

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BALLSTON SPA, NY held March 25, 2024**

Present: Mayor Rossi, Trustee Price-Bush, Trustee Baskin, Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, Trustee Raymond, Village Clerk O'Connor, Village Administrator Moskowitz, Attorney Bitter

Absent: Attorney Buettner

**1) Call to Order**

**2) Pledge to the Flag**

**3) Minutes**

**a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the minutes of the 3/11/24 meeting be approved.**

Trustee Raymond asked for the minutes to be amended to remove the description of his tone of voice and questioned why it was in the minutes, when there have been raised voices in the past.

Clerk O'Connor replied because he and Trustee Baskin are getting louder and more aggressive, more frequently.

Trustees Baskin and Raymond stated they feel targeted.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated she does not accept the amendment, saying we should all be more cognizant of how we are using our voices and tone; we are all guilty.

Trustee Baskin admonished Clerk O'Connor for asking him to stop raising his voice, saying it is not the position of the Clerk to insert herself into a Board discussion.

Trustee Baskin feels that the Clerk's position should not be weaponized and it's a degradation to the position.

Referring to the raising of voices, Mayor Rossi stated that meetings will be adjourned if it continues.

Trustee Raymons asked for another amendment, specially that the Clerk put in his whole statement regarding him saying he is passionate, not just a fragment.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez stated she does not accept the amendment; the Clerk is only legally required to summarize.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez suggested that Trustees comments be more succinct,

Trustee Raymond asked that the minutes be tabled until he views the meeting recording so that his comments can be put in the minutes verbatim.

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the motion be tabled.

Trustee Baskin-yes                      Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-no                      Trustee Price-Bush-no  
Trustee Raymond-yes                      Mayor Rossi-no

**Motion Failed**

On the original motion to approve the minutes:

Trustee Baskin-no                      Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes                      Trustee Price-Bush-yes  
Trustee Raymond-no                      Mayor Rossi-yes

**Motion Passed**

**4) Presentations-None**

**5) Public Comment on Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes per Speaker)**

Liz Kormos of 89 Hyde Blvd. is in favor of budget workshops and disagrees with the proposed stop signs being installed and would like more data.

Gary Stephenson, 45 West High Street, requested funds be put in the budget for Historic District signs.

Ray Otten of 16 Middlebrook Avenue suggested that perennials be put in the triangle at the north end of the Village.

Mr. Otten doesn't agree that we need another study on Hyde Blvd. as one was done a few years ago.

Keith Lewis, 38 East High Street said he is disappointed that budget workshops have not been scheduled.

Speaking about the budget process, Mike Iacolucci of 9 Russell Street feels workshops would be helpful to members of the public who have an interest.

Carrie Shoen, 39 Hyde Blvd. spoke in favor of the proposed stop signs.

Erin McCredy of 35 Hyde Blvd. supports the proposed stop signs and also supports further data collection.

Nathan Ward of 1 Hyde Blvd. stated he feels stop signs would be an improvement, but expressed concern that not everyone stops.

Mr. Ward suggested having the stop signs up for 3 months, and then replace them with RRFB's (rectangular rapid flashing beacon) for another 3 months to compare.

Mayor Rossi noted that RRFB's are typically used if signage and striping fails.

Jason Townley, 31 Hyde Blvd. noted he is unsure if stop signs are the right thing to do but would like to see if they are effective.

**6) Consent Agenda Items for Consideration**

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush to approve the items on the following Consent Agenda:

i) Motion to approve expending the amount of \$926.00 for the Library's phone system.

ii) Motion to approve funding of \$1,000.00 for the 2024 Village Memorial Day Parade.

**Ayes All**

**7) Motions/Resolutions for Consideration/Vote**

a) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush setting a public hearing related to the Village of Ballston Spa's Fiscal Year 2025 Tentative Budget during the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 8, 2024, at 7:01pm.

**Ayes All**

b) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond approving payment to Keller Construction of \$159,377.91 for the work reflected on the Pulp St. Mill emergency project (see attachment).

**Ayes All**

c) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Pere, seconded by Trustee Price-Bush authorizing the Village's Department of Public Works to install stop signs at the intersection of Chapman St. and Hyde Blvd. in all directions (pursuant to the powers afforded to the Village in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, Section 1640(a)(1)) for a six-month evaluation period, during which, the Village of Ballston Spa Police Department will provide enforcement of the new regulation at this intersection and provide periodic reports to the Board about the effectiveness of the signs in enhancing/protecting pedestrian safety on and around Hyde Blvd. Should the Board not vote to remove the signs at the end of six months, then the signs will remain in place.

Noting he is a Traffic Engineer for NYS DOT, Trustee Raymond disagreed that stop signs should be installed without doing some analysis.

Trustee Raymond stated that stop signs are not to be used for speed control and also feels RRFB's may be applicable.

Trustee Raymond noted that stop signs are 24/7, 365 days a year, and school pedestrians are only 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the early afternoon.

Motion made by Trustee Raymond, seconded by Trustee Baskin that the motion be tabled.

Trustee Baskin-yes	Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-no	Trustee Price-Bush-no
	Trustee Raymond-yes	Mayor Rossi-no

Motion Failed

Regarding the stop sign that was previously installed on Court Street, Mayor Rossi noted that a study was not done.

Mayor Rossi noted that a "your speed is" sign will also be utilized.

Trustee Raymond suggested using the speed sign before installing stop signs to see how that works and asked what metric would be used to measure improvement.

Mayor Rossi answered that he trusts our police and their enforcement.

Trustee Raymond stated the police aren't qualified for that; they are not traffic engineers.

Trustee Baskin said he thinks it is sad that Trustee Raymond was not involved in this until Friday.

Mayor Rossi stated that he has talked to the Village's Traffic Engineers; Trustee Raymond is not the Village's Engineer.

On the original motion:

Trustee Baskin-no	Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes	Trustee Price-Bush-yes
	Trustee Raymond-no	Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Passed

d) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin approving the expenditure of \$3,200.00 to Stanko & Sons Heating & Cooling for the emergency repairs to the hot water tanks at Union Fire Company No. 2, and authorizing the Mayor execute any paperwork related to such emergency repairs.

Ayes All

e) Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Baskin awarding the bid for the 2024 Village of Ballston Spa mowing contract to Ballston Lawn & Landscape for \$17,500.00 for the season, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement after review by the Village Attorney.

Ayes All

f) Motion made by Mayor Rossi, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez that motion # 9 be tabled.

Trustees Raymond and Baskin expressed frustration regarding the motion to table.

Raising his voice, Trustee Baskin stated that they raise their voices because they're being shut down from talking, and if people don't like it, they're in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Mayor Rossi told Trustee Baskin that he would be asked to leave the meeting if he continued to raise his voice.

Trustee Baskin continued to express frustration, and asked Trustee Price-Bush to not support the motion to table.

Mayor Rossi explained that it is only tabled until we get to motion 9, as it is budget related.

Trustee Baskin-no	Trustee VanDeinse-Perez-yes	Trustee Price-Bush-yes
	Trustee Raymond-yes	Mayor Rossi-yes

Motion Passed

**8) Mayor's Announcements**

a) Thank you to the Events Task Force and the Town of Milton for the wonderful Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks also to the American Legion for the donated supplies.

b) Ted's Fish Fry will be opening where Pizza Hut was located.

**9) Treasurer's Report (Including Discussion About Tentative Budget) (attached)**

Mayor Rossi explained that a number of projects did not get completed this year, and those funds will be rolled over.

There was discussion about the possible creation of reserve accounts.

Motion made by Mayor Rossi, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez to bring back the prior motion concerning scheduling budget workshops.

Ayes All

Mayor Rossi noted he is not against workshops, as seems to be the notion, but he feels the way the earlier workshops held last year were not useful.

Trustee Baskin stated he feels they were useful.

Motion amended:

Motion made by Mayor Rossi, seconded by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez to hold Budget Workshops on April 3, 2024, and, if necessary, April 4, 2024, from 7pm until 8:30pm in the Village Offices. Workshops will be held based on requests from a majority of the Board as to Department heads they would like to interview. Such requests will be provided to the Mayor by Friday, March 29, 2024, at Noon so that he can schedule the attendance of the requested Department heads that a majority of Board members wish to interview.

Ayes All

## 10) Liaison Reports

Trustee Raymond reported that the DPW did a great job plowing.

Trustee Price-Bush stated that all of the members of the Library Board are going to stay on for another year.

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez reported that our Fire Dept. responded to 480 emergency calls in 2023, dedicating over 6,000 hours of personnel time.

The Farmer's Market is looking for vendors; if interested email [farmer'smarket@ballston.org](mailto:farmer'smarket@ballston.org)

Trustee VanDeinse-Perez shared that the following movies are scheduled for this summer- Secretariat (June), Barbie (July), and Honey, I shrunk the kids (August).

Trustee Baskin noted the Committee on the Arts is celebrating National Poetry Month in April. Events include a poetry writing workshop in the Library on 4/13 from 12pm-3pm, Open mic night at the Real McCoy on 4/17, and a poetry performance reading on 4/27 at the museum.

On 4/27, the Park and Tree Board will do a tree planting in Kelley Park in honor of Arbor Day.

## 11) Old Business-none

## 12) New Business-none

## 13) Public Comment on Any Issue (3 Minutes)

Ms. Kormos is in favor of doing a study to collect data for the stop sign matter.

Ms. Kormos would also like to see a study of the Fire Dept.

Marilyn Stephenson, 45 West High Street noted the deadline to order from the Ballston Spa House and Garden Club is 5/9.

Ms. Stephenson noted that the Historic District Commission will hold a workshop on researching your historic home at the Library on 5/9 at 7:00pm.

Speaking about Wiswall Park, Ms. Stephenson shared that in 1986, it won an Adopt-A-Plot contest that was sponsored by a nationwide magazine.

Ms. Shoen thanked the Board members who voted yes on the stop signs.

Mr. Otten thanked the Task Force and the Lion's Club, Rotary Club, the American Legion and all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt and the stuffing of 4,000 easter eggs.

Mr. Otten expressed his thanks to the estimated 300-350 participants, noting the importance of these events.

Speaking about the stop signs, Mr. Otten suggested listening to the residents as a means of data collection.

Mr. Lewis spoke about the tree contract for Woods Hollow, suggesting it is invalid.

Mr. Townley noted that the crosswalks at Hyde Blvd. and Chapman Street are covered in snow, making it hazardous.

Mayor Rossi stated that the DPW will be notified.

## 14) Other Business (Including, but Not Limited to Board Response to Public Comment)

In response to Mr. Otten, Trustee Baskin said that the Park and Tree Board would be happy to help plant flowers.

## 15) Executive Session (If Needed)-Not needed.

**16) Adjournment/Voucher Audit:**

Motion made by Trustee VanDeinse-Perez, seconded by Trustee Raymond that the Vouchers be audited, and the meeting adjourned at 9:23pm.

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 154,024.40</b>
	<b>Sewer Relevy</b>	<b>4,070.58</b>
	<b>Library Fund</b>	<b>7,279.87</b>
	<b>Trust &amp; Agency</b>	<b><u>6,192.52</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 171,567.</b>	

Ayes All

Respectfully Submitted,

Teri L. O'Connor  
Village Clerk