

VILLAGE OF WILSON

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Arthur Lawson, Mayor
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Village of Wilson Board of Trustees Minutes - August 15, 2024

PRESENT

Mayor Arthur Lawson, Trustee Greg Martin, Trustee Gary Darnell, Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor, Superintendent Shawn Galyen, Code Enforcement Officer Travis Evans, Engineer Mike Marino and Legislator David Godfrey

ABSENT

Attorney P. Andrew Vona, Deputy Clerk Treasurer Nicole Martin and Trustee Ellen Hibbard

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawson called the Village Board meeting to order at 4:00pm. We then proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 June 20, 2024. Motion was made by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

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). Mayor Lawson asked for a motion to approve payment of all vouchers. Motion was made by Trustee Gary Darnell, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson asked if there were any questions or comments. Upon hearing no questions or comments, the motion passed with all in favor.

BUSINESS

Request for Historical Marker Project from WCS teacher Brett Sippel: Mayor Lawson read the request and then asked for a motion to approve this request. Motion made by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, seconded by Trustee Greg Martin. Mayor Lawson asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Trustee Gary Darnell stated that he thinks its great and supports anything that highlights any historical events here in Wilson. Mayor Lawson stated its a great contribution to the history of our area. All in favor, motion has passed.

Update on current grants the Village has been awarded and actively seeking: Mayor Lawson asked the Trustee in charge to take the lead on discussing this. Trustee Greg Martin read the attached update as stated:

The Village Board is pleased to provide a detailed explanation of the current grants the Village of Wilson has been awarded and those we are actively applying for in the 2024 cycle.

We are working hard to rejuvenate our community and rebuild aging infrastructure. These projects won't happen overnight, but with focus and commitment, we can accomplish our goals.

Awarded Grants

1. Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Grant

- This grant is aimed at improving the waterfront areas within the Village of Wilson. The funding will support the development of plans and projects that enhance public access to the waterfront, promote economic development, and protect natural resources.

2. Engineering and Planning Grant for Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) in the Sewer System

- This grant focuses on addressing issues related to inflow and infiltration within our sewer system. The funding will be used for detailed engineering studies and planning efforts to identify and mitigate sources of I&I, ensuring a more efficient and effective sewer infrastructure.

Grants in Application

1. New York Main Street (NYMS) Program

- The Village of Wilson is preparing an Economic Resiliency and Recovery Plan under the NYMS program. This plan aims to strengthen the long-term resiliency of our downtown business district. By fostering economic growth and improving infrastructure, the plan will help the village recover from economic disruptions and build a more robust local economy.

2. Smart Growth Comprehensive Study

- The Village of Wilson is undertaking a Smart Growth Comprehensive Study to guide our future development in a sustainable and strategic manner. This study will consider various aspects of growth, including land use, transportation, housing, and environmental preservation, ensuring that development aligns with the principles of smart growth. We will be highlighting these features of the Smart Growth ideology:

- **Creating Walkable Neighborhoods:** The plan will prioritize the development of walkable neighborhoods to enhance pedestrian access and safety. A key objective is to link the harbor to the business district and the south end of the village, creating seamless and accessible pathways. This initiative aims to reduce reliance on automobiles, promote healthier lifestyles, and foster stronger community connections.

- **Fostering Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Sense of Place:** The study will focus on fostering distinctive, attractive communities that have a unique sense of place. By preserving local character and enhancing the aesthetic appeal of neighborhoods, we aim to create vibrant and engaging environments where residents feel a strong sense of belonging and pride.

3. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a Water Asset Management Plan

- The CDBG application seeks funding to develop a comprehensive Water Asset Management Plan. This plan will provide a detailed inventory and assessment of the village's water infrastructure, helping to prioritize maintenance and upgrades, improve service reliability, and ensure long-term sustainability of water resources. Additionally, having this plan in place will position us as a priority when more guidance comes from federal and state authorities regarding lead line changes, ensuring we are prepared to address these critical issues promptly.

4. Engineering and Planning Grant for Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Future Upgrades

- We are seeking an engineering and planning grant to explore future upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This funding will enable us to conduct necessary studies and planning to modernize and update the WWTP, ensuring it can meet future demand and comply with regulatory requirements. Potential energy-saving features and technological upgrades we are considering include the implementation of

high-efficiency blowers, the use of variable intensity UV bulbs to maximize bulb life and strength, incorporating a second UV channel into the disinfecting process, and the addition of advanced filters, decant tubes, and meters to improve efficiency and monitoring capabilities.

These grants are crucial for the continued development and improvement of the Village of Wilson's infrastructure and community resources. By securing these funds, we can ensure a better quality of life for our residents and a stronger, more resilient local economy.

Invite to the Informational September 4th meeting at 7pm: Mayor Lawson stated that he would like to apologize that he will be unable to attend this meeting and that he will also be having five procedures to address some of his injuries from Iraq. Trustee Darnell stated that this informational meeting is to discuss our current grants and future grants with our community and encourages all to attend. Trustee Martin stated that we need to discuss this with our community and businesses. People committed to come will be Mike Casale, NC Commissioner of Niagara County Development, Legislator Dave Godfrey, Jessica Whitely, President of the Wilson Area Business Association, our Village Engineer, Mike Marino, and Maureen Henderson, Director of Small Business Development at NCCC. We will have some important group of people from the area that can help us down our path.

Resolution 19-2024 Authorizing the WFC #1 to Assess Fees and Charges for Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance Service: Mayor Lawson asked for a motion for Resolution 19-2024 (attached) made by Trustee Greg Martin, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. Mayor Lawson opened discussion of resolution. Trustee Martin stated that what this is allowing is the WFC #1 to start soft billing insurance companies. Included in this resolution, they will not be passing on deductible or copay's to the residents. There is a schedule attached to resolution. Trustee Darnell asked Pat Daul, President of WFC #1 to highlight this resolution. President Pat Daul stated that the reason behind this is to allow them to soft bill insurance companies because of the increased costs since COVID. They have reached three times the cost this year. They're just looking to better serve the community and recoup some of the costs by billing the insurance companies. They will not be charging a copay or deductible to our residents. They're not looking to make money, they're just wanting to collect the money from the insurance companies. Trustee Darnell stated that this is a standard for NYS. Pat stated that Wilson and Ransomville are the last companies in Area 3 to request to begin billing. Mayor Lawson wants to stress that this is all a part of the resolution. Trustee Martin reiterated the part of the resolution stating they will not bill for copay's or deductibles. He also stated that he did reach out to insurance companies and automobile that in some ways, policies may be affected by it's up to the courts. Mayor Lawson stated that he also reached out to another Supervisor, Mayor and a few fireman that he knows that this is a need since COVID. All in favor, resolution passed. Mayor Lawson asked Clerk Carey O'Connor to take roll call. Mayor Arthur Lawson, yes; Trustee Greg Martin, yes; Trustee Gary Darnell, yes; Trustee Joanne Seefeldt, yes; Trustee Ellen Hibbard, absent.

Announcement of the following Public Hearings for new local laws at the September 19th Board Meeting:

Mayor Lawson began the announcement of the below new local laws:

1. Local Law #4: New Chapter 18 - Transferring Powers from the Planning Board to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and Dissolving the Planning Board. Trustee Martin stated that it has been difficult to keep people on our Planning Board. Our Zoning Board is more than capable of handling this. We have spoken with other municipalities that have done this and it looks like its our option to make the process easier for our residents.

2. Local Law #5: New Chapter 178 - Battery Moratorium. Trustee Greg Martin stated that this law was advised during a training session that with the escalation of green energy and the speed that it is advancing, we are worried that people are renting business space and collecting power and storing it and selling it back to the grid at a higher rate than when they collected it. This moratorium lasts for twelve (12) months and can be extended one more time for six (6) months.

3. Local Law #6: Amending Chapter 66 - Drainage Control. Trustee Greg Martin stated that this will up date the powers of the Planning Board to the ZBA as per Local Law #4.

4. Local Law #7: Amending Chapter 70 - Environmental Quality Review. Trustee Greg Martin stated that because of the new law of Chapter 18 (Local Law #4), we need to up date the planning board to the ZBA.

5. Local Law #8: Amending Chapter 106 - Mobile Homes - Mayor Lawson asked if this is the same as the previous. Trustee Martin stated yes. This is with the new law in Chapter 18, Local Law #4.

6. Local Law #9: Amending Chapter 170 - Zoning. Mayor Lawson asked if this was the same. Trustee Martin stated, yes. To update the sections on Planning Board powers to the ZBA.

REPORTS

Legislator David Godfrey discussed the dredging initiative is moving as per Wendel Engineering. They have put out an RFP and hopefully will move on it by year end. He congratulated our Village Board for supporting the WFC #1 for passing the resolution. The hottest button he's got going on now is the fight against the new regulations from OSHA. Two weeks ago he was with the National Association of Counties and National Homeland Security. They both have resolutions going into both the State and Federal levels saying enough is enough. These regulation being put upon our fire companies would shut them down. They have very strong lobbying groups moving on this. Any information you have to help for the fight, he will get it to who needs it, just reach out to him.

CEO Travis Evans stated he has issued thirty-two (32) building permits. He has made twenty (20) inspections. He has been out to do fifty-seven (57) fire inspections. Our of the fifty-seven, twenty-six (26) are compliant. Three (3) businesses will not allow him in and giving push back. We need to look at possibly taking them to court. Six (6) complaints from the same lady that have been handled. Sent out eleven (11) letters for grass and property maintenance that all have been rectified.

Engineer Mike Marino is looking forward to moving forward with our grants and working with Shawn.

Superintendent Shawn Galyen reported that we've had our annual DEC inspection at the plant and it went well. Positive news on our upcoming permit renewal. Molly from the DEC has a couple action items that need addressed by the Board. They have been working with Jim Pringle on Sunset Island and we still have some I&I on the island and coming up with a plan. He's working with Mike - they went through the entire plant. He noted that the DEC wanted a spare parts list for the plant in case something goes down. Mike and himself are working on that. Upgrades to the UV system to double the system and make it more efficient. He also, looks forward to working with Mike. Some ditching issues will be addressed. They will be addressing some of the fire hydrants that are not working and they will do their best to get the system flushed.

Trustee Joanne Seefeldt is looking forward to the September 4th informational meeting and hopes everyone will come out to see what we have going on.

Clerk Treasurer Carey O'Connor has nothing at this time.

Trustee Gary Darnell is also looking forward to the September 4th informational meeting and he thanked Greg for getting this around and setting up the meeting.

Trustee Greg Martin stated that he has been working on the September 4th informational meeting and he thanked Mike and Dave for volunteering to come out to that meeting. He replied to Valeria about a meeting at the end of September since he will be gone in October. He's still working on the pier insurance and is still in process. Updating laws, and he started looking into our master plan and implementing and looking into what we can do.

Mayor Arthur Lawson would like to request the board to move our workshop meeting to Mondays or Tuesdays so he can attend. Discussion ensued. Trustee Greg Martin made the motion to move the employee meeting to the third Tuesday of the month, seconded by Trustee Gary Darnell. All in Favor, motion passed. Employee meetings will be moved to Third Tuesday at 2:30pm. Clerk Carey will confirm this with the Town calendar.

RECESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Lawson asked if we have any public input.

New resident's at 595 Lake Street looked all over WNY and found this place to choose to move to for retirement. Question - there is a lot of speeding on 425 and wondered if there's anything we can do to address this. Trustee Darnell stated that Sheriff Filicetti would like to know about this, to call the non-emergency number and inform them about the speeding. In order for them to increase patrol, we need to let them know. Trustee Darnell encouraged them to call and ask for extra patrol.

Pat Daul wanted to add one more thing to the ambulance billing. If there are residents that do not have health insurance, they will not be billed.

CLOSING

Mayor Lawson stated that our next employee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, here at the Town Hall at 2:30pm, if the Town calendar allows, and our Board meeting will be on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7:00pm. Mayor Lawson requested a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 4:56pm. Trustee Gary Darnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Joanne Seefeldt. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey L. O'Connor

Carey L. O'Connor
Village Clerk-Treasurer