

# Village of Evans Mills

Village Board of Trustees – Held at the Municipal Building

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 6:00PM**

**Regular Meeting – Public Hearing for Tentative Budget**

## **Attendance**

Robert Boucher – Mayor, Taylor Scheer – Clerk/Treasurer, Melissa Dobbins – Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, David Edwards – Superintendent, Greg Smith – Trustee, JoAnna Malone – Trustee, Edward O’Brien – Trustee, Virginia Wendt – Trustee, Cheryl Fuller – Resident, Lynette Suess – Resident, Sharon Hall – Resident, Melissa Edwards – Resident, Allen Cooper– Guest.

## **Open Public Hearing**

A motion was made by Trustee Wendt and seconded by Trustee O’Brien to open the public hearing for the tentative budget for fiscal year 2024-2025.

*Aye: 5 Nay: 0*

**Motion Passed.**

## **Public Hearing for Tentative Budget for FY2024-2025**

Public Comments: A village resident had questions concerning the sidewalk and lawncare law and the stipulations surrounding that. The Board reviewed the law with the Village residents as far as the regulations and the cost that came with each.

## **Close Public Hearing**

A motion was made by Trustee Malone and seconded by Trustee O’Brien to close the public hearing for the tentative budget for fiscal year 2024-2025.

*Aye: 5 Nay: 0*

**Motion Passed.**

## **Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Trustee Malone and seconded by Trustee Wendt to open the regular meeting.

*Aye: 5 Nay: 0*

**Motion Passed.**

Public Comments: Cheryl Fuller, a village resident, had a property in question when it came to the sidewalk and lawncare law. There is no visible sidewalk between Peck and

Church Street. Ms. Fuller had asked who was responsible for the maintenance if the sidewalk didn't exist. Mr. Edwards mentioned that he will explore this issue for a proper response.

Allen Cooper, a town of Antwerp resident, oversees The North Country Adventure Team and is looking for volunteers who want to help get children more active in a lifetime sport. All coaches will need to pass a background check and complete a training session on either April 20th or May 18th. The flyer is attached below for more information.

**THE NORTH COUNTRY ADVENTURE TEAM**

### Child registration and dates

We are excited to welcome kids ages 5-18 that are off of training wheels to a new opportunity!!! Our child registration fee is \$25. There is in person registration at the North Country Store in Philadelphia on May 1st and 2nd from 5-6pm. If there are open spots after our registration event, kids can be signed up at [bikereg.com/ncatkid](http://bikereg.com/ncatkid).

We will have Orientation Day on July 2nd at 6 pm at the fields next to the Indian River Bus Garage for 45 minutes for parents, kids, and coaches. Our summer bike programming starts on Thursdays from July 11th-August 22nd from 6-8 pm at the same location. Kids are expected to bring a bike, helmet, and water bottle or hydration pack. Parents will hand off kids to their coaches and pick them up the same way. More information is on our website!

### We are looking for volunteers!

We are looking for individuals who want to help children get more active in a lifetime sport! All coaches will need to pass a background check and complete a training session on either April 20th or May 18th. Volunteers will be either on the bike coaches or off the bike support.

**VOLUNTEER REGISTRATIONS ARE \$30 AT BIKEREG.COM/NCATVOLUNTEER**

**Davidson Auto Group** **NORTH COUNTRY STORE** **Road's End Orchards** **MATTESON PROPERTY MANAGEMENT** **Tiny Town Salon**

[ncadventureteam@yahoo.com](mailto:ncadventureteam@yahoo.com) [ncadventureteam.wixsite.com/community](http://ncadventureteam.wixsite.com/community)

## Approval of Minutes from March 12<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meetings

A motion was made by Trustee Wendt and seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the Village Board of Trustees meeting minutes of March 12th, 2024, Board Meeting.

Aye: 5 Nay: 0

**Motion Passed.**

A motion was made by Trustee Wendt and seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the Village Board of Trustees meeting minutes of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Budget Session Meeting.

*Aye: 5 Nay: 0*

**Motion Passed.**

**Report from Dave Edwards, Superintendent**

Mr. Edwards and the rest of DPW have started to sweep the Village streets. He then discussed the possibility of having a diver for our Wastewater Treatment Facility, to establish the true condition from the inside of the Sewer Plant. The decision was made for Mr. Edwards to call and get an exact quote so the Village can plan for the cost. The superintendent also inquired that Village residents be charged minimum usage for water, water debt and sewer, even for property that is currently vacant. This is because the property is readily available for access of water at any time. Looking back into the last 10 years, it has been calculated that the Village has lost approximately \$31,620 in water, water debt and sewer costs.

A motion was made by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Trustee Smith for the Village Office to send the information needed to our attorney, to establish a law involving charging vacant properties with water, water debt and sewer debt.

*Aye: 5 Nay: 0*

**Motion Passed.**

**Report from Taylor Scheer, Clerk-Treasurer**

Audited Vouchers:

**GENERAL FUND:** Abstract 10, vouchers **\$18,391.22**

**WATER FUND:** Abstract 10 vouchers **\$1,635.80**

**SEWER FUND:** Abstract 10, vouchers **\$1,469.61**

**LIBRARY FUND:** Abstract 10 totaling **\$1,619.47**

A motion was approved by Trustee Malone and seconded by Trustee Wendt to approve the audited vouchers for Abstract 11, the General, Water, Sewer, and Library Fund.

*Aye: 5 Nay: 0*

**Motion Passed.**

Ms. Scheer presented her and her deputy, Ms. Dobbins, to attend the New York Association of Local Government Records Officers, to gain knowledge of records management. The annual meeting is being held at the river edge resort in Alexandria Bay on June 10<sup>th</sup> & June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

A motion was made by Trustee Wend and seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the Village Clerk-Treasurers Office in attending the NYALGRO Annual Conference in Alexandria Bay on June 10 and June 11, 2024.

*Aye: 5 Nay: 0*

**Motion Passed.**

A motion was made by Trustee O'Brien and Seconded by Trustee Malone to close the Village Office on June 10 and June 11 for training purposes.

*Aye: 5 Nay: 0*

**Motion Passed.**

During the March 12<sup>th</sup> Village Board Meeting, at the end salaries were decided by board members. It had been decided that all employees would receive a 2.5% to 3% increase. Although the salaries were presented to Ms. Scheer, it was noticed that she was the only employee receiving a 1.2% increase, which was the incorrect percentage that was previously decided. Due to an excessive amount of time spent on the subject, it was decided to hold another budget session on April 9, 2024, to further discuss this matter.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Budget Session Meeting, it was brought to Ms. Scheers attention it would be in the Villages be interest to receive a notary certification and to open the office 9am-noon on Fridays if the village was to agree on giving her an equal percentage increase, at 2.5%. Neither of these subjects have been discussed prior.

During the April 9, 2024, meeting Ms. Scheer presented to the village board for her and Ms. Dobbins to receive a \$1.00 pay increase when they pass the New York state testing. This is due to the extra work that would be included in the regular day-to-day schedule and due to the village board giving other departments an increase in pay when they pass testing. Residential attendees showed in support of Ms. Scheer and Ms. Dobbins that if they were to add more work to the day-to-day schedule that they should receive a pay increase once the required testing was passed. Trustee Smith mentioned the village may not need a notary now that Ms. Scheer presented a salary increase.

A motion was made by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Trustee Wendt. to budget a \$1.00 raise if both Ms. Scheer and Ms. Dobbins were to pass the notary exam but to start off with a \$0.50 increase initially to keep track of paperwork to be notarized.

*Aye: 4 Nay: 1(Smith)*

**Motion Passed.**

Ms. Scheer has sent in the unpaid water and sewer charges to be relieved onto June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Village Property Tax.

### **Budgetary Work**

A motion was made to approve the tentative budget by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by

Trustee Wendt.

A motion was made by Trustee O'Brien and seconded by Wendt to adopt the budget with the recommended changes above.

*Aye: 4 Nay: 1*

**Motion Passed.**

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Trustee Wendt and Seconded by Trustee Smith to adjourn the Village Board of Trustees meeting at 7:25 PM.

Submitted 4/29 by:

*Melissa Dobbins*

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

*Taylor Scheer*

Clerk-Treasurer

DRAFT