# The Village of Nelsonville Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**Monday, September 18, 2023**

The Village of Nelsonville Board of Trustees met at 7:30pm, on Monday, September 18, 2023, for their regular meeting, with Mayor Winward presiding, and Trustees Biro, Campanile, Moroney and Zhynovitch present.

**Pledge to the Flag**

Mayor Winward opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Vouchers**

Abstract #3 and abstract #4 in the amount of $38,419.75 and $55,079.05 were audited and ordered paid by a motion from Trustee Biro, seconded by Trustee Moroney, enacted all in favor.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the July 17, 2023 meeting were approved by a motion from Trustee Campanile, seconded by Trustee Moroney, enacted all in favor.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**Reports**

Clerk Harris

In the absence of Clerk Harris, Mayor Winward read the Treasurers’ Report.

Village of Nelsonville

Treasurer's Report

30-June-23

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GENERAL FUND

Previous Balance $498,917.32

Receipts:

Total $10,357.91

Disbursements:

Total $45,136.36

Current Balance $464,138.87

Checking Account $464,138.87

Savings Account $124,897.07

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TOTAL $589,035.94

Mayor Winward

Mayor Winward reported that the Boscobel Tree Program reached out to the Village, to see where they might be helpful in planting trees in Nelsonville. They are looking to replace one tree in the park, as well as possibly replacing the Callery Pear trees along Main Street in the future. They may also be looking to work with homeowners interested in planting trees.

The mayor announced the date for the second annual Potluck Picnic, which will be held on October 7 from 12-3 at the Masonic Lodge, with a rain date of October 8.

Mayor Winward stated that the board would be reviewing the current Building Department fee schedule. She stated that the current contract with the Town of Philipstown has made the Village aware of the low fees currently charged for reviews of permits. The mayor stated that the review should be complete by next month’s board meeting.

Trustee Moroney

Trustee Moroney reported that the streets were recently cleaned by the street maintenance crew. He also stated that the Royal Carting bulk trash pick-up will be on Friday, October 6. He then reported that the old oil tank was removed from Village Hall, since there are now heat pumps for heating, and some water damage was discovered to the siding of the building due to the tank leaning against it. Trustee Moroney also reported that the front step in front of the front door to Village Hall was replaced, and the new handrails going down the front porch steps will be painted when they dry out completely. Lastly, he went over the items for the next court grant application, including new tile flooring in both bathrooms and the kitchen as well as some electrical issues in the courtroom/ meeting room and office. Mayor Winward commented on the new court sign, which was acquired through the last court grant.

**New Business**

Appointments to Planning Board

Mayor Winward thanked Chairperson Paul Helbock and Planning Board member Susan Branagan for their many years of service to the Village, as they step down. Taking their places will be Ethan Timm and Doug Anderson, with current member Dove Pedlosky as the new Chairperson. Upon motion by Trustee Moroney, seconded by Trustee Biro, enacted all in favor, Ethan Timm and Doug Anderson were appointed to the Planning Board, and Dove Pedlsoky appointed as Chariperson.

July 9th Storm Damage Update

Mayor Winward stated that the Village has begun working with FEMA and the Dept of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSES). Last week a Recovery Scoping meeting was held, and in two weeks there will be a FEMA Site Inspection, as well as weekly check-ins to keep things moving. The following are some of the damage bullet points:

* Healy Rd – large sections of deep trench created, roadway around a drain caving in, large sections of pavement washed away, other areas of pavement and sub-road washouts
* Secor Drain – repair and possible mitigation
* Pine St – drains failed
* Bank St – 2 smaller embankment & pavement wash outs
* Nelsonville Woods – trail strewn with rocks blown out by force of flooded brook

The Mayor stated thatFEMA will pay for 75% of the engineering and construction and the Village will need to come up with the 25%, which is much better than having to fund it all on our own. There are some potential grants we could try to go after to cover the 25%. We also have CHIPS funds, ARPA, and fund balance we can use to pay for some of the 25% if necessary. The mayor stated that she will work very closely with the engineers to make sure costs are kept down but still make sure we are doing what we can to reasonably prevent future damage. She stated that hiring an engineer is critical to developing the costs estimates needed to work with FEMA for reimbursement. The Village released a Request for Proposal to hire a firm to do engineering, design, and construction management, and two proposals were received. One was from LaBella Associates and the other Hann Engineering. The Village attorneys are still reviewing the potential contracts and there will be a special mtg to approve the contract. Mayor Winward explained that the next important hire is for the FEMA Consultant for Disaster Recovery Grant Management Assistance. FEMA will pay 100% of our administration fees, of which the consultant would be categorized. The consultant will help ensure we are following FEMA rules, regulations and procedures, and to make sure we are recovering the full extent of our damages. This RFP is currently out and is due next week.

Mayor Winward stated that she met with Supervisor VanTassel and Mayor Foley to discuss potential hazard mitigation grant writing that the Town and Villages could do together. The Town’s grant writer is looking into possibilities, and Trustee Biro and the mayor have also begun researching grants. She stated that it does not look likely that the federal govt will declare FEMA assistance for individuals, although BRIC grants may be available for hazard mitigation, whether resident-led or Village-led. She stated the Village is open to learning about all possibilities to help residents.

NYSDOT Permits for Flashing Crosswalks and Speed Radar Signs

Mayor Winward stated that Trustee Zhynovitch is heading up the research into acquiring flashing crosswalk signs and speed radar signs. The approximate cost for purchase and installation will be between $15-20k, and the Village is planning to use ARPA funds to cover the cost.

Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout candidate Daniel Campanile has identified some potential projects in Village Green, including moving the flag pole, sprucing up the gardens and revamping the kiosk. Mayor Winward stated that the Boscobel Tree Program will be timed perfectly with this project, as a juniper tree is in need of replacement.

**Open to the Floor**

A resident asked what the status was of the storm grate at Secor and Har-Mil, with respect to DOT. There was also some discussion about truck traffic on Peekskill Road, particularly the early morning traffic and the weight limit of the “culvert”/bridge on Peekskill Road. Rising water rates from the Village of Cold Spring were brought up, as was the large gatherings of hikers at the N. Pearl Street trail head.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion of Trustee Moroney, seconded by Trustee Campanile, enacted all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully presented,

Melissa Harris

Village Clerk