

Mayor Gifford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

### **PRVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

*Mayor Gifford opened the privilege of the floor at 7:06p.m.*

No one wished to speak.

*Mayor Gifford closed the privilege of the floor at 7:07p.m.*

### **FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET**

Mayor Gifford provided an overview of the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 which includes a 7.53% tax levy increase and a 7.19% tax rate increase.

#### **a) Public Hearing**

*Mayor Gifford opened the public hearing at 7:20p.m.*

*Margaret Uhalde of 124 No. Toll Street; Confused as to why the Village is only 2 sq miles and we have our own police force since there are Glenville Police, County Sheriffs and State Troopers. Asked what response time would be for alternative coverage.*

*Alexander Burns of 8 Irving Road; Concerned that the Village has exceeded the tax cap for three consecutive years. The Village has limited revenues with no ability to expand tax base; services are mainly covered by tax dollars by the residents. Village needs to look at reducing expenses by reducing services. On top of the increase in taxes, the Village is looking into building new fire house; although agreed that this is needed, this will further increase the cost to homeowners. Consideration should be given to combining services with the Town of Glenville; what services does the Village provide that the Town of Glenville does not. Consolidation with one government would put Village on more solid footing. Urged the Village Board to consider reducing services or consolidating services; the Village is on a path to be the highest taxed municipality in the Capital Region. Urged Village Government to communicate with residents and be transparent with challenges that are being faced.*

*Michael Torelli of 26 Sunnyside Road; Agreed with Alex Burns comments. The Village will not be able to continue with the way it is currently being run with expenses always increasing. Would like to know what residents feel that this tax increase is acceptable. People are not moving here due to taxes; feels as though the Village Board has failed.*

*Keith Phillips, President of the Scotia Firefighter's Association; Concerned with a recent social media post blaming the Village Firefighter's contract for the reason for the tax increase. Wanted to be sure residents have proper facts and education regarding this issue. The Village and Union agreed on a fire year contract with 2% increases each year in exchange for increases in health care premiums for some of the members; similar to contracts with other unions. The Firefighters Association asked the Village for further concessions from the firefighters including some 0% salary increases and cuts in other stipends to pay for costs related to a new retirement plan; both sides agreed to the economics and the contract was approved. The cost of the new plan is being completely paid for by the concessions made by the firefighters to ensure that no additional costs are being placed upon the village residents. As stated in a recent article, state pension costs are tied to the stock market; due to the impact of COVID-19 state pension costs are increasing across the state – 11% for non-uniformed employees and 14% for uniformed employees. Once the cost of the new plan is paid for, the Village will continue savings for future years. In addition to the financial savings; it leveled the benefit package with neighboring fire departments making the Village of Scotia a more competitive for qualified candidates. This is the first time that this retirement plan has come up to vote by the Village board; this contract is mutually beneficial to the firefighters and the Village. Encouraged any residents to stop down to firehouse and have an educated discussion. It is not and will never will be the intention of the village firefighters to put*

April 14, 2021

the village into economic hardship; recognizes the challenges that the residents are facing. Will always be a priority of the members to answer the call and provide the professional essential service to the residents of the Village of Scotia.

*Amanda Gonzalez-Barone of 6 No. Holmes St;* Concerned with comments made regarding the police department and race, although made off handed, may be interpreted as insensitive or inflammatory. The board did a good job showing that money is being spent faster than it is being taken in in terms of revenue. Would like to know what the increase is being spent on; what services are in jeopardy without the tax increase – vital piece of information that is not being presented to residents. There is no solution to make ends meet for the Village of Scotia without raising taxes; at some point this will drive people out of the Village. Concerned with the lack of development along Mohawk Avenue. Neighboring areas such as the Town of Glenville are developing their business corridor and using business taxes to keep residential taxes down; why is this not being done in the Village. Continuing to increase taxes to the residents is only going to push people out; if this continues it will mean the end of the Village. Need to consider solutions other than raising taxes each year.

*Susan Torelli of 26 Sunnyside Road;* Point made about speaking in truths; the budget was presented as being in a difficult position ‘this year’, while a truth does not paint full picture. The current administration has a very narrow view of trying to take care of things for “this year”; it is a fairly easy trend to see where this is going. Our tax base is built out, we are land locked without the ability to build developments, not able to attract large retailers; no other way to increase revenue than to raise taxes. The slides have shown that this is an issue that has been occurring over 20 years; why has it taken 20 years without addressing this issue. Administrations have not wanted to tackle the big picture and face the real truth that we do not have the money to pay for our services. Not saying that we do not enjoy the services of the police and fire, as many residents do; it is that the Village can no longer afford the current level of services. The board not addressing the big picture is deteriorating life in the Village. Due to the unavoidable costs such as pensions, the board has not taken any actions except to pick off the low hanging fruit such as park programs to pay for these services. Understands that the budget is lean and there is nothing left to cut other than the big-ticket items. Village has not planned for that; spoke at last budget meeting and made same points. Current administration has not addressed these points and looked for a solution. People do enjoy the services that the Village offers, there will come a point that the residents can no longer afford to pay for them; until that point people are not moving into the Village and are leaving the village and that is deteriorating life in the village. The board needs to make hard decisions and look into alternative solutions of these services. Residents do not know what the compromise on services would be with alternative solutions; irresponsible of administration to not look at the big picture. If we continue to take money from the General Fund; in five years that fund will not exist. Residents would like to be part of the conversations and solutions.

*Joel Simmons of Sixth Street;* Agreed with all previous speakers. Did not know about budget meeting until receiving email last week; should have been notified earlier so the residents could be part of the process. There are people in Village on fixed incomes and people who have been laid off that cannot afford a tax increase. Asked if the Village has had any layoffs to save money; fire department has 9 officers over 5 regular firemen plus benefits and extra costs. Glenville has a volunteer fire department; fire department can easily be consolidated with Glenville. If we were to cut the paid fire department what would the savings be; this is information that the residents need. May be time to look at consolidating Police Department as well; substation could be created in the Village – residents need to know what savings this would result in. In addition to tax increases, budget presentation stated anticipated water rate increase, school taxes go up, county taxes go up; will start paying on average an additional \$1000 per year. Residents already pay too much, need to look at cutting costs and services. Asked for emails to residents to relay this information.

April 14, 2021

*Mayor Gifford closed the public hearing at 7:54p.m.*

- b) Action**  
Tabled.

## **LOCAL LAW 2021-B RELATING TO FENCES**

**a) Public Hearing**

*Mayor Gifford opened the public hearing at 7:56p.m.; primary purpose is to limit the height of fences to 6 feet.*

*Spencer Lighthall of 7 Cuthbert Street; Curious as to the reason the height of fences is being limited. Ridiculous to limit height of fences; feels as those this is a more of a homeowner's association decision which the Village does not have.*

*Trustee Rizzo stated that the law is intended to create uniformity in the Village.*

*Margaret Uhalde of 124 No. Toll Street; Curious as to why the focus is the height of fences and not the placement in reference to being able to view traffic. There is a fence on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Ballston Avenue that obscures view; any change in regulations should take into account the safety of drivers more than currently written.*

*Brittney Gonzalez-Barone – 6 No. Holmes Street; Curious as to the reason for the law; if it is for uniformity and the maximum is 6 feet; some homes could have less than that and would not be uniform.*

*Mayor Gifford stated that there have been a few very tall fences placed in the Village; this law is to prohibit that in the future. Those that already exist would be grandfathered.*

*Amanda Gonzalez-Barone – 6 No. Holmes Street; Confused as uniformity is being used when there could be different levels that do not exceed 6 feet; if it for safety that should be further considered.*

*Mayor Gifford closed the public hearing at 8:03p.m*

**b) Action**

**MOVED** by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Trustee Gray that

Whereas, a public hearing was held, this night, April 14, 2021 on proposed Local Law 2021-B relating to fences, now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees adopts proposed Local Law 2021-B.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

## **LOCAL LAW 2021-C RELATING TO GARBAGE, RUBBISH AND REFUSE**

**a) Public Hearing**

*Mayor Gifford opened the public hearing at 8:07p.m; major change is to require residents to move garbage cans to side yard rather than leave them on front porch or front yard.*

*Lynn Trudell-Moore of 221 Glen Avenue; Law seems to be on based on how it looks, which is wrapped into a concern of health and safety and those things are primarily based on someone's perception. The current code states that garbage cans must be neat, clean and covered; the change is where they can be placed on their property. Has spoken to each of the Trustees and the Building Inspector; received comments that this was brought about because garbage cans on the porch are smelly and unsightly; if the garbage cans comply with code and are neat, clean and lidded than it cannot be smelly. As far as attracting vermin, moving can two feet will not reduce vermin; has had an issue with a can that was neat and covered in back yard. This will be a burden*

April 14, 2021

for anyone in Village with mobility issues; especially during winter months. Village of Scotia also has a large elderly population to whom this would be a problem. Asked the board to reconsider the wording of the proposed legislation and come up with another option; such as bags of garbage that are out not in cans.

*Spencer Lighthall of 7 Cuthbert Street;* This legislation once again sounds like a homeowner's association decision; particularly regarding the fine of up to \$250. Although amended the original proposed legislation stated up to 6 months in prison; glad it has been amended to 15 days – should not include prison sentence at all. Original fine of \$100 more than sufficient if even necessary. Unfair to people that are out of town for an extended amount of time or those with disabilities. Location of trash can will not matter if trying to deter vermin.

*Margaret Uhalde of 124 No. Toll Street;* Has background in criminal justice; very upset when heard of this legislation. Would like to know who proposed the original legislation and who agreed that an empty trash can to be the reason a person could get up to six months in jail, a misdemeanor on their record. Glad to see that the legislation has been amended, but the board still decided that jail time (15 days) would be included in the proposal. Why is jail time included at all? Concerned with the priorities of the Village. Public deserves answers; mockery of the legal system.

*Amanda Gonzalez-Barone of 6 No. Holmes St;* Based on previous comments; sounds like legislation is meant to punish not deter. Although does not think Village is trying to put people in jail; agree with previous speaker regarding absurdity of misdemeanor charge; this would impact people's jobs and livelihood. Looks as though it is a means to fine people to reconcile the budget in some way. Village should identify specific residents where this is an issue instead of a blanket policy; punishment seems to be way too harsh for the crime.

*Tammi Luckhurst of 134 Albermarle Rd;* Has family members that live in a co-op that have very particular rules and that is why would never live in a co-op or homeowners association. Not familiar with all amendments in revised legislation but since lives on a corner concerned with visibility from roadways; would like to know acceptable placement of cans so does not go to jail.

*Lynn Trudell-Moore of 221 Glen Avenue;* Since these proposed laws were presented has done research on current village codes. In the past four decades does not know of anyone has been jailed for garbage cans, fence, tree or lawn. It is written in the code and it is scary; it has been there for decades. Wanted to reassure others that it is threatening to see it but it does not happen; would receive violation notice. Village Code needs to be changed to remove scare tactics from decades ago.

*Mayor Gifford closed the public hearing at 8:24p.m*

**b) Action**

**MOVED** by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that

Whereas, proposed Local Law 2021-C relating to Garbage, Rubbish and Trash was introduced at a meeting on March 10, 2021 and a public hearing was set for this night, April 14, 2021, and

Whereas, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 6, 2021, proposed Local Law 2021-C was amended, now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees sets the public hearing for the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, May 12, 2021 at 7:00p.m. for proposed Local Law 2021-C as amended.

Ayes: Trustee Gray and Trustee Rizzo

Noes: Trustee Cook, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Abstentions: None

The Board of Trustees will review proposed legislation relating to penalties.

## LOCAL LAW 2021-D RELATING TO JUNK MOTOR VEHICLES ENFORCEMENT

### a) Public Hearing

*Mayor Gifford opened the public hearing at 8:26p.m; change is to allow Police Department to enforce as well as Building Inspector.*

*Spencer Lighthall of 7 Cuthbert Street; Apologized to all police offices; feels law is a joke. The wording on the proposed legislation is impossible to understand. Wanted to know who it is up to in determining what is a junk vehicle.*

*Trustee Cook stated that NYS Code defines a junk vehicle as an unregistered and uninsured vehicle on any driveway, yard or street; Village cannot supersede NYS Code.*

*Why is the Police Department not required to have a subpoena to enter the home or reason to enter the home?*

*Trustee Cook stated that the proposed legislation needs to be amended; the police department will not enter a home without probable cause. That is not the intent of the legislation.*

*Spencer Lighthall suggested adding amendments as addendums to current legislation so residents can better understand the changes proposed.*

*Lynn Trudell-Moore of 221 Glen Avenue; Town and Village have had Junk Vehicle legislation for decades. Does not object to having the code; objects to the change in the code allowing police enforcement. Police would be allowed to inspect any place that they believe to have a violation; strongly disagree with allowing police department enforce legislation especially if vehicle is in an enclosed garage. If this code goes through, no one will be allowed in her garage without a warrant.*

*Trustee Gifford stated that law does not include garages.*

*Margaret Uhalde of 124 No. Toll Street; Hoping that this proposal legislation will be amended before it goes to a vote. As others has pointed out, these laws have been in Village Code for several years; this would be a good opportunity for the current administration to go through the laws and fix the proposed penalties. Purchased a car three weeks ago and had car shipped from New Jersey; car has been in driveway for three weeks without registration so by law that would be considered a junk vehicle. Does not feel that the Police Department needs to be involved in the enforcement; there are several other complaints that could be taken care of such as car break-ins. No point for the police to be involved since they have much better things they should be doing.*

*Brittney Gonzalez-Barone – 6 No. Holmes Street; Does not feel it is sufficient to just go on people's words; understands these codes have been on the books for decades but codes should be amended so there is no legal obligation to follow up on proposed penalties. Having the police enforcing this is quite excessing; many other things they should be focusing on that are probably way more important.*

*Amanda Gonzalez-Barone of 6 No. Holmes St; Saying that something has been that way forever is no longer an excuse for anything right now in government; we can do better than that. It is time to update the code.*

*Joel Simmons of Sixth Street; Regarding several of the legislations discussed tonight; the board is stating that it needs to be amended; why weren't those amendments made prior to being brought to the public? A definition of a junk car is not unregistered and uninsured it is a non-operating vehicle or cannot be operated. There are a lot of people that take car off the road for the winter. Need to change the definition of things before they are proposed to the public.*

*Alex Smith of Cuthbert Street; Concerned that this law will have a negative impact on residents that save up for a car but may not able to have the money to register and insure it right away.*

*Mayor Gifford closed the public hearing at 8:48p.m*

### b) Action

Tabled.

April 14, 2021

## **LOCAL LAW 2021-E RELATING TO OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY REGARDING OUTDOOR FURNITURE**

### **a) Public Hearing**

*Mayor Gifford opened the public hearing at 8:50p.m.; law will be tabled tonight but may be helpful for revisions of law to hear from the public.*

*Spencer Lighthall of 7 Cuthbert Street; The Village of Scotia is not a homeowner's association. Why does it matter what someone has out on their patio whether it is covered or not, whether it is upholstered or not; is the concern mold due to the furniture getting wet? Does not feel it is any of the Village's business.*

*Margaret Uhalde of 124 No. Toll Street; Agrees with previous speaker. Brought up again that the law was proposed and reviewed and the jail time is still in there. Urged the board to update the penalties in the proposed legislation. Feels that the Village is better than judging people for furniture that they do not feel it is appropriate for outdoor use; not a government issue. Maybe should be a conversation between neighbors instead of legislation.*

*Lynn Trudell-Moore of 221 Glen Avenue; Outdoor furniture law is new this year. All based on appearance and not liking how something looks; does not want to live in a homeowner's association that is why living in Village of Scotia. Wonderful community, great place to raise kids but some of these proposed laws are going above and beyond. After speaking with Mayor, Board and Building Inspector, there is little justification for the laws that have spoken about. Was not able to any get information of number of complaints or any increase in complaints; why change code if not a concern of residents. Suggested that the Village Board start reviewing and updating the language in the current codes before creating new codes to further antagonize village residents. Proposals presented tonight have been rushed and not well thought out. Asked board to consider holding off on a vote on this law and amending the code proposals, changing the language, thinking of other ways to accomplish the goals and determining if there are really problems; more than someone not liking it. At a time in the county, and community when we are still dealing with COVID-19 after more than a year, Mayor has struggled with vaccinating Village residents, dealing with food insecurities, struggling with education and school and children not being able to attend; does not believe this is what the Board of Trustees should be spending their time and effort on fixing.*

*Amanda Gonzalez-Barone of 6 No. Holmes St; Asked why these petty polies are being proposed with the penalties being ridiculous. Rules are ambiguous and vague and leave a lot up to interpretation. Concerned with timing when trying to balance a budget and now all the proposed legislation have fines associated with them. Tax dollars should be spent doing more good for the Village. Concerned with the definition of outdoor furniture; has seen some outdoor furniture that has not been in good shape but a perfectly intact and cared for indoor couch would violate the proposed code.*

*Trina Maloney of 7 No. Ten Broeck Street; As long as furniture is not falling apart and spewing the insides of the chairs than what difference is it to neighbors or people walking by whether sitting in a recliner or rusted out piece of outdoor furniture; which according to disability would not be able to sit in.*

*Edward Rosenberg; Questioned how the legislation would apply to non-owner-occupied properties. Owners are not going to properties each day and are not always aware of what is being placed on the porch. Who would get the ticket the offender or the property owner? Does not have any outdoor furniture on porches of homes owned that aware of; does have a family member with a disability and has upholstered porch on furniture; how would this legislation apply to that instance? Suggested that legislation be more directed toward dilapidated furniture of any kind on front porch.*

*Mayor Gifford closed the public hearing at 9:04p.m.*

**Action**

Tabled.

## **LOCAL LAW 2021-F RELATING TO TREES**

### **a) Public Hearing**

*Mayor Gifford opened the public hearing at 9:04p.m.*

*Paula Sage of 134 Riverside Avenue; Concerned with huge, dangerous tree that is located on the property located next to her home at 138 Riverside Avenue. Has spoken to owners and they are aware of condition of tree although large financial burden to have removed. Has been working on getting this tree removed for two years; has spoken to Building Inspector and he spoke to homeowner and although they had it trimmed there are many parts that are still dangerous. Concerned with family members anxiety and safety over this tree. Spoke to DPW Superintendent it was confirmed that the tree is located on the property of the homeowner not in the right of way. Asked board to consider passing this legislation in order to help her have this tree taken down.*

*Spencer Lighthall of 7 Cuthbert Street; Based on Alex's earlier comments regarding the finances makes it exceedingly clear that a lot of the laws that are being proposed are attempts at elevating some of the funding issues of the Village. In agreement with this proposed legislation; tree should be responsibility of homeowner. Stated that laws can be removed; do not have to keep laws enacted and continually amend. Can cut the law and reword new legislation that is easier to understand.*

*Margaret Uhalde of 124 No. Toll Street; Confused as to why the police are enforcing this proposal; they have much bigger things to think about. Agree that this may be an issue but does not agree with the way the penalties are imposed. Could be more proactive than reactive since this is such a large financial burden on people. Suggested having the option of calling DPW to have tree removed while still creating revenue.*

*Superintendent Kohout concerned with the public expecting the Department of Public Works to go on private property and cut down a private tree at taxpayers' expense when residents are concerned with lowering taxes and costs. DPW does not have the resources; work would need to be contracted out. DPW has tree budget of \$12,000 which is used to maintain trees in the right of way. Trees on private property need to be maintained by the homeowner.*

*Tammi Luckhurst of 134 Albermarle Rd; Looking for clarification on placement of shrubbery in relation to her fencing and right of way; will call Mayor Gifford to further discuss.*

*Paula Sage of 134 Riverside Avenue; Wanted to clarify earlier statement regarding discussion with Superintendent of Public Works; it was clarified to her that they are only responsible for trees in the right of way. Did not intend to imply that DPW should be responsible for removal of tree; removal is homeowners' responsibility.*

*Lynn Trudell-Moore of 221 Glen Avenue; Agrees that the removal of the tree should be the homeowner's responsibility; does not agree with the police enforcement. As a member of the Police Reform Committee, along with Chief Harrigan is working hard to increase the visibility of the police in a good way, to increase interaction with businesses and young people in order to create a message of assistance not just enforcement. Police Department is dealing with an increase in calls due to COVID; do not have time for enforcement of trees or junk vehicles.*

*Mayor Gifford closed the public hearing at 9:21p.m.*

### **b) Action Tabled**

April 14, 2021

## **LOCAL LAW 2021-G RELATING TO SPEED LIMITS**

### **a) Public Hearing**

*Mayor Gifford opened the public hearing at 9:22p.m; Mayor Gifford stated that this law refers to speed limits around the park.*

Trustee Solotruck stated that this amendment was due to public outreach due to speed limits not being observed by the public. Traffic Safety Committee did some research and traffic safety studies; these changes will allow the speed limit to be enforced. The current speed limit on Schonowee Ave is 15 mph but since it is not within a park that speed limit is not enforceable; increasing the speed limit to 25 will allow speed to be enforced on a public street.

*Alexander Burns of 8 Irving Road; Had reached out to Village regarding the speed limit.*

Wondered why we have speed limit signs within the Village that are not enforceable; glad that is being corrected. Hopeful that there can be an education on the speed limit before being penalized; good opportunity for community outreach. Area along Washington Avenue without walkways is dangerous; supports the law and hopes that outreach to community can be made on education.

*Tammi Luckhurst of 134 Albermarle Rd; Board has heard a lot of complaints tonight; sometimes nice to hear some kudos too. Was not aware that prior limit could not be enforced; nice to know that there can be enforcement in that area. Thanked the board for change and ability to provide enforcement.*

*Mayor Gifford closed the public hearing at 9:26p.m*

### **b) Action**

**MOVED** by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Cook that

Whereas, a public hearing was held, this night, April 14, 2021 on proposed Local Law 2021-G relating to Speed Limits, now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees adopts proposed Local Law 2021-G.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

## **HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN**

**MOVED** by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gray to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the renewal of the MVP Health Plan for health insurance effective June 1, 2021.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

## **DENTAL INSURANCE AGREEMENT**

**MOVED** by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the renewal of the MetLife Dental Plan effective June 1, 2021, for the administration of the Village's Dental Insurance Program.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None



April 14, 2021

**WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT NO. 4 – ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER**

**MOVED** by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Solotruck that

Whereas, the Village awarded a contract for Wastewater System Improvements Contract No 4 – Electrical Construction, and

Whereas, during the course of the work they discovered non-compliant existing wiring, conduit and grounding conditions, and

Whereas, the cost of such work is within the contingency budget, now therefore,

Be it Resolved, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to approve Project Memo from Prime AE.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: Trustee Gray

**CFI CONTRACTING, INC. – PAYMENT #7 RELATED TO WASTEWATER PUMP STATION PROJECT CONTRACT #3 – GENERAL CONSTRUCTION**

**MOVED** by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that

Whereas, the Village of Scotia has an agreement with CFI Contracting, Inc. for Wastewater Pump Station Project Contract #3 – General Construction, and

Whereas, a request for Payment #7 has been requested by CFI Contracting, Inc., and

Whereas, Prime AE has reviewed the request and approved it, now therefore

Be it Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves Payment #7 to CFI Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$71,250.00 for the Wastewater Pump Station Project Contract #3 – General Construction.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

**O’CONNELL ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. – PAYMENT #3 RELATED TO WASTEWATER PUMP STATION PROJECT CONTRACT #4 – ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION**

**MOVED** by Trustee Solotruck, seconded by Trustee Cook that

Whereas, the Village of Scotia has an agreement with O’Connell Electric Company, Inc. for electrical work for the Wastewater Pump Station Project, and

Whereas, a request for Payment #3 has been requested by O’Connell Electric Company, Inc., and

Whereas, Prime AE has reviewed the request and approved it, now therefore

Be it Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves Payment #3 to O’Connell Electric Company, Inc. in the amount of \$28,215.00 for Wastewater Pump Station Project Contract #4 – Electrical Construction.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: Trustee Gray

April 14, 2021

**RESOLUTION TO ALLOW TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR OUTDOOR COMMERCE  
IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**

**MOVED** by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gray that

Whereas, on March 7, 2020 Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order declaring a State disaster emergency due to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, which disaster is ongoing, and  
Whereas, on March 20, 2020 Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order putting businesses on “PAUSE” which order, having been amended from time to time and are still in effect, and  
Whereas, many individuals, businesses, workplaces and governments have had a severe economic impact and otherwise due to the pandemic, and  
Whereas, businesses still face operating restrictions under State Executive Orders, and  
Whereas, the Village of Scotia seeks to aid commerce and the general good of the community by allowing outdoor commerce in the Central Business District in “bump-out” areas, and  
Whereas, “bump-out” areas shall be areas created in the Village right-of way;  
Whereas, if successful, the Village may consider such a program on a more permanent basis,  
now therefore

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes:

Bump-out areas in the Village right-of-way be created in the Central Business District for use by existing businesses for temporary outdoor commerce subject to the requirements of the Village, Application for a bump-out must be made on a form provided by the Village and submitted to the Building Inspector for approval or disapproval. All applications will be submitted to the Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, and Traffic Safety Committee for review and comment and for approval by the Superintendent of Public Works. If an application is approved, a Licensee Agreement must be signed by the Village Building Inspector and Licensee on a form provided by the Village. All license periods shall run from May 1 to November 1 and may be revoked at any time as set forth in the Licensee Agreement. Licensee must provide insurance as set forth in the Licensee Agreement and comply with all Federal, State and local laws, regulations and orders in addition to the requirements in the Licensee Agreement. The fee for the issuance of an outdoor commerce (bump-out) licensee shall

be:     \$50     up to 100 sq. ft.  
          \$100    101 to 150 sq ft.  
          \$150    151 to 299 sq. ft.  
          \$200    201 to 200 sq. ft.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Trustee Solotruck thanked Mike and Stephanie Martini for piloting the program and thanked Planning Board Chair Erik Buskirk for development of the program.

April 14, 2021

## **VILLAGE OF SCOTIA MS4 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY**

Trustee Cook read the following summary:

### **Village of Scotia MS4 Annual Report Summary**

**March 2020 – March 2021**

#### **MCM#1 Public Education**

1. Stormwater pamphlets, handouts and posters are available at the Village Clerk's Office, DPW Office and Building Department Office.
2. The Village water quality report postcard was sent to all residents and included a link to the Village's MS4 Program web page.
3. Yard waste and loose leaf pickup programs were posted on the electronic sign in Collins Park, on the Village website, and the mass email list of 1170 residents.
4. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Village did not have a Fire Department Open House event. In past years, stormwater brochures were handed out at the Fire Department Open House. The Village plans on resuming public education events when it is safe to do so.

#### **MCM#2 Public Involvement / Participation**

1. Schenectady County Water Quality Committee Meetings – the Village is represented at all 10 meetings each year. Meetings were held virtually.
2. The MS4 Annual Report is posted on the Village website and available at the Clerk's office for review and comment.
3. 24,000 pet waste bags were utilized.
4. A canal clean sweep, 4th of July fireworks cleanup, and Collins Lake cleanup were not performed this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Village plans on resuming these public involvement events when it is safe to do so.

#### **MCM#3 Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE)**

1. All 25 storm sewer outfalls are mapped within the Village. Eleven (11) were inspected in December 2020.
2. The locations of storm sewer outfalls and catch-basins are mapped and available for view on the Schenectady County Internet Mapping System (SIMS).
3. Pipe deterioration was identified at the Riverside Avenue Outfall along with associated soil erosion. Repair of the pipe and ground surface stabilization is planned for this coming year.

#### **MCM#4 & #5 Construction Site and Post Construction Control**

1. During the program year, there were zero projects requiring SWPPP reviews.
2. The Village inspected three (3) post-construction stormwater management practices that are owned by the Village, several times each during the year. Maintenance was performed as needed, including mowing of the grassed areas.

#### **MCM#6 Municipal Operations**

1. 11 of 16 Village employees were trained to implement Best Management Practices and Erosion & Sediment Control to avoid stormwater pollution in their duties at the DPW garage and in their field operations.
2. During the past year:
  - a. Village streets were swept two times each for a total of 104 miles cleaned and approximately 2 acres of parking lots were swept.
  - b. 25 Catch basins were inspected and cleaned as necessary (approximately 6% of the system), including those on Glen Avenue prior to the paving work that was performed there.

April 14, 2021

- c. The Parks Department applied minimal amounts of fertilizer in Village Parks and none near Collins Lake to help combat high phosphorus levels.

Notes:

1. MS4 = Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
2. MCM = Minimum Control Measure
3. SWPPP = Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS TO THE BOARD**

COVID shots with seniors is almost complete; thanked Schenectady County for their efforts. All Village streetlights have been replaced with LED bulbs. Sewer Pump Station Project still underway; updates are critical – public is not always aware of all that the Village is doing to keep the sewage being pumped to Schenectady. Completing a study of reinforcement of the Freedom Park Stage; work should be complete prior to season. Freedom Park Foundation will hold a summer series in a socially distanced manner. Police Department is now working on a 12-hour shift; 6:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. Police Reform Committee finished their plan and made some recommendations that the Police Department has adopted. Schenectady County has submitted plans for the library addition; available for review at Village Hall – approved by both the Village and the County. Municipal Facilities project continuing; working on a way to receive public input on potential sites. Uncertain if Memorial Day Parade will be held; want to do something to recognize veterans.

### **CORRESPONDENCE, LIAISON AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Trustee Solotruck** – Currently liaison to Traffic Safety Board and Planning Board; was able to be part of the discussions of the bump out program; great opportunity to utilize the space to bring more people to the Village. Program can be tailored to any type of business within the Village. Budget big discussion point this time of year; as is every year. Great turnout tonight; great way to have voices heard. Residents are always welcome to reach out to board members. Board meetings are held 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month; all meetings are public. Thanked everyone for participation tonight. Has been resident of the Village of Scotia since 2009; this is third budget cycle. This year there have been a lot of challenges; has lost job due to COVID and still looking for employment – would not change any of the votes he has made last year or this year regardless of being in that position. Supports the Village; allows for his family and others to have emergency crises identified and attended to as fast as possible. Had incident with own family member with response time of under 3 minutes; cannot put a number on that response time and will happily pay for that service. Several comments have been true; revenues have been flat, Village does not have a lot of space to expand, does not have the commercial opportunities that the Town of Glenville has; unique to have the services that the Village provides, cannot expect expenses to not go up. As Trustee represents everyone in the Village; look forward continuing conversations on how we can make revenues go up and increasing tax base. Board is not willing to cut vital employees or services such as garbage. Hopes that residents are as granular with the Town of Glenville budget as they are with the Village's to see what they are getting for their tax dollars. Look forward to continuing conversations; does not think the board has failed; the board has done a good job at keeping the services intact which thinks represents the majority of the Village residents.

April 14, 2021

**Trustee Rizzo** – Thanked all residents for attending and voicing opinions. Attended Car Show meeting; working with the Elks to hold event. County is pushing vaccination program; trying to get as many residents vaccinated as possible.

**Trustee Gray**– Voted against the proposed budget, very difficult decision; appreciates all the services within the Village; DPW, Fire Parks and Police and always being there for the community. Does think there is some movement on the budget; looks forward to next week's meeting to continue discussions and lowering the increase to the residents. Happy to have garbage stay within the budget so the residents do not see an increase in cost for this service; glad to have Trustee Solotruck's support on this issue. Spoke to Chief Harrigan; Police Department continuing work on grants – one for a body armor vest in the amount of \$2,100 also applied for grant regarding officer wellness. Serves on Police Reform Committee, a diverse group of community members which will continue to meet. Police Reform Committee Plan was certified and filed with State prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. As stated by Mayor, police are now working 12 hour shifts which seems to be working out well. As liaison to Town of Glenville; met with Supervisor Keotzle today and thanked him for his time. There has been a lot of discussion regarding consolidation instead of shared services. During meeting with Supervisor at no time discussed consolidation; discussed shared services and how we can collaborate to benefit both the residents of Glenville and the Village. At no point was there discussions of consolidating Police, Fire or Department of Public Works. Board is doing best job they can with the budget, there are mandated contracts and costs rise. Board will continue to work together for the benefit of the residents.

**Trustee Cook** – DPW active and engaged in spring cleanup; street sweeper is out which is part of our wastewater mitigation plan. Last month and this month continuing to patch pot holes and maintain 52 miles of roadways within Village. LED Streetlight Program was completed April 2<sup>nd</sup>; will result in considerable maintenance and energy savings to the Village; total of approx. \$50,000 – also Night Sky Compliant which is an important environmentally friendly compliance. Linkage study is ongoing; looking into the business corridor along Mohawk Avenue – second advisory committee meeting will be held in May. Attended Scotia Business Improvement Meeting; Hometown Hero banners are up. All uniformed Police and Fire personnel are being honored for their work during COVID. Will be working with DPW Superintendent to get the behind-the-scenes DPW workers honored in the park; during the pandemic they have kept our streets clear, garbage picked up and other essential services. Congratulated them all on their hard work including the Parks Department. Superintendent Kohout attended BID meeting to discuss the linkage study. Thanked Zach Calderon; Village has opportunity to look into what we are doing as far as green infrastructure not only for savings but also for being responsible to our climate. Citizen Task Force will look into green opportunities within the Village; Zach has stepped up to be a citizen lead. No Zoning Board of Appeals meeting held. Take budget responsibility very seriously; fiduciary and fiscal responsibility is more than just cutting every line item indiscriminately. Unfortunately, the tax cap legislation is an arbitrary number; 1.3% is what Village would be required to stay under. With creative local response can work together for solutions; there is a lot of space between where we are now and consolidation. Ready to work with board and citizens to see what the needs of our community are, to evaluate the service delivery we provide and meet these challenges head on. Refuses to look at budget situation as something that cannot be fixed. Available to residents in person, through email and phones calls; will continue to be open and accessible; thrilled to see so many residents attend tonight's meeting. Fiduciary responsibility is not just what the numbers say on a balance sheet; it is about



April 14, 2021

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 10, 2021**

**MOVED** by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the minutes of the March 10, 2021 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 10, 2021**

**MOVED** by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the minutes of the March 10, 2021 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 15, 2021**

**MOVED** by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the minutes of the March 15, 2021 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: Trustee Rizzo

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 29, 2021**

**MOVED** by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the minutes of the March 29, 2021 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 30, 2021**

**MOVED** by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the minutes of the March 30, 2021 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD APRIL 6, 2021**

**MOVED** by Trustee Gray, seconded by Trustee Rizzo that the minutes of the April 6, 2021 Village of Scotia, Board of Trustees meeting are hereby approved.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

April 14, 2021

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Gray would like to review the curfew at the next work session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED** by Trustee Rizzo, seconded by Trustee Cook to adjourn the meeting at 10:08p.m.

Ayes: Trustee Cook, Gray, Rizzo, Solotruck and Mayor Gifford

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted,

Maria A. Schmitz

Clerk to the Village Board of Trustees