

VILLAGE OF WILSON

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Arthur Lawson, Mayor
Carey L. O'Connor, Clerk-Treasurer
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Village of Wilson Board of Trustees Minutes - January 18, 2024

PRESENT

Mayor Arthur Lawson, Trustee Brad Simpson, Trustee Greg Martin, Trustee Ellen Hibbard, Trustee Gary Darnell, Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor, Superintendent of Public Works Joseph Evans, Attorney Andy Vona, Code Enforcement Officer James Bryer, and Engineer Mike Marino

ABSENT

Deputy Clerk Treasurer Nicole Martin

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawson called the Village board meeting to order at 7:00 pm. We then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Lawson opened the public hearing on Chapter 120 - Short-Term Rental Properties. Mayor Lawson had Trustee Martin and Trustee Simpson brief the resident's on this new local law. Mayor Lawson has asked the public if anyone has any comments or concerns. Resident Lisa Maacks asked how many they would limit them to? Trustee Martin stated there will be a limit of 25 in the village at this time. Resident Wade Wagner wants to be put on record that he is against this and it's more registration and more control. Resident and AirBnB owner Diane Bull asked if we know how many are in the Village now. Mayor Lawson stated that there's approximately 12 right now.

Mayor Lawson closed the public hearing. Motion to do roll call made by Trustee Gary Darnell, seconded by Trustee Brad Simpson. Roll call taken by Clerk O'Connor. Trustee Brad Simpson, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. All in favor, law passed.

MINUTES

Mayor Lawson reminded everyone that you can find a copy of our previous minutes on our Village website and in the Village office. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from January 8, 2024 and that he will abstain from the vote since he was not at the meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Brad Simpson, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments. All in favor, motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve payment of all vouchers, on all abstracts, located with the agenda at the back of the room (attached). Trustee Martin had a question on one of the purchases on the Key2Business abstract. Discussion ensued. Trustee Brad Simpson made the motion to approve payments, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. All in favor, motion passed.

General: \$46,018.17 Water: \$8,682.39 Sewer: \$8,500.07 Key2Business: \$10, 801.63

BUSINESS

Mayor Lawson opened the business portion of the meeting.

St. Brendan on the Lake parish parking lot agreement: Mayor Lawson asked Trustee Darnell to brief us on the status. Trustee Darnell has reached out to the church in regards to a couple of the boards concerns and the church has taken our suggestions and will reach out to their contacts and would have it back to us by tonight but Trustee Darnell stated when he checked his email before the meeting, we have not received it. Trustee Darnell stated that when we get it back, we will check it out and have it signed if all approve.

Free Public Wi-Fi at the DPW: Mayor Lawson stated that Trustee Darnell has taken this on. Trustee Darnell explained what the process has been at this point. He stated he had someone come down to see how we can get that working again. He reached out to the original company but has not had a return phone call. He had someone else come down and he told us what we need to do to get it working again. Trustee Darnell stated that we have received some money from the County and our Legislator David Godfrey that could possibly help us. Trustee Darnell stated that Trustee Simpson also knows someone who could look at it. Trustee Darnell doesn't have a firm answer on this yet and we will continue to work on this.

Travel Policy: Mayor Lawson stated that the Board wanted to update the current policy that we had. Trustee Martin took the lead on this. Trustee Martin noted the updates that they made to the policy. Trustee Hibbard had a question on travel reimbursements #12. She stated that we would never relocate. Trustee Martin stated that we could remove it. Trustee Simpson stated that we can remove the section after dependents. Trustee Hibbard stated at effective date of this policy to remove the first sentence and leave the last sentence. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to accept the policy with the changes mentioned. Motion made by Trustee Gary Darnell, seconded by Trustee Brad Simpson. All in favor, motion approved. Clerk O'Connor has asked if we could also review the travel expense report and approve it. Discussion ensued. Mayor Arthur Lawson asked for a motion to accept the expense report as presented. Trustee Brad Simpson made the motion, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution declaring election inspectors for the March election: Mayor Lawson read resolution #1-2024. (attached) Motion to take this to roll call vote made by Trustee Brad Simpson, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions and/or comments. None. Mayor Lawson asked Clerk O'Connor to take roll call. Roll call taken by Clerk O'Connor. Trustee Brad Simpson, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. All in favor, law passed.

Resolution giving notice of polling place & time of the March election: Mayor Lawson read resolution #2-2024. (attached) Motion to take this to roll call vote made by Trustee Gary Darnell, seconded by Trustee Brad Simpson. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions and/or comments. None. Mayor Lawson asked Clerk O'Connor to take roll call. Roll call taken by Clerk O'Connor. Trustee Brad Simpson, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes. All in favor, law passed.

Mayor Lawson closed the business portion of the meeting.

REPORTS

Mayor Lawson opened the reports portion of the meeting.

Engineer Mike Marino: He has been following up with the status of the engineering planning grants and the CFA and we should be finding out about those in the next month.

CEO James Bryer: He reported that we didn't have any building permits, however he has completed 38 inspections. He has also addressed one resident's concern.

Superintendent Joe Evans reported:
Ongoing WWTP operations and maintenance

Ongoing utility locates for dig safe requests
Ongoing snow and ice removal from roads and sidewalks
Deal with drive for north blower motor not restarting after power outage. Modley's installing new drive.
Brake job on dump truck
Complete the 2023 Capacity, Management, operation, and Maintenance update for the sewer system.
Submitted to DEC
Work on PESH mandates, all completed successfully and on time.
Service and rehab the new sewer jetter we bought.
Jet floor drains at WWTP.
Run belt press at WWTP.
Take down Christmas decor.
Organize spare parts in UV room at WWTP.
Remove leaves from various culvert entrances.
Look at the ditch by Brownies' with the Niagara County Soil and Water engineer. Everything looks good, he will send an official report.
Cleaned diffusers in north digester tank.
Tasks for immediate future:
Lead service line inventory
plow and salt roads and sidewalks
Quarterly meter reading and water sampling

Trustee Ellen Hibbard has nothing to report.

Trustee Gary Darnell reported that he worked on the St. Brendan on the Lake parish park lot agreement. They had a meeting with Steve Smith and Jill Rohring on the upcoming Solar Eclipse. He has been working with Jonathan Schultz, director of emergency services with the County. Jonathan stated that with all the advertising it is placing a lot of visitors to come into Niagara Falls. We are hoping we will get the spill over. This is a once in a lifetime event and they will have telescopes at Krueger Park and members from the Buffalo Astronomical Association will be in attendance as well. February 7th is the next meeting at 6pm at the Wilson Library. He confirmed that Trustee Simpson did talk to Wilson Youth baseball and they are interested in helping with concessions. Discussion ensued. Trustee Darnell brought up that Governor Hochul has a proposal in their next budget to include money for water and sewer infrastructure. He also stated that we will begin our budget and we need to add some funds that could help with our match to grants that come available.

Clerk Carey O'Connor stated that the Wilson Fire Co. #1 February payment of \$41,000 is due on the 1st. She asked for board approval to pay in then. Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to pay \$41,000 to the Wilson Fire Co. #1 on February 1st. Trustee Brad Simpson made the motion, seconded by Trustee Ellen Hibbard. All in favor, motion approved.

Trustee Brad Simpson has nothing at this time.

Trustee Greg Martin reported that Celebrate Wilson will be having a meeting tomorrow, the 19th with their lawyers to work on things for Martin Park. He attended the solar eclipse meeting with Gary and Jill. He has a meeting with the Business association, they have some surveys printed out to give to businesses. This isn't a government deal but we should help facilitate it as far as we can.

Trustee Ellen Hibbard asked when we will start budget talks. Trustee Martin stated that he has a list of need for the new budget. Discussion ensued. No date set.

Mayor Lawson had nothing to report.

Mayor Lawson closed the reports portion of the meeting.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT FOR BETTERMENT OF THE VILLAGE

Mayor Lawson opened the recess for public input.

Resident Wade Wagner has a question on garbage totes and why his property on Seneca did not get one. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Lawson closed the recess for public input.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to go into executive session at 7:57pm. Motion made by Trustee Greg Martin, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. All in favor, motion passed.

CLOSING

Mayor Lawson stated that our next workshop meeting will be Wednesday, February 7, 2024 here at the town hall at 7:00 pm and our next board meeting will be here on February 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Mayor Lawson requested a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:27pm. Trustee Ellen Hibbard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Brad Simpson. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey L. O'Connor

Carey L. O'Connor
Village Clerk-Treasurer