At the special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees
Held June 17, 2024

Mayor Bucciferro called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

PRESENT: Trustee Brown, Trustee Cook, Trustee Solotruck & Mayor Bucciferro
EXCUSED: Trustee Gray

OVERVIEW OF NY FORWARD GRANT PROCESS
Mayor provided the following provided by Norabelle Greenberger of LaBella;

What is NY Forward?
The NY Forward (NYF) program is a comprehensive approach to reinvigorate and enliven downtowns in New York's smaller and rural communities—the type of downtowns found in villages, hamlets and other small, neighborhood-scale municipal centers. Each year 2-3 communities in each of NY's ten regions are selected as NY Forward communities—either two $4.5 million awards, or one $4.5 million award and two $2.25 million awards. The funding can be used on a range of projects, including public, private, and not-for-profit projects, with the funding allocated between multiple, diverse projects.
Scotia is located in the Capital Region REDC. Round 1 & 2 Capital Region REDC NY Forward awardees are the Village of Cambridge (Washington County), Village of Schuylerville (Saratoga County), Village of Hoosick Falls (Rensselaer County), Village of Coxsackie (Greene County), and Village of Kinderhook (Columbia County).
Why Scotia, and why now?
Scotia stands out as one of the only Schenectady County communities that fits the mold of what the State is typically looking for with a NY Forward community. The recent completion of the Envision Scotia plan has built momentum and identified and developed compelling projects that can be included in the application. On Monday, the Village's BOA designation package is being submitted to the State. BOA designated communities are prioritized for NY Forward funding (and other State funding). Last week, the supporting documentation for the Village's Pro-Housing designation were also sent to the State; Pro-Housing designation is a requirement to be eligible for NY Forward funding this year, and there are currently only 64 designated Pro-Housing communities in the State. Other than the City of Schenectady, no other Schenectady County municipalities have submitted their Letters of Intent to be Pro-Housing communities.
Next steps to prepare the Village's NY Forward application
While the deadline date for the next round of NY Forward funding has not yet been announced it is typically in September. Prior round application guidance highlights the need for:
Meaningful community outreach to build support for the application – *a minimum of one public event must be held during development of the application*
A strong, community-supported vision
Preliminary identification of a robust, feasible slate of potential projects
We are recommending an initial public discussion of the grant application at the July 2nd Village Board Workshop. From there we will be soliciting property owners, developers, and businesses to submit their project ideas throughout the month of July. A draft application will be discussed at a second public meeting to be held in August (to be scheduled).

Mayor will send out press release, constant contact and put announcement on website related to the July 2nd public discussion.

MUNICIPAL ROLE IN CANNABIS LEGISLATION
Mayor provided board with information related to municipalities role in cannabis legislation; asked board to review information. State has approved a license within the Village; would like to address concerns early in the process. The board recommended information be provided to the Planning Board and Zoning Board for their review. Board will continue discussions once a formal plan has been submitted.
Trustee Cook concerned with illicit sales of cannabis within the Village and the role of local law enforcement. Trustee Brown stated that the Office of Cannabis Management is working with local health departments regarding illicit sales; consideration should be given regarding enforcement. Mayor will reach out to NYCOM for further guidance.

STRATEGIC PLAN
Mayor stated that Rockefeller College has agreed to work with the Village on a Strategic Plan; the plan will be developed by graduate students. Mayor stated that the Village will need to create a job description for the students and the students will be paid by the Village. Mayor stated that a mission statement and values structure needs to be developed by the Village and submitted to the college. Trustee Cook suggested the development of a timeline for the process. Trustee Cook recommended creating a strategic plan committee to develop mission and vision statement and value structure. Board will discuss structure of the committee at the July 2nd meeting; with appointment of members at the July 15th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
MOVED by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Cook to adjourn the meeting at 6:45p.m.
Ayes: Trustee Brown, Cook, Solotruck & Mayor Bucciferro
Noes: None
Abstentions: None

Respectfully submitted,

Maria A. Schmitz
Clerk to the Village Board of Trustees