

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Village of Williamsville Board of Trustees held at Village of Williamsville, 5565 Main Street, Williamsville, NY on Monday, April 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

The Village Board meeting was opened at 7:36 pm by Mayor Hunt.

Trustee Hahn led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:36m.

Present: Christine L. Hunt, Mayor  
Daniel O. DeLano, Deputy Mayor  
Eileen Torre, Trustee  
Jeffrey Hahn, Trustee  
James Celeste, Trustee

Also present: Suzanne Canell, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer  
Ben Vilonen, DPW Crew Chief  
Charles Grieco, Village Attorney

Absent: Kristine Voight, Deputy Treasurer

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Trustee Torre, it was moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 25, 2024.

Unanimously carried

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Trustee Torre, it was moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on April 1, 2024.

Unanimously carried

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Trustee Hahn, it was moved at 7:37 pm to open the public participation portion of the meeting.

Unanimously carried

Member(s) of the audience who addressed the Board and their comment(s) [*Board of Trustees' comments are in italics*]:

**1.) Cheryl Meyer – Village Resident:**

Came to discuss Ellicott Creek. Wanted to share with the two new Board members as they weren't here when this presentation was originally given. Talked about the editorial in the Buffalo news titled "It's about time for Williamsville to take action on its aging dam". Not objecting to the editorial but as to the title. There's too much focus on the dam and not the overall issue, that being how to manage the creek which mean equitably directing the water flow between the channels. Ms. Meyer showed pictures of the original damn to show how narrow the manmade dam was compared to the West channel. What Ms. Meyer presented was From Clint Brown's study for HPC in 2012. Before the area was settled there was the original creek which is now known as West channel. Map of 1854 shows an Eastern manmade water channel feeding into business. The 1915

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map shows the Eastern water channel that created a pond. The 1933 map shows the creek with the dam. All the subsequent years of the dam gates being raised and lowered have caused erosion guaranteeing that the Eastern channel will always be larger than the original creek. The manipulation of dam levels also caused flooding and erosion upstream.

Ms. Meyer stated that her and many others believe that implementing a dam, repaired or new, would not only be the most expensive path to take due to construction cost maintenance and continued operation, but the worst decision because it will not solve the problems. Step 1 is putting in a weir system that ensures water always flows into the original creek. Step 2 can be narrow the manmade channel by increasing the size of Island Park. Goal is to make the water volume in both channels more equal than they are today. The weir system would take less engineering and cost than fixing the dam. Let's not fight nature by using the dam. Let's work with Ellicott Creek's natural water flow and levels.

**2.) Joe Carden – Village Resident:**

Let the Mayor know he appreciate her efforts and honesty. For the last couple years he has not had water in his yard. There were 22 serious floods from 1960 until now, some which would have wiped out his first floor. There are also probably another 30 minor floods. Hoping that what Ms. Meyer suggested could actually work. If it works that will satisfy everyone.

Asked if there was a reason why we don't participate in community flood insurance with the Town of Amherst. We could save 5-15% on insurance premiums. Couple months ago came to the Board happy that his flood insurance didn't go up. However, a month later he got a notice from FEMA that it went up.

*Mayor Hunt: We will keep everyone informed as the study gets started and we get information from the engineers.*

**3.) Dan Rider – Village Resident:**

Live close the train station and trail. Went over to S Long Park to watch the eclipse. Went by 95 S Long which was the zombie house. The plan was to build a parking lot to get parked cars off the trail. That didn't happen and the Village turned into a "dump". It's all cleaned up and leveled.

Doesn't see a reason why we should use that space for dumping snow or leaves. Supposed to be a parking lot. Big safety issue on that trail. Pedestrians and motorists – accident waiting to happen.

*Mayor Hunt – Discussed the parking lot and making it safer during work session. We are looking at that and will move forward with a plan.*

Asked about 20 S Long status and whether the Village was fining them?

*Mayor Hunt: It is a work in progress but we are not ignoring it. Just working within the guidelines of what we agreed to two years ago with the developer.*

**4.) Tim Burch – Village Resident:**

Empathize with the problems upstream of the dam. They have 3.5 acres which they purchased in 2020. They purchased it in part to be able to use their kayaks, etc. They have an inlet which is drying up. They have many trees uprooting and falling over. They have to either fill it in or make their own pond. They have a vested interest in seeing the water back. Realizes they are on the other side of the coin from upstream issues.

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*Mayor Hunt - Discussed status of the contract and deadlines. As get further along we will share on the website.*

Mr. Burch asked about property borders where the island ends and his property starts. Since the dam's been busted, he's been having to ask people to get off his property and they often don't realize they aren't still in the park.

*Mayor Hunt – We are aware of that problem. Last year we advised property owners to put up signs and call the police if you have any trespassing issues.*

Mr. Burch asked if there could be more checks by APD. A sign may be helpful as well.

**5.) Charlie Ciotta – Village Resident:**

Wanted to share his vision for Main Street in Williamsville. Sits out there all day and watches traffic shoot down Main. Keeps dreaming about Walkable Village. Proposed that we add hawk lights and drop speed limit to 25 mph like Lewiston because we are a historical village. Less and less able to connect with people on both sides of the street. Alternative would be to create a loop route 5 around the Village for faster speeds during the warmer months.

**6.) Megan Haumesser – Village Resident**

Since Lymestone building was put up, speed on their street has really picked up. People using Hirschfield to get from Main to Wehrle and vice versa. Flow of traffic has increased dramatically. Can we do something like 25 mph or speed bumps to slow people down?

Since Lyemstone came in, their street has been flooding. High rainfalls causes flooding that goes over the sidewalks. Getting worse every year. Causing root damage for their neighbors. Asked about country gutters (inverted curbs). Wondering if they could do something like that on Hirschfield.

*Ben Vilonen: Hirschfield in on the list for paving and drainage work. Plan to do what was done on Highland which is great now.*

*Deputy Mayor DeLano: We will ask APD for speed trailer to get some data on Hirschfield. Ask for increased patrol also. We are also considering a crosswalk on Wehrle near school which should make things easier. Considering Hirschfield is near school we should be able to do something about it.*

**7.) Alex Haumesser – Village Resident**

Feels Hirschfield has been forgotten when it comes to decorations, flower pots, and things of that nature.

*Mayor Hunt – You'll be happy to know that we will be going all the way down with decorations to both end of the Village this coming season. We have put it in the budget.*

Asked about LED lighting and whether Hirschfield poles would be affected. He does not want LED lighting. It bothers his eyes very much and he would not want that right in front of his house. He loves the look and feel of the poles and amber lights. Keeps the neighborhood looking original?

*Ben Vilonen: National Grid just sent info on decorative pole conversion to LED. National Grid is phasing out old lighting, but we do have a choice as to the color of the LED lighting.*

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Mr. Haumesser stated the new poles going up are terrible. Don't look good and give off horrible light.

**8.) Tom Frank – Village Resident**

Reminded the Board about the agreement between the joints park committee. Feels it is important and goes back to 1977. Has to do with Ellicott Creek connection to Niagara River Greenway. Mr. Frank is urging this because of the statewide greenway project between jurisdictions.. Part of the program that goes through 2050. On May 20<sup>th</sup> there is an important Greenway Advocacy Summit in Albany, NY.

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Trustee Hahn, it was moved at 8:25 pm to close the public participation.

Unanimously carried

## **Public Hearing**

### *Tentative Budget*

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Deputy Mayor DeLano, it was moved at 8:26 p.m. to open the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Unanimously carried

*No comments.*

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Deputy Mayor DeLano, it was moved at 8:27 p.m. to close this public hearing.

Unanimously carried

### **Report – Mayor Hunt**

*Arts Culture & Diversity will meet on May 9<sup>th</sup>.*

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Trustee Torre, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, that the following *budget transfers* are hereby made in the *General Fund* for the **2023-2024** fiscal year:

To: 001-1110-4620-0000 (Village Justice/Publications & Updates) .....	\$124.00
From: 001-1110-4600-0000 (Village Justice/Computer Support) .....	\$124.00
To: 001-1410-4010-0000 (Village Clerk/Office Supplies) .....	\$40.00
From: 001-1410-2010-0000 (Village Clerk/Computer Software).....	\$40.00

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To:	001-1410-4030-0000 (Village Clerk/Printing & Advertising)	\$60.00
	001-1410-4050-0000 (Village Clerk/Tax Roll Preparation)	\$8.00
From:	001-1410-4020-0000 (Village Clerk/Postage)	\$68.00
To:	001-1410-4060-0000 (Village Clerk/Telephone)	\$246.00
From:	001-1410-4061-0000 (Village Clerk/Cellular Phone)	\$246.00
To:	001-1620-4070-0000 (Building/Utilities)	\$570.00
From:	001-1620-2000-0000 (Buildings/Equipment)	\$570.00
To:	001-1640-1001-0000 (Central Garage/Personal Services-Overtime)	\$237.00
From:	001-1640-1000-0000 (Central Garage/Personal Services)	\$237.00
To:	001-3410-4110-0000 (Fire Protection/Service Contracts)	\$640.00
From:	001-3410-4040-0000 (Fire Protection/Education Exp/Travel)	\$640.00
To:	001-3410-4160-3492 (Fire Protection/Truck Expense Asst. Chief's Vehicle)	\$246.00
From:	001-3410-4161-0000 (Fire Protection/Small Engine/Equipment Repair)	\$246.00
To:	001-5010-4010-0000 (Street Admin/Office Supplies)	\$51.00
From:	001-5010-4040-0000 (Street Admin/Education Exp/Travel)	\$51.00
To:	001-5110-4161-0901 (Street Maint/Repairs 2018 Chevy Colorado)	\$832.00
From:	001-5110-4161-0000 (Street Maint/Repairs Equipment)	\$832.00
To:	001-7110-4355-0000 (Parks/Pool Permits)	\$376.00
From:	001-7110-4430-0000 (Parks/Sanitary Waste Disposal)	\$376.00
To:	001-7310-4173-0000 (Youth Programs/Winter Sledding Party)	\$.44
From:	001-7310-4174-0000 (Youth Programs/Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt)	\$.44
To:	001-7530-4230-0000 (Village Meeting House/Maint.)	\$252.00
From:	001-7530-4240-0000 (Village Meeting House/Tune Piano)	\$252.00

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**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Deputy Mayor DeLano, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, that payroll and vouchers in the amount of **\$107,926.70** covering the period from **03/11/24 – 04/09/24** are hereby approved as follows:

<b>PAYROLL COVERING 03/11/2024 - 03/24/2024</b>	<b>\$ 47,181.28</b>
<b>VOUCHERS COVERING 03/26/2024 - 04/09/2024</b>	
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 55,615.08</b>
<b>SEWER FUND</b>	<b>\$ 143.75</b>
<b>GLEN PARK FUND</b>	<b>\$ 1,165.37</b>
<b>TRUST &amp; AGENCY FUND</b>	<b>\$ 300.47</b>
<b>LEHIGH VALLEY SECTION HOUSE</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,520.75</u></b>
	<b>\$ 60,745.42</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 107,926.70</b>

Unanimously carried

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded as amended by Trustee Torre, the following resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Williamsville believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State’s economic growth and community well-being;

**WHEREAS**, the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, we believe that every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities;

**WHEREAS**, we believe that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, we believe that evidence showing that infill development that reduces sprawl and supports walkable communities has significant environmental and public health benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant;

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**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that Village of Williamsville, in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the Pro-Housing Communities pledge, which will have us endeavor to take the following important steps:

1. Streamlining permitting for multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.
2. Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.
4. Increasing development capacity for residential uses.
5. Enacting policies that encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.

Unanimously carried

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Trustee Torre, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of Trustees hereby approve the *Volunteer Firefighters Service Award Program List* of all 2023 active volunteer firefighters for the Village of Williamsville and hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Village Board to sign the authorization for Penflex, Inc. to use the data submitted for the 2023 records.

Unanimously carried

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Trustee Torre, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, that the Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized to retain the services of Drescher Malecki to assist with closing previous years of capital project accounts and provide training for Administrator and Deputy Clerk up to the amount of \$5,000.00 through the end of May 2024, to be paid for out of the American Rescue Plan Act fund (ARPA).

Unanimously carried

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**Report – Deputy Mayor DeLano**

*Community Plan update underway*

*Neighborhood visioning forums 1<sup>st</sup> meeting tomorrow area 1*

*Everything in motion*

No Resolutions

**Report – Trustee Torre**

*All libraries are collecting eclipse glasses and sending them to “Astronomers without Borders”. Earth Day Green Up Williamsville to pick up roadside litter from 4/18-4/22, begging businesses to clean up the litter on sidewalks and bioswales also.*

*Eclipse gathering at the Williamsville Train Depot was great*

*Read from the Depot’s events calendar. They are having a 3 day garage sale, table cost \$10.00 – call Mary at 716-864-3691 to reserve a table.*

**ON MOTION** by Trustee Torre, seconded as amended by Deputy Mayor DeLano, the following resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Historic Preservation Commission (“Land Use Boards”) of the Village of Williamsville are required by state and/or local law to complete four hours of training each year to more effectively carry out their duties (“Required Land Use Training”); and

**WHEREAS**, the enabling statutes mandating this Required Land Use Training further provide that such training be approved by the Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions provided on-line training on the topic of Substitute Materials on Historic Building Exteriors: Evaluation and Considerations for Use, on March 21, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees finds that attendance at such training will be of benefit to the members of the Historical Preservation Commission;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village Board hereby approves Catherine Waterman-Kulpa of the Historic Preservation Commission attendance at the online training provided by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions on the topic of Substitute Materials on Historic Building Exteriors: Evaluation and Considerations for Use on March 27, 2024, and certifies that such participation shall satisfy 1.5 hours of the Required Land Use Training.

Unanimously carried

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**Report – Trustee Hahn**

*Asked the Administrator if they had any applications for Planning Board?*

*We have not received any.*

**ON MOTION** by Trustee Hahn, seconded as amended by Deputy Mayor DeLano, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, that the following Building Department Fee is hereby adopted for the 2023-2024 official Village year:

Sketch Plan Review .....\$250.00

Unanimously carried

**Report – Trustee Celeste**

*Traffic & Safety Committee having a lot of conversations about speeding – cross walk traffic – pedestrian safety.*

*Parks Committee holding events for Parks clean up, looking for volunteers.*

No Resolutions

**Staff Reports:**

*Attorney Grieco: No report*

*Administrator Canell: No report*

*Deputy Treasurer Voight: Absent*

*DPW Crew Chief: 7 projects out of 23 in LWRP related to dam and shoreline erosion. Discussed preparing for parks opening: Summer/Spring season.*

**ON MOTION** by Mayor Hunt, seconded by Deputy Mayor DeLano, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Unanimously carried

The next Village Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2024, at Village Hall, 5565 Main Street, Williamsville, NY.

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Suzanne Canell  
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer