

**June 9, 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
	Linda Nortz
	Lloyd Richardson
Treasurer	Charlene Moser
Deputy Clerk	Liz Jones
Clerk	Dawn Ashline
Village Maintenance	Mitch Robinson

The meeting was held at the Croghan Volunteer Fire Department.

### **Guests**

Anna Platz Health Specialist from Lewis County Public Health, Maryann Kirch Health Specialist from Lewis County Public Health, Kevin Brouillard Community Development Specialist from the Lewis County Planning Department, Kevin McArdle Village Attorney

### **Public Comment**

Kevin Brouillard and Anna Platz submitted and discussed a Workshop Summary from the Community Walkability Study. This audit was done Wednesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. The audit was attended by Kevin Brouillard, Anna Platz, Mayor Robinson, Clerk Dawn Ashline, Treasurer Charlene Moser, Mitch Robinson Maintenance, Community members -Donna Farney, Charlotte Schweitzer and a representative from NYSDOT.

The audit was performed to promote walking and walkability by creating equitable access opportunities for walking, community and transportation design, policies and practices.

After their presentation, Kevin Brouillard set up a ZOOM call with Jennifer Perry, North Country CEC Coordinator from the Adirondack North Country Association

(ANCA). Jennifer discussed with the board how the Village of Croghan could become a clean energy community.

She explained that she helps communities access grants by implementing high impact items such as changing existing high-cost streetlights to LED streetlights. Implementing clean energy upgrades to buildings, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by installing a electric vehicle charging station etc.....

We will be sending Ms. Perry 2 years' worth of utility bills so she may analyze how we can save money and energy and potentially apply for a grant to implement a cost saving plan.

Kevin McArdle spoke after the ZOOM call was completed and introduced himself along with the village board doing the same. Attorney McArdle stated he has two other attorneys with the firm that would be happy to take our calls if he happens to be unavailable.

Mayor Robinson asked if he had heard anymore from Verizon regarding the possibility of changing the site of the new cell tower. Attorney McArdle stated he had not received any correspondence from Verizon yet but felt we would probably hear something within the next week.

He also feels that there will be some costs that the village will incur if Verizon does agree to the new site. He referred to these costs as "sunk" costs. "Sunk" costs would be what Verizon had already paid to have the original site surveyed and/or engineering site costs.

Attorney McArdle left at 7:35PM

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasures report was read, Trustee Richardson made a **motion** to accept the treasures report, Trustee Widrick seconded, adopted-Aye-3 Widrick, Nortz, Richardson Nay-0. Motion approved

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

General Fund #1	vouchers 1 to 6 for \$3,298.94
Water Fund #1	vouchers 1 to 3 for \$1,308.48
Water Fund #1A	vouchers 4 to 6 for \$1,893.44
Sewer Fund #1	vouchers 1 to 3 for \$885.93
Sewer Fund #1A	vouchers 4 to 12 for \$6,041.86

Charlene reported there are 39 past due sewer bills. The two water meter customers that are past due on their water bill have been billed again and was sent certified mail.

The water meters have been read and the bills will be sent out the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Charlene will be at the Village Garage on Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 to receive tax payments from the public.

Charlene has not sent the bills to Daniel Farney and Brandon Locklear for the water breaks that were repaired in April. Charlene states she needs prices from Mitch before she can bill them accurately. Mitch will get her the information.

### **Clerk Report**

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

### **Maintenance Report**

Mitch reported that the LED lights have been installed in the ice rink. A Trustee brought up a concern that a local electrician was upset about an electric line being cut and he had to come from a job he was working to fix it. With this said it was brought up that there is talk on the street regarding Mitch and Pat and whether they are getting jobs completed and if they are inappropriately using company time. Ex: Mitch and Pat traveled to Watertown together on company time when only one needed to go. Mitch agreed that he was wrong by inviting Pat to go with him and that he had already discussed this with Deputy Mayor Richardson.

Mitch's concern is that a trustee or trustees has/have listened to "talk" on the street and instead of coming to him personally or going to Trustee Richardson and talking to them he/they perpetuated more talk with the public. This talk being negative in nature towards Mitch.

It was decided that if community members have a concern regarding anyone on the board, maintenance, and such they should either come to board meeting personally and discuss and/or if a member of the board hears of a concern they should report to the person in charge or to the board and do not entertain possible false information.

The Railroad Historical Society of Northern New York has requested to have their sewer bill reduced as they were not able to do any fund raisers last year because of the COVID and they are finding it hard to pay their bills. Their other concern is that they do not use the sewer system as much as a regular household so they should not have to pay as much.

It was discussed that anyone that is “hooked up” to the sewer system they are charged the base rate. This is no different than a property owner who has the sewer hooked up but have not built their house yet, they are still responsible to pay the base rate. See sewer law.

Mitch went to Galen Roggie’s to see what his complaint was regarding his floor drains backing up and the washer in his rental backing up. Mitch did not see where it was anything caused by the villages system.

Mitch talked to the NYSDOT regarding the possibility of rerouting the two street drains owned by the village in front of the post office on Bank Street, to drain into the State Route 812 DI (drop inlet) in front of Monnat and Nortz’s property. The state gave Mitch a permission verbally we could do that.

Mitch reported that the swimming pool is ready to go at the park. A concerned citizen that lives on the back side of the park reported to Mitch that “kids” are getting into the pool at night. They are pulling a picnic table over to the fence and crossing over that way. Mitch has reported this to the Sheriff’s Department so that they may patrol the area more often.

With that said it was brought up that we should probably go ahead and purchase the security cameras that Trustee Bush had gotten the estimates on earlier in the year. Trustee Nortz made a **motion** Trustee Widrick seconded the motion to have Trustee Bush purchase the cameras and the necessities to install the cameras.

Mayor Robinson will look into, the price of Spectrum internet so the cameras can work off from WIFI. Presently the village has Frontier for our internet service and it is thought Spectrum may be a better deal to switch to.

The chlorine analyzer for the water plant has been ordered.

The sewer test numbers are still poor, Mitch states, he believes it could be from the old media that is on the sewer beds. He is going to have Chad Pate come and skim off a couple of inches of matter from a couple of the sewer beds to see if this helps the situation.

Mitch will get prices on replacement media for the sewer beds as the media now may be at its life limit.

Mitch was excused at 8:28PM

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Robinson read the email from Aldea LaParr who runs the village website. Aldea stated that we are up for renewal and inquired whether we will be keeping her services. If we keep her, she has a new program that she will use to update the website and that the price will be the same. It was agreed to retain Aldea Laparr's services.

Clerk Ashline asked the trustees for permission to hold a street fair on three different dates this summer. A group of community members have started to plan this event with St. Stephen's church agreeing to allow us to hold the event on their front lawn. The board agreed to allow the street fair.

Mayor Robinson raised the question whether the village will opt in or out for allowing a marijuana dispensary and/or sales of legal marijuana within the village per NYS.

It was decided to investigate the deadline and to educate ourselves before making a decision. There was discussion on whether the village would receive revenue from the sale of legal marijuana within the village limits. Mayor Robinson will research this subject.

Trustee Nortz inquired whether she could start ordering the playground equipment for Phase one of the Playground Project. After looking at the budget it was decided that she could go ahead with Phase one and order the equipment.

Mayor Robinson has moved things around at the village garage meeting room and states that she has made more room so if we wanted to move the meetings back to the village garage, we could. The board decided that we will hold the next board meeting at the village garage and determine if we would like to keep having the meetings there.

Mayor Robinson would like to see new chairs in the meeting room at the garage and will research the cost of purchasing new seating.

It is said that Genie Lyndaker has an unbelievable amount of knowledge of the infrastructure of the village of Croghan. It was asked if Mitch and Pat could sit with Genie during company time and discuss different locations and get a general knowledge of where some of the pipes, drains, lines are that we may not have knowledge of.

It was decided that Mitch will call Gleason's Septic and have them run a Camera in the line that comes out of the side of the state DI on State Route 812 to see where it goes. This would be the potential DI that the village will run the village owned drains in front of the post office to.

Trustee Richardson will discuss with Charlene Moser Treasurer and Joe Virkler computer specialist, what kind, size of computer to purchase for the village. Once he gets the information, he will purchase said computer.

Trustee Richardson is still waiting to get a price from Barrett Paving to have the driveway in front of the Village garage repaired and the village owned parking lot beside the library paved.

## **Adjournment**

Being there no more business, the meeting was adjourned on a **motion** by Trustee Richardson seconded by Trustee Nortz all in favor at 9:08 PM

Respectfully submitted by:  
Dawn Ashline -Village Clerk