

MINUTES
Village of Newport Regular Meeting
November 18, 2024

The regular meeting of the Village of Newport was called to order on November 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Butler with the following members present:

Mayor – Marc Butler
Trustee – Steven Woods
Trustee – Thomas Roberts

Maureen Damone (Clerk), Herm Harris (Streets), Travis Coleman (Street Superintendent), George Farley (Codes & Zoning), Lynn Murphy (Treasurer), Christine Lynch (ZBA Secretary), Ralph B. (ZBA member), Chad P. (ZBA member)

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Trustee Woods to accept the October Minutes; seconded by Trustee Roberts and unanimously approved.

Public Comments: Greg Lang of West Street asked about what has transpired regarding his neighbor Mr. Dunden's code violations. The Board advised that they have looked at the property and that Mr. Dunden advised them that his insurance adjusters were preoccupied with claims down South and cannot get to his property at this time, but that he must save items which are being claimed as damaged until they can come. Judge Harris gave Mr. Dunden until December 3, 2024 to complete his new barn to house such things (as motorcycles, etc.). By that date, all material must be placed inside the barn; otherwise, all fines for violations/citations levied so far must be paid by Mr. Dunden. George Farley advised that he will schedule another inspection on December 3rd to see that the barn is completed and all materials have been placed inside in order to report his findings to the judge that day. Mr. Lang advised that while Mr. Dunden removed a car that was complained of, he subsequently replaced it with another "shell" of a car. Mr. Lang asks that any new violations not covered by the Court at the previously hearing be cited and fines levied. Mr. Lang also noted that there is a pile of tires and other unsightly materials on the Dunden property. Mayor Butler advised that he saw a tarp placed over unsightly materials but that the wind has blown it off several times. George Farley and Mayor Butler agreed that prior to December 3rd, they will go to the property together to see the status.

Mayor's Report:

1. Mayor Butler reported that the meeting regarding the school demolition went well.
2. Mayor Butler announced that a Village Christmas Party will be held on December 15th from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Kuyahoora Community Center. The party will mainly focus on the children, and he asks that members of the community participate.

Trustee Roberts advised that he and Ralph B. Will now have access to the Village of Newport website in order to keep it updated.

Department Reports:

- Historical (none)
 - Water (M. Woods/T. Coleman) – report submitted (attached)
 - Streets (T. Coleman) – report submitted (attached). Regarding the West Street Project, Travis advised that he spoke today with Town Supervisor Nathaniel Lowell and gave him an engineer's report. This report was broken down into County/Town/Village water lines. If the Town does not accept the Village's proposal about the water lines for houses outside of the Village who are presently getting Village water, then the Village will have to keep providing water to those customers. A contract with the Town will be sought in the case of this scenario. If the Town is responsible for maintenance, the Village would request our people do repairs and get reimbursed by the Town. Mr. Lowell will get back to the Village by the end of this week.
 - Zoning/Planning Board (C. Lynch) – October report submitted. Chad P. advised that the County okayed the GML report re: the new distillery
 - Codes/Zoning Officer (G. Farley) – report submitted (attached)
 - Fire (none)
 - Recreation (none)
 - Treasurer (L. Murphy) – report submitted (attached). (1) Lynn advised that she and Trustee Roberts changed the HP plan because we were being charged overages on usage each month, one month amounting to \$140. It has now been changed to a 1,500-page-per-month plan for \$54. They are looking into other alternatives, including owning our own printer (HP leases the printer to the Village, and the rental price includes ink). Chad offered the Village the use of his printer. (2) Lynn also advised that our accountant gets paid for every check he prints for the Village, and she advised that some companies will take a combination check for several accounts. (3) Elan (our credit card company) and Citgo (gas credit card) are paid on line now in order to meet the payment deadlines (as late fees are \$75 and \$85/month), but Vouchers will continue to be signed at the meetings. Lynn suggested finding an alternative bank to Elan.
 - Library (none)
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- Discussion: It was decided that the Polling Place for the March 18, 2025 Village Elections will be the Newport Firehouse.

- Resolutions

- (1) Resolution No. 2024-13 approving Herkimer County 2024 Tax Warrant

Proposed by Trustee Roberts; seconded by Trustee Woods; unanimously approved

- (2) Resolution No. 2024-14 regarding First Installment payment for Rick Contracting in the amount of \$3,800 (for overall cost and materials) for mold remediation of back room from Unappropriated Fund Balance (The State will reimburse the Village for this cost)

Proposed by Trustee Woods; seconded by Trustee Roberts; unanimously approved

- (3) Resolution No. 2024-15 The Village Elections will take place on March 18, 2025 with the following open seats and terms: Mayor (2 years) and Trustee (2 years)

Proposed by Trustee Woods; seconded by Trustee Roberts; unanimously approved

- (4) Resolution No. 2024-16 to hire Brittany Coleman for office cleaning services twice monthly at the rate of \$260/month beginning December 1, 2024.

Proposed by Trustee Woods; seconded by Trustee Roberts; unanimously approved

- (5) Resolution No. 2024-17 changing the pay of Street Supervisor Travis Coleman from hourly to a flat \$1,000.00 weekly

Proposed by Trustee Woods; seconded by Trustee Roberts; unanimously approved

Proposed by Trustee Woods; seconded by Trustee Roberts; unanimously approved

Trustee Roberts advised that new traffic tickets are being printed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on motion of Trustee Woods, seconded by Trustee Roberts, and unanimously approved.

PAYMENT VOUCHERS 131 – 160 approved for payment