

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF LITTLE VALLEY
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025 – 7:00 PM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT:

James Bowen – Mayor

JoElla Emborsky – Clerk Treasurer

Todd Palmatier – Deputy Mayor/Trustee

Craig Bedell – Trustee

Jeremy Keesler - Trustee

ABSENT:

Raymond Hughes – Trustee

Kory Gross – Streets/Water Working Supervisor

Larry Imhoff – Sr. Line Worker

VISITORS:

Connor Hellwig

Brad Lockwood

Flossie Steinbroner

Anita Williams

Dennis Koch

Sue Koch

David Shinnors

Mayor James Bowen called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION #108, 2024-2025

Motion made by Trustee Bedell, seconded by Trustee Keesler, to approve the minutes of January 28, 2024, regular meeting and February 11, 2025, public hearing and special meeting. **SO MOVED, RESOLVED.**

AYES: Mayor Bowen, Trustee Bedell, Trustee Keesler, Trustee Palmatier

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trustee Hughes

GUEST:

Connor Hellwig from the Friends of Little Valley group – “What is our purpose, what do we do going forward, what have we’ve done right, what we’ve done wrong, how are we supposed to behave,” are some questions asked. Their group is looking for some sort of working relationship with the Village. Connor gave an update on some of the events they have planned for this year and one event is partnering with the Village for an end of summer bash down at the pool.

Brad Lockwood – Is currently looking to write grants for the Village. The current one would be applying for a matching grant with the County for beautification, which will be used to light up the entrance signs, wind/waterproof banners to cover up some of the Village’s eye soars. He would like to do a mural competition with local artist and have it painted on a building within the Village. Brad mentioned that Sixt Lumber is going to donate materials needed for the repairs to the gazebo.

MAYOR:

• **OLD BUSINESS:**

Proposed Local Law 1-2024 – Requiring residential rental occupancy permits & inspections. - TABLED

Resignation of Apprentice Line Worker – Has been tabled until an agreement has been reached for reimbursement of apprentice training. A second notice was sent on Wednesday, January 29th.

Search for Village Attorney – Mayor Bowen stated they are still looking for an attorney. He mentioned a group in Chautauqua County who he plans to reach out to.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

Sewer Credit Request from the Memorial Library – The Library had a water line break between the walls, and it expelled over 12,000 gallons of water under the building and into the backyard. They are looking for credit on their account since the water didn't pass through the sewer system.

MOTION #109, 2024-2025

Motion made by Trustee Bedell, seconded by Trustee Keesler, to approve the sewer credit to the Memorial Library in the amount of \$93.50. **SO MOVED, RESOLVED.**

AYES: Mayor Bowen, Trustee Bedell, Trustee Keesler, Trustee Palmatier

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trustee Hughes

NY Rural Water Association's 46th Annual Training Workshop & Exhibition – 5/19 - 5/21. Sewer Operator Dennis Watson would like to attend this training workshop.

MOTION #110, 2024-2025

Motion made by Trustee Palmatier, seconded by Trustee Bedell, to approve Sewer Operator Dennis Watson to attend the NY Rural Water Association's 46th Annual Training Workshop & Exhibition, May 19th - May 21st. **SO MOVED, RESOLVED.**

AYES: Mayor Bowen, Trustee Bedell, Trustee Keesler, Trustee Palmatier

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trustee Hughes

MEUA Engineering & Accounting Workshops 3/18 – 3/19. Senior Line Worker Larry Imhoff and Senior Account Clerk Karli Brooks would like to attend these Workshops in March.

MOTION #111, 2024-2025

Motion made by Trustee Bedell, seconded by Trustee Palmatier, to approve Senior Line Worker Larry Imhoff and Senior Account Clerk Karli Brooks to attend the MEUA Engineering & Accounting Workshops held March 18th & 19th. **SO MOVED, RESOLVED.**

AYES: Mayor Bowen, Trustee Bedell, Trustee Keesler, Trustee Palmatier

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trustee Hughes

A Resolution Opposing Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation D/B/A National Grid Rate Hike

OPPOSING NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION D/B/A/ NATIONAL GRID RATE HIKE

Pursuant to Section 153 of the County Law.

- I. **WHEREAS,** Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid has proposed changes to its electric and gas delivery rates and practices, and

- II. **WHEREAS**, the proposed rate hike would result in total monthly increases for the average residential customer of approximately \$18.92 (15%) for electric and \$18.34 (20%) for gas, and
- III. **WHEREAS**, this drastic rate increase will create significant challenges for communities, businesses and families who are already struggling financially, possibly causing even more residents to flee the state, and
- IV. **WHEREAS**, these proposed increases will also likely be passed on to consumers and residents in the form of higher product costs and taxes, and
- V. **WHEREAS**, this situation further highlights problems with the state's unaffordable and unsustainable energy goals and climate policies, including the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), and the significant costs associated with implementing them, and
- VI. **WHEREAS**, this is a proposed rate increase caused by financially irresponsible policies with no grounding in cost benefit analysis or rational economic considerations, and now, therefore, be it

not practical or warranted, and be it further

- II. **RESOLVED**, that the Village of Little Valley Board of Trustees hereby strongly urges Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid to reconsider its proposed rate increase which threatens to jeopardize economic stability for numerous families and businesses, and be it further
- III. **RESOLVED**, that the Village of Little Valley also strongly urges other municipalities and counties to go on record opposing the proposed rate increases in massive public protect, and be it further
- IV. **RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochel, the New York State Legislature, New York State Association of Counties, Senator George Borrello, Assemblyman Joseph Sempolinski, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

MOTION #112, 2024-2025

Motion made by Trustee Palmatier, seconded by Trustee Bedell, to pass the resolution opposing Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation D/B/A National Grid rate hike, pursuant to Section 153 of the County Law. **SO MOVED, RESOLVED.**

AYES: Mayor Bowen, Trustee Bedell, Trustee Keesler, Trustee Palmatier

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trustee Hughes

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT:

Proposal for engineering services – Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, inc. – We received one proposal for engineering services associated with the requested assessment of the existing 3rd St. and 4th St. substations. Ramboll's fees for these services will not exceed \$49,500.

Senior Line Worker Imhoff was asked to find two more bids before any agreement can be made.

Jib Extension – Senior Line Worker Imhoff would like to purchase a jib extension from Altec Supply for the bucket truck. Total cost for extension, plus wire holder, and storage bag comes to \$997.37.

MOTION #113, 2024-2025

Motion made by Trustee Bedell, seconded by Trustee Keesler, to approve the purchase from Altec Supply for a jib extension, wire holder, and storage bag at the cost of \$997.37. **SO MOVED, RESOLVED.**

AYES: Mayor Bowen, Trustee Bedell, Trustee Keesler, Trustee Palmatier

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trustee Hughes

STREETS/WATER WORKING SUPERVISOR:

Hydrant Flag Quotes – Streets/Water Supervisor Gross presented 3 quotes for hydrant flags.

- Team EJP Blasdell NY – quantity 65 flags - \$25/unit – Total cost \$1625.00
- Core & Main – quantity 65 flags - \$26.57/unit - Total cost \$1727.05
- USABluebook.com – quantity 65 flags - \$44.49/unit - Total cost \$2602.60

MOTION #114, 2024-2025

Motion made by Trustee Bedell, seconded by Trustee Keesler, to approve the purchase of 65 hydrant flags from Team EJP Blasdell NY in the amount of \$1625.00. **SO MOVED, RESOLVED.**

AYES: Mayor Bowen, Trustee Bedell, Trustee Keesler, Trustee Palmatier

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trustee Hughes

TRUSTEES:

Trustee Craig Bedell:

Trustee Ray Hughes:

Trustee Jeremy Keesler:

Trustee Todd Palmatier:

CLERK TREASURER:

Cattaraugus County Directory Updates – Asked the Board to make any necessary changes to the directory. Will email changes to Laura Howard by month end.

Updates to the Emergency Operations Plan – Everyone was asked to look through the plan to make note of the changes. All on board with the changes that were made and updates to the plan will be made.

Tax Cap has been calculated for FYE 2025-2026 – Will be sent to the Real Property Department by week's end. The total amount of taxes to be raised will be \$349,444.

BUILDING & ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mayor Bowen contacted the New York State Department of State for direction on hiring someone for this position. The individual that we hire does not need all their courses completed at the time of the hire. Mayor Bowen will contact the individuals who applied for the position within the coming week.

PAY BILLS AND APPROVE PAYROLL REPORTS:

Clerk Treasurer Emborsky presented the payrolls for February 5 and February 19, 2025, along with the accounts payable printouts for the board's approval. She also had the board review the vouchers listing for each fund and sign for their approval. The vouchers to be approved for payment are as follows:

	<u>1/29/25 through 2/25/25 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE</u>		
<u>CHECKS:</u>	General Fund	#8079-8104	\$10,104.80
	Electric Fund	#8062-8090	\$191,712.47
	Sewer Fund	#5626-5644	\$4,670.72
	Water Fund	#5790-5812	\$22,336.60
	Trust Fund	#4341, 4345-4346	\$1,384.74
	Water Project Fund	#118-119	\$24,606.28

CHECKS VOIDED

<u>Payroll Ending 2/5/25</u>		
Payroll Fund		\$0.00
Direct Deposit		\$20,109.78
Trust Fund	#4338-4340	\$11,649.69

<u>Payroll Ending 2/19/24</u>		
Payroll Fund		\$0.00
Direct Deposit		\$20,559.41
Trust Fund	#4342-4344	\$11,591.64

MOTION #115, 2024-2025

Motion made by Trustee Bedell, seconded by Trustee Keesler, to pay the bills and payroll as presented. **SO MOVED, RESOLVED.**

AYES: Mayor Bowen, Trustee Bedell, Trustee Keesler, Trustee Palmatier

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trustee Hughes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Village Board Meeting
Regular Meeting
February 25, 2025

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION #116, 2024-2025

Motion made by Trustee Bedell, seconded by Trustee Keesler to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. **SO MOVED, RESOLVED.**

AYES: Mayor Bowen, Trustee Bedell, Trustee Keesler, Trustee Palmatier

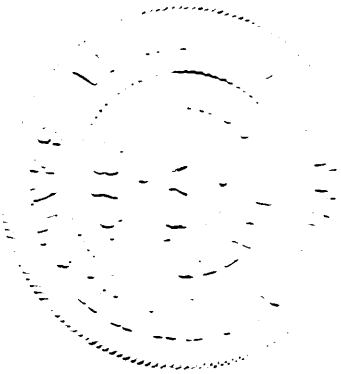
NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: Trustee Hughes

Respectfully submitted,



JoElla Emborsky
Clerk Treasurer



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