



VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING
85 MAIN STREET, COLD SPRING, NY 10516
TEL: (845) 265-3611 FAX: (845) 265-1002
WEB: WWW.COLDSRINGNY.GOV

Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Cold Spring held a Meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 via Videoconference as per Chapter 1 of the NY State Local Laws of 2022. Present were Mayor Kathleen E. Foley, Trustees Cathryn Fadde, Eliza Starbuck and Tweeps Woods. Trustee Joe Curto was absent. Also present was Michelle Ascolillo, Village Accountant/Treasurer. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opportunity to Request Vote to Add/Modify Agenda Items

K. Foley made a motion to MODIFY Agenda as follows:

- remove **Item #20 of the Agenda** (Report of the Mayor and Board of Trustees), in order to provide ample time for public comment; and
- table **Item #21 of the Agenda** (Resolution 08-2022 in Support of Keeping Breakneck Ridge MNR Station Closed), until the next Meeting.

C. Fadde seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-0-1 (Trustee Curto absent).

Announcements

K. Foley thanked the Community for their patience with the Royal Carting garbage bin roll-out, and assured the public that Village Staff were working with Royal Carting to resolve delivery and size issues. K. Foley reminded everyone that each tax parcel receives one garbage bin and one recycle bin. Landlords need to purchase additional bins for residential and commercial tenants. Brush pick-up scheduled for 4/14/2022 - debris must be placed in paper bags and sticks bundled for pick-up by Royal Carting. K. Foley stressed the importance of keeping a proper perspective and being good neighbors.

Public Hearing for FY 2022-23 Budget

K. Foley presented the Budget Message for 2022/2023. Public Comment on the Budget remained remain open for the entire Meeting. K. Foley commended Trustee Curto for his expertise and assistance in creating the Budget.

The Mayor's Presentation included the following:

- Budget Goals;

- Description of General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund;
- Real Property Tax Cap;
 - Village Budget meets the NYS Tax cap and Village taxes will increase 1.895%
- Water and Sewage Rates
 - Rates have remained flat since 2004 and 2008 respectively;
 - Flat rate fees to remain the same for either service;
 - Water usage rate to increase to \$3.20 per 1,000 gallons from \$3.05;
 - Sewage usage rate to increase to \$1.24 per 1,000 gallons from \$1.125.

K. Foley noted the General Fund includes:

- significant commitment to capital projects and infrastructure improvements;
- investment in and commitment to Village staff;
- increased funding for Village wide tree care and maintenance;
- increased use of technology to streamline code enforcement, expansion of and community engagement via hybrid broadcast/in-person Village Board Meetings.

K. Foley made special mention of the Village's commitment of \$5,000 of the General Fund to build a partnership with the Cold Spring Police Department and the Philipstown HUB to establish a pilot contract program for mental health services. The goal of the pilot program are as follows:

- Increase amount and quality of local mental health resources available to officers as they assist residents;
- Provide professional development for officers re: response to mental health and addiction related calls.

M. Ascolillo clarified the factors in the NYS Property Tax Cap:

- 2% flat rate OR the rate of inflation;
- Allowable growth factor; and
- Carryover component.

Village growth has increased by projects such as the Butterfield Development and other improvements, resulting new places for people to live and visit. In addition, the Village did not meet the requirement last year so there is a carry-over for this year. As a result, the Village had the ability to raise approximately \$111,000 in taxes. However, the Village opted not to levy at the growth rate of 6.3%, rather, increased the property taxes by only half the allowable amount, to 3.35 %. Estimated impact to property owners tax bills, assuming no changes to the assessment value of the individual property, should be 1.895%, subject to some fluctuation in the final Putnam County tax roll to be finalized by end of April 2022.

Board Comment - None

No comments from Board Members.

Public Comment

Resident Jeff Mikkelson of the Village Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of the Pilot Program to fund the Philipstown HUB services for mental health and addiction service resources for law enforcement.

K. Foley confirmed that no additional locational cameras installed in Mayor's Park at this time. There is one locational camera at present.

No further public comment. K. Foley stated that public hearing will be kept open until later in the Meeting.

Report of the Accountant

- **ARPA Update**

K. Foley stated that the Village has received part of an approximate \$200,000 ARPA funding. There is ongoing discussion about using the funds to change filters at the Water Treatment Plant. There is also a proposal for \$200,000 coming to the Village from the Putnam County share of ARPA funding. The Board is seeking guidance from engineers and contractors to determine which projects should benefit from those funds.

- **ARPA Report**

M. Ascolillo made the following ARPA report:

- First ARPA annual report is due April 30th;
- Report must state a committed project; or
- Provide a narrative as to why no approved project has yet been identified.

M. Ascolillo recommended preparing the report with the following narrative:

- Village is contemplating water plant improvements including repairing/refurbishing water filters;
- Village is waiting for the engineering RFP;
- Village requires better designs and pricing.

Board Comment

C. Fadde commented that the water treatment plant repairs would be the best use of the funds without going into major engineering and reporting.

Report of Highway Department

Robert Downey, Jr. submitted a Report (attached) and commented that since the Department is no longer responsible for garbage and recycling pick-up, it has been able to repair a collapsed sidewalk, assess all 140 catch basins and prioritize replacement of same, clean the streets, and are moving along to do painting and continue road and sidewalk maintenance.

Report of Water and Wastewater Department

Matt Kroog submitted a Report (attached) and reported that hydrant flushing/repairs going on this week. The Department is trying to get equipment labor quotes, and hopes that a new operator hire will assist in getting work done faster.

Report of Building Department

K. Foley reported that the Town of Philipstown Building Inspector has been assisting the Village with Code Enforcement pursuant to an intermunicipal agreement. Town Supervisor Robert Flaherty reported that a new part-time assistant building inspector was recently hired and will be concentrating on fire inspections for the time being.

Report of the Police Department

OIC Larry Burke submitted a Report (attached) and read into the record a letter from the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, thanking the CSPD for their professional aid and assistance in a serious traffic accident in Philipstown on March 15, 2022. CSPD Officers Edward Boulanger and Robert Barkley received a commendation for their assistance at the scene. K. Foley also noted OIC Burke's assistance at scene in his capacity as a member of the North Highlands Fire Department. OIC Burke also reported all new CSPD officers are out on patrol on their own after completion of their training. OIC Burke further reported that CSPD has maintained a presence on the MNR platform during rush hour for continued safety following the recent MTA subway attack in NYC.

Board Comment

C. Fadde commented that newly-appointed Officer Barkley assisted her recently with a delicate situation, and he handled the matter with compassion. .

Report of the Fire Company

Chief Jeff Phillips submitted a Report (attached). K. Foley noted the Fire Department reported several rescues are increasing due to the warmer weather. K. Foley thanked the Fire Department for its continued aid on the mountain and mutual aid at Anthony's Nose. K. Foley also commented that the Fire Company supports the keeping of the Breakneck Ridge MNR Station to avoid added strain on Village First Responders.

Report of the Justice Court

Justice Court submitted a Report (attached) and reported a total of \$5,160.00 collected for fees and fines for the month of March 2022.

Report of the Historic District Review Board

The HDRB submitted a Report (attached) and stated they have met twice in March to continue work on the Design Standards.

Report of the Planning Board

The Planning Board submitted a Report (attached) and unanimously approved the change-of-use Application for Butterfield #1 and continues to work with 40 Main Street LLC to move the project forward.

Report of the Zoning Board of Appeals

Chairperson Eric Wirth submitted a Report (attached) and was present at the Meeting. He reported that the Board conducted workshops on two applications. The Board determined neither application required a variance. E. Wirth commented that the recent Code change in fence height has reduced Board activity.

Report of the Tree Advisory Board

No report.

Report of the Recreation Commission

Jeff Amato submitted a Report (attached) and stated that the Village is working with Haldane to conduct maintenance of the ball field at Mayor's Park. Repairs have been made to the bathrooms at Mayor's Park.

Report of the Town of Philipstown

Town Supervisor Robert Flaherty present and reported there was a two-hour meeting on the Fjord Trial. The Town joins with the Village in opposing the reopening of the Breakneck Ridge MNR Station. After nine hours of public hearings which concluded on March 17, 2022, the Shakespeare Festival withdrew plans for the indoor theater and adding twenty rooms to the hotel. E-waste collection will start up again on May 30th.

K. Foley commented that the Board wants to have the Parks Department come to the Village to make a presentation on the Fjord Trail. Nelsonville has been asked to join the Meeting.

Report of the Legislator

Legislator Montgomery stated she has spoken with the Commission of Finance about ARPA Funding for the Village and is confident the Village will receive funding.

Report of the Chamber of Commerce

K. Foley thanked the Chamber of Commerce for preparing the first portion of the Village “Cold Spring in Bloom” and for working collaboratively with the TAB. Nat Prentice reported the Visitor Center will open on May 28th. Nat Prentice submitted a Report (attached) and stated that the Chamber of Commerce has decided it will not be responsible for cleaning the bathrooms on the weekends as the Chamber Board believes it is solely the Village’s responsibility.

Board Comment

K. Foley clarified that the Village had requested bridge funding from now until early summer pending the hiring of a consolidated cleaning service among public buildings. K. Foley expressed disappointment with the Chamber’s decision not to enter into a temporary partnership with the Village, noting that businesses benefit from the visitors who shop in the Village. K. Foley clarified the request was for a short-term coverage.

Correspondence

K. Foley read a letter into the record from resident Karen Jackson, thanking the CSPD for everything they do for the Village.

K. Foley read a letter into the record from Sean Conway requesting that the Village display the Pride Flag in honor of National Pride Month in June. K. Foley consulted the Department of Veteran’s Affairs for guidance on displaying flags other than the U.S. Flag. An example of the proposed flag was shared with all participants at the Meeting.

Board Comments

Board Members expressed their full support for displaying the flag.

Report of the Mayor and Board of Trustees

Report of the Mayor and Board of Trustees was tabled until the next Board Meeting.

Resolution 08-2022 in Support of Keeping Breakneck Ridge MNR Station Closed

Resolution 08-2022 was tabled until the next Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes

T. Woods made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2022. C. Fadde seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-0-1 (J. Curto absent).

Public Comment

J. Mikkelson thanked Trustee Starbuck for initiating the conversation about balancing law enforcement spending and Mental Health needs, as well as raising questions related to locational cameras..

J. Mikkelson (now speaking for the Chamber of Commerce) stated that the Chamber of Commerce is not trying to shirk responsibility with respect to maintenance of public bathrooms. He noted it was the Chamber that advocated the opening of the public bathrooms last year. There was a temporary agreement that the Chamber would contribute financially to the cost of cleaning. The Chamber of Commerce now unanimously holds the Village to be responsible for the maintenance.

K. Foley clarified that presently the Village was seeking bridge funding for bathroom maintenance on Saturday and Sunday only. The Board is putting together a larger plan for the care and cleaning of municipal buildings. The Village requested help on the weekends as the Highway Department staff receives double time on weekends and also deserves time off. K. Foley reiterated her disappointment with the Chamber's decision.

K. Foley noted that the Village public bathrooms are officially open seven days a week. The Village has repaired and upgraded the bathrooms, which will also be painted and marked with new signs.

Motion to Close Public Hearing on the Budget

K. Foley made a motion to close the public hearing. E. Starbuck seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 4-0-0-1 (J. Curto absent).

A Resolution approving the Budget will come before the Board on April 27th. M. Ascolillo commented that should there be any unexpected changes prior to the 27th a statement will be issued.

Adjournment

T. Woods made a motion to adjourn the meeting. E. Starbuck seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 4-0-0-1 (J. Curto absent). Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by: K. Herbert

Jeff Vidakovich, Village Clerk

Date