

## VILLAGE BOARD - MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 4, 2021 7:00pm

**Location: Village Courthouse, 49 State St., available via Zoom and recorded and posted to the village website.**  
Join Zoom Meeting with the login information below or dial 1-(646) 558-8656

**All in person attendance is subject to mandatory masking and distancing requirements. No mask shall be removed unless the person is speaking, and only one speaker is permitted at a time.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Margaret Blackman, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Annette Crane, Trustee Katherine Kristansen, Trustee John LaPierre, Trustee Shawn Halquist, Manager/Clerk Erica Linden, Recorder Susan Smith

**ALSO PRESENT:** Bernie LoBracco, Kevin Jenkins, Fred Webster

**VIA ZOOM:** Joan Hamlin, Chris Hamlin

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** to honor those who serve our Country, enforce our laws, & respond to emergencies

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments/questions will be accepted during the meeting at this time. Virtual participants can raise their hands and will be called on to speak. Policy for Public Comment: 5 min/per person/ state name and address for record / clearly address the Board / submit copy of remarks to Clerk the following day for the record.

- Kevin Jenkins, 153 West Ave – Mr. Jenkins expressed his concern that sidewalks have areas where protruding vegetation interferes with the pathway. He requested that the village make sidewalk repair a top priority. He requested that all nonessential grants be stopped and for taxpayers to be refunded for all nonessential projects.

### **CONSENSUS ITEMS:**

- Minutes:
  - Regular Meeting 7-19-21
  - Regular Meeting 9-20-21
  - Workshop 9-27-21

→ Trustee Halquist moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, to approve the 7-19-21, 9-20-21, and 9-27-21 minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

### **MANAGER/CLERK REPORT:**

Manager/Clerk – Erica L. Linden

- Website and Software updates
  - Clerk Pardun has been training with the IT group, to make basic updates to the website resulting in cost savings and efficiency. Additionally, many online forms have been updated to fillable forms.
  - Deputy Clerk Treasurer Krizen, in her capacity as the Water Clerk, has been working with new software and formed an excellent collaboration with the water meter readers. As a result, there will be significant cost savings for the village.
- Taxpayer unpaid tax notices will be published in the Westside News and on the village website. The last day for payment is Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. After that date, the re-levy amount will be brought to the Village Board for authorization to forward to Monroe County for re-levy.
- Employee Covid-19 formalized vaccination or testing requirements and masking
  - Vaccination/Testing has kept office staff busy this week working on logistics and implementation. Employees have begun the process, appointments have been scheduled and if exempt, paperwork has been submitted. There have been a couple of glitches with testing. The police department schedule is not a standard week, so they are working on a sensible plan. Also, testing is in short supply as cases in our area have increased. Clerk Linden is exploring solutions, such as procuring self-test kits or partnering with another local organization.
  - Masking – Everyone has been made aware of the 9/27/21 re-affirmed amended masking policy and compliance has been excellent.

### **OLD or NEW BUSINESS:**

- Authorize resolution for the IMPACT grant, due 10/15/21, for two Brockport Community Museum Panels  
Mayor Blackman read the following description that will be sent in with the application for the grant.
  - Brockport is one of three Eric Canal municipalities that has two lift bridges over the canal, the Park Avenue bridge erected in 1913 and the Main Street bridge erected in 1915. These bridges are an integral

part of the daily life of community members who drive, bicycle, and walk across them every day. They are equally very much a part of Brockport's history and sense of place. The Brockport Community Museum, in conjunction with the Village of Brockport proposes two interpretive panels. One for each bridge that detail in text and photos the history of each bridge from the first bridges that crossed the canal in 1820's to the present. Timed to be erected during the 18-month Main Street bridge closure beginning in August 2022, the panels will enhance inconvenienced residents and visitors, appreciation for Brockport's lift bridges, as well as provide a legacy of these unique structures for future generations.

- Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, to authorize the Village's grant writers, Roberts J. Miller and Associates, to prepare the application to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's IPMACT grant opportunity. Funding will be used to support the development and creation of interpretive panels that showcase Brockport's two lift bridges. The Village's grant request will be no less than \$2,500 nor exceed \$12,000. The Village will provide a one-to-one match of requested grant funds.  
Motion carried 5-0.
- Brockport Paddle Pedal Excursions on the Canal – Mayor Blackman commented that the free excursions held, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> – October 10<sup>th</sup> Saturdays and Sundays, 3 session per day, have been going very well and have been well attended, with a few no shows. The 3<sup>rd</sup> session on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> was canceled due to heavy rain. Many volunteers, including college students and village employees, have made these excursions possible. Marlene Cain was paid (but not nearly enough) by NYPA as coordinator for these events. She has done an outstanding job organizing the volunteers and overseeing the logistics. Post-excursion survey results have been very complimentary, with one more weekend to go.
  - Town-Gown Committee Meeting - Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane commented that on September 29<sup>th</sup> she attended the Town-Gown Zoom meeting on behalf of Mayor Blackman, as she could not attend. She gave the following report of topics covered at the meeting.
    - Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane reported to the Town-Gown Committee on the following topics: Where we are Going with Cannabis, Paddle/Pedal Excursions, two college interns working with Village Hall staff, Grant applications related to the Brockport Loop, new hires in the DPW and Police Departments, the Bridging the Closure Committee, and new businesses that have opened in Brockport.
    - President Macpherson reported that the college is open in person, as 96% of students fully vaccinated. The remaining 4% have medical or religious exemptions. The college performed 6,000 PCR COVID tests the first week students returned and 47 were positive, which is less than 1%. The enrollment census at 6,992, which is close to what was budgeted, but less than they had hoped. Most of the decline seems to be in returning students, probably due to COVID related social and educational issues. 78% of faculty and staff have provided proof of vaccination and the remainder get tested weekly and are masked. Indoor mask requirements are still in place but may be lifted if things progress except for the unvaccinated. The College is being re-accredited. Facilities and grounds improvement projects continue.
    - Subcommittee reports:
      - Greater Brockport Alcohol and Drug Community Coalition (GBADCC) - the chair Lauren Mazzeo reported that cannabis use is up, alcohol use is down both here and nationally. It was pointed out, both at this point in the meeting and when I spoke about cannabis earlier, that cannabis use on campus is still illegal. The coalition will have results on a student survey on drug and alcohol use next week. They have applied for OASAS funding to work with both Village Police and Campus Police on “high risk days” and the work will focus on education. Also, they will collaborate with the High School on cannabis education and the new legalization laws.
        - Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane commented that she would like to get feedback from the GBADCC, as the board considers either opting out or remaining opted in and developing regulations. Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane will reach out to Lauren Mazzeo and possibly attend the committee's next two meetings.
      - Communications/Community Subcommittee – the chair Rachel Kluth reported that the committee would like to find a way to link college and village calendars together on websites. A video was shared that will be used when recruiting faculty and staff, which encourages new hires to live in the Brockport area. Once the video is finalized, the link will be posted to share with the public. SUNY Fine Arts events are in person events this year. Also, there are planetarium shows open to the community. SUNY Homecoming events will be 10/21-10/23 and include a Friday night movie in the football stadium on a drive-in type of screen but it is a walk-in event and a Saturday parade-theme “Brockport is back in Action” followed by football game. SUNY Take Back the Night event & 1.5-mile walk will be October 6th. Golf carts will be available for those with mobility issues.

- Off Campus Housing – the chair Jennifer Wood shared that the committee was not very active the past year, as classes were remote. They are focusing on basic needs such as food insecurity. Currently working with Dan Brockway of the Baptist Church, his college intern, and the Food Shelf in the Episcopal Church to provide for those students in need.
  - Walk! Bike! Brockport! – the committee has been very active but as chair has relocated, they are currently seeking a replacement.
  - Brockport Central School District - Superintendent Sean Bruno spoke briefly stating that there has been no COVID transmission on campus to date.
  - Brockport Welcome Center – Director Susan Smith mentioned center is closing for the season October 14<sup>th</sup> and that SUNY interns have been volunteering at the Welcome Center. Additionally, the Brockport Merchants Association is partnering with SUNY Brockport and the Brockport Chamber for the Where's Ellsworth Scavenger Hunt in October and merchants are having First Friday events at individual businesses.
  - Bridging the Closure Committee – co-chair Trustee Kristensen commented that at the first few meetings the committee met with Dept of Transportation (DOT), Village of Fairport and Village of Spencerport officials. At the next committee meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, they will be finalizing the mission statement, will be selecting sub-committees, and SUNYN intern responsibilities.
  - November 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting – Public comment invited on retail cannabis dispensaries and on-site cannabis consumption establishments  
 Mayor Blackman commented that she had a number of questions and spoke with New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) General Counsel Wade Beltramo earlier in the day. She asked him if municipalities have to opt out of both cannabis retail sales and places of consumption or if they can opt out of one and not the other. His response was the latter, municipalities can opt out of one and not the other. Additionally, if a municipality does not opt out, adult-use license types will be required and issued by the New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM). OCM will regulate the number of cannabis dispensaries to avoid competition.
- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane seconded, to authorize a public hearing to be held on November 1, 2021, 7 pm at 49 State St, to hear all interested persons in consideration of a local law in accordance with NYS Cannabis Law § 131 opting out of allowing retail cannabis dispensaries and on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Brockport.  
 Motion carried 5-0.

At the October 25<sup>th</sup> Village Board Workshop, the topic of cannabis will be discussed with invited guests, including Brockport Police Chief Cuzzupoli.

At the December 6, 2021, Brockport Village Board meeting, the board will vote on whether or not to adopt a local law to opt out of allowing adult-use cannabis retail dispensaries or on-site consumption licenses which must be passed by December 31, 2021 or to remain opted-in and begin development of local laws and regulations governing the time, place and manner of adult-use retail dispensaries and on-site consumption licenses.

**VILLAGE BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Brockport Merchants Association – Where's Ellsworth Scavenger Hunt has begun with over 40 merchants participating. The Mid-Night Madness Children's Parade is planned for October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 but there will be not additional activities that evening.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – For purposes of a personnel matter.**

- Mayor Blackman moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:43 pm and go into executive session. Motion carried 5-0.
- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, to adjourn the executive session and return to the regular meeting at 8:06 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee LaPierre seconded, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:07 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

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Erica Linden, Village Manager