The regular meeting of the Village Board was held on December 4, 2023 at the Middleburgh Library.

Present: Mayor Timothy Knight Trustees: Amanda Fernandez, Sheryl Adams, Robert Tinker, Kevin Young

Also present: Clerk Laraway, Fire Dept. Chief Gregory, Kevin Daily, Matthew & David Avitabile of the Mountain Eagle, John Wingfield, Tyler & Kaitlyn Schultz, Courtney Knight

Deputy Mayor Knight called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Laraway read Oath of Office swearing in Timothy Knight as Mayor.

Mayor Knight read Oath of Office swearing in Trustee’s Robert Tinker, Amanda Fernandez, and Kevin Young.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez, to approve Board minutes for November 6, 2023. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to approve Reorganizational Appointments, excluding Official Paper and Building Inspector. Upon roll call vote this motion was unanimously carried 5-0. Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to approve Official Paper as presented (Mayor Knight recused himself). Upon roll call vote this motion was carried 4-0. Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to approve the Building Inspector Appointment as presented (Trustee Young recused himself). Upon roll call vote this motion was carried 4-0.

Fire Chief Gregory Monthly Report: Chief Gregory congratulated the newly elected Board and thanked the Board for all their help with negotiating new fire contracts. Fire Dept. got new air compressor; New thermos imaging equipment; Santa at the Fire House 12/10/23 and Santa on Fire Truck will be 12/16/23. Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to approve 2023-2024 Officer Roster as presented. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Deputy Code Officer Fink Monthly Report: Was unable to attend. Clerk Laraway read two bids for mini split heating and cooling unit. JRD Heating $ 7,221.60 Middleburgh Sheet Metal $ 6,800.00. Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to accept low bid Middleburgh Sheet Metal $6,800.00 and to be paid with ARPA money. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

DPW Superintendent Keyser monthly report: Was unable to attend due to taking a sewer course at Morrisville College. Mayor Knight read his report.

**Streets:** Preparing for winter; Took rotted bed off truck and replace with flatbed to keep truck in service; Flower down, kissing balls and candles were put up; Reminder no parking is allowed on Main Street from 4am to 6am, violators will be towed. Working on replacing Community Board over the winter.

**Water:** Installing mew water meters every Wednesday; Waiting on parts to complete other projects.

**Sewer:** Had transformer in pump station go out due to an issue with wiring from one of the pumps. Things are back online and working. The backup system was tested and works. Hauled solids for disposal. Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young, to amend Sewer budget in the amount of $21,912.00: G9710.6 Sewer Bond move to G9710.7 Bond Interest. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0. Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to move $25,870.97 from G599 Appropriated Fund Balance to G9710.7 Bond Interest to cover WWTP Bond payment. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez to approve creation of Sidewalk Committee: Mayor Knight, Trustee Adams, DPW Keyser, Patty Eddy-Beal, and Rich Vilegi. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0. Committee will work on getting grant funding to replace sidewalks in commercial district.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to approve **Resolution #7 2023** Renewing Standard Work Days for Retirement as presented. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to approve **Resolution #8 2023** Records of Activities for Retirement as presented. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Adams made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to approve **Resolution #9 2023** Fireman’s Benefit Law as presented. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez to set Public Hearing on Jan. 8, 2024 at 7:05pm to discuss Water, Sewer Debt Redemption Rate increases. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez to close down Chestnut Land on Friday, December 8, 2023 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm for Miracle on Main Street Festivities. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to approve Board meeting schedule 2024 dates as presented. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

ZBA President John Wingfield was present to discuss proposed Local Law #1 2024 Amending Zoning Regulating Short-Term Rentals. He discussed that the committee has been working six months on drafting local law. He explained the difference between AirBnB and Short-Term Rentals, and where they are each allowable in the Village. Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez to hold a Public Hearing on January 8, 2024 at 7:15pm to discuss Local Law #1 2024 Short-Term Rentals. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0. Trustee Young made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to approve sending a copy of Local Law #1 2024 Short-Term Rentals to the Planning Board for review and comments. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to set year end date to close Village Books for December 27, 2023 at noon at the Village Hall. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

No public comment.

Clerk Laraway presented the Board with a monthly balance sheet.

Deputy Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Adams to pay the Bills: Bills from the General Fund in the amount of $ 90,689.61 were audited and ordered paid. Bills from the Water Fund in the amount of $ 6,054.80 were audited and ordered paid. Bills from the Sewer Fund in the amount of $ 69,632.02 were audited and ordered paid. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Trustee Tinker made a motion, seconded by Trustee Young to enter into executive session at 7:34 pm to discuss ongoing litigation with advice of Village Attorney. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Mayor Knight made a motion, seconded by Trustee Fernandez to enter back into regular session at 8:05 pm. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Correspondence:11/1/23 letter Village re: Bonnie Morton resignation; Letter NBT Ins. re: renewal; 11/15/23 letter Tesla Energy re: Cert. Ins.; 11/16/23 letter NBT Ins. re: Policy changes; Letter Schoharie County re: Sales Tax

Board discussed Delaware Engineering proposal for Handi-cap entrance. Cost for designing new handicap access ramp is $12,500, and construction of ramp will be between $50,000 and $75,000. Trustee Fernandez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Tinker to authorize Delaware Engineering Handicap Access plans at a cost not to exceed $12,500. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0. It is the consensus of the Board to complete design plans, put them out to bid and see what cost of project will be. The village will possibly need to look for funding for project. It was consensus of the Board to continue hold regular Board meetings at the Middleburgh Library and special meetings at the Village Hall.

Trustee Adams made a motion, seconded by Young, to adjourn at 8:30pm. Upon roll call vote, this motion was unanimously carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by, Melanie Laraway - Clerk.