

UNAPPROVED

The Workshop Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport was held August 26, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Village Board and members of the public in person at 49 State St, Village Court, and remote location through Zoom.

PRESENT: Mayor Margaret Blackman, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Annette Crane, Trustee Katherine Kristansen, Trustee Ben Reed, Trustee Joanne Bocach, Manager/Clerk Erica Linden, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Kari Pardun

ALSO PRESENT: BI/CEO Chad Fabry, Kevin Jenkins, Fred Webster

VIA ZOOM: Village Attorney Daniel Mastrella, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Barb Krizen, Joan Hamlin, Chris Hamlin

EXCUSED: none

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blackman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

- Appoint Village Historian/Brockport Local Museum Director, annual appointment – Manager Linden commented that she was on the search committee, along with Trustee Reed, Alan Berry, and Maggie LaPierre. They interviewed 3 very strong candidates, of which they recommended Mrs. Sweeting.
- Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Reed seconded, to appoint Karen Sweeting at the Village Historian/Brockport Local History Museum Director to begin in September.

Discussion: Karen Sweeting has served as Sweden Town Clerk for a substantial time. She has long-standing experience with records management and retention. She has a lot of energy and passion for the community.

Motion carried 5-0.

- Main Street Bridge Update – Mayor Blackman read the following statement which will be in the Westside News, on the Village website, and the Village Facebook page.

Rumors had already been floating that the delayed-to-November bridge reopening was being delayed yet again. On August 23, the Village called a meeting with the NYSDOT to discuss the further delay. Mayor Blackman, Deputy Mayor Crane, Deputy Mayor Joyce Riley from Albion and Brockport Merchants Association representative Judy Andrew met at Village Hall with the three DOT engineers overseeing the project to learn about the delay and discuss its impact on the Brockport community, particularly village businesses. The bridge was originally scheduled to open on September 6th, then postponed to November 22nd, and now early February. The Albion bridge, on the same contract and farther behind schedule, will reopen on December 19th. The contractor (Crane Hogan) has 480 days to complete each project without financial penalty. Failure to do so results in a fine of \$7000/day (“liquidated damages”) which the NYSDOT deducts from what it pays the contractor. The major problem causing the current delay is steel fabrication issues, including the lifting posts. The primary supplier for the structural steel—which must be US Manufactured – is a Buffalo New York firm. The contractor hires the supplier and the other subcontractors who all must be State approved. The contractor is ultimately responsible for keeping delivery on track. Subsequently, the DOT engineers have been working as a team with Crane Hogan and the main steel supplier, and Crane Hogan has also reached out to other suppliers. The DOT assured us that lessons learned from the greatly delayed Spencerport and Fairport bridge rehabilitations had been incorporated into the procedures for the Main Street bridge rehab. Unfortunately, none of the above will change the early February bridge completion date. Here’s what’s happening currently on the Main Street bridge. The pit walls and floors on both north and south ends have been re-concreted; the counterweights (made of metal plates) are in place at the north end. The machinery beams will have to be put in place in notches carved out of the concrete walls. Those beams support the engine driving the bridge up, the cables, and large sheaves over which the cables run. Currently, the subcontractors are working offsite testing the recently manufactured lifting posts, which raise the bridge, and making the necessary adjustments and corrections. Trying to rehab a 110-year-old historic bridge, replace most of its parts, and assure it will have at least a 50-year life is challenging. In the words of one of the DOT engineers, “This project is a significant investment into the community and will provide a safe and reliable crossing of the canal for the next generation.” Most deeply affected by the bridge delay are Brockport’s merchants. Some businesses have closed, moved, and come under new franchises. Sales are down. The holiday shopping season will take place with the bridge still closed. We encourage the Brockport community to support our downtown merchants: eat downtown, shop downtown, shop locally for the holidays. Mark your calendars for the Midnight Madness Halloween parade (October 25th). Black Friday (November 28th), Small Business Saturday (November 29), the Holiday of lights parade (December 1), and the Winter Market (December 14). Prepare for a grand downtown Main Street celebration when the bridge reopens in February 2025.

WORKSHOP:

- Village Board Meeting Procedures – Manager Linden led a workshop focusing on reviewing and potentially updating the Village Board's meeting procedures. Proposed changes were discussed, including clarifying the attendance of the village clerk or deputy clerk at meetings and specifying that meeting agendas should be prepared by the village clerk. The Board also agreed to post unapproved meeting minutes online within two weeks, with a notation that they were unapproved. However, exceptions to this timeline could be made in extenuating circumstances. The Board also discussed the idea of improving the guidelines for public comment. A new section for 'meeting conduct' was suggested to cover behavior during the entire meeting, not just public comment. Manager Linden concluded that she would prepare the recommendations for the next Board meeting on September 16th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – For purposes of discussion regarding the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, removal of a particular person or corporation or pending litigation. The Board requested Manager Linden, BI/CEO Farby, and Village Attorney Mastrella to join them.

- Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:29 pm and go into executive session.
Motion carried 5-0.
- Mayor Blackman moved, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane seconded, to adjourn the executive session at 8:10 pm and return to the regular meeting.
Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mayor Blackman moved, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Crane seconded, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:10 pm.
Motion carried 5-0.

Next Meeting Dates: September 2 - no meeting, Labor Day, September 16 with Dept Heads, September 23 Workshop, October 7 Regular Meeting