

MEETINGS: 8  
NO. OF REGULAR: 7

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF DEPEW**  
**June 24, 2024 7:09 PM**

ROLL CALL: Trustee Hamernik ABS  
Trustee Ziemba – PR  
Trustee Kraft - ABS  
Deputy Mayor Adolf - PR  
Mayor Peterson - PR

**Public Comment Agenda Items Only:**

NA

**APPROVE LEAVE OF ABSENCE EXTENSION REQUEST**

Trustee Ziemba, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, Carmi DelConte, Village of Depew Building Department employee, has requested an unpaid medical leave of absence extension until July 25, 2024.

**WHEREAS**, Village Administrator, Regina Grzankowski, recommends the approval of this request.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Village Board approves the period of leave stated above.

The following resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor Adolf, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - ABS  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kraft - ABS  
Deputy Mayor Adolf -Y  
Mayor Peterson -Y

**APPOINT SUMMER REC SEASONAL**

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I Mayor Kevin J. Peterson do hereby appoint the following for seasonal summer employment to the Recreation Department:

**Lifeguard:**

Liam Marlowe  
Olivia Canna  
Micah Trammel Ali

**Cashier:**

Luke Triplet

**Part-Time Permanent Laborer**

Samuel Radka

The forgoing nomination was acted upon in the following manner by the Board of Trustees:

Trustee Hamernik - ABS  
Trustee Ziemba - Y

Trustee Kraft - ABS  
Deputy Mayor Adolf - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**APPOINT PART TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I Mayor Kevin J. Peterson do hereby appoint Brian Musielak to the position of Part Time Code Enforcement Officer for the salary stated in the budget, effective July 8, 2024.

The forgoing nomination was acted upon in the following manner by the Board of Trustees:

Trustee Hamernik -ABS  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kraft - ABS  
Deputy Mayor Adolf - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**APPOINT WORKING CREW CHIEF**

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I Mayor Kevin J. Peterson do hereby appoint Kyle Bicknell to the position of Working Crew Chief, for the salary stated in the budget, effective June 25, 2024.

The forgoing nomination was acted upon in the following manner by the Board of Trustees:

Trustee Hamernik – ABS  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kraft - ABS  
Deputy Mayor Adolf - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**PERMISSION – MEMBERSHIP – DEPEW FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Trustee Ziemba, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, membership is hereby granted to the following in the Depew Fire Department pending the passing of his physical:

**West End Engine 6**

John Noworyta

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor Adolf and **CARRIED**.

**DPW GRASS CUTTING**

Deputy Mayor Adolf, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, the village is encountering numerous vacant and foreclosed homes in the village and orders to remedy have been issued to the property owner on record;

**WHEREAS**, the high grass is a nuisance to neighbors and attracts rodents;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, permission is granted for the Department of Public Works to mow any property that is not mowed by the due date on the order to remedy for the 2024 year. The cost of said mowing(s) will be attached to the village tax bill for that property.

Please see attached list of properties.

#### Grass Cutting List June 2024

64 Middlesex  
52 Middlesex  
10 Middlesex  
79 Darwin  
6095 Transit Rd  
6210 Transit Rd  
6224 Transit Rd  
5636 Transit Rd  
153 Argus Dr  
64 Argus Dr  
145 Argus Dr  
235 Argus Dr  
Rehm Rd SBL#93.13-1-2.12  
35 Crane St  
55 Airview Terr.  
127 Harvard Ave  
18 Main St

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Ziemba, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - ABS  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kraft - ABS  
Deputy Mayor Adolf - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

#### **AUTHORIZE FOUNDERS DAY**

Trustee Ziemba, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, permission is hereby granted to hold the Depew Founders Day Celebration in the Village of Depew on Thursday, July 18, 2024, Friday, July 19, 2024 & Saturday July 20, 2024. Terrace Blvd will be closed from Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 6:00 AM until Sunday July 21, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

MUSIC – Permission is hereby granted to DoubleShot to use the event stage on Thursday, July 18, 2024.

And

Permission is hereby granted and the Depew High School Alumni Band to use the Gazebo and the Strictly Hip to use the event stage on Friday, July 19, 2024.

And

Permission is hereby granted to Grace Stumberg and the Nerds Gone Wild to use the event stage and Glenn Colton to use the Gazebo on Saturday, July 20, 2024.

FOOD&VENDORS – There will be a variety of food trucks and local area restaurants and vendors both days.

Permission is also granted for use of restrooms at the Southside Fire Station.

The following resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor Adolf, duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hamernik - ABS  
Trustee Ziemba - Y  
Trustee Kraft -ABS  
Deputy Mayor Adolf - Y  
Mayor Peterson - Y

**EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS - DPW – Jesse Herr;**

**Recreation Department:** Luke Triplet, Micah Trammell Ali, Olivia Canna, Liam Marlowe, Samuel Radka

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Bob Brandon, Congressman Tim Kennedy's office: Great to be back, now with Congressman Kennedy, doing same as Senate office, representing at community events, likes to come to these meetings to know if there are problems and can work on them, now working on Federal cases like Medicare, the Post Office, immigration. If anyone has issues with Federal agencies, let him know.

Ken Pyc, DPW Superintendent: July 8<sup>th</sup> starts milling and paving list will be on website, getting to high grass areas.

Kevin Ferguson, Recreation Department: Pool opened yesterday, not great weather – 12 to 15 people. New basketball courts, working on resurfacing, should be done by Friday. Sidewalks on Erie St completely done. Sport court is in, floor hockey guys love it. Have feelers out to ice guys, want to hold in line league in July.

Chief Musielak, Fire Department: 174 call year to date, 12 since last meeting. Had honor of going to graduation of one of younger firefighters, also came from the Junior Firefighter program – he took his 129hr basic firefighter class from New York State, now a full fledged, active firefighter – welcome to our ranks in the capacity – Landon Rogacki. Department has been busy with our Fire prevention and public relations, done quite a few events with the end of the school year, like at Beyond Learning Center's flay day parade and ceremony. Don't ignore CO detector when it is activated even in warmer months.

Chief McNamara: Canvassing for dispatchers, looking to hire six new police officers. Officers are out there complying with NYS aggressive driving detail.

Village Attorney Sam Alba: Resolved Article 7 case with prospective settlement.

Don Bielefeld, Code Enforcement: Thank you for new Code Enforcement Officer. Sent a lot of letters, a lot of people responded and took care of their grass, but if fence line and foundation not cleared, will come and cut and clean. A lot of new business occupancies, Papas Halal Gyro & Chicken, 121 Auto, Elite Convenience Store, Ultimate Personal Training, Urban Paradise, Uniland has a new parts broker going in, nice to see going in.

Kate Zaganiczyk, Code Enforcement: 5790 Transit opening July 2<sup>nd</sup> in old La Costa Verde.

Trustee Ziemba: Home Hazardous Waste hosted by the Village in conjunction with the County on July 13, have to go onto the website to make an appointment. The website is [www. Erie.gov/recycling](http://www.Erie.gov/recycling). They are taking gasoline, antifreeze, brake and transmission fluid, latex paint, oil based paint, paint strippers and thinners, stains, varnish, spray paints, kerosene and other solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, pool chemicals, fire extinguishers, propane cylinders, household batteries. Not accepted is the bigger propane tanks, electric waste will come later in the year, and medical waste. Letters will be going out to the nearby streets about traffic. No cap mentioned for the amount of stuff than can be brought.

Deputy Mayor Adolf: Successful first Summer concert, large turnout, seemed to go well, looking for to them, come out and enjoy.

Mayor Peterson: get perturbed when people are calling in and re calling in and really harassing, I find harassing some of the employees that maybe don't really have all the answers to some of the things we're doing so talk about. Sidewalk work, I if somebody wants a good read I put a long-winded explanation of how we go about sidewalk work so the village on this side of Transit gets \$150,000 a year to sink back into in Community Development block grant money into low and moderate income areas on the Village east of Transit, and Broadway on the Cheektowaga side, we get \$100,000 through the Federal government which allows Cheektowaga to give us the money they funnel it to us and we use half of that 100,000 for running our Senior Center program because it affects all residents in the Village whether you live on Cheektowaga or live on the Lancaster side doesn't matter. The other \$50, 000 goes towards what we do is sidewalk work our area on that side of Transit was south of Broadway, north of Zurbrick, west of Transit and east of Bordon. We were down to just one small piece of sidewalk that had not been done through our community development block grant funds. We petitioned the Cheektowaga government to run an income survey. Initially we didn't get enough responses, they went back at it again and we were able to get from Broadway north to Gould, from Transit, west to A Street right, We had some additional areas that we could put sidewalks in over there. If you drive by there now we've they've done the initial sidewalks that we've been trying to do for a number of years on Erie Street and on Terrace that border the park and on this side we're doing a lot of the areas that are close to Veterans Park and the reason is that there are so many activities that we're doing at both parks it's important that we maintain those sidewalks so that there is the least chance of any kind of liability. Although you know Sam has done a great job in protecting the Village when it comes to accidents that happened on sidewalks. So we've concentrated on the Veterans Park area and certain areas right outside here. There was additional money this year because the cost of concrete has decreased so that meant there was more streets than were originally planned for in the application that we submitted to the County and to Cheektowaga and that was back in October and then on this side, we do evaluations through the County. Different municipal elected go opposite of where they're located, like I go down to the Southern Tier or South Towns and look at their projects and rank them those electeds come up and they evaluate the projects there and we put in for sidewalks because it's something that's easy we do very well we usually get them done timely and we've been fortunate that for the last 6 years we've been able to get that money from Erie County. it's almost \$700,000 in over in six years and um so we do quite a few sidewalks but some people are too, well when was my sidewalk getting done, how come they didn't do my sidewalk or why did you stop at this point. Our Village engineer and our DPW Superintendent look at sidewalks during the end of summer, look at the areas that I'd like to see covered, the Board would like to see covered and then it gives a list and off the list we see how far that goes. So, if yours didn't get done this year maybe it'll get done another year and the fact of the matter is the responsibility is on the homeowner, no matter what. So, if you want the sidewalk done really bad you can get it done because you could pay for the cost or you can wait and see whether or not if it's in the area that's under the Community Development Block Grant. We get a chance to take a look at it and to do it, so not picking and choosing favorites we're trying to eliminate the liability on the Village's standpoint and the area safer for people that are walking, or walking kids or dogs or strollers, elderly people coming to the concert. We had over 850 people there last week and there'll be others for Founders Day. there'll be a lot people so that area is pretty much 100% done at this point . Another issue that we dealt with this week was because we're putting so much money into Fireman's Park these last couple, years well when is this park going to get done. Well, I don't want to put that responsibility on to Village taxpayers so we're working on grants, whether it's the West Dawson all-inclusive one which was a \$165,000 Cares Act Grant a couple years back uh that spruced that one up. the Fireman's Park has seen the building in the Pavilion, improvement on the parking lot and now we're working on other ancillary things around there the basketball courts, tennis, the pickle ball, the roller hockey the improvements, in the ice rink, walkways that connect all of the facilities that's all part of Phase two. The pavilion was Phase one, what we're currently in is phase two with a CFA Grant. This was with money that was given to us by the the State. Phase 3 would be the conversion of the waiting pool to a splash pad. We thought we had an in for grant money there as well. however our area, 14043, there was is no place in that zip code that would have um been granted the money under the grant program SWIMS NY, so we'll keep looking. The ice rink would need some in Phase four including improved locker rooms and showers but that's down the road as well. In any case what I'm getting to is that most of what we do is we're trying to do it with your money the grants at everybody pays in for the grants by paying your taxes However, if we don't get it somebody else will, so I think that we should try

hard to obtain grants every year like we've been doing rather than you know having you pay your taxes and then not getting anything back from these grants that are available. So there are other parks, neighborhood parks that we want to do one when it comes to mine Enez and Evane and that's a pet peeve of mine because of it's primarily all asphalt there's really hardly anything that says it's a park there's not really much grass there's no place really to sit and I think some of the things can be upgraded there as well whether we keep the basketball court or not that's something we'll determine and then there's the Bellwood Estates one which has been raised up on our radar a little bit but those will be discussed this week with our grant writing team. Bernie Rotella's grant writers will be here starting tomorrow to take the wish list from each of the department heads as to what kind of things that they may want that we're not going to necessarily buy out of collected taxpayer money so they're all coming with their again wish lists and Bernie will work hard to see whether or not there's grant opportunities to get that get these projects done.

Paul Sprada, 58 Argus Drive: Concert last Thursday, estimated 800 to 900 people, great time. Grass cutting, a lot on Argus, subcontractor for new gas lines, questioned if knew completion date. Recreation department, any plans for pickleball or cornhole league? Any update on former Rite Aid on Broadway.

Peter Sterchak, 17 Columbia: Lives next door to Dawon Park, talked about the park before with the train bell, thanked for helping out, has more concerns to see if can work together. Primarily, the fence, chainlink fence, no barrier between the people at the park and themselves. Most of time isn't a problem, some times kids scale the fence to get whatever tossed over. Incident of when should mow the lawn, could work with them to replace with a stockade fence, help with the cost. 2<sup>nd</sup> concern, the instruments, xylophone very loud, bell was a concern, attendance is high at the park, they bang on instruments, can carry on for hours, can't escape it, it's omnipresent, is there a possibility to move them to Fireman's Park.

Trustee Ziemba: Questioned if the instruments were there when the train bell was.

Mayor Peterson: Questioned the length of the fence and the pool. Will take under advisement.

Mr. Sterchak: Instruments were, 100ft of fence. Looking to put in more arborvitaes to fill in the gaps. Pool collapsed, deciding it want to put back in.

Trustee Kraft(Via YouTube): Asked if we can place a sign on the fence saying to respect the neighbors property and please do not climb and a temporary fix.

### **CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

**ON A MOTION BY** Trustee Ziemba and seconded by Deputy Mayor Adolf the following claims are to be paid: \$670,636.06 General, \$2004.00 Community Development, \$1,807.67 Sewer for a total \$674,447.73 was **CARRIED**.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**ON A MOTION BY** Deputy Mayor Adolf and seconded by Trustee Ziemba the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM with a moment of silence for Kenmore Trustee Joe DecCecco.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Grzankowski  
Village Administrator