

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Williamsville held in the Municipal Building, Williamsville, New York on Monday, June 26, 1978 at 7:32 PM

Roll Call: Present John B. Sheffer, II, Mayor
 Gordon J. Kuzon
 Warren D. Miller Trustees
 Roger C. Walker
 Theresa L. Cummins, Village Clerk
 Thomas V. Troy, Village Attorney
 Edward Way, Dept. of Public Works

Absent Rosemarie Sugg, Trustee

Mayor Sheffer called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

The Mayor stated that Trustee Sugg was attending a graduation this evening and would not be present.

ON MOTION by Trustee Kuzon, seconded by Trustee Walker, the minutes of the regular meeting held June 12, 1978 were approved.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Kuzon, the minutes of the public hearing held June 12, 1978 regarding a local law on a proposed water rate increase were approved.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Trustee Walker, seconded by Trustee Miller, the minutes of the special meeting held June 15, 1978 were approved.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Mayor Sheffer, seconded by Trustee Walker, vouchers were approved in the sum of \$16,957.45 as follows:

Payroll Fund	W/E 6/16/78	\$ 3,292.70
	W/E 6/23/78	3,293.51
Total Payroll		<u>\$ 6,586.21</u>
General Fund	Abstract #419	5,470.07
Water Fund	Abstract #409	224.89
Community Development	Abstract #	721.50
EDA Glen Park	Abstract #18	480.31
Federal Revenue Sharing	Abstract #52	79.94
Trust & Agency	Abstract #51	<u>3,394.53</u>
Total Vouchers		\$16,957.45

Unanimously carried.

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Mayor Sheffer stated his next resolution was a follow-up to a resolution that the Board passed several meetings ago. State law requires that we participate in an unemployment insurance program and we have the option of being a part of the regular State program or handling our own program for benefits. We took the latter option of handling our own fund and this should be considerably cheaper for the Village. This resolution establishes an interest bearing account to begin to reserve that money.

ON MOTION by Mayor Sheffer, seconded by Trustee Walker, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED that the Village Treasurer is authorized to establish and maintain a special Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund in an interest bearing account or accounts, at one or more local banks, to anticipate payments under the Benefit Reimbursement Option heretofore exercised by the Village under the provisions of Section 565 of the New York Labor Law.

UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE
RESERVE FUND
ESTABLISHED

Unanimously carried.

Trustee Walker stated the parks and pools are open and in full swing. The pools had to be painted this year and the Department of Public Works could not do this. Mr. Brunskill and the Parks and Recreation Committee members came to the Village's aid, as well as several outside people. They used seven cases of paint and got the job done. We very much appreciate their help.

Mayor Sheffer added his thanks, stating the Village very much appreciates their assistance.

Trustee Kuzon reported that the part-time building department secretary is taking a leave of absence from July 3rd to September 1st. At Thursday's special board meeting we will be hiring a part-time replacement. This is not being offered tonight so we may take further applications and interview people. An ad was placed in the local paper for this position.

Mayor Sheffer reported that we had several requests from local businesses for permits for sidewalk sales for several days. This is against the Village ordinances unless there is a Mayor's permit granted. The Board had previously not done this and I brought it to their attention and it is the consensus of opinion that we will try this for a trial period and businesses would be allowed to have sales for a period up to three days once per year. We talked about limiting it to Old Home Day but decided against that for the time being.

Trustee Miller stated that since the last meeting we have been evaluating the pavers to decide on the awarding of the bid. We had one that met the specifications and he stated he would offer

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a resolution later in the meeting regarding awarding of the bid. Federal Revenue Sharing Funds have been set aside for this and it comes in slightly under the amount set aside for its purchase.

Trustee Miller then reported on the activity in the Water Department for the last year and one-half. In the past years we have always had a water loss but this percentage has grown. It had been 25% to 30%. We have been working on this problem. An average loss situation is more cost effective to live with than the cost of a repair program. Now we are to the point where the water loss is becoming more of a burden for the Village as we pay for more water from the County Water Authority than we receive in payment from our customers. The percentage now is 44% loss and this is much higher than in surrounding communities. With those who pump directly from wells we do not know how many gallons they pump into the system. We have checked into the history of the water main repairs that have been done. We are up-to-date on our repairs and the problem may exist in the pipelines from the houses and businesses to their connection with the municipal line. These are very old pipes and during the 1964 repair program very few opted to replace their pipes. The Village is also built on rock strata and there could be many leaks that we could never detect. He stated that in his personal opinion the majority of the leaks exist in the house connections because of the deterioration in the pipes. The Village is trying to conserve on the water it uses and keep track of some of the amounts being used for municipal services. We used 14,000 gallons by using the sewer jet for three days of cleaning sewers and the Fire Department also uses a lot of water in fighting fires and in hose practice. 2,500 gallons could be used in five minutes with a 2½" hose hooked to a hydrant. This is water we have to pay for.

WATER
REPORT

Trustee Miller stated that in the past few months we have checked our 168 hydrants, repaired all known leaks and begun a program of sealing water meters to try to prevent meter bypasses. We are going to again divide the Village into five districts and we will shut off the valves in each area, between 3 AM and 4 AM and take a reading, wait an hour and take another reading. This is a time of low demand and we should be able to pinpoint the worst lines in this manner. This will be done in all five areas and we will then establish priorities. Then we will isolate each water line in the priority area and investigate leaks. He stated his belief that we will find that the majority of the leaks occur in the old, galvanized pipes between the houses and the streets. These are the responsibility of the home owners. The next step is to draw up specs for the priority areas and award contracts. We will have to find the money to do any necessary repairs. It could be by a bond issue or it could come from federal or other governmental sources. Trustee Walker is working on this and we have hired the Osgood firm to try and get federal money under the public works act.

Trustee Walker stated that the Village must conserve water, not only on a municipal level but on a personal level. This is more

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important than ever. Using less water will reduce the sewer tax. The Village is keeping track of the amount of water used by the fire department and by the various street equipment such as the sweeper, roller and also the sewer jet. We are delaying voting on the water rate increase until the public can be advised of the information from the study. We ask for any input that they may be able to give us. If they know of any water leaks they should report them.

WATER REPORT

ON MOTION by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Kuzon, it was moved to suspend the rules in order that the public could comment on the water problems.

Unanimously carried.

James Saia, 20 Belmont, stated other communities have a lower loss. In 1966 the Village paid over \$500,000 for the water system to upgrade the rating of our fire department. We put in a new holding tank and pumps and many lines were replaced. Trustee Miller stated the majority of the cost was for the tank - \$460,000. Mr. Saia stated we still owe on this. In 1975 there was another program for water lines for about \$100,000 and the residents are paying for this.

William Brunskill, 27 Hillside Drive, asked if the program shouldn't start as soon as possible since these leaks were costing us money. He asked what is being done at present. Trustee Miller stated we have found two residents who have had meter bypasses. We are in the process of sealing meters. We have had no problems this year with tankers filling up at hydrants but are keeping watch on this as we had some trouble last year. He repeated his statement that he believes most of the loss occurs in the lines between the house and the municipal lines.

Mr. Brunskill asked how a homeowner could find out if his line were leaking and Trustee Miller advised they could call the water department and they would come out and listen to their line. There is no charge for this. This will be a part of our program but it is not the first step. Mayor Sheffer stated the program of fixing leaks and meter sealing has been going on for some time. Trustee Miller stated the only negative to having your line checked is that if there is a leak you are assessed for it and you have to have it repaired.

Mr. Saia stated he could understand why the Erie County Water Authority did not want to take over our lines with the amount of leakage we have. Mayor Sheffer stated it is extremely important that we cut down on the amount of leakage in municipal and residential lines. He asked why the meter program hadn't been started sooner and why it wasn't done yet. Trustee Miller stated this program is going on right now and started a few months ago.

A man in the audience stated the older lines should be worked on first and Trustee Miller stated we will consider which lines have been replaced and this will determine which area we will start in.

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ON MOTION by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Kuzon, it was moved to return to the agenda.

Unanimously carried.

Trustee Miller stated we didn't award the paver bid immediately because we wanted to try them with our own people on our streets and under our conditions.

ON MOTION by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Walker, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS the Village has advertised for sealed bids for one paving spreader, and

SPREADER CONTRACT
AWARDED.

WHEREAS P. D. Service Inc. submitted the lowest bid meeting specifications,

P.D. Service

NOW, THEREFORE, the contract for the purchase of one paving spreader is awarded to P. D. Service, Inc. for a price of \$6,936.00.

Unanimously carried.

Mr. Way stated he wanted to thank Trustee Walker, Mr. Brunskill and everyone involved in painting the pools. It helped us a lot. He also stated the paving program is moving right along.

ON MOTION by Trustee Kuzon, seconded by Trustee Walker, it was moved to suspend the rules for public participation.

Unanimously carried.

Rita Andrews asked if there was any reason why the restrooms could not be opened at the ball diamonds when there was a game on. Trustee Walker stated three people have keys and have volunteered to open them every night there is a game. Trustee Miller stated that while it is the Department of Public Works building their only job is to get them operational.

Mayor Sheffer reported that the Village needs to submit its application for the State Matching Funds Program relating to the recreational program for the elderly. The Senior Citizens Committee has discussed this and decided to submit the application for the purpose of running a program that would alternate between the Christian Church and the Senior Citizens Center and consist of a recreational program of arts and crafts that would be an adjunct to that offered at the center. We have been using these funds for the Sunday program at the center and it is hoped this program will perpetuate itself over the summer and in fall hopefully will have funding from the Town and Village.

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Mr. Saia stated a meter seal is a deterrent and Mayor Sheffer stated that if a person is determined to do so it can be done. We are doing more now than in the past decade to correct this problem. Trustee Miller stated we now have two men in the water department and are trying to get another part-time worker to get this program done.

Richard Hill, 18 Brookside Drive, asked about the effect of conserving water on what we will be paying the town for sewage treatment. Mayor Sheffer stated the amount would not be exactly proportional. If cut water useage in half the amount would not go down half because we have capital costs as well as meter flow and we still have to raise that amount of money. Mr. Hill asked if the 70% sewer tax would not have to be raised then to pay for this. Mayor Sheffer stated we have to distinguish between capital cost and the metered flow cost. He stated we are working on the formula with the Town at present to determine what the payment will be and the meter hasn't started yet.

Mr. Saia asked how the Town can charge us for service we don't yet have. The Clerk stated that every year anticipated figures are proposed for the following year. We don't get a bill until the end of the fiscal year. They anticipated our amount for this year at \$260,000 and this is the amount we have budgeted for. Mayor Sheffer stated this is not paid until the figures are confirmed. The Town gives us the courtesy of letting us know ahead of time what the approximate cost will be. Mr. Saia asked what happens if the amount turns out to be \$280,000 instead of \$260,000 and Mayor Sheffer stated that in that event taxes will go up next year. We will collect the money now so we don't have to go into deficit spending.

SEWER QUESTIONS

Mr. Saia asked if the Town had ever asked the Village to work with it on this project before it was started and Mayor Sheffer stated they gottogether as early as 1972.

Mr. Brunskill asked how many people in Village were using well water and Trustee Miller stated this could not be set but that it was felt the number was few. He stated we are just getting into this area. We do not know who drills a well as only gas and oil wells are covered under our ordinance.

Rita Andrews, 128 S. Union Road, asked if the Board could find out how many gallons of water the Village was losing per hour and give us the answer at the next meeting. Trustee Miller said we could. He had some background information on this. It is about 28,000 gallons per hour and four years ago it was around 17,000 gallons per hour. We have 2,300 users and 18 miles of mains and it is difficult to pinpoint leaks.

Mr. Hill stated he thought it might be better to start and check the individual water lines but Trustee Miller stated we don't know for sure a main doesn't have a major leak and if it did this would throw the sound off in the home lines.

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Mr. Brunskill stated he wanted to thank the Board for appropriating money to hire police officers to guard the parks. People he has talked with in the parks have a positive reaction to this. The police themselves feel good about what they are doing.

ON MOTION by Trustee Kuzon, seconded by Trustee Walker, it was moved to return to the regular agenda.

Unanimously carried.

ON MOTION by Trustee Kuzon, seconded by Trustee Walker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Unanimously carried.



Theresa L. Cummins,
Village Clerk-Treasurer