

A regular meeting of the Village of Newport – November 17, 2014

The Village of Newport regular meeting was called to order on November 17, 2014 @ 7:06 PM by Mayor Hennings with the following members present:

Mayor – Ashley Hennings  
Trustee – Steven Woods  
Trustee – Heidi Worden (absent)

Tricia Foster(clerk), Cathy Asaro (deputy clerk), Michele Weakley(treasurer), Barn Curran(historian), Rich Abbott, Herm Harris (street superintendent), Michael Woods (water superintendent), Ellen Harris, Cliff Cuda, Kelly Felhaber, George Farley (codes & zoning), Chris Shahin Woods (ZBA), Linda Hennings, Karen Murphy, Jason Murphy

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes for October 20, 2014

Motion made by Trustee Woods to accept the minutes as written for the regular meeting held on October 20, 2014, seconded by Mayor Hennings

All in favor: Mayor Hennings, Trustee Woods,

Opposed: none

Motion carried

Trustee Worden Absent

Approval of minutes from Public hearing local law September 22, 2014

Motion by made by Trustee Woods to accept the minutes as written for the public hearing local law held on September 22, 2014, seconded by Mayor Hennings.

All in favor: Mayor Hennings, Trustee Woods

Opposed: none

Motion carried

Trustee Worden absent

Approval of minutes from water informational meeting September 22, 2014

Motion made by Trustee Woods to accept the minutes as written for the water informational meeting held on September 22, 2014, seconded by Mayor Hennings

All in favor: Mayor Hennings, Trustee Woods

Opposed: none

Motion carried

Trustee Worden absent

**Department heads report:**

**History Center:**

Barb Curran gave her report and it will be placed on file.

**Water Superintendent:**

Michael Woods gave his report and it will be placed on file.

**Street Superintendent:**

Herm Harris gave his report and it will be placed on file. Herm wanted to remind everyone that it is past November 1<sup>st</sup> and there is no parking overnight on any village streets.

**ZBA:**

Chris Shahin Wood gave her report and it will be placed on file.

**Codes & Zoning:**

George Farley gave his report and it will be placed on file.

**Recreation committee:**

Mayor Hennings reported that the community Halloween party was a big success. Christmas Stroll is planned for December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer:**

Michele Weakley gave her report and it will be placed on file.

Water Abs 6 vouchers 32-36, \$2,548.91 checks 3213-3217

General Abs 6 vouchers 119-139, \$5,335.07 checks 10053-10072

**Resolution #35**

We, the undersigned members of the Village board of Trustees of the Village of Newport, New York approve that the unpaid taxes for the year 2014 be relieved by the county of Herkimer. Motion made by Mayor Hennings, seconded by Trustee Woods, RESOLVED.

All in favor: Mayor Hennings, Trustee Woods

Opposed: none

Motion carried

Trustee Worden absent

**Resolution #36**

Motion made by Mayor Hennings, Seconded by Trustee Woods, RESOLVED, to make the following budgetary Transfers: from Fire Building Reserve to A3410.4 fire CE \$2,200.00

All in favor: Mayor Hennings, Trustee Woods

Opposed: none

Motion carried

Trustee Worden absent

**Water project update:**

The water project is nearing completion but is being held up due to the need for National Grid to supply power. Mayor Hennings has spoken to representatives almost daily. She was told that some higher ups are working on it and it should be done within a couple of weeks.

**Amendment to water project:**

This is to add funds needed for going over timeline.

Trustee Woods asked if any of this is due by contractors. Mayor Hennings said yes it is a possibility that parts or all of that can go back to them but it would depend on what has been and is being held up and by who. It is in the contracts that they can incur engineering costs for going over the timeframe laid out. How that is determined would depend.

#### Resolution #37

Motion made by Trustee Woods, seconded by Mayor Hennings, RESOLVED, to sign the Amendment #5 to the Owner-Engineer agreement for the water source/distribution storage improvements project.

All in favor: Mayor Hennings, Trustee Woods

Opposed: None

Motion carried

Trustee Worden Absent

Election Resolution:

None until January

Public comment to start @ 7:19PM not to exceed 30 minutes

Rich Abbott of 7079 Bridge St (above the flower shop) said he was approached by Tony Bugeya (parking officer) about him parking his truck on Village Street overnight when it is not allowed after November 1<sup>st</sup>. He told us that his truck has to be plugged in at night when it gets really cold in order for it to start. He told us that he parked in the Village Parking lot and his truck was broke into 3 times in 2 weeks. This is his 4<sup>th</sup> winter there and this was the first time that anyone had brought this matter to his attention. He is asking the Village to allow him to park there and he will clear out any snow around his vehicle when he leaves. Mayor Hennings asked Herm Harris if he had any problem clearing the sidewalks, he said no. Rich said that he thought it was the Town that was having a problem with it. He told us that he asked the Phone Company and the Bank if he could park in either of their lots and they both said that they can't allow it. He said that his biggest concern was protecting his personal property; Mayor Hennings said that she will look into it and get back to him. Mr. Abbott also stated that the current slope of the sidewalk was a concern and that the power cord across the sidewalk should be the least of the village's worries. He stated that he may have to look into the sidewalk slope matter. It was believed he was waiting to report any issues with the sidewalk slope until he heard a decision from the village about his parking. His address was left with the village clerk.

Karen Murphy asked for an update on the East St. project. Mayor Hennings stated that the Village has hired an engineer to look into the water runoff and develop a plan for new drainage the length of East Street. The tentative plan would be to complete the project in three phases with the section between Mechanic Street and School Street being the first. Mayor Hennings also stated that there is no set date at this time but we are looking to move forward as we finish plans and look for funding. In reference to the letter sent to the Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Murphy stated that Mayor Hennings was at their home on several occasions and has seen how much water is running over the road into their property. She asked how the Village could not be responsible for the damage to their property. Mayor Hennings stated that the understand there is a large amount of water runoff the entire length of East Street but it is not the Village's responsibility to maintain personal/private property. Mrs. Murphy has stated they have kept the drain across the street clean and that the Village has not. Mayor Hennings asked Herm Harris if he had kept the drain clean and he stated that he has but the drain does fill up quickly with debris carried by the water and the leaves falling. Mrs. Murphy stated that when the drain is cleared, her basement stays dry. Mr. Murphy added that since the drain has been "discovered" and cleaned in early summer 2013 they haven't had any issues. He also asked how long this has been a problem. Mayor Hennings stated that she did not know how long it had been an issue for but assumes we've had a large amount of runoff for a very long time due to the nature of the village being set in valley and the large amount of springs around the area. Mrs. Ellen Harris stated that she had been in her home 48 years and as a homeowner has had to fix issues in regards to the drainage. A discussion ensued about the

proposed project and the issues and concerns surrounding East Street. Mr. Murphy added that they were told something was being done in 2012 and it never was. Mayor Hennings ensured them that they had hired an engineer and we would progress with the project when possible but needed to look for funding and grants to decrease the burden from being placed on the tax payers. The project was thought to cost around \$3 million.

Motion made by Mayor Hennings, Seconded by Trustee Woods, to close the meeting @ 7:42 PM.

All in favor: Mayor Hennings, Trustee Woods

Opposed: none

Motion carried

Trustee Worden absent

The vouchers were reviewed and signed and the bank statements and balance sheets were reviewed.

Respectfully submitted

Tricia L Foster

Village Clerk