

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NORTH HORSELL VILLAGE BOARD
November 8, 2021 6:00PM
Meeting Minutes**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor John Falci
Trustees: Joseph Ingalls, Joseph Flint, Trustee Richard Head,
Absent: Trustee Joshua Greenthal
Clerk Vanessa Scott
Superintendent Rich Scavo
Treasurer Kristene Libordi
Chief Mike Robbins
Police Chief/OIC Kyle Amidon
Code Enforcement Officer William Rusby
Local Radio: Brian O’Neal
Other Attendees: Derrick Prutsman
Jim Bebout

Mayor Falci opened the meeting at 6PM with the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes from the monthly meeting held on October 18, 2021 was made by Trustee Joseph Flint seconded by Trustee Richard Head and carried.

Mayor Falci	Aye	Trustee Greenthal	Absent
Trustee Ingalls	Aye	Trustee Head	Aye
Trustee Flint	Aye		

TREASURER REPORT

Motion to accept the treasurer’s report from October 2021 was made by Trustee Joseph Ingalls seconded by Trustee Richard Head and carried.

Mayor Falci	Aye	Trustee Greenthal	Absent
Trustee Ingalls	Aye	Trustee Head	Aye
Trustee Flint	Aye		

Confirmation of actual Fund Balance as of the date of this meeting is \$243,000.00.

CLERK REPORT

Motion to accept the clerk’s report from October 2021 was made by Mayor John Falci seconded by Trustee Joseph Flint and carried.

Mayor Falci	Aye	Trustee Greenthal	Absent
Trustee Ingalls	Aye	Trustee Head	Aye
Trustee Flint	Aye		

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer William Rusby reported it has been a busy last couple of months with building permits. Motion to accept the Code Enforcement report from September and October 2021 was made by Trustee Richard Head, seconded by Trustee Joseph Ingalls and carried.

Mayor Falci	Aye	Trustee Greenthal	Absent
Trustee Ingalls	Aye	Trustee Head	Aye
Trustee Flint	Aye		

Trustee Richard Head asked how fees are decided for building permits. CEO Bill Rusby informed him that the are based on estimate of the job and the board makes the changes as they feel necessary.

NORTH HORNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Kyle Amidon reviewed a few items on his report. He informed the board that the prescription drug drop box has been delivered. Mayor Falci asked Chief Amidon to explain to the board and residents how the drop box will work. After a brief explanation, it was agreed the box will be placed in the vestibule of the Clerk's office and will be available for residents to drop any unused and expired medications during Village office hours.

Chief Amidon also informed the board that a complimentary grant was received for a needle container so this will also be made available when it arrives.

Chief Amidon informed the board that the officer he hired to replace Officer Crouch is ready to be trained and patrol in North Hornell.

Trustee Joseph Flint asked for clarification of the original yearly fee that was paid in 2020 for the contract with Canisteo. The \$5,000 will be discussed between Mayors and a final cost will be agreed on and then will need board approval during budget.

Motion to accept the North Hornell Police Department report was made by Trustee Joseph Flint seconded by Trustee Richard Head and carried.

Mayor Falci	Aye	Trustee Greenthal	Absent
Trustee Ingalls	Aye	Trustee Head	Aye
Trustee Flint	Aye		

Complaints	10
Community Services Rendered	33
Assist Other Departments	6
Traffic Stops	12
Total Calls Handled for the Month:	61

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Total Calls for the Month: 16
Town: 6
Village: 6
Fire Alarm Checks: 4
M/A: 0

Motion to accept the Fire Chief's report was made by Mayor John Falci, Seconded by Trustee Richard Head and carried.

Mayor Falci	Aye	Trustee Greenthal	Absent
Trustee Ingalls	Aye	Trustee Head	Aye
Trustee Flint	Aye		

Fire Chief Michael Robbins reported they are currently operating on the high band which means they are now able to use the high band that they were unable to use in the past. This is due to a grant received by the County that they applied for several years ago and just received the funds to move forward and making the high band service available for all operations. Availability of low band is still available if necessary but, at this time everything seems to be going well with the high band.

Chief Robbins reported on the warranty on the batteries with Motorola discussed in previous meetings. This covers any batteries that need to be replaced. There are only 4 batteries that fall in to this warranty.

Chief Robbins asked where things are as far as Engine 85. Repairs need to be made and paid for. Engine 85 has been up at Churchville for several weeks and out of service. Tire prices were discussed; other repairs that need to be completed were discussed along with other issues that continue to be found as the truck goes through the remainder of the service. Trustee Rich Head asked Chief Robbins for copies of the estimates. Chief Robbins said he would provide these for the Mayor and Board Members. He continued by saying the estimate for the tires are from an estimate he received for Engine 15 and thinks it should be about the same. Trustee Ingalls asked for clarification of why tires for Engine are now being brought up when it isn't in the budget. Chief Robbins continued by stating he didn't budget for tires for Engine 85 because at budget time he wasn't sure what direction the board was going to go with Engine 85. (If they were going to pursue purchasing the new one and selling Engine 85) More discussion continued about the age of the tires on Engine 85. Mayor Falci confirmed with Chief Robbins that options were being discussed during budget time therefore the reason for the lack of tires for Engine 85 being accounted for. Chief Robbins said he understood that options are still open if funds can be obtained.

After a lengthy discussion of all repairs that need to be done to Engine 85 in order to bring it back into service for the Village of North Hornell the amount for the repairs discussed is approximately \$20,000.00. Chief Robbins said the board needs to decide what direction they would like to go at this point.

Treasurer Kristene Libordi told the board that money would need to be moved from the Contingent account to pay for the repairs discussed on Engine 85.

Mayor said he would think that with all of the work being done to Engine 85 should bring the truck back in to service for a while. It is difficult for the Village to continue to get surprises like this and at this amount. This is the best, at this time that the Village can do without stepping out and purchasing a new truck that is not affordable for the Village at this time. The Board is in agreement that the work needs to be done and payment is inevitable. Further discussion continued and at this time the Mayor reiterated that Engine 85 has to be fixed to bring it back in to service and reality is that the Village is not able to step out and get an invoice in the amount of 10,000 to 20,000 each time nor are they in a position to purchase the new truck at this time.

Clerk Vanessa Scott confirmed with Chief Robbins that Churchville will bill the Village or do they want the money upfront. Chief Robbins said they will bill as they always do. A motion is not necessary at this time to move money until which time it is needed to pay the invoice when the work is complete.

Trustee Richard Head said he still would like to see the quote for repairs that are being reported necessary. He said there may be some repairs that they may want to challenge or question the need at this time. He said he would agree to pay to a certain amount and then approve the rest after seeing the completed estimate and it is reviewed by the board. He said, "I am not in favor of just giving out blank checks." Trustee Head also asked what the timeline is to get the truck fixed if the board approves the repairs. Chief Robbins replied that they are good about getting the truck in as soon as he tells them the board approved repairs.

Mayor Falci told Chief Robbins to go ahead and get the said repairs done to Engine 85 to get it back in to service. He continued by saying, the repairs need to get completed and asked the board if anyone had a problem with Chief Robbins informing Churchville to move forward with repairs and to get Engine 85 back to the Fire House in North Hornell and back in service. Trustee Ingalls said it seems like it will be almost a brand new truck. Mayor Falci agreed. Trustee Joseph Flint said he agrees. Trustee Head said he doesn't have a problem with the \$7,000; it's the \$20,000.00 total that he wants to see the quotes for to make sure the items to be repaired are actually necessary.

Chief Robbins confirmed that the board knows the \$7,111.00 for repairs does not include the cost of the replacement of tires. The cost for the 6 tires is \$3,500.00. Both amounts are approved at this time.

Chief Robbins brought to the board's attention that they will be attending several parades coming up. A check in the amount of \$200.00 was approved in the budget and will be written to the Fire Company for the Christmas parade and gathering after.

Chief Robbins discussed a "Notice of Funding" from FEMA for a grant for 2021 that was announced today. He said it is available through and must be filed by December 17, 2021. He said he has been discussing this grant with other groups and this would possibly be a "group grant" for turn-out gear. In order to outfit each firefighter with turn-out gear, it cost roughly \$4,500.00 per outfit. The grant covers enough for all 35 members of the Village of North Hornell Fire Department. Chief Robbins reported some of the current turn-out gear is in need of replacement.

If every member of the Village of North Hornell Fire Department were to receive new turn-out gear, it would be \$155,575.00 approximately. The cost figured by Chief Robbins with numbers that he currently has as far as cost. The "shared cost" incurred for North Hornell would be approximately 5% which comes to \$7,779.00. He reiterated that the amount given is an estimate at this time. He told the board he is bringing this to them now so he is not coming to them 2 or 3 days before the grant date is coming to a close.

These will not be ordered all at once. Each set has a life expectancy of 12-15 years and the gear is not ordered unless it is needed and or a new member is accepted and needs the gear. Chief Robbins said you can't pre-order gear unless you have someone that will be utilizing it right away. Sizes need to be known so they would only order for current members. He continued by saying, the last grant received like this one was back in 2004 and the money was held in the account until the gear was needed and sizes were known for each firefighter. Chief Robbins said the money usually has to be expended within 2 years of receiving it but extensions can be requested.

Further discussion took place and Trustee Ingalls said he remembered the discussions that each year sets were ordered to continue having safe gear for firefighters. Chief Robbins told the board that he tries to order 2 new sets of turn-out gear each year. Some of the sets are in good condition still but some are in need of replacement. There are about 12-15 sets that are at the end of the 10 year time period that they require replacement. The cost for 35 sets of new turn-out gear to the Village through this grant would not cost as much as if the Village just purchased 2 sets of gear without the grant. The total without the grant for 2 new, complete sets would be \$9,000.00 and the cost to the Village with the grant for 35 sets is \$7,779.00. Chief Robbins said this would make everyone in the department set for 10 years and within that 10 years the Village would need to be starting to be replaced periodically.

Trustee Head asked what the Chief is asking for. He needs the board to approve the grant writing to apply for the money. Chief Robbins said there will be a grant writer fee that will be associated with it and he thought he may be able to get the Fire Company to pay that fee. Mayor Falci asked when the approval was needed. Chief Robbins said it would be best to get it sooner than later so they can begin the process and not be pushing it to the end of the allotted time to get the grant in.

The grant will need to be written for the total amount of fire fighters that the Village of North Hornell allows and that number currently is a total of 35. The "unofficial estimate is \$155,757.00" at this time.

Trustee Richard Head thought this is a good deal for the amount that 2 full sets of gear would cost the Village each year compared to the cost discussed above for 35 full sets through the grant. So at this time, the board decided to approve the grant writing with the Fire Company to pay for the grant writing fee. Chief Robbins said the highest the grant writing fee has been is \$2,000.00. He also said that with this being shared by several departments, the grant writing fee would be split by those departments as well.

Mayor John Falci made the motion to approve the Fire Department to get more information and apply for the FEMA Notice of Funding Grant in the amount of \$155,500.00 for new turn-out gear for the entire department, up to 35 members with the Fire Company paying for the grant writing fee and was seconded by Trustee Richard Head and carried.

Mayor Falci Aye Trustee Greenthal Absent

Trustee Ingalls Aye Trustee Head Aye
Trustee Flint Aye

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Motion to accept the Maintenance Department report was made by Mayor John Falci, Seconded by Trustee Joseph Ingalls and carried.

Mayor Falci Aye Trustee Greenthal Absent
Trustee Ingalls Aye Trustee Head Aye
Trustee Flint Aye

Superintendent Rich Scavo reported that leaf pick up has gone well this fall. Some residents had metal pieces, coat hanger and other debris in their leaves. Fortunately these were noticed before being cleaned up with the leaf collection system.

Superintendent Scavo provided a flow chart to the board. He said there seems to definitely be an infiltration problem. He continued to voice some concerns of residents pumping into the system but noted that it should not be considered to be the only concern at this time. He told the board this would be all the more reason that testing should be done sooner than later. He provided photos of items found that were flushed through the system but again, not certain where these items came from. He guessed that it was possible they came from somewhere between the bowling alley and the pump station.

Superintendent Scavo reported that the new hydrant has been installed and is in service as well as the school is hooked up and everything seems to be working fine at this time.

Superintendent Scavo asked the board to approve the MRB Group to do a study to see where the issues are for the sewer station. It will cost \$17,000.00 for the engineer to determine what needs to be done for the repair and begin the bidding process. To send a camera through the system would cost approximately \$30,000.00 for the whole Village. He reported the last time a full system check was performed in the entire Village was in 1969. This system check would possibly start at the pump station and go to Bethesda and possibly the rest depending on the decision of the board. The board discussed the proposal and thought that some of the money to cover the expense could come from the ARPA money because is it infrastructure work. Trustee Ingalls said he is interested in having ½ of the study done but get estimates for the cost of a full study as well.

A motion to approve a contract with the MRB Group for Engineering Services from the proposal received on October 18, 2021 in the amount of \$17,900.00 was made by Trustee Joseph Flint, seconded by Trustee Richard Head and carried. The proposal is for a sewer study of the Village of North Hornell.

Mayor Falci Aye Trustee Greenthal Absent
Trustee Ingalls Aye Trustee Head Aye
Trustee Flint Aye

ARPA Funding

The board didn't have much to discuss on this issue at this meeting. Superintendent Scavo continues to suggest waiting to purchase supplies for the spring projects.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 41-2021 APPROVE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

The following Resolution was offered by Trustee Joseph Ingalls, seconded by Trustee Richard Head and carried,

RESOLVED, that the Village of North Hornell Board of Trustees at the monthly meeting on November 8, 2021, approved to pay vouchers from the General Account starting with number 181-192 in the amount of \$7,252.70. Pay voucher number 30 from the Sewer Account in the amount of \$382.34

	Aye	Nay
Mayor Falci	X	
Trustee Ingalls	X	
Trustee Greenthal	Absent	
Trustee Flint	X	
Trustee Head	X	

Office Construction

Minor discussion took place. No prices have been obtained at this time. The board asked Superintendent Scavo to continue discussing options with a contractor that he has been talking to about the construction, to retain pricing and this will be discussed at budget time in 2022.

OTHER

Village Attorney

Mayor Falci reported that he continues to working on this and looking into options. No decisions were made at this time and further discussion will resume at the December 2021 meeting. The current Attorney's fee has been planned for the current budget. Mayor Falci stated possibly using the current Attorney in an emergency and prorate what is owed and the remainder to go to the Attorney that the Board votes as the new Village Attorney. No final decisions were made at this time.

Rodent Control

Clerk Vanessa Scott informed the board that Robert Mullen returned her call and confirmed that he continues to be available for rodent control in the Village. There may be times that he can't come right at the time that the resident needs him there but he will help as soon as he is available.

Trustee Richard Head motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mayor John Falci and was carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Scott
Village Clerk