

**Village of Tupper Lake
Board of Trustees
Minutes**

Date: May 24, 2023
Location: Court Room and Board Room
Meeting: Regular Monthly 6:00-8:21 PM

At the Public Hearing and Regular Meetings of the Board of Trustees held this date, the following were present: Mayor Paul A. Maroun, Trustees Leon LeBlanc, Eric Shaheen, David Maroun, Jason McClain, and Village Clerk/Treasurer Mary A. Casagrain.

Also present were Electric Superintendent Michael Dominic, Police Chief Eric Proulx, Code Enforcement Officer Peter Edwards, First Assistant Fire Chief Nicholas Rolley, Water/Wastewater Superintendent Mark Robillard, Town Councilwomen Mary Fontana and Tracy Luton, residents Frances Fortune, Jocelyn Savage, Nicholas and Val Degrace, Susan Yaworski, Paul and Linda Metz, Serena Clement, Lori Watson, Craig Gallahan, Jesse Weigand, Susan and Paul Weigand, Robyn Jacobs, Curtiss Rolley, Dallas Jedney, Kelly Smith, Tammie Salzman, Gerald and Margaret Ermenwein, Anne and Steve Eldred, Franklin Mussen, Tammy Desmarais, Patricia Nichols, Alexander Lewis, Michelle Blair, and News Reporters Dan McClelland.

Call Public Hearing
To Order

Mayor Maroun called the Public Hearing to order and read aloud the legal notice for the hearing which was to hear comments from the public concerning renewal of our cable television franchise agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc.

No comments received.

Call Monthly Meeting
To Order

Mayor Maroun called the Monthly Meeting to order and established the agenda at 6:00 pm and moved the meeting to the Court Room to accommodate those present to express their concerns and alarm over dirty water.

Craig Gallahan

Mr. Craig Gallahan a Haymeadow resident addressed the board first. He shared that he has a special filtration system on his water line and he has concern over the iron content that is left on his filters. He stated he started a Facebook group over water issues, he stated it isn't a water problem it is a water crisis! He stated he talked to Senator Stec's office and we are over 2-years away from a new reliable drinking water solution for our community. He asked if there is a short-term solution available so they don't have to drink spring water. He also feels there needs to be better means of communication with residents who do not get the Tupper Lake Free Press.

Jocelyn Savage
Main Street & Pine
Street Intersection
Safety Concerns

Ms. Jocelyn Savage stated she has safety concerns pulling off Pine Street due to vehicles parking to close to the intersection of Pine Street and NYS Route 3. She stated they are having the same safety concerns as the Raquette River Brewery and she requested that they restrict parking at the intersection.

Chief of Police
Eric Proulx

Chief of Police Eric Proulx agreed with her that there is a concern at that intersection similar to the Balsam Street intersection. He advised that vehicles have been ticketed but it her concerns should be referred to NYS DOT since they control signage along the State Route 3.

Mayor Maroun

Mayor Maroun advised he would talk to the Resident Engineer Joseph Sciortino personally and get some answers and get back to her.

Susan Weigand

Mrs. Susan Weigand stated 5-years ago she spent over \$1,500 in veterinary bills for her dogs and they almost died due the water conditions on Underwood Road. She stated she buys 35 gallons of water a week and the dog health issues have resolved due to giving them bottled water. She stated she has lost fish, plants and she worries about the long term issues that may arise.

Paul Weigand

Mr. Paul Weigand also expressed his concerns that the Village may resort to charging them for the metered water in the near future.

Paul Maroun

Mayor Maroun stated the meters were a DEC mandate that each home have a meter installed for the purpose of identifying leaks in our system in the event they occur. He stated the new wells went on-line in June of 2018 and we were event free until July 2019 when the iron started showing up in our water system.

Tammie Salzman

Ms. Tammie Salzman from Washington Street stated her water has been dirty and a solution needs to be immediate, not two-years from now.

Franklin Mussen

Mr. Franklin Mussen from McCarthy Street stated he is concerned that the chlorine levels are too high and what the effects that would have on us in the end.

Paul Maroun

Mayor Maroun advised the public that we are doing everything we can to resolve this and he is trying to organize a larger venue for everyone and he has invited Senator Dan Stec and Assemblyman Billy Jones. Once they are out of session a meeting will be scheduled for the Tupper Lake High School Auditorium.

Linda Metz

Mrs. Linda Metz from Flanders Avenue stated they drink water from the Lumberjack Spring and is worried about drinking the Village supplied water. She asked if we were conducting studies on the current water quality.

Nicholas Degrace

Mr. Nicholas Degrace from Park Ridge stated his faucets and sinks are full of soot and he worried about the long term effects to his homes pipes etc.

Curtiss Rolley

Mr. Curtiss Rolley from Little Wolf Road stated he has brown water and strong chlorine smell; he wanted to know how it was going to be resolved.

Tammy Desmarais

Ms. Tammy Desmarais from Haymeadow stated she had to replace her hot water tank twice and now she has to clean the back of her toilet bowls and wonders what else in her home is being damaged by the iron containing water.

Kelly Smith

Mr. Kelly Smith from Washington Street asked if we could supply free drinking water to them while the issue is being resolved.

Anne Eldred Water/Wastewater Superintendent Mark Robillard	Mrs. Annie Eldred from Park Street asked if independent studies of the water conditions are being completed. Water/Wastewater Superintendent Mark Robillard advised the public that our water is tested each week and NYS DOH advise that it is safe to consume.
Paul Maroun	Mayor Maroun advised those in attendance that we are in the process of going back to the lake for water instead of the wells but that the filtration process needs to be approve by NYS DOH and we are working very closely with them to schedule a PILOT testing before they will approve design of a new facility. A new plant construction and an iron extractor would cost the community about the same so we want to get the right process in place before engineering and constructing a new facility. In the meantime it is recommended that we try another chemical treatment of a corrosion control agent to line the inside of our pipes to prevent further dirty water.
Michelle Blair	Ms. Michelle Blair from Main Street stated if we are two years minimum away from a new facility she felt we should have weekly updates or some other form of communication with the community event a fact summary.
Tracy Luton	Town Councilwoman Tracy Luton stated elections are out there soon, not an easy task but we need to come together to find a solution.
Curtiss Rolley	Mr. Curtiss Rolley of Little Wolf Road asked who we report this too.
Anne Eldred	Mrs. Anne Eldred asked if she should start a petition.
Tammy Desmarais	Ms. Tammy Desmarais asked if we would abandon the wells if we go back to the lake.
Paul Maroun	Mayor Paul Maroun stated yes we would abandon the wells and only resort to using them if it were an emergency.
Tammy Desmarais	Ms. Tammy Desmarais asked if messages could be placed on our utility bills as to updates.
Tracy Luton	Town Councilwoman Tracy Luton suggested we end the public meeting now until a meeting is scheduled in the future.
Pledge & Moment Of Silence	Meeting resumed in the Village Board Room. Pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence and prayer for the safe return of missing teen Colin Gillis.
Spectrum Northeast, LLC Franchise PH Closed & Tabled	Motion by Mayor Maroun, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to close hearing and table vote on approval of the Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC until next month when our Village Attorney Nathan Race could be present. (Carried 5-0)

RESTORE NY
Award OWD

Mayor Maroun announced that the Village of Tupper Lake was awarded \$1.6 million for Phase I of the Oval Wood Dish Factory redevelopment project which will include the redevelopment of 126,000 square feet of vacant space in nine connected buildings as workforce housing, co-working and new commercial space as part of RESTORE NEW YORK COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE.

Secondary Administrative
Agreement with Franklin
County Economic
Development Corp.

Motion by Trustee McClain, seconded by Trustee Maroun to authorize Mayor Maroun to sign a Secondary Administrative Agreement with the Franklin County Economic Development Corporation for services relating to the Energize Uptown DRI Funds as proposed. (Carried 5-0)

Board Minutes
Approved

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the board minutes from April 19 and 27, 2023 and May 1, 2023 respectively. (Carried 5-0)

Treasurer:

Approve Warrant

Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to approve the May 24, 2023, warrant in the amount of \$212,645.45 for payment of the bills and abstracts for the month of April 2023. (Carried 5-0)

Review Cash
Position

Review the monthly cash position for April 30, 2023.

Set Special Meetings

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Maroun to set a Special Meeting for June 8, 2023 at 5:00 pm to approve the May 31, 2023 fiscal year end accounts payable run. (Carried 5-0)

Code Enforcement:
Accept April
Monthly Report

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the April 2023 Monthly Code Report. (Carried 5-0)

Vendor Fee
Discussion

The board briefly discussed the current vendor fees adopted back in May of 2021 and felt they needed to be revisited.

Miscellaneous
Updates

Code Enforcement Officer Peter Edwards advised the board that he and Justice Delair were able to review the code for authority to act and they are in agreement that he has the authority to order someone to court to comply with the code, they ironed the issue out.

Police:
Accept April
Monthly Report

Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee McClain to approve the April 2023 Monthly Police Report. (Carried 5-0)

P-2's Intersection
Pine-NYS Route 3

Police Chief Eric Proulx stated he feels the intersection of Pine Street and NYS Route 3 would be better served with a traffic device or markings.

Fire:
Accept April
Monthly Report

Motion by Trustee McClain, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to approve the April 2023 Monthly Fire Report. (Carried 5-0)

Jonathan Gilligan
Volunteer Member

Motion by Trustee McClain, seconded by Trustee Maroun to formally appoint Mr. Jonathan Gilligan as a volunteer fire department member. (Carried 5-0)

This brings the volunteer membership number up to 47 and there are 2 RAM members.

Broad Street Fire Thank You	First Assistance Chief Nicholas Rolley thanked everyone for their help with the Broad Street Fire including the Electric, DPW and Police.
TLFD Co. #3 Dissolved	First Assistance Chief Nicholas Rolley advised the TLVFD board that they officially dissolved Co. #3 and all retired are in one company now and they were planning a dinner at the Rod'n Gun Club for May 26, 2023 at 6:30 pm.
DPW: Flanders Park Boat Dock Bid Award	Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to formally award the Flanders Park Boat Dock Bid Award to The Dock Doctors LLC in the amount of \$196,850.00 as received. (Carried 5-0)
Franklin County Shared Services Agreement	Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee McClain to formally approve a Shared Services Agreement with the County of Franklin as proposed for 2023-24. (Carried 5-0)
Appoint Part-time Laborer	Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee McClain to formally appoint Mr. Shawn Phelon as a part-time laborer for the Municipal Park. (Carried 5-0)
Outdoor Rink Donation – Kevin Barney	Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee McClain to repost the advertisement for part-time laborers due to lack of applications to fill the positions we need to operate the park. (Carried 5-0)
Sidewalk Repairs Junction	Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee McClain to formally accept a donation of a portable ice rink from Mr. Kevin Barney from Gull Pond to the Village. He will deliver it to us over the summer as he visits his summer home here. (Carried 5-0)
Overnight Parking Concerns	Trustee LeBlanc asked to have the sidewalks in front of Larkin's in the junction looked at for replacement. Department of Public Works Superintendent Robert Degrace advised he has a few sections near Main Street Restaurant, Larkin's and across from Tyler's Pizzeria that are scheduled for replacement in the coming weeks. Trustee Shaheen asked about the cars parked along the fence in the municipal park, he stated he wanted no overnight parking allowed.
W/WW: Raw Water Data	Trustee Maroun advised they belong to members of the Empire League that traveled and that he would make arrangements to have them relocated next to the Police Department on Santa Clara Avenue. Water/Wastewater Superintendent Mark Robillard advised the board that he is waiting on a special plunger to collect the raw water data from the lake and once it is collected it will be forwarded to the DEC and DOH so the PILOT testing could be completed.
Hydrant Flushing	Water/Wastewater Superintendent Mark Robillard advised that his crew will be re-flushing hydrants again to clean up the dirty water.

Miscellaneous
Updates

Water/Wastewater Superintendent Mark Robillard advised he has his crews working on Demars Blvd where a hydrant was damaged, bollards will be installed to prevent future damage to it. In addition they are working on a leak on Facticeu Avenue tomorrow, today they worked on a leak on Front Street and they are working on cleaning out the drying beds at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Electric:
Miscellaneous
Updates

Electric Superintendent Dominic advised the board they worked on a pole on Raquette River Drive involving a pole anchor and he thanked the DPW and W/S for their assistance.

In addition, transformers are difficult to get, and a resident called today to ask if they could purchase one of their own that was used. We advised that they could use the transformer as long as it meets our specifications. We would replace it down the road if we have one in stock so it would hold up their construction of their new home. We would not own it.

Enter Executive
Session at 7:37 PM

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Shaheen to enter Executive Session at 5:30 pm for the purpose of discussing the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, discipline, suspension, dismissal, resignation, or removal of a particular person or corporation. In addition, also for the purpose of discussing proposed, pending, or current litigation and the acquisition, sale or lease of real property. (Carried 5-0)

Exit Executive
Session at 6:10 PM
New Vendor Fees
June 1, 2023

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Maroun to exit Executive Session at 8:20 pm. (Carried 5-0)

Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to charge \$75.00/week minimum or \$300.00/month Vendor Fee for our Municipal Park. In addition, there will only be two food vendors allowed during the baseball season near the Municipal Park Grandstands, first come, first served. If there is no game the food vendors will not be allowed near the grandstands, they will need to be on the blacktopped road strip near the gazebo/pavilion. No trailers will be allowed to stay overnight in the park or on the grass. (Carried 5-0)

Facility Charge &
Deposit

Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to require all organizations to remit a \$250.00 refundable deposit and a \$500.00 event charge for use of the park for events. Non-profit organizations will not be assessed a \$500.00 use fee. (Carried 5-0)

Adjournment

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Maroun to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm. (Carried 5-0)

Mary A. Casagrain, Village Clerk/Treasurer