for all general budget numbers submittals.

OLD BUSINESS

Water & Sewer:

- Trustee Meixner updated the Board on the water contract progress. He recently met with the Village of Elbridge representatives and they explored the five-year worksheet together. He will need to pull previous negotiations and check the legalese issued from the court before proceeding.

NEW BUSINESS

General:

- Community Development Block Grant applications were discussed. The following resolution offered:
Resolution # 1-2016

*Motion by Trustee Meixner, seconded by Trustee Gustafson,

Whereas, the Village of Jordan has deteriorated areas that may pose safety hazards to the residents, visitors, pedestrians and motorists within the village, and

Whereas, the cost to rectify the problems in these areas is more than the local tax base can support without financial assistance, and

Whereas, the Clinton Terrace is an extremely steep, bank that experiences erosion and uncontrollable weed and scrub vegetation that affects Clinton Street, and

Whereas, Phase III, Clinton Terrace Bank Stabilization, is the final phase of the Clinton Street

Drainage Improvement Project, with Phase I addressed and completed in 2014 and Phase II of the Clinton Street Project underway during the summer of 2016, and

Whereas, Phase III the Terrace Bank Stabilization, is an integral and visible portion left undone, and

Whereas, Elbridge Street is in need of eliminating open ditches, creating drainage improvements, and providing a safer method of pedestrian travel than on the actual road surface itself along side of motorists;

Let it be known the Jordan Village Board of Trustees have determined these two aforementioned projects are worthy of and fit the guidelines for the Community Development Block Grant;

Therefore let it be resolved that the Board of Trustees direct the Mayor to apply for and submit applications for the 2016 Onondaga County Community Development Grant(s) for the Clinton Terrace Bank Stabilization Project Phase III and for the Elbridge Street Drainage Improvements Project Phase I, with the following priority status designation:

Priority 1) Phase III – Clinton Terrace Bank Stabilization and Planting

Priority 2) Phase I Elbridge Street Drainage Improvements

Motion adopted by voice vote unanimously. Resolution # 1-2016 was thereupon declared adopted.

-Although the majority of residents asked questions when income surveys were hand distributed to residents within the proposed Community Development project areas, a public hearing for the submission of Community Development grants will be scheduled for March 28th, 2016. It was noted public hearings were conducted on each project previously, as this year's submissions were applied for earlier.

* Motion offered by Trustee Gustafson, and seconded by Trustee Meixner, to set the date of March 28th, 2016 for a public hearing on the Community Development grant submissions, with the regularly with the regular board meeting to immediately follow.

Voting: All present in favor. Motion Carried

- A brief discussion on the need for funding possibilities for the remaining costs of the Community Development grants projects after the Village's share has been contributed. Bonding may have to be investigated.

*Motion offered by Trustee Ferris and seconded by Trustee Gustafson, to enter Executive Session for purpose of personnel issues. Voting: All present in favor. Motion Carried at 9:45pm.

*Motion to adjourn the Executive Session offered by Trustee Ferris and seconded by Trustee Chilson.

Voting: All present in favor. Motion Carried at 10:10pm.

-The Mayor shared although he would not be available for the April 11th meeting, the public hearing to present the tentative budget should be set for the first meeting April.

* Motion offered by Trustee Meixner, and seconded by Trustee Gustafson, to set the date of April 11th, 2016 at 7:00 pm as the public hearing for the tentative budget, with the regular board meeting to immediately follow.

Voting: All present in favor. Motion Carried

- The Mayor presented the name of Wayne Harrison Fuller, for consideration to the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

*Motion by Trustee Meixner and seconded by Trustee Gustafson, to accept Mayor Platten's nomination of Wayne Harrison Fuller, to the Jordan Comprehensive Planning Committee and that appointment be effective immediately.

Voting: All present in favor. Motion Carried

*Motion to pay the bills and file the correspondence offered by Trustee Chilson and seconded by Trustee Gustafson. All present voting in favor Motion Carried

*Motion to adjourn offered by Trustee Ferris and seconded by Trustee Chilson

All present voting in favor Motion Carried at 10:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Meixner, Clerk-Treasurer