

**VILLAGE OF COXSACKIE  
BOARD MINUTES  
March 10, 2025**

Mayor Mark Evans called the Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Trustee Katlyn Irwin, Trustee Rodney Levine, and Trustee Deidre Meier. Trustee Donald Daoust was absent.

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2025 Workshop Meeting was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Irwin. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. Trustee Levine abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2025 Board Meeting was tabled due to a lack of eligible voting quorum, since both Trustee Levine and Trustee Meier would need to abstain.

**Correspondence Received**

A letter was received from the NYS Agriculture & Markets stating that the Village's Dog Control Officer's temporary dog facilities passed inspection.

A letter was received from Gilchrist & Tingley on behalf of UMH responding to questions raised at the Public Hearing on October 30, 2024 regarding annexation of property from the Town into the Village.

A letter was received from Sabrina Rockefeller, of 17 Kings Road, requesting to waive her penalties in the amount \$75.53 from her water/sewer account.

A letter was received from Tammy Hathaway, of 32 Warren Avenue, requesting to waive her penalties in the amount of \$64.95 from her water/sewer account.

**Liaisons & Board Reports**

Mayor Evans stated that the Village Board will dispense with the reading of the monthly department head reports, but that all monthly reports are on file with the Village Clerk.

**Motions & Resolutions**

A motion to approve the request received from Sabrina Rockefeller, of 17 Kings Road, asking for her penalties in the amount of \$75.53 to be waived from her water/sewer account was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the request received from Tammy Hathaway, of 32 Warren Avenue, asking for her penalties in the amount of \$64.95 to be waived from her water/sewer account was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve authorizing the Village to seek Request for Proposals (RFP) for Municipal Accounting Services was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the proposal received from EDR, DPC for the Comprehensive Plan outline, with the understanding that the Greene IDA will be signing the contract was made by Trustee

Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Mayor Evans voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. Trustee Irwin abstained. The motion carried.

A motion to approve authorizing Mayor Mark Evans to sign the contract between the Village of Coxsackie, Town of Coxsackie, and Hose Company #3 for fire protection services, provided a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed by all signatories, that will provide for discussion in 2025 on the future of fire apparatus, personnel, Chief's cars, and other issues was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the request received from Terry Lynch asking to hold a Riverkeeper Sweeper Event along the river on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and for the assistance from the Village to provide a dump truck for removal of debris was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling Budget Work Sessions at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates: March 25<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, and April 15<sup>th</sup> was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of 2025-Tax Cap Override, for Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 Proposed Tentative Budget for Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve awarding the Geotechnical Engineering Services Contract to LaBella in the amount of \$13,124.00 for the new Department of Public Works Garage project was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve awarding the Land Surveying Services Contract to Kaaterskill Associates in the amount of \$15,720.00 for the new Department of Public Works Garage project was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the NYS Teamsters Health Insurance Agreement Renewal for health insurance for Department of Public Works employees was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve sending water shut-off notices to past due water/sewer accounts located in Sunset Vista Mobile Home Park was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve allowing Superintendent of Public Works, Scott Martell, to sell back 1 week of vacation time was made by Trustee Meier and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the February 2025 monthly Treasurer's Report was made by Trustee Meier

and seconded by Trustee Levine. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Evans stated that Resolution No. 42025 is a resolution deeming UMH's Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the Mountain View Estates project as complete. The FSEIS was reviewed by both Village Attorney, Rob Stout, and Village Engineer, Delaware Engineering. Once the resolution is passed, the next step in the project to tackle is the annexation of the one piece of property that currently lies in the Town, into the Village. There is still a number of procedural steps ahead for the project, but once the annexation is completed, the Village Board's part in the process is done. It then gets sent to the Planning and Zoning Boards for Site Plan review and to seek Variances.

Trustee Irwin stated that in terms of the findings of the traffic study, she is wondering if this is something that could be further reviewed, or if these findings are set in stone.

Mayor Evans stated that he believes that as part of the Planning Board review, that the traffic study would have to be revisited. That is his understanding.

Trustee Irwin stated that she disagrees with UMH's response to the public comments received regarding vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Trustee Meier stated that she feels the same as Trustee Irwin. She also disagrees with UMH's response to this issue. She has not had a chance to review the full document before tonight's meeting, but she also disagrees with the numbers that UMH used to determine the school district's potential impact. She believes that they used a figure of .58 per household. She just has a hard time believing that the average for that area will be .58 children per household. She thinks that there will be a lot more younger families moving in, but she doesn't think that the impact on the school district, and the services that will be needed, are appropriately represented in their studies. Without a chance to review their actual responses, she, personally, doesn't feel comfortable moving forward with making any decision on passing a resolution tonight.

Mayor Evans stated that the Board can hold off on passing the resolution tonight. He will take any concerns back to the Village Attorney and Delaware Engineering.

Resolution No. 42025-Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement-Mountain View Estates Project was tabled for further discussion.

A motion to approve water/sewer adjustments for the month of February 1-28, 2025 was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Meier. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

A motion to approve the bills on General Fund Abstract #10, vouchers 591-651 totaling \$92,259.46; Water Fund Abstract #10, vouchers 324-357 totaling \$54,904.06; Sewer Fund Abstract #10, vouchers 281-308 totaling \$43,055.56; Capital Projects Fund Abstract #10, vouchers 12-14 totaling \$52,395.00; and Trust & Agency Fund Abstract #10, vouchers 16-17 totaling \$583.25 was made by Trustee Irwin and seconded by Trustee Meier. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

### **Public Comment Period**

Mayor Evans stated the Dog Park Project Meeting held on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> went well. There were about 15 people in attendance. He have an overview on the project, and talked about how the Village is a little short on money to install all of the fencing. Once the Village approaches the end of the budget year in May, they can take a look and see where the Village is at financially.

The hope is to form a Dog Park group, and they will look into fundraising, and determine what kind of things are wanted for the park. Ten of the fifteen people in attendance signed up to be on a committee moving forward. He also heard from a couple of people who could not attend the meeting, but are interested in being involved in some way. One of the things talked about, when the park is up and running, is the possibility of having things like dog training events, and adoption events.

Darleen Knott stated that she has a question regarding the contract between the Village, Town, and Hose Company #3 for fire protection services. She said that on the agenda it states that the contract will be signed provided that a MOU is signed by all signatories, that will provide for discussion in 2025 on the future of fire apparatus, personnel, Chief's cars, and other issues. She asked what this meant.

Mayor Evans stated he met last year with representatives from Hose Company #3 and the Town of Coxsackie. They had a broad ranging discussion for about an hour and a half on the future of the Fire Department. His contention at that time was that there are too many apparatus. There is one Fire Chief's car, and it is paid 100% by the Village. The other two Assistant Fire Chiefs would very much like cars as well. From a liability standpoint, it is something that would need to be looked into. These things were discussed in 2024, and he had hoped that a discussion would continue through the past year, but that didn't happen. So, he went back to both parties and asked if something could be put in writing this time, to ensure that those discussions do happen in 2025. Both parties are receptive to it, but expressed a concern to get the contract for fire protection coverage signed, so that they can receive their money in time to make their necessary payments for apparatus etc. It's time to stop talking about doing things, and actually making a plan to accomplish things.

Darleen Knott stated that she doesn't understand. If there is one Fire Department, why is there two budgets, and why is it not run as one department. Why do the taxpayers get nailed from the Town and the Village?

Mayor Evans stated that as he understands it, that has been in place for 50, 60, maybe even 70 years.

Darleen Knott stated that her question is why Hose Company #3 gets money from the Village and the Town.

Mayor Evans stated that the Village gives Hose Company #3 an amount to rent a bay in their firehouse.

Darleen Knott asked why this is done.

Mayor Evans stated that it is because Hose Company #3 owns their building, and the Village is renting this space to park a Village truck.

Darleen Knott asked why a Village truck is at Hose Company #3.

Mayor Evans stated that it is because they are a Village fire company.

Darleen Knott asked why the Village is then paying rent.

Mayor Evans stated that it is because it is not the Village's building, as opposed to D.M. Hamilton Firehouse, where it is the Village's building.

Darleen Knott stated that that is what she is not understanding. Why there is a Village truck in Hose Company #3's firehouse, that the Village is paying rent for, instead of it being in the Village's building.

Mayor Evans stated that there has been a Village apparatus in Hose Company #3's firehouse for several decades.

Darleen Knott stated that it just doesn't make sense.

Ken Bauer stated that back in the early 1980's, Mr. Daoust, and other members of the Board, Fire Council, and the Chiefs, got together and hired a consultant to look at the Cocksackie Fire Department, and look at the Cocksackie Fire District, and due to the fact that the village is separated by a viaduct that floods, and a railroad track, that sometimes the train sits on, there is no way to get from the east side of the village, to the west side, without going all of the way up to New Baltimore, and crossing over the bridge, or going all of the way down to Athens, and crossing the tracks somewhere down there. There is a crossing on Flint Mine Road, but unfortunately, with the length of the trains that come through, it is possible that both crossings could be blocked.

Darleen stated that if that is the case, then how is Hose Company #3 getting to calls down Route 385 without crossing the tracks under the same circumstances.

Ken Bauer stated that they would just go through the viaduct, or go around.

Darleen Knott stated that this is what she is not understanding. Why is it not working both ways?

John Knott asked why there isn't a Town truck then at D.M. Hamilton's firehouse, on this side of the viaduct.

Mayor Evans stated that he doesn't disagree. What he is trying to do is have conversations to figure out how all parties go forward, but these things have been in existence for decades.

Darleen Knott stated that just because nobody questioned it, and it's been in existence, doesn't make it right.

Mayor Evans stated that he is questioning it.

Darleen Knott stated that it should work both ways, because how is Hose Company #3 getting to calls on this side of the viaduct when flooded, without crossing tracks with an emergency vehicle? It's common sense.

Mayor Evans stated that he does not disagree with her.

Trustee Meier stated that the Board is going to look into it, that is the point of starting conversation.

Mayor Evans stated that the Village also provides a payment to Hose Company #3 each year for part of their mortgage payment for their firehouse.

Darleen Knott asked why this is done. If it is a building the Village doesn't own, why are Village taxpayers doing that?

Mayor Evans stated that this has been done from the date of construction around 2002. He

believes that the mortgage will be paid off in 2028.

Ken Bauer stated that in 2028, the consolidation loan should be paid off.

Darleen Knott asked how this is fair to the Village taxpayers. That is her question.

Mayor Evans stated that he agrees completely. He doesn't disagree with Mrs. Knott at all, but the Village has to initiate discussions with Hose Company #3 and the Town, in order to figure some of this stuff out. The Village has a Fire Chief's truck right now that has proved to be incredibly useful, and not to mention, the two Assistance Fire Chiefs do not feel comfortable taking their own personal vehicles to calls on the Thruway anymore. So, hopefully the Fire Chief is around with his vehicle. However, since the Village has bought the vehicle, the Village has paid 100% of the cost, and 60%-70% of the time, it is responding to calls in the town. It's time for the Town to chip in. Conversely, Hose Company #3 has always owned and operated an aerial ladder truck, and the village has a definite need for an aerial ladder truck with buildings downtown, like the new hotel. So, they will have to discuss how this would work out in the future. He's just trying to start a discussion to get somewhere.

Darleen Knott stated that she understands his point, but if the Village buys an aerial truck, where is it going to be stationed.

Mayor Evans stated that his hope is that it would be done jointly with the Town.

Darleen Knott stated that it sounds like then it would be stationed at Hose Company #3. So, once again, you'd have Village tax dollars going to Hose Company #3. Who would maintain it?

Mayor Evans stated that he would want the Village to maintain it.

Darleen Knott stated that as a taxpayer she disagrees with how things are being done. Something else needs to be looked at.

Mayor Evans stated that he agrees 100%.

Darleen Knott stated that with the budget that Hose Company #3 gets, and the money they receive from the Village in addition, as a Village taxpayer, she calls bull.

Mayor Evans stated that he understands.

Darleen Knott stated that the Village taxpayers need to start speaking up.

Ken Bauer stated that since 1894, Hose Company #3 is considered a Village fire company first. It always has been, and always will be.

Darleen Knott stated that Hose Company #3 needs to tell their members to stop saying that they are a private entity then.

Ken Bauer stated that unfortunately, Mrs. Knott is wrong on that, they have been a private entity since 1946 when they incorporated. At that time, the Village didn't want to operate outside of the village. So a contract was formed to allow Hose Company #3 to supply fire protection services outside of the village.

Darleen Knott stated that it sounds like Hose Company #3 is just a private entity that is entitled to taxes from both municipalities. It needs to be looked into.

Mayor Evans stated that he agrees. He agrees with her 100%. Not to mention that the contract between the Town and Hose Company #3 is a legally invalid contract. There is no provision in the law for that. If you look at Catskill, there used to be three fire companies. They had multiple sets of trucks, and multiple sets of Chiefs. That was chaos. There was some type of lawsuit which led the Village to combine the three companies, and they contracted with the Town directly. That is how that changed. Athens was a little bit similar of a situation, with minor differences, but they combined their companies as well. He does not disagree with her, but this MOU ensures that a conversation will happen down the road.

No further public comments were offered.

A motion to adjourn the Board Meeting was made by Trustee Levine and seconded by Trustee Meier. Trustee Irwin voted yes. Trustee Levine voted yes. Trustee Meier voted yes. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nikki Berezna". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Nikki Berezna  
Clerk