

April 14, 2021

Mayor Julie Robinson called the meeting to order at 600PM with the Pledge to the flag.

<b>Attendance</b>	Mayor Julie Robinson
Trustees	Bruce Widrick
	Keith Bush
	Linda Nortz
	Lloyd Richardson
Treasurer	Charlene Mosier
Deputy Clerk	Liz Jones
Clerk	Dawn Ashline
Village Maintenance	Mitch Robinson

The meeting was held at the Croghan Volunteer Fire Department.

### **Guests**

Mick Lehman, Becky Knight, Charlotte Schweitzer

### **Public Comment**

Charlotte Schweitzer was asked to attend the meeting so the board could discuss with her the opening of the pool this year. Charlotte has been the head lifeguard and manager of the Croghan pool for many years. Charlotte has requested that she be able to offer a couple of lifeguards a guaranteed 30 work hour week so that she is able to “entice” lifeguards to commit to the pool and no other part time jobs that may be more “secure” than a part time life guard position. The board was in agreement to that request and advised Charlotte that she had 1500 work hours to use for the employment of life guards.

It was figured that the pool could potentially be open for 9 weeks in the summer. It was also agreed that lifeguard applications could be picked up at the Village Garage or at Wishy’s.

Charlotte also inquired whether there will be end of year school picnic groups scheduled to use the pool, like in past years. It was agreed that if there were any that booked the park, CDC guidelines will have to be followed.

It was also agreed, because of the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, there will be no swim lessons at the beginning of the season. If guidelines are loosened pertaining to public gatherings later in the season, the board and Charlotte will revisit the idea of having lessons.

The public will also be required to sign in at the pool for contact tracing. This will be conducted by the lifeguards. The lifeguards will also be required to inspect/clean the public restrooms throughout their shift.

Mick Lehman, a village taxpayer and engineer from the firm of Bernier and Carr, gave the board a little history about the Croghan Reservoir and the wells that we get our water from.

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Mr. Lehman explained how the wells were made and why they are placed where they are placed. He gave this information because of his continual concern regarding the reservoir and the wells potential danger of being damaged during the building of the Verizon cell tower and clearing of the trees around the area.

Mr. Lehman suggested that the cell tower would be better suited in a spot that would be “downhill” from the site that has already been deemed where the tower will go. Mayor Robinson stated that she has already asked Verizon if they would consider an alternative site and she was told no.

Becky Knight spoke up and suggested that she speak to the Village Attorney Tim Farley and see about him penning a letter to Verizon, requesting the consideration of moving the cell tower site.

Mick Lehman will speak to Attorney Farley and give him his expert opinion regarding the cell tower site and why the alternative site would be safer for the village owned reservoir. Mayor Robinson asked the board how big is the area that Lyndaker Timber Harvesting would be clearing for the cell tower. Bruce Widrick answered approximately 100 square feet for the tower site. He also stated that they would be taking about 50 acres of “scrap” wood only.

Mitch Robinson stated, Josh Stamp has asked for access through the village reservoir property so he could clear some trees and the request was denied.

Claud Curley, NYS Department of Health also looked at the site at the reservoir and suggested the village board talk to Steve Winkley regarding a water shed protection plan. Trustee Nortz suggested we look at the Hazardous Mitigation Plan and see if the protection plan is already in the mitigation plan. Liz Jones will look up the file.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

The treasures report was read, Trustee Richardson made a motion to except the treasures report, Trustee Bush seconded, adopted-Aye-4 Widrick, Bush, Nortz, Richardson Nay-0. Motion approved

After review-Trustee Nortz made the motion, seconded by Trustee Bush to pay the bills as presented and carried.

General Fund #10	vouchers 166 to 178 fir \$9,685.70
Water Fund #10v	vouchers 96 to 100 for \$4,955.15
Water Fund #10A	vouchers 101 t0 103 for \$2,141.74
Water Fund #10B	vouchers 104 to 112 for \$ \$5,460.26
Sewer Fund #10	vouchers 81 to 86 for \$4,655.17
Sewer Fund #10A	vouchers 87 to 89 for \$2,139.13

\$9877.16 is needed to be relevied to the 2021 village tax for the delinquent water/sewer bills from 2020.

Trustee Richardson made the motion to relevy the \$9877.16 seconded from Trustee Nortz. All in favor motion carried.

Treasurer Moser discussed how the village could get into the NYS retirement system. Maintenance Mitch Robinson does not have a retirement account yet and the board would like to set up retirement funding for him. After discussion, the board decided that it was not feasible monetarily for the village to join NYS retirement system at this time.

The motion was made by Trustee Richardson, seconded by Trustee Bush to pay Public Works Maintenance Worker Robinson, \$1500 a year to start. This money will go into a private retirement account that Mitch will set up. All were in favor, the motion passed.

The motion was made by Trustee Richardson, seconded by Trustee Bush to pass the 2021-22 Budget. All were in favor. Motion Passed.

Note: Taxes for the Village of Croghan will be lower by \$176 from the previous year budget.

Motion by Trustee Richardson , seconded by Trustee Nortz to approve the necessary budget transfers.

A-1325.4	\$178.00 TO A-1410.4
A-1450.4	\$362.00 TO A-1620.41
F-1990.4	\$145.00 TO F-1910.4
F-8320.41	\$730.00 TO F-8320.42
F-8340.13	\$550.00 TO F-8330.12
F-8340.44	\$677.00 TO F-8330.4
F-8340.44	\$115.00 TO F-8310.4
G-1990.4	\$254.00 TO G-1910.4
G-1990.4	\$65.00 TO G-8110.41

### **Clerk Report**

A motion by Trustee Richardson seconded by Trustee Nortz to approve the minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Maintenance Report**

Public Works Maintenance Worker Robinson, stated that the Town of Croghan and New Bremen are finished sweeping the village streets.

Mitch and Pat Nortz finished putting the facia up on the ice rink.

There were two water leaks in the village, one in front of the Brandon Locklear residence in State Route 812. The leak was just on the other side of the curb stop. Mitch and Pat repaired the leak. The second leak was between Ben Moser's and Bobbie Hazard's residences. The leak was again on the homeowners' side of the curb stop. The question was asked, "Who is responsible for paying for the repairs?" No definitive answer was given.

Mayor Robinson and Maintenance Mitch Robinson met with Bruce Tabolt from Bank Street, and discussed Bruce's complaint against the village. Bruce claims that he is having drainage issue and this is caused by the old sewer line being crushed. He wants the village to dig a ditch from the farm on Bank Street to the river which is approximately 1/3 of a mile. It is thought to be that there are many homes tied into this old sewer line. Bruce claims this sewer line is privately

owned by him. Bruce has threatened to plug the line with a bowling ball if he does not get help from the village in digging this new drainage ditch.

The village board discussed the situation and has agreed, they would accept a percentage of the cost of digging the ditch if Bruce can talk to all the homeowners that are tied into the old line and get them to agree to help with the cost of digging the ditch also.

The homeowners would include- Monnat and Nortz service station, the Post Office, Travis Proulx's rental, Ron and Bev Bush's, Ken Turck's, Rick Wolf's rental, Kampnich's, Nora Martin's, The Knight's, Roggie Bros., Pate's warehouse and LaRoux's.

Mitch has not heard yet about his sewer license.

The Net DNR signator has been completed.

### **Mayor's Report**

The Lewis County Search and Rescue contract has been signed after the changes were made requested by the board.

Repairing of sidewalk plan was tabled until everyone gets a chance to look at the Village of Lowville's sidewalk plan.

Mayor Robinson has asked the board for permission to talk with Sook Hi Mahiques regarding the trees she has placed between the road and the sidewalk. The concern is these trees are creating a sight hazard for the neighbors to drive out of their driveways.

The propane discussion was decided that we will keep the same provider but will not be on the higher priced automatic refueling. Mitch will call the company when we need the tanks filled. This will be tried for a year and revisited next year on whether to change companies or purchase our own tanks and stay with the current practice.

The bid from Jasmine Escudero of \$150 per month has been accepted by the village board for the rental of the food stand for the 2021 summer season. First month will be May, last month of season September. Ms. Escudero must permit from the NYS Health Dept., a certificate of Exemption from Workers' Compensation due to the fact only family will be working the stand, and proof of liability insurance.

Lyndaker Timber Harvesting will be told to not start the harvesting project at the reservoir yet.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM by a motion of Trustee Nortz, seconded by Trustee Richardson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Ashline - Clerk