

VILLAGE OF WOLCOTT
VILLAGE HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 11, 2025

7:00 PM

Members Present: Mayor Chris Henner, Trustees: Dave Lewis, Andrew Marshall, and Misty Harper

Members Absent: Trustee Smith

Others Present: Fran Acker, Eva Banas-Duncan, Jack Roberts, Matt Ohler, Jennifer Almekinder, Bob Lockwood and Ray Wellington.

Mayor Henner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ray Wellington

Mr. Wellington stated he had several points he wanted to address. He spoke about the many assets the Fire Department has which is property of the Village of Wolcott. He questioned the funding for the Fire Department. Clerk-Treasurer Acker provided information. Mr. Wellington invited the Village Board Members to visit and tour the entire Fire Department Facility if they have not yet done so.

Ray Wellington voiced his concerns over how the acquisition of the Fire Chief's vehicle has been addressed. Mayor Henner responded that the situation was not handled well. That the purchase should have been 1st discussed with the Village Board so that all needed information could be researched and obtained (insurance, liability, etc.) to have an educated discussion regarding the acquisition of a Fire Chief Vehicle. Mr. Wellington presented a donation of \$300.00 to cover the extra insurance coverage for the chief's vehicle. Mayor Henner explained the many inquiries received from community members not being happy with the purchase. This purchase was considered a want, not a need. Anyone in need of the fire department just want members to respond and address fires, they don't care what vehicle they use to arrive. Those voicing concerns of unhappiness have been explained the vehicle was purchased with Fire Department fundraising funds not with tax payer's money. Mr. Wellington stated this opportunity arrived quickly. A couple people in the room mentioned they heard about this want awhile before it was brought up to the board.

Jennifer Almekinder

Ms Almekinder attended to voice her opinion on things she "heard" regarding how Fire Chief Henry has been treated. When asked she did confirm she is not a resident of Wolcott but works with Mr. Henry. She stated one example was the recent Washington Street fire. Ms Almekinder stated she didn't think the situation was handled correctly. When asked if she was present, she confirmed she was not on the call. Mayor Henner had stated he was from the beginning and not

sure where she was getting her information on how it was ‘handled’. Ms Almekinder also asked about why the Fire Department being involved with cardiac arrest was not being supported. Mayor Henner responded no one said it wasn’t supported, the Village Board just needed to make sure all bases were covered with liability. Mayor Henner made mention that there are steps to be taken to make sure all I’s are dotted and T’s are crossed before a commitment is made and that is all the board is asking for is communication and time to do their due diligence.

Ray Wellington asked why the Fire Department wasn’t on the new website. Both Mr. Roberts, and Clerk Acker made him aware everything was copied over from the original website which was in place long before any present was involved. Clerk Acker stated all someone from the Fire Department had to do was contact her and ask.

Acct #16110

Owners of account #16110 spoke with Ed Wazinski of the Water Department regarding a water leak. Asked to have sewer portion forgiven. This was tabled until owners contact office to be put on an agenda personally to speak with the board.

Meeting Minutes

Trustee Lewis made the motion to accept and approve the minutes from the January 28, 2025 Department Head Meeting. Trustee Marshall 2nd the motion. All others present voted in favor.

Abstract #009

Trustee Marshall made the motion to approve Abstract #009 in the amount of \$90,383.58 with vouchers numbered 392-430 and checks numbered 33210-33248. Total claims from the General Fund are \$63,415.29. Total claims from the Water Fund are \$19,434.79. Total claims from the Sewer Fund are \$7,533.50. Trustee Lewis seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

Facilities Use Request

Trustee Marshall made the motion to approve use of the Wolcott Fire Department for a party on 03/01/2025. This has also been approved by the Fire Department. Trustee Lewis 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Mayor Henner

Contractual executive item

Trustee Harper

Trustee Harper met with the Lions Club regarding funding for more playground items. The Lions Club would like to schedule another meeting with both Trustee Harper and Mayor Henner.

Trustee Marshall

Nothing at this time.

Trustee Smith-absent

Trustee Lewis

Nothing at this time.

Time for the Public

Nothing from the Public.

Executive Session

Mayor Henner made the motion to move the meeting into executive session at 7:43 pm for a contractual matter. Trustee Lewis 2nd the motion. Clerk-Treasurer Acker was asked to stay. All present voted in favor. Trustee Marshall made the motion to move back to regular session at 8:16 pm. Trustee Harper 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Trustee Lewis made the motion to change billing of water and sewer on acct#14000 from 3 units for water and 3 for sewer to 2 each, due to only 2 entities and are recognized as only 2 tax parcels. Plus the 3rd unit being billed has no water or sewer hookup. Trustee Marshall 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

Adjournment

Mayor Henner made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm. Trustee Marshall 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

The next regularly scheduled Village Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on February 25, 2025 at 7:00pm in the Village of Wolcott Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Acker

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Clerk-Treasurer