

Village of South Glens Falls
46 Saratoga Avenue, South Glens Falls, NY12803
November 6th, 2024
Executive Session @ 6:00 PM
Regular Village Meeting @ 7:00 PM

Village Board Meeting

MAYOR NICHOLAS BODKIN PRESIDING

Minutes

Attendance:

Mayor Bodkin	Alan Dubois
Trustee Gutheil	U
Trustee Carota	Attorney Bill Nikas
Trustee Girard	TJ Chagnon
Trustee Orlow	Clerk Treasurer Samantha Berg
U	CR
Nick	Tim Pease
Cheryl Lawyer	TJ Wade
Slic Fiber Representative Kevin Lynch	Bruce Lant
	Chief David Gifford

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum: NONE

1. Grant Project Update

a. Carbon Filtration:

i. Project Status:

- 1. Motion to approve the Jersen Change Order to the amount of \$23,201.35: **TABLED.****

Discussion: Anthony Mantas sent the Village the change order to close out the unused contingency. Anthony suggested holding off on signing the order. The contractor will be sending over a credit offer to relieve them from the painting of the bolt and nuts due to the humidity issue in the plant. TJ Chagnon can confirm at a later date when the humidity issue is fixed. Trustee Gutheil questioned why the water plant didn't use stainless steel bolts and nuts. Anthony



advised Trustee Gutheil that there has not been anything in the specs that was not provided. Trustee Gutheil stated the bolts and nuts have been painted, rusted through, painted again, and rusted again. He believes the Village should not be doing the work. Anthony doesn't believe it's a good idea to keep the contract open. TJ doesn't have a problem with painting a few bolts. The Contractor will be providing the paint that they used. TJ does ask that the contractor come and clean the signs that have paint on them. Anthony recites that's part of restoration clean up before close out.

- ii. **WIA Long-Term Disbursement 5: Motion 110624-1** to proceed with the Jersen Construction Group in the amount of \$78,952.43 and to include the partial release of mechanical lien: Trustee Girard motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed. **Discussion:** None.
- iii. **Condensation Mitigation:** Have not seen anything from CT Male on this item.

b. GIGP

- i. **Project Update:** Anthony stated that at the last in-person meeting on October 28th, 2024, there was a review of the suspended accounts. Confirmed 67 pending accounts including two meter pits. One contact with a known account that was going to call for an appointment, and 29 Accounts that the Village and Anthony were going to pursue. 35 accounts with no luck contacting. There are 1,257 that have been installed. Saks will be doing another round of installs, suggesting December 3rd and 4th. Saks has requested this be the final round and wants confirmation from the Board for this request. Trustee Gutheil stated he would not agree to this being Saks's last time to be here installing. If the Board agrees, it leaves the Village to handle on their own. Anthony feels that Saks shouldn't be responsible and that there is no need to keep the contractor on due to the residents not responding promptly. They have had adequate time to do so and at this point, the Village needs to hold them accountable. TJ stated that he spoke with some residents that Samantha gave him and all residents were coming back with the same answers. Saks needed to come back but the resident had not received any call back to set up a later appointment. TJ believes that two days are not going to be enough days to complete. TJ believes that the pressure should be on Saks. Saks should be getting ahold of residents to make appointments, not the residents chasing Saks for appointments. The Board would like Anthony to go back to Saks and request they come December 3rd- 7th to work on installing. Anthony would like confirmation on



Payout #2 for \$114,521.30 which was included in GIGP Disbursement #6. The Village responded with the request for hard copy sets of field reports. This was provided to Village Hall in October and he would like to know what else is needed for the approval of the payout. There is a charge for contingencies allowance for approx \$2,500.00 for some plumbing adapters for the installation which Anthony will be rejecting. Anthony will be sending a revised letter for the eligible materials. Anthony asked if the Board was prepared to process that payment. The Board will be putting this request on the next meeting agenda to discuss.

- ii. **Penalty Discussion: Tabled to Executive session.** Anthony suggested the Board discuss, with legal counsel, the penalties for uncooperative residents. He also suggested having a cost for the resident to buy the meter and have it installed. TJ suggested that the Village buy the meters, through the grant, and have them labeled with the addresses. TJ believes that we should not charge the resident for the meter itself but put the installation on the resident. Anthony suggested that local code be updated to require vacant buildings to be inspected by Code Enforcement when properties are sold or being occupied.

2. CT Male Updates:

- a. **Motion 110624-2 to approve Hydraulic model proposal with a not to exceed in the amount of \$27,500 from Water Engineering (FX 8310.411):** Trustee Girard motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: This will help make critical discussions to improve the infrastructure and to be more competitive with grant applications. TJ stated that this will help prioritize and help set a good path for the future. CT Male will need data from the meter readings, to include the breakdowns for the addresses, and usage. Trustee Gutheil stated that there needs to be talks about the before and after of Essity. That will make a big difference in the model. TJ will be reaching out to CT Male to let them know that the proposal has passed.

- b. **RFP Ferry BLVD:** Currently CT Male is working on the documentation needed to send over the Department of Health for review and approval. Mayor Bodkin spoke to Dan on the WIIA grant and should be hearing back any day.

3. **Motion 110624-3 to appropriate \$4,039.06 from A 878.0210 (Bridge lighting Reserves) to A 1640.200 (DPW Equipment):** Trustee Gutheil motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: This is the invoice for the bridge lights. TJ also let the company know that they were approved to do the other ten lights. No date as of right now.



4. **Motion 110624-4 to approve the Bills and Payroll as Audited:** Trustee Orlow motioned, Trustee Carota seconded, All in favor, motion passed.
- a. General - \$47,826.32
 - b. Water- \$10,959.72
 - c. Sewer-\$2,207.03
 - d. Payroll-
 - i. 10/16/24- \$22,787.72
 - ii. 10/23/24- \$22,765.48
 - iii. 10/30/24- \$28,684.18

Discussion: Trustee Gutheil asked if there was a shortage in the account A1640.200 in DPW Equipment because it showed a negative balance. Samantha Berg advised Trustee Gutheil that was the transfer that was approved in the agenda item number 3.

5. **Motion 110624-5 to receive and file Animal Control, DPW, PD, and Building/ Codes report:** Trustee Orlow motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: Mayor Bodkin wanted to point out the incredible progress seen on the downtown businesses.

6. **Slic Fiber Presentation**

- Kevin Lynch, a representative of Slic Fiber, addressed the Board with a proposal to install a building to house some of their infrastructure. Slic Fiber received a larger investment to build out. Slic Fiber focuses on rural and unserved residents with no internet. Now they are looking at communities that only have one internet provider to bring some competition. Recently they did a project in Ballston Spa and Round Lake. With their design, it will help every resident have access to the fiber network. Slic Fiber has set up a website that shows the rates at slicfiber.com/sgf. Slic Fiber doesn't take part in promotional packages that terminate. Kevin Lynch stated that in the 9 years that he has worked for the company, they have only raised prices once. Slic would like to request from the Village to have their equipment put on Village property. It would be set up like the base of the water tower to serve as a hub for the Village. Slic Fiber can do underground or above ground installs.

7. **Motion 110624-6 to continue pest control with ADK Inspections LLC for \$700 a year:** Trustee Orlow motioned, Trustee Girard seconded. Trustee Gutheil - no, Trustee Girard - yes, Trustee Orlow - yes, Trustee Carota - yes, Mayor Bodkin - yes, motion passed.

Discussion: Trustee Gutheil would like to know what the company does and how often they come. Samantha stated that the company only comes quarterly to the Clerk's office due to the mice problem. Trustee Gutheil suggested maybe looking for another company to come out to seal up the building instead of the bait traps. Trustee Gutheil believes this should be following the process of procurement.



8. **Motion 110624-7 to receive and file Minutes 08/07/24, 08/21/24, 09/04/24, 09/18/24, 10/2/24, 10/16/24:** Trustee Carota motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: None.
9. **Motion 110624-8 to approve Patrol Car computer mount to be paid from A3120.200 for the amount of \$711.99 and Carpet through Floormaster at the approved amount of \$3,975.00 from A 3120.412:** Trustee Girard motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: Chief Gifford stated that there was one piece of equipment that didn't come with the new patrol car. Trustee Girard asked about the replacement of the carpets at the PD. Trustee Girard recommends going with Floormaster.
10. **Motion 110624-9 to authorize the Mayor to sign the National Grid Pole Light Agreement to decorate the lights through the Village:** Trustee Orlow motioned, Trustee Gutheil seconded, All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: None.
11. **Motion 110624-10 to approve \$100.00 From the Adirondack Runners Club to be earmarked for the Betar Byway:** Trustee Gutheil motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: None.

12. Old Business

- a. **Fire Department Contract:** Mayor Bodkin stated there is a draft proposal. Counsel Bill Nikas has met with the fire company attorney. More to discuss in executive session.

13. New Business

- a. **Motion 110624-11 to purchase a municipal membership of \$25 in the Historical Society of Moreau and SGF:** Trustee Girard motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: Trustee Gutheil just wanted to make sure the Village had money in the budget for this. Trustee Girard is confused about what this is for. Samantha Berg doesn't believe this is something the Village has ever done in her time in office.
- b. **Holiday Parade:**
 - i. **Motion 110624-12 to approve the Fire Company Inc. holiday parade:** Trustee Orlow motioned, Trustee Girard seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: The Fire Company has provided the Village with the Certificate of Insurance.



ii. **Motion 110624- 13 to approve the Village float (A7550.400) in the amount of \$400.00:** Trustee Girard motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
Discussion: Samantha advised that in the event there was no float this year due to lack of participation, the funds would then be used toward the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

c. **Review of the job description to hire a new water plant operator:** TJ asked the Board if they had a chance to review the job description to hire a new Water Plant Operator. He would like to get that together to get it posted. Mayor Bodkin spoke with Attorney Larry Paltrowitz for the correct title/description before posting anything due to it being part of the Bargaining Unit.

d. **Heat pumps on the boiler:** TJ stated that one of the heat pumps on the boiler is leaking again. TJ is working on getting quotes together to look at replacing the seal on the heat pump and getting a contractor to come change them.

e. **Motion 110624-14 Resolution In Support of Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments:** Trustee Girard motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Resolution in Support of Continued and Increased
State Aid for Local Governments**

Whereas, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

Whereas, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

Whereas, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

Whereas, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

Whereas, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and

Whereas, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

Whereas, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Village of South Glens Falls calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

Be it further resolved, that the Village of South Glens Falls urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

14. Trustee Reports: Trustee Gutheil mentioned the health insurance email that was received. Mayor Bodkin stated that it had just come through today. It was forwarded to Counsel to review its impact on negotiations with the respective Bargaining Units.

15. Mayor Reports:

a. Tree Lighting Ceremony, December 13, 2024 5-9 PM: Mayor Bodkin gave recognition to all those working hard to put the tree lighting event together. Cheryl Lawyer shared that Bill Ramsey, Samantha Berg and herself met to discuss the event. They discussed the concern of pedestrian safety and traffic control. Bill Ramsey spoke to Mickey Hayes about using their parking lot. TJ stated that they can use portable lights and the gazebo lighting. TJ asked about the trees that were supposed to be planted in the park. Mayor Bodkin stated there was never a final decision on the trees. They were trying to enhance the park and help the Village's own goal of replacing a tree when one is cut down. The trees are budgeted in the account, TJ will get the quotes. Mayor Bodkin stated he was thinking of three trees so the flag pole would not get abstracted. TJ stated he would look around for 2 to 3 trees at 6 to 8 inches in diameter and Blue Spruce.

b. Recognition to the Clerk's office for the collection for the hurricane relief: The Mayor recognized the hard work of the Clerk's Office in collecting a full moving truck of items to be sent to a food bank in Asheville, North Carolina. He wanted to be sure everyone knew that it was an effort by the Clerk's Office.

16. Motion 110624-15 to enter executive session at 8:40 PM to discuss FD Contract, GIGP Penalty discussion, PT Police Officers, CSEA Negotiations, Slic Fiber, and performance of an unnamed employees: Trustee Girard motioned, Trustee Orlow seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

17. Motion 110624-16 to adjourn executive session and reopen the public session at 9:35pm with no action taken: Trustee Girard motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

18. Motion 110624-17 to hire two part time police officers at the budgeted hourly rate of \$25.00 and subject to favorable background check: Trustee Girrard motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion: Trustee Gutheil suggested the names be reported out after the background check clears and they are hired.

19. **Motion 110624-18** to impose a \$100 per month penalty for each residence that the water meter not installed and verified by the Village, starting February 1st, 2025: Trustee Girard motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. Trustee Girard - yes, Trustee Gutheil - yes, Trustee Carota - yes, Mayor Bodkin abstained, motion passed.

Discussion: Mayor Bodkin abstained due to feeling that the penalty was too high. Trustee Gutheil wants to make it clear that the lack of responses from some residents to schedule their appointments is why the Village is imposing these fees. Trustee Girard asked that the following exchange be put in the minutes verbatim.

*** Disclaimer - profanity***

Trustee Girard asked Mayor Bodkin for clarification why he abstained. Mayor Bodkin stated he felt that \$100.00 for the resident is too high. Trustee Girard states that he never said that in executive session. Trustee Girard said that Mayor Bodkin agreed in executive session and added "You sit there and lie, What a son of bitch you are." Trustee Gutheil stated "That's why no one likes you, and that is a cheap fucking way of doing business." Trustee Girard followed with a comment to Mayor Bodkin about him being two faced. Trustee Girard told Mayor Bodkin to go ahead and file a grievance because he doesn't have much to lose with his term almost over. Mayor Bodkin stated that the behavior being recorded was inappropriate. He explained that he has every legal right to exercise his vote the way he sees fit. Trustee Gutheil stated "that was your way of letting them know how Mayor Bodkin felt under discussion. "Its a snake in the grass is what you call it." replied Trustee Gutheil. "I hope you lose re-election big time," stated Trustee Girard. "The people that I helped you get votes from, I will make sure that you won't get them again." Mayor Bodkin stated that this culture and this behavior is unacceptable. Trustee Girard believes that the negative culture and behavior is brought on by the fact that Mayor Bodkin can't make decisions and take responsibility.

20. **Motion 110624-19** to adjourn the meeting at 9:41PM: Trustee Gutheil motioned, Trustee Carota seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

