

VILLAGE OF LYNDONVILLE

TRUSTEES MINUTES

December 16th, 2019

5:30 PM

Trustees

Chris Hunter
Heather Bollman
Susan Mills
Doug Conly
Sarah Whittemore

Press

Public Officials

Justin Smith
Bill Humphrey
Clay Bailey

Public

1. Chris Hunter called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda:
3. Minutes: A. Chris Hunter made a motion to approve the November 4th, 2019 minutes. Sue Mills seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

B. Chris Hunter made a motion to approve the November 18th, 2019 minutes. Heather Bollman seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.
4. Sign the Orders: The Board signed the orders.
5. Plowing Complaint: Justin Smith noted that he had received a complaint from Robert McKee the owner of 475 Hill Street stating that we are plowing and salting too often and there is no need to be out for ½” of snow. Among his concerns were that it ruins equipment, it is a detriment to the environment (overuse of salt) and is a waste of tax-payer money. Mr. Smith said that he had attempted to explain to Mr. McKee that the Town and Village adopted a clear roads policy years ago and that for every complaint the Village or Town received from someone sharing his view, that we probably receive 5-10 complaints that we were not doing enough. Mr. Smith noted that the location of Mr. McKee’s property is close to the joint garage and very close to two of our steepest hills in the Village which require a lot of attention. Mr. Smith felt that the Town trucks leaving to plow, sand, or salt could potentially be mistaken as Village vehicles as well. Obviously, we will never please everyone, but Mr. Smith noted Mr. McKee was very respectful and just asked that the concern be brought before the Board at the next meeting.
6. Pension Annual Payment: Mr. Smith began the discussion by stating that Bill Humphrey, one of the two Trustees of the Village of Lyndonville Employee Pension Plan, received an invoice in the amount of \$1,705.00 for “professional services rendered”, as well as a per participant fee from the Newport Group. This fee is a significant increase from previous years. This fee covers 13 participants; five are LED employees who continue to have contributions submitted, one is a retired LED employee, and the Village has seven participants, none of which are contributing money. Mr. Smith stated that he believes that Lyndonville Electric has always paid any annual fees charged, but that was prior to this significant increase. As of this time LED has paid the invoice in full. Dawn Dwyer requested that the Trustees okay the reimbursement back to LED because she is reluctant to reimburse LED since this was not included in the 2019 budget that was approved by the Trustees. She would like a formal motion authorizing the reimbursement to LED in the amount of \$870.00. Bill Humphrey stated he would be okay with covering the fees this year, but he requested that the Village create a budget line for future years. Mr. Humphrey noted that he is in the process of looking to move the money elsewhere. In his opinion the fee is extremely high considering at least 7 or 8 of the participants are not even contributing money any longer. Mr. Smith stated that several participants have been told in the past that they could not move the money, but it appears that Mr. Humphrey had spoken to Deb Levine from the Newport Group and individuals

can move their money out of the fund. Mr. Humphrey also noted if participants did not wish to move their money we could charge each participant an administration fee to cover the expenses or in the case of those who have less than \$5,000 invested we can require them to move their money out of the pension fund. Mr. Humphrey will continue to investigate options for moving the funds elsewhere for a fund with less administrative costs.

7. Other: a. Mr. Smith showed the Board a piece of water line from the water break which occurred over the weekend. Mr. Smith noted that there appears to be a problem with stray voltage in two locations in the Village. The Village Water System has had three waterline leaks on Raymond Street, which appear to be caused by electricity arcing on the pipe and creating a hole. The Village has had two similar issues on Middle Street as well. Mr. Smith explained to the Board that it is electrical code for the electric box to be bonded to the waterlines within a building, however when stray voltage moves down the water main and finds a rock high in metal it arcs and starts to eat its way through the waterline. Mr. Smith stated that collectively we are trying to resolve the issue.

b. Summer Hours: Mr. Smith stated that the Public Works Supervisor, Joe Dauphin had expressed to him that the crew was disappointed by the decision to cut back the time period of 4-day work weeks in the spring through fall season. Sarah Whittemore said that she had heard similar concerns. Mr. Smith said that Mr. Dauphin had asked to come before the Board to state the case for why the Crew should be allowed to continue with 4-day weeks during the “construction” season. The Board agreed to discuss the issue with Mr. Dauphin. Justin Smith said that he would set the meeting up for a future meeting.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.