

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BROCKPORT VILLAGE BOARD

**Monday, March 1, 2021 7:00pm**

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconferencing, per New York State Executive Order 202.1 the open meeting law has been suspended. The meeting was available via Zoom, was recorded and posted to the village website.

Join Zoom Meeting with the login information below or dial 1-(646) 558-8656

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82224491350?pwd=TnovWFhtYkpPQnovcEVOMjBBU3o1dz09>

Meeting ID: 822 2449 1350 Passcode: 198329

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments/questions will be accepted during this meeting via email:

[mblackman@brockportny.org](mailto:mblackman@brockportny.org)

**PRESENT:** Mayor Margaret Blackman, Deputy Mayor John LaPierre, Trustee Katherine Kristansen, Trustee Annette Crane, Trustee Shawn Halquist, Chief Mark Cuzzupoli, Manager/Clerk Erica Linden, Susan Smith, Bill Plews, Orlando Benzan, Robert LeSuer, Karen LoBracco, Melanie Macdonald, Lt. Stephen Mesiti, Jackie Smith, Barbara Krizen, Sammy Lansing, Debbie Thomas, Jaqueline Davis, Rhonda Humby, Kevin Johnson, Sean Martin, Ed Starowicz, Joan Hamlin, Chris Hamlin

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** to honor those who serve our Country, enforce our laws, & respond to emergencies & our healthcare workers still on the frontline with COVID-19

**REVIEW OF ONLINE MEETING RULES & ETTIQUET:** Erica Linden, Zoom Host, announced that the board and herself are the only ones unmuted. All others are to remain muted. If you have a comment or a question, please raise your hand by going to the bottom of your screen, under reactions and raise your hand. Also, you can send a message via Chat. Susan Smith is co-hosting to help manage some of the content. You can always email Mayor Blackman [mblackman@brockportny.org](mailto:mblackman@brockportny.org) or myself [elinden@brockportny.org](mailto:elinden@brockportny.org)

**MOTION TO LEAVE REGULAR MEETING AND OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:** Police Reform and Reinvention Committee Report re Ex. Order 203

→ Mayor Blackman moved; Trustee Crane seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Police Reform and Reinvention Committee Report re Ex. Order 203

- Summary of Report and Recommendations  
The report and recommendations have been posted on the village website. Mayor Blackman discussed that this report was in response to the Governor's Executive Order 203 issued on June 12, 2020, which required all municipalities having a police force, to review the police force, get public input on the issue of police reform and reimagination, which came in the wake of the George Floyd killing and Black Lives Matter protests during this past year. The village board viewed this mandate as an educational opportunity to learn more about our police department and work collaboratively with them and to have a conversation about policing in Brockport and in the larger issue policing in the nation. A committee was formed with twelve members, plus the Police Chief Mark Cuzzupoli and Lieutenant Steve Mesiti. The meetings were co-chaired by Mayor Blackman and Trustee Crane. Village Manager Erica Linden acted as the administrator of these meetings, working on the programming, guest speakers and a community survey. Mayor Blackman acknowledged that the Brockport Police Department is a strong, capable and professional police department. They were eager and very responsive throughout the meetings and with the report and recommendations of the committee.

Trustee Crane read into the record the four areas of recommendations made by the committee. Many have already been implemented.

1. Training
  - Require annual training in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI).
  - Commit to sustained training in issues related to immigrant farm workers.
  - Complete Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)—all BPD officers will complete this training.
2. Accountability
  - Maintain NYS accreditation.
  - Provide annual report of police activities, training, crime statistics; present to Village Board and publish on website, <http://www.brockportny.org/departments-services/bpd>.
  - Post General Order 305 on BPD website, providing citizens easy access to filing a complaint.
  - Formalize notification protocols. The Police Chief or their designee (when applicable) will make verbal notification to the Mayor and Village Manager or if either unavailable, the Deputy Mayor, when any of the following occurs with any employee of the Village of Brockport Police Department. The list of required notifications includes but is not limited to:
    - a. Death or serious physical injury to any person as a possible result of police action taken whether on duty or off duty.
    - b. Any serious physical injury to any Brockport Police Officer whether on duty or off duty.
    - c. Notification of any serious crime or incident that occurs in the Village of Brockport.
    - d. Notification of any information released to the news media.
    - e. Notification of the start of any internal investigation relative to members of the Brockport Police Department.
    - f. Any complaints made against the Chief of Police to be investigated by the Mayor's Office.
    - g. Any report made to the Department of Criminal Justice Services regarding use of force.
3. Community Policing & Outreach
  - Add community policing to the General Orders; formalize existing commitment.
  - Create a Law Enforcement/Community Partnership.
  - Develop and administer a Police Citizens Academy.

4. Diversity Hiring

- Commit to diversifying BPD.
- Create a policing internship, coordinate with the SUNY Brockport Criminal Justice program, and participate in SUNY's internship and job fairs for recruitment purposes.

• **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Edmond Starowicz via Zoom Chat asked if the BPD has any Spanish speaking officers? Chief Cuzzupoli responded that Officer Cave is currently the only officer that is fluent in Spanish. Their goal is to diversify and pursue training for more officers to speak Spanish or other languages.
- Trustee Halquist expressed appreciation to the committee and the police department for their time in meeting and discussing these topics. Acknowledging that there were sensitive areas, different perspectives and recognizing the work that went into compiling the report and recommendations.

Public comments can still be submitted for consideration before the village board would vote to finalize and adopt the report by a resolution on March 15, 2021. Once approved by the village board, the final report will be sent to the NYS Director of the Division of the Budget to affirm that such process has been complied with and such local law or resolution has been adopted. The village administration and the police department have already begun working to implement the recommendations.

Mayor Blackman expressed how grateful she was with how the committee, Chief Cuzzupoli and Lieutenant Mesiti undertook this endeavor, which overall was an educational and positive experience. There were difficult discussions, particularly the state of police departments nationally and how people felt about the police. An example of the positive results of these recommendations is the law enforcement community partnership that will continue.

**MOTION TO LEAVE PUBLIC AND RE-ENTER THE REGULAR MEETING:**

→ Mayor Blackman moved; Trustee Kristansen seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CONSENSUS ITEMS:**

- Minutes 2-22-21

→ Trustee Halquist moved; Trustee Kristansen seconded to approve the 2-22-21 minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

- Bills

Abstract 2-5-21

A (General Fund)	\$90,692.75
F (Water Fund)	\$52,955.07
G (Sewer Fund)	\$361.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$144,009.22</b>

Abstract 2-19-21

A (General Fund)	\$31,764.30
F (Water Fund)	\$42,014.03
G (Sewer Fund)	\$91.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$73,870.06</b>

→ Trustee Kristansen moved; Trustee Crane seconded to approve the Bills Abstract 2-5-21 and 2-19-21. Motion carried 5-0.

**MANAGER/CLERK REPORT:**

Manager/Clerk – Erica L. Linden

- Draft Pandemic Plan for approval  
This is a draft pandemic plan that the village was required to develop in accordance with NYS legislation S8617B/A10832. Village Manager Erica Linden worked on it along with Village CEO Coordinator Barbara Krizen and Office Intern Samantha Lansing. This is not required to be submitted to the state but needs to be available to the Village Administration as a guide. To follow current state and federal guidelines, this is a plan that will require regular updates and adoption at the yearly organizational meeting.
- Trustee Halquist moved; Trustee Kristansen seconded, to adopt Pandemic Plan. Discussion: Emergency operation plans require us to name the person who currently fills the role for each position. The names will be updated at the Organizational meeting and will be changed as needed. Motion carried 5-0.
- Recommendation to appoint Barbara Krizen as Deputy-Clerk Treasurer
- Recommendation to open job search for the Code Enforcement Office Coordinator  
As Barbara Krizen has done an excellent job as the Code Enforcement Office Coordinator, Manager/Clerk Linden enthusiastically endorsed her for the appointment.
- Trustee Kristansen moved; Deputy Mayor LaPierre seconded, to appoint Barbara Krizen to Deputy-Clerk Treasurer and open the job search for Code Enforcement Office Coordinator. Motion carried 5-0.
- Recommendation to appoint Susan Smith as a temporary part-time secretary to the Village Board/Village Manager  
The duties for this secretary position could be rolled into the next code enforcement coordinator position, one day a week. In the meantime, a temporary position would be helpful to bring tasks current, 10-15 hours per week.
- Trustee Kristansen moved; Trustee Crane seconded, to appoint Susan Smith as temporary part-time

secretary to the Village Board/Village Manager. Discussion: Pay rate is \$15/hr. Most of the work, if not all, can be remote. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **OLD or NEW BUSINESS:**

Three people have requested to join village board committees.

- Ed Starowicz to the Zoning Board
- Nick Pitas to the Tree Board
- Joshua Stilwell to the Historic Preservation Board and the ELK Board

→ Mayor Blackman moved for all three appointments. Trustee Kristansen seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

- Library boiler  
Mayor Blackman discussed that the three municipalities have signed the MOU concerning the Seymour Library, own the building and are therefore responsible for capital improvements and maintenance on the building. The HVAC system needs some repair and also a maintenance contract. There are two quotes for the repair, from Wolf Mechanic and Aire Serv. The Aire Serv quote was \$400 less than the Wolf Mechanic quote. The monies will come from the Library Reserve accounts established for maintenance by each of the three municipalities. The cost is going to be about \$1,300. Wolf Mechanic submitted a quote for the annual maintenance of the boiler system and the inspection, which is \$4,200. The quote from Aire Serv is pending. Prior to the signing of the MOU, substantial repair bills for the HVAC system were done at a cost to the library. In the future the municipalities should consider a cheaper solution to this problematic HVAC system. Trustee Kristansen encouraged the library board to investigate costs and quality of service.

No resolution was required, as this is under the limit of \$5,000.

- Westside historic district has been accepted by the National Parks Service for historic designation Details on our website.  
Mayor Blackman discussed that the Westside Historic District has been accepted by the National Park Service for historic designation. This was a multiyear project funded by a US Certified Local Government grants and the nomination was prepared by Bero Architecture. There is also a historic district on the eastside. A property owner in a historic district is entitled to tax credits for doing any exterior repair work to their historical home. The criteria are posted under the Historic Preservation Committee.
- Street light purchase final – closed on the purchase from National Grid/ updating to LED in coming months  
Mayor Blackman announced after four years of efforts to buy back village streetlights, 418 streetlights now belong to the Village of Brockport. The deal closed with National Grid last week. National Grid still owns the poles, the village own the lights. Over the next couple of months or so DPW will be replacing all those streetlights with LED's.
- Community Solar Program update / Finger Lakes Community Choice  
Mayor Blackman gave an update on the Community Solar Program. This is the opt out program for which there have been some public meetings with Finger Lakes Community Choice. FLCC consists of the City of Geneva, Village of Lima, the Village of Honeoye Falls and the Village of Brockport. FLCC has a list of all properties that are eligible for the opt out solar program, those with no rooftop solar and that do not have contracts with another solar company for solar. FLCC will be providing some updates soon that will be available on the village website and Facebook page. In addition to the solar, FLCC will eventually be offering an opt out electric supply, similar to an electric ESCO.

#### **VILLAGE BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- SUNY Covid-19 Status  
Mayor Blackman mentioned that the president of the college put out a letter on the February 24th, changing the COVID alert at the college to yellow. There were 43 students that tested positive, 24 of those are students living on campus. There is weekly testing of all students with pool testing and then follow up with individual testing. The positivity rate is still low, below 1%, which is considerably below the current state and county level, which are also lower than they were. Also, she expressed appreciation for receiving weekend night patrol reports from the Brockport Police Department, which are also sent to Student Conduct.
- Monroe County Mayor's Association Update  
Mayor Blackman explained the Monroe County Village Mayor's Associations is an association of the mayors of the 10 villages in Monroe County that meets regularly. The association had decided to invite state senators and assembly people to come to our meetings. February's guest was Samra Brouk, from the 55th District, which includes Pittsford and Fairport. In addition, Peter Baynes, the executive director of NYCOM, also attended that meeting. The leadership of the association rotates alphabetically among each of the different villages annually. Mayor Blackman served as the president this past year and for the entire year was the virtual president. In April, Mayor Blackman turn over the presidency over to John Hartman, Mayor of the Village of Churchill. Their annual large dinner, which includes village boards, department heads and village committees, has been postponed until April 2022.
- NYCOM Annual Meeting Reports  
Mayor Blackman and Trustee Crane virtually attended the NYCOM annual meeting. Their reports will be filed and made available to other board members or upon request.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

→ Trustee Kristansen moved, Trustee Halquist seconded, to enter Executive Session at 7:50 pm for a personnel matter. Manager Linden, in attendance. No action expected after the session. Motion carried 5-0.

- Trustee Crane moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, to adjourn the executive session and reenter the regular meeting at 8:09 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- Trustee Crane moved, Trustee Kristansen seconded, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:10 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

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Erica Linden, Village Manager