

Village of Phoenix  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM  
Sweet Memorial Building  
455 Main Street, Phoenix, NY 13135

Present:	Mayor Ryan Wood	Sergeant James McKenna
	Trustee Jennifer Burgess	Village Clerk Roxanne Demo
	Trustee John Musumeci	Absent Attorney Steve Primo
	Trustee David Pendergast	Administrator James Lynch
	Absent Trustee Caleb Sweet	

1 Public in Attendance

Mayor Ryan Wood began the Board Meeting with a salute to the flag at 7:00 PM.

**Mayor Comments**

Mayor Wood had said that he did attend the first Oswego County shared services meeting. Not much came out of it, they're setting up a subcommittee working with local entities.

**Trustee Comments**

Trustee Burgess had nothing.

Trustee Musumeci had nothing.

Trustee Pendergast asked Officer McKenna about a program for helmet for kids on bicycles. Pendergast sees a lot of kids not wearing bike helmets, he'd like to see the police knock on the door and let parents know they should be wearing a helmet. McKenna said they try to let the parents know that they should be wearing a helmet.

**Department Comments**

Sergeant McKenna said that they received a letter from the school superintendent commending Officer Stahrr for a job well done responding to the school and any school events. There was a question if there are two officers on at one time. McKenna said there's only one on with the exception of a holiday weekend or a busy time.

## **Administrator Comments**

Administrator Lynch said that Trustee Burgess asked about Homestead Avenue paving and he found out that was done around 2012. There's a 10 year cycle for road paving. The schedule of paving looks like they'll do Elm Street from dead end to the dead end, Bridge Street from Elm Street to Lock Street, James Street from Main Street to Volney Street and then State Street from Oswego River Road to Davis Street. Brandy Brook, Loomis and Kay Pat are all past 10 years. He'll have John Kerfien come to a meeting to explain the paving schedule. Trustee Musumeci asked about the sidewalk repairs. Lynch said we have a lot of people on the sidewalk program and he's trying to evaluate what to do with CHIPS money. Trustee Musumeci said that there are certain areas that look good but thought maybe Spring Street could be done there's a lot of the kids that walk to the school in the road and maybe having better sidewalks they'd use those instead of walking in the road.

Lynch said that Nick Duskee has a design now of what he'd like to do with the property. He's willing to maintain the grass, remove the snow, move the dumpster and grease trap down toward the other building and between him and Scott Gillespie do the dumpster enclosure and put up a fence. He wants to get started with the outdoor deck. Mayor asked Lynch if he's happy with the design. Lynch said Duskee will have to have a variance with the boat company. Trustee Musumeci said that Nick, he's good, and he improves his place and he doesn't see any reason why we should not go forward with it. Mayor said we'll reach out to Courtney to see if we need a public hearing. Trustee Pendergast asked if it needs to be declared surplus property. Mayor said he believes so.

Lynch said we have someone interested in purchasing the Phoenix Press and having a daycare center. Lynch will look into that more with the Attorney.

Lynch said as code officer and administrator he'd like to look into the mowing of grass into the road, it ends up in the catch basins. We'll update this in the next newsletter to educate people along with MS4 - stormwater.

## **Abstract**

Mayor Ryan Wood asked if anyone has any questions or concerns regarding Abstract #6 dated May 16, 2017 in the amount of \$39,685.73. Trustee Musumeci made the motion to approve, general fund vouchers 155-177; water fund vouchers 163-174; sewer fund vouchers 164-175; capital water/sewer voucher 170; library fund vouchers 33-37 and trust and agency fund vouchers 35-39, seconded by Trustee Burgess. All ayes.

## **Old Business**

Mayor Wood said we'll hold off on approving the meeting minutes of May 2, 2017 until the Attorney is here.

## Workshop

Mayor said the workshop is for water in general. We're changing over our water source and have to change water rates and the fee schedule associated with that. Doug Miller said back in 2010 – 2011 that the Oswego County determined that the existing well field was ground water under the influence. So at that point the Village started looking at different options, either a treatment plant or connect to Metropolitan water line. Taste and color became an issue also, they examined the well and found heavy concentrations of iron and manganese. During that time frame the Village has been very stringent on their water quality. Wes Lyons our water operator has done a excellent job making sure there isn't problems with the water, he manages the system very well. There's a very detailed flushing program going on, once we have the new connection we're hoping that the color issues will go away with the new water source. There's a plant in the Town of Oswego and a direct sand filter, bringing it through charcoal and chlorinating it and once it gets here we'll have to re-chlorinate. We'll have a significant program flushing the system four or five times to get out any residual, there might be pockets around the community that we may still have issues with. As they went through the design out of the blue came a request from Oswego County DOH to model the system, which means to map everything in the system, pipes, pipe sizes, valves, hydrants and run a computer program to see what type of flows we have. We've worked with Jim, the Mayor and DPW where we modeled the system and we have a good handle on pipe sizes and documentation that DOH asked for. Doug provided a map showing all the pipe sizes in the Village. There are a couple spots that we could increase flows and would benefit the Village and spur economic growth and become more viable for development activities. Administrator Lynch said we started the whole process with Metro not OCWA, we were quoted a price two years ago and since then beyond our control Metro was sold to OCWA and there's no wholesale division. Our quote of \$1.07 for 1,000 gals is now turned into \$2.39 per 1,000. We all know that people feel our rates are too high, now what we had planned our cost has gone up 150%. Mayor said typically our system pumps 80 million gals a year, even if Jim numbers are correct if you look at \$3.00 high end we'll be paying \$240,000 a year. If you look at the budget for water with chemicals it's \$35,000 – \$40,000 a year, when you then start adding in the debt service of \$94,000 which includes some of the DPW equipment for maintenance on the pipes the biggest expense \$71,000 is for the water tower, now if you look at the debt service and the bare minimum to run water through the system, with no one working on it it's a good chunk of change. The other under 70,000 for DPW for maintenance, clerk's office, billing, monitoring seven days a week chlorination levels, so with that being said the majority of the budget is personnel, so either we can eliminate and go to a contractual service, and that's what OCWA does, they hire out when something happens, the other option, and this hopefully a better option, is work with the Town to expand the service and spread out those admin cost, more customers obviously there would be cheaper rates. Trustee Pendergast asked if he could have a copy of his numbers that he's come up with to reference. Mayor will supply copies. Lynch said there quite a few fixed costs associated with the well now we can track, we can't track the costs with the new building because it hasn't come to fruition yet. We feel with maintenance, were not plowing the road with the old well and just getting out there and into the well, that old well took up a lot of man hours just to run. This new pump house will be much more efficient, we'll still have fixed costs but hopefully some of the numbers will come down. Lynch is a firm believer we can eliminate our water operator because we have another one on staff with the same credentials. There are ways to decrease our costs of doing business, it just unfortunate that OCWA has

increased our water costs beyond our control. Mayor said you can look at their website, you can check the rates, there's the wholesale rate that they say is wholesale of \$2.35 and then a resident rate is \$3.10 so for an extra \$1 they'll run the system, they will not purchase debt service, so we'd still have that portion. But if we went that way we'd eliminate half the DPW. Doug said once we get the connection and have a better water source to sell in his opinion, it becomes more palpable to the Town, especially going to Route 57, the strip mall, going down to OTB, now we have the potential for economic development and also we could work together with the Town either as an outside user or buy their own infrastructure, there's a whole bunch of different scenarios, does it make more sense to go that way, we have to start putting it on paper, you have to start looking at what's the best alternative. Whatever direction we go, if we stay in the water business, does it make sense to do an inter-municipal to try to get the whole thing working a little more efficient for both communities. Town of Lysander has approached us as they have an interest. Pendergast asked about the line coming from Lysander. Lynch said it's treated but it's diluted, we'll still have to treat it. Lynch has had four meetings with OCWA, and he's stated he's not happy with what they did, we had the permit in place and all the documentation. The most recent correspondence we've had with OCWA, a letter came in Thursday April 13, the OCWA board has asked for additional information about the Village's proposal and at the next meeting on May 17, they'll get back to us after that. They do understand that we had a project going with Metro and they kind of pulled the plug on us. They may offer us an escalated rate over the next five years so we may come in at a lower rate. Doug said from OCWA's standpoint there's advantages to them for taking over the system, it gives them a lot of options. It gives them a back feed into the Lysander side. If they can use this tap and come back around to the southern end of the Village that's an advantage to OCWA, and probably they would love to go north into Fulton. The larger thing is moving forward, the Village has an asset, how do we set rates, do we change the structure of the rates, increase for school, commercial, the bottom line it comes out of the same pockets, you can change things for the residents, do you change rates for the apartment buildings. Rural water came in and did a leak assessment and there weren't many leaks found. But that's not to say there isn't unaccounted water. Mayor said the clerk's office and DPW have found discrepancies where the meters have run backwards. Lynch said just educating the resident with the type of water that were now getting, you're going to go through heck with flushing four or five times it's not going to be pretty. Once you get up and going and divide our costs for doing business with 900 houses in the Village and educate them, ok the water is now better than you used to get, I think you'll still get some discoloration but it will be better than it is now. Mayor said the board has done a tremendous job over the last couple years with the newsletters, he's written a couple articles indicating a \$2.00 increase, there are not happy with it but again it's going to be good quality water coming through the system now. Other municipalities do charge the admin costs, clerk's office, DPW staff and they put it into the tax roll and then a lower rate they see quarterly. Other places say their bill is a lot lower but if they go look at their tax roll there's another tax on there for the water system. There are other options we can look at, rates of up to 5,000 gals, 5,000 to 10,000 gals, and so on, there could be a charge per unit for apartments, schools, etc. it's another option. Doug also mentioned the water tower, talking with EFC there a possibility of refinancing the water tower. Mayor said the less water used the higher the cost, you still have admin costs. If you have the admin cost associated with the water everyone would be charged \$40 and then charge over a certain amount charged per thousand. That's why he thought everyone's going to pay their fair share; you use more you're going to pay more. Doug said then maybe that's where a hydrant fee comes into place. Mayor said it's how to educate the public,

how to address it, your cost includes and list everything. Trustee Pendergast said he thought it would be better to list everything, show the public what the bill covers. Doug said that Roxanne, Jim, Attorney Primo, Kelly from Fiscal Advisors, Kristy the grant writer and Tim Seeler that works with Doug have had bi-weekly meeting and we've made good headway. There was an announcement that came out for green infrastructure. One is for environmental compliance and two for economic development. We feel there could be a potential to do this along State Street and other areas of the community for pervious pavement, pervious sidewalks, bio swales, cisterns. It would be two fold, to receive funding, secondly step by step with the sewer work we've done, because they want us to pull out stormwater out of the sanitary, potentially that would give some areas around the community to eliminate the water. The pavement it looks nice it might be a little narrower but with trees and flowers will take up some of the water. It requires an engineering report, that's easy enough because we have one that says we need to store water. We'll put together a package for funding. Mayor asked Doug to describe the new grant. Miller said on Lock Street they would upgrade the 8" pipe to a 12" water main to improve fire flow protection and pressure in certain areas along with upgrading the storm and sewer and paving to go from 18" storm sewer along Lock Street would decrease inflow to the sanitary sewer system, especially during storm events. Trustee Pendergast asked about a 6" line going up Chestnut Street to the Town past OTB if they wanted to develop that land, would 6" be big enough. Doug said it would be tight. Pendergast said if we could work with the Town and close up the loop by Huntley Road and they could supply water then they could development that land. Jim said the Marina Feasibility study would be huge too, you have the potential down there and with our comprehensive plan to build residential and commercial. Doug said they were out last week and it looks like good solid ground to work with but there is some wetlands there also. When you boat from Buffalo/Rochester there isn't a place to get off until you get to Oswego. If you come from Toronto it's a five hour boat cruise and bingo you're in Phoenix. So if you had a Marina you can target those people, then if it takes off then other things start to come in, a restaurant a grocery store. Mayor Wood asked if anyone had anything else to discuss. There were no more comments.

## **New Business**

## **Public Comments**

No public comments.

Motion was made by Trustee Pendergast to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:40pm, seconded by Trustee Burgess. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Demo  
Village of Phoenix  
Clerk/Treasurer