

**PROCEEDING OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

May 28th, 2024, 5:00 PM

PRESENT:

Mayor: Alysa Plummer
Trustees: Lili Lanphear
Justin Leitgeb
David Marshall
Lisa Cove
Village Attorney: Jeffery Turner- by Zoom Audio
Village Clerk: Dorothea M. Ciccarelli

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Mayor Plummer and seconded by Trustee Cove to call the meeting to order.

Vote: Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Mayor Plummer asked the board if they had anything to disclose. The trustees stated that they did not have a conflict of interest.

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Plummer asked the Village Clerk to read an overview of the open meeting compliance certification.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The room then stood and recited the Pledge.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Plummer asked if there were any public comments. The Village Clerk stated there were none. Mayor Plummer asked everyone present to silence their cell phones.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Village Clerk presented the vouchers listed in Abstract #26 of the 2023/2024 fiscal year for approval.

Vouchers for approval Abstract #26

• General Fund (#655-#677):	\$ 24,116.40
• Sewer Fund (#659-#666):	\$ 2,372.26
	\$ 26,488.66

Motion by Trustee Lanphear, seconded by Trustee Marshall, to accept the bill pay as presented.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

Village Clerk Ciccarelli then presented the HSA Funding for June 1, 2024.

Motion by Trustee Leitgeb, seconded by Trustee Lanphear, to approve the HSA Funding for the second part of 2024.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

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Motion by Trustee Marshall, seconded by Trustee Leitgeb, to move the technology reserves to the infrastructure reserves.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

The Village Clerk updated the board that Part I of the SEQR document from 2022 was located for the Canalway's Grant to procure the funding.

Robert Corby, 7 Washington Avenue, requested that the public be able to see the grant application and that the village include removing a concrete block along the canal and creating fishing access. He also wanted to remind the board that because this was along the canal, they should take the opportunity to include Historic Pittsford in the discussions, as he sits on that board because he would like to ensure that any new features blend with the historic character of Schoen Place.

Mayor Plummer stated that it was posted when they submitted it and then asked the village clerk to repost it on the village website so the public could view it again. He thanked Mr. Corby for his comments.

Trustee Leitgeb would like to bring the next steps for this project before the board next month.

Mayor Plummer reminded the board that they needed to wrap up the STR discussion before bringing this project to the forefront, and Village Clerk Ciccarelli asked the board to wait on further discussion until the grant had been solidified. The trustees agreed.

HPB & PZBA BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Mayor Plummer, seconded by Trustee Lanphear, to appoint Daniel Olson as Chair of the Historic Preservation Board for a one-year term ending in 2025, effective at the subsequent June regular meeting.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

Trustee Marshall requested a discussion. He wanted to again express his opposition to the Board of Trustees appointing lower board leadership but planned to break his own rule because the current chair is not a current village resident, and without a vote, the current chair would remain a holdover. Trustee Cove and Trustee Lanphear pointed out that Mr. Olson received the requested training, so they would vote for him, too.

Trustee Cove asked who Ms. Murillo would be replacing. Mayor Plummer stated that she would replace Virginia Searl. Trustee Leitgeb stated that both Ms. Murillo and Ms. Searl have similar depth of knowledge, so why replace one with the other? Mayor Plummer clarified that she wanted multiple demographics represented on the board.

Trustee Marshall reiterated that he wanted village residents to be board members and to make decisions regarding village interests, and Ms. Searl is no longer a village resident.

Trustee Cove said she felt the lack of knowledge and inexperience of certain board members was the reason certain materials, such as metal roofing and composite decking, have been allowed on historic houses in the village.

Robert Corby, 7 Washington Avenue, stated that he had a problem with the slate being presented for the Historic Preservation Board appointments. He felt that removing Ms. Searl or not appointing himself was concerning because older architects are the people most likely to keep historical architectural standards in mind as opposed to younger architects who are not well trained for historical purposes. He also stated that because Ms. Murillo received her B.S. in Architecture at Columbia, her knowledge of architecture and construction would not translate well to architecture

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here in the United States, specifically Upstate New York. If the appointees did not fit his view of the proper criteria, he strongly suggested that the village bring in a consultant. He then stated that he submitted his resume to be a member of the HPB and was never given the courtesy of a response or interview. He also noted that the meeting packet did not include his and Peggy Brizee's resume.

Mayor Plummer responded that Mr. Corby was right about the need for a consultant and that the boards would be looking for a candidate. The mayor stated that Ms. Murillo was more than qualified for the position, further evidenced by the fact that she had been appointed by Mr. Corby in the past and served. She also stressed that being a member of one of the boards requires a willingness to work cooperatively with other members and the residents. Mayor Plummer went on to state that she was advised by Monroe County Sheriffs not to meet with Mr. Corby and read a text message that the former Mayor sent to a village employee disparaging Mayor Plummer to emphasize why she would never appoint him as a board member and why she refused to normalize his behavior.

Trustee Cove thanked Mayor Plummer for clarifying why she would not appoint Mr. Corby and then asked why the mayor did not want to appoint Peggy Brizee. The mayor responded that Peggy is already doing important work with Historic Pittsford and that Ms. Murillo's architectural knowledge would be more beneficial to the board and to the village.

Motion by Mayor Plummer, seconded by Trustee Lanphear, to appoint Maria Murillo as a Historic Preservation Board member for a three-year term ending in 2027, effective at the subsequent June regular meeting.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – no, Cove – no, Marshall – no. *Motion failed.*

David Ferris, 27 Monroe Avenue, asked why the alternate positions were not being used to train new members. Mayor Plummer stated that Ben Richards, who is new, is an alternate, and Christine Lanahan, who has institutional experience but is unable to be a full-time member because of her other commitments, is the other alternate.

Trustee Lanphear remarked that the code clearly states the village's requirements for HPB membership and that she makes all her decisions based on those requirements.

Mayor Plummer then moved to appoint Wade Eaton to the Historic Preservation Board, but that motion was not seconded.

Motion by Mayor Plummer, seconded by Trustee Marshall, to appoint Christine Lanahan as a Historic Preservation Board alternate for a five-year term ending in 2029, effective at the subsequent June regular meeting.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

Mayor Plummer then thanked Bill McBride for his many years of service on the Historic Preservation Board and for his work on the 75 Monroe project.

The board again discussed the possibility of the lower boards appointing their own chairpersons. Village Attorney Turner said a referendum would need to occur to change the mayor's powers.

Justin Vlietstra, 19 Boughton Avenue, stated that he would like to continue serving as chairperson.

Mayor Plummer said she would have liked to see the chairs of lower boards rotate so that all members could serve in a leadership role.

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Motion by Mayor Plummer, seconded by Trustee Lanphear, to appoint Susan Lhota as Chair of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals for a one-year term ending in 2025, effective at the subsequent June regular meeting.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – no, Leitgeb – no, Cove – no, Marshall – yes. *Motion failed.*

Motion by Mayor Plummer, seconded by Trustee Lanphear, to appoint Jared Cook as Chair of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals for a five-year term ending in 2029, effective at the subsequent June regular meeting.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – no, Leitgeb – no, Cove – no, Marshall – yes. *Motion failed.*

SPECIAL PERMIT: 39 SOUTH MAIN STREET

Bob Michaels and Christine Elliot came before the board to present a business proposal. Ms. Elliot would like to open a salon similar to what was previously in the space, which the Board of Trustees allowed.

Motion by Trustee Cove, seconded by Trustee Lanphear, to schedule the special permit for 39 South Main Street for a public hearing on June 11, 2024, at 6 PM.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

ZONING UPDATE- MONROE AVENUE GATEWAY

The zoning discussion focused on updating the Monroe Avenue Gateway area. The board considered various options to encourage residential development while limiting commercial expansion to preserve the village's character and support existing businesses.

Bob Corby, 7 Washington Avenue, agreed that keeping the commercial area concentrated in the village center maintains the village's historic character.

Justine Vlietstra, 19 Boughton Avenue, suggested considering the comprehensive plan, which emphasizes green spaces, limited commercial activity, and a mix of housing styles. He also expressed concern about commercial zoning on the 75 Monroe site due to the traffic egress issues and a desire to avoid high traffic volume at that location.

The possibility of creating a new district or modifying existing zoning was discussed, with the aim of making the area more residential-focused but still allowing for some commercial activity under specific conditions. Concerns were raised about potential traffic impact and the importance of maintaining green spaces. The board also discussed the idea of creating a mixed-use district with conditions to ensure any commercial activity complements the residential focus.

Motion by Mayor Plummer, seconded by Trustee Cove, to recess the meeting for 5 minutes.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Mayor Plummer, seconded by Trustee Marshall, to reopen the meeting.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

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MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Cove, seconded by Trustee Leitgeb, to approve the March 4th, 2024, budget meeting minutes.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Trustee Leitgeb, seconded by Trustee Cove, to approve the March 7th, 2024, budget meeting minutes.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Trustee Marshall, seconded by Trustee Cove, to approve the March 14th, 2024, budget meeting minutes.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – absent, Leitgeb – absent, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

MEMBER ITEMS

Trustee Lanphear thanked the DPW for their hard work preparing the village for the Memorial Day parade and with the hanging baskets. She also wanted to propose that they bring one of the new benches, specifically the one for Mr. Newcomb, to take pictures that would then be sent to the DOT as part of a proposal and to encourage their timely action.

Trustee Leitgeb requested that the board policies be redistributed to the board members and reposted by the village clerk after any changes are made. He also wondered about the “No Trespassing” signs between the DPW and the arboretum and whether, during less active DPW hours, the signs could be removed so residents could use that route into the arboretum.

Mayor Plummer responded that Ted Spall is considering donating land for a wider path into the arboretum, which would eliminate the public's need to use the space shared with DPW. The board also discussed the possibility of utilizing Mr. Spall's small parking lot through a possible maintenance agreement.

Trustee Lanphear asked the village clerk when the lease on the parking lot behind the Burdett Building would expire.

Trustee Marshall again discussed his concern regarding the density of salons within the village and wondered if there was an incentive to encourage other retail spaces to enter these rental spots. Village Attorney Turner said he would investigate feasible options and report back to the board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mayor Plummer, seconded by Trustee Cove, to enter executive session to discuss real estate, potential litigation, and a human resource matter.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

Motion by Mayor Marshall, seconded by Trustee Cove, to leave executive session.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

Trustee Marshall seconded a motion by Trustee Leitgeb to instruct the village attorney to develop a proposed lease for the Village Hall basement.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

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Motion by Trustee Marshall, seconded by Trustee Cove, to approve payment of \$340 to Jerry Rachfal pending the outcome of the Rayson-Miller American Legion's review of their insurance policy payment and in exchange for a general release of liability.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Plummer, seconded by Trustee Cove, to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Vote: Mayor Plummer – yes, Lanphear – yes, Leitgeb – yes, Cove – yes, Marshall – yes. *Motion passed.*

Laura Donk, Recording Secretary