# The Village of Nelsonville Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

The Village of Nelsonville Board of Trustees met at 7:30pm, on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 for their regular meeting, with Mayor Winward presiding, and Trustees Biro, Moroney and Zhynovitch present. Trustee Campanile was absent.

**Pledge to the Flag**

Mayor Winward opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Vouchers**

Abstract #9 in the amount of $30,268.69 was audited and ordered paid by a motion from Mayor Winward, seconded by Trustee Zhynovitch, motion carried four in favor, one absent.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the January 17, 2024 meeting were approved by a motion from Trustee Biro, seconded by Trustee Moroney, motion carried four in favor, one absent.

**Correspondence**

The clerk read the flyer for the Putnam County Pegasus program. The mayor read the letter from the NYS DOT CHIPS, informing the Village of the current balance.

**Reports**

Clerk Harris

Village of Nelsonville

Treasurer's Report

31-Jan-24

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GENERAL FUND

Previous Balance $304,929.51

Receipts:

Total $14,275.26

Disbursements:

Total $20,215.12

Current Balance $298,989.65

Checking Account $298,989.65

Savings Account $126,223.13

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TOTAL $425,212.78

Mayor Winward

Mayor Winward reported that fire chiefs Phillips and Boddi, of the Cold Spring Fire Company and the Continental Village Fire Department, were recognized at a county legislative meeting on February 6. The mayor also reported that she attended an ARPA meeting at the County Executive’s office. She also congratulated local resident Chris Sheilds on start of his tenure as the new Director of Emergency Management in the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services.

Trustee Moroney

Trustee Moroney reported that the parking ban that was put into effect for two days during the February 13 storm was lifted a day early due to the storm ending early.

**New Business**

Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tas Exemption

Mayor Winward noted that the president of the Cold Spring Fire Company, Aaron Leonard, was in attendance to support the local law. The mayor gave a summary of the law, noting that its purpose is to encourage recruitment and reward volunteers for their fire and ambulance service to the community. The maximum allowable exemption is up to 10% of the home’s assessed value. She stated that Nelsonville is recommending following Philipstown’s law with 10% after two years of certified service. Mayor Winward stated that the law will be passed at a public hearing scheduled for February 28, 2024.

ZBA Reappointments

Upon motion by Mayor Winward, seconded by Trustee Zhynovitch, carried four in favor, one absent, the following Zoning Board of Appeals members were reappointed for a two-year term:

* Steven Rummel
* Harold Akselrad

Submission of Delinquent Taxes to County

Upon motion from Trustee Moroney, seconded by Trustee Zhynovitch, carried four in favor, one absent, the delinquent tax roll was approved to be sent to the Putnam County Commissioner of Finance in the amount of $5,763.89.

Grant Submission Approval for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Direct Technical Assistance (BRIC DTA)

Mayor Winward stated that Nelsonville and the Village of Cold Spring have worked on the FEMA BRIC DTA application, and that these grants provide support to communities that don’t have the resources to begin climate resilience planning and project solution design on their own. Through BRIC DTA, FEMA can provide non-financial support for hazard mitigation planning, mitigation project assistance, and BRIC application specific needs. She stated the villages are proposing a project to identify and scope of the storm water coming off of Bull Hill. The mayor motioned to approve the application submission, seconded by Trustee Biro, carried four in favor, one absent.

Tri-Municipal Stormwater Management Grants

Mayor Winward stated that in addition to the BRIC DTA grant, Nelsonville is going to work together with Philipstown and the Village of Cold Spring on additional potential grant at the state level, seeking ways to develop solutions to the storm water that comes off of Bull Hill. She expressed her gratitude to Town Supervisor Van Tassel and the Philipstown Board for approving the Town grant writer to work with the three municipalities. She stated that since the water originates above the Nelsonville Woods in the State Park system, the state may need to be a partner also. There have been three meetings, including one with the state’s Environmental Facilities Corporation and the DEC. The mayor stated that the water infrastructure grants seem to have multiple phases, and the municipalities would have to apply for funds for each phase.

Clean Energy Communities Grant Program

Mayor Winward thanked Heidi Wendel and Trustee Bozzi from the Village of Cold Spring for informing Nelsonville of the $165,000 in potentially eligible grants to fund clean energy projects in our village through NYSERDA – NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, if the Village meets qualifying points. Qualifying projects include the Village joining the CCA, installing heat pumps in Village Hall, and LED street lighting. Funds received could be used for potential projects such as:

* Solar panels for Village Hall
* LED streetlight swap out, to replace the 20 or so old, non-LED lights
* Tree planting

The mayor stated that Trustee Zhynovitch and Heidi will submit the application to NYSERDA.

**Old Business**

FEMA Repairs Update and Pearl Steet Drains Approval

Mayor Winward stated that all of the July storm related projects have been approved for in-kind funding to restore municipal infrastructure to pre-storm conditions. Hazard mitigation funding is being requested for Healy Road to “build it back better.” The mayor stated the Village should be receiving 75% reimbursement of the clean up costs and emergency repair costs that have been spent - $33k was spent, and $25k will be coming back. She stated that the Village has been approved for over $500k of repair work, but will likely be approved for more with the hazard mitigation work. Of the $500k completed work, the Village would be responsible for $135k. Mayor Winward stated that she has sent the Governor and DHSES a request to provide localities with the 25% share. She stated that if the Village does not get any assistance, decisions will need to be made regarding the hazard mitigation work. She stated the Village may need to use ARPA funds and some of the CHIPS balance.

Upon motion by Mayor Winward, seconded by Trustee Moroney, carried four in favor, one absent, approval was granted to repair the collapsed drain on Pearl Street that FEMA has declared to be a result of the July storm, as well as the connecting drain across the street from it that FEMA is allowing to be replaced, with properly sized sumps. The mayor stated prior to the motion that she asked the engineers to have Pizzella Brothers Construction put us on their list, tentative to the approval at tonight’s meeting. Pizzella Brothers came in with the lowest bid at $7,880 per drain. She recommended prior to the motion that the board approve doing the work for both drains, of which the 25% Village share would be $3740.

Draft Preliminary 2024-2025 Budget Review

Mayor Winward gave an overview of the budget process and timeline, and reviewed the draft tentative budget for 2024-2025 as well as description of each line item.

**Open to the Floor**

There were no comments from the public.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion of Trustee Moroney, seconded by Trustee Biro, carried four in favor, one absent, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

Respectfully presented,

Melissa Harris

Village Clerk