

MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF ARKPORT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
\*\*\*\*\*September 17, 2024 \*\*\*\*\*  
6 Park Ave., Arkport, NY

**Call to order:** 7:00 pm

**Pledge to the Flag**

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Mayor George Prete	Trustee Ryan Beers	Trustee Mike Brewer
	Trustee Ezra Geist	Trustee Patricia Amidon	

**Absent Call:** Theo Holder, Clerk, Patty Lupo, Treasurer

**Others Present:** Bonnie Dungan, Deputy Clerk; Bill Rusby, CEO; Joe Demick, DPW/Water Supervisor; Mike McCarthy, Greg Persichilli, Jenny Reynolds, Robin Rink

**Approval of Minutes:** Board members received updated/corrected minutes to review prior to meeting. Mayor Prete read changes with regards to Motion 18. No additional corrections or additions made to the updated/corrected minutes of the August 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

**M22:** Motion made by Trustee Amidon, seconded by Trustee Geist, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting as approved. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:**

**Code Enforcement Officer:** Bill Rusby – Written Report

Review of Report from CEO (Code Enforcement Officer) Rusby – working on Dickenson variance; HP Hood Food Processing Plant expansion project is moving along. CEO Rusby has been keeping in contact with the progress of the expansion with the Project Review Manager. Refer to the report provided (green sheet) for the number of issued permits. The Hornellsville Apartments are waiting for special funding approvals for renovations (energy saving renovations). Once approved, renovations should happen fairly quickly.

Mayor Prete asked if there was a village ordinance against odors? CEO Rusby said there is a noxious odors code. The Hood project is a very large one and CEO Rusby believes this has something to do with the odors. The work being done on the Hood project is now at 100% peak performance. CEO Rusby believes once the addition is completed there should be some relief to the odor issue.

**DPW/Water Department:**

New DPW/Water Department Supervisor, Joe Demick reported on updates.

- The speed bump is now in place on Oliver Street closer to the athletic fields.
- DPW Supervisor is working with RAVA Systems and Cold Springs to finish repairs to the water plant to make sure radio and readings are working properly. Currently readings are not being fed to DPW/Supervisor's radio at his home so if there were a water-main break he would not know it. Also, he is trying to get the water pumps to run automatically so the pumps will only run when the tank needs filling and shut off when the appropriate level is reached instead of running 24/7.
- CHIPS funding: currently there is \$137,000 in the account and hasn't been used in last two years that he could tell. These funds can be used for purchasing equipment; purchases made during the fiscal year can then be reimbursed by the State within that same fiscal year. Also looking to blacktop a couple streets as blacktop lasts ~10 years and we have some streets close to that age that may need work done.
- Lead service line inventory: This is due October 16 and we need figure out the best way to get this information. He is missing ~120-130 houses, current return is 20%. We need to come up with way to reach people to get the information to us to avoid penalties. Mayor Prete asked what the penalties consist of. Public notice in the local newspaper and fines could be applied after that. There are no exceptions for extension.
- Fire Hydrants will be flushed in the near future to get rid of stagnant water.

- Park Updates:
  - The new handles and deadbolts on the Park bathroom doors work well, no issues
  - There was discussion regarding the draining the water pipes and lock the bathrooms for the season. It was suggested that last usage would be October 15 annually
  - Also discussed were the possibility of the park lights be on a timer or automatic on/off in the park pavilion

**M23:** Motion made by Trustee Amidon, seconded by Trustee Brewer to drain water and lock facilities annually on October 15. Roll Call, All ayes. Motion Carried

**Treasurer:** Deputy Clerk read in absence of Treasurer Lupo – Profit and loss reports for August 2024. General Fund income was \$35,110.19 and expenses were \$17,203.16. Water Fund income was \$60,368.13 and expenses were \$10,884.59

**M24:** Motion to approve Treasurer’s Profit and Loss reports for August 2024 for the General Fund, Water Fund as distributed and reviewed was made by Trustee Beers, seconded by Trustee Geist. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Abstract #3 Expenses for August 2024:**

General Fund	\$17,203.16	Vouchers and PR	#32 thru 46
Water Fund	\$10,884.59	Vouchers and PR	#16 thru 24

Abstract #3 Total \$28,087.75

**M25:** Motion made by Trustee Geist, seconded by Trustee Brewer, to approve ratification of Abstract #3 as presented. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Robin Rink presented a new initiative by the American Legion Women’s Auxiliary asking permission for the use of the grassy area as you first come into the village from Rt. 36 (Oliver and Old Main) for “Flags of Honor.” Flags would be available for purchase to honor past and present veterans. The hope is that they would be up for two weeks (11/9-23/2024), weather depending. The flags would have the name of the veteran, branch and years of service and the hope is to figure out a way to have lights for them (if possible). The Women’s Auxiliary would work with the DPW Supervisor as far as lighting, set-up, etc. The flags would then be returned to those who purchased them after the event is over. They will provide more details if permission is granted. Most of work will be done by Women’s Auxiliary and it is their hope to hold this event every year.

**M26:** Motion made by Mayor Prete, seconded by Trustee Geist, to grant permission for the American Legion Women’s Auxiliary’s request to use the Oliver and Old Main grassy area for “Flags of Honor.” Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Jenny Reynolds spoke with regards to parking on Sullivan Street, east side. Several Sullivan Street residents have reached out to her with regards to the restriction of parking on the west side and 100’ on east side (She owns both houses on the corner of East Avenue and Sullivan Street). She was wondering why the decision was made. She has never had an issue with parking on the street. She spoke with the Fire Department and they indicated, after testing with their larger firetrucks, they do not need 100’ clearance as long as there isn’t double parking on the street. Mayor Prete indicated that one of the concerns was with parking on sidewalk which is illegal throughout the village. Trustee Beers asked with regards to others on Sullivan; do they want it to go back to way was with no parking restriction or parking just on west side? Jenny indicated that they have never encountered an issue but she hasn’t spoken with everyone who lives on Sullivan Street. And, if the parking restriction is determined (100’ from corner) to be a need, then should this be done throughout the village, not just Sullivan. Mayor Prete indicated that action was taken at the last meeting with regards to street parking restriction on the entire west side of Sullivan Street and 100’ of east side of Sullivan Street. Mayor Prete indicated that they will reinvestigate the issue and will let Jenny know the outcome.

Mike McCarthy asked why a speed bump was placed on Oliver Street. Mayor Prete responded that there were complaints of people speeding through there when exiting the athletic fields. Mike indicated that people are now driving into his yard

to avoid the speed bump. Discussion ensued; Trustee Amidon shared that speed bumps were there years ago but were removed due to damage caused from plowing. Mayor Prete indicated that the board will look into it again due to “problems the speed bumps have created.”

**Old Business:**

**Shared Services:** A letter was sent to Hornell Mayor Buckley to investigate possibility of the Hornell Police Department being a presence within village of Arkport to help cut down on speeders. Mayor Prete has been invited to a meeting with Hornell Mayor Buckley and Police Chief to begin discussion. Mayor Prete contacted the State Police and was told that they (State Police) do not have the man power to patrol the village. Mayor Prete is checking with Sheriff Department and North Hornell Police as well.

**New Business:**

Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Exemption. To combat the low turnout for volunteers, there’s a legislation out for a 10% exemption for municipalities to pass on to volunteer firefighters and Ambulance workers. This is something the board would need to vote on and pass if it is something deemed appropriate for district. The deadline for a final decision is December 9, 2025. There is no current exemption being offered. A copy of the legislation has been provided to all board members and will be revisited at the next meeting for a vote.

Next Board Meeting date: **October 15, 2024.**

**M27:** Motion made by Trustee Amidon, seconded by Trustee Brewer to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Roll call. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Dungan  
Arkport Village Deputy Clerk