

Village of Liverpool  
Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
November 20, 2023

A Work session for the Village Board of Trustees started at 6:45 PM

A regular meeting of the Village of Liverpool Board of Trustees was held on November 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM at 310 Sycamore Street, Liverpool NY. This meeting was open to the public.

Present:	Stacy Finney	Mayor
	Michael LaMontagne	Deputy Mayor
	Matt Devendorf	Trustee
	Melissa Cassidy	Trustee
	Rachel Ciotti	Trustee
	Richard Andino	Attorney
	Mary Ellen Sims	Village Clerk

Also present was Judge LaValle, Chief Unger, Sgt Sturtz, members of the Police Dept., Russ Tarby and approximately 10 other persons.

Mayor Finney called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Swearing in of Officer Ottaviano**

Mayor Finney requested Officer Ottaviano to come to the front of the room for his swearing in ceremony. Officer Ottaviano's mother Christine Chwalow held the Bible for him. Mayor Finney asked Officer Ottaviano to repeat the oath of office after her. Chief Unger and members of the Liverpool Police Department, along with all those present congratulated Officer Ottaviano.

**Reschedule December and January meetings**

Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded by Trustee LaMontagne, to reschedule December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and to reschedule January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM. Motion Passed.

**Approve/deny Lexipol & Wellness Program**

At the Village Board meeting in October, Sgt Sturtz presented the Lexipol and Wellness programs for the police department.

There are many challenges facing policing 2023. There is transparency, training, policy review and management, third party review and understanding best practices

Sgt Sturtz currently works on the police department's accreditation. The current estimated cost to prepare documents is approximately 25% of his salary, which is approximately \$20,500. Lexipol policy and Accreditation cost for the first year implementation is \$29,772.05. After the first year, the annual prescription cost of \$10,699.85.

Lexipol creates policies with the intent to decrease risk and preserve life. Lexipol is successful since they are a non-biased third party that brings forth best practices from around the Country. This ensures that departments like Liverpool are provided an outside perspective with an eye to checks and balances. Lexipol has created a variety of health and wellness information, fitness programs, yoga videos and the ability to discretely speak to a mental health professional. Mental health issues are a huge concern for police officers and their families. This wellness program annual subscription cost is \$1,999.

Sgt Sturtz requested that the Board consider these programs at a first year cost of \$30,000.

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Trustee Devendorf stated that he is in favor of these programs for the police department. He feels that our police personnel need to be actively keeping our citizens safe and should be on the streets, not pushing massive amounts of paperwork to keep up with the accreditation. He stated that the Village board should find a way to make it happen financially.

Mayor Finney is in support of these programs Lexipol represents thousands of municipalities.

Trustee Ciotti questioned how the Village can afford to pay for it. She asked, if perhaps, these programs could be pushed out a few months. She asked if it would be possible to split the cost into monthly payments.

Trustee Cassidy stated that she fully supports these programs however, feels that the funds to pay for it may put a burden on the current year's budget.

Mayor Finney stated that there is \$47,000 left in ARPA funds and that the expenditure could be funded with that money.

Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded by Trustee Devendorf, to approve the Lexipol and Wellness Programs for the Police Department for a first year cost of \$29,772.05, with an annual cost after first year of \$12,698.85, with first year cost of \$29,772.05 coming out of the ARPA monies remaining, contingent upon attorney review.

Roll Call vote:

Trustee LaMontagne	Yes
Trustee Cassidy	Yes
Trustee Devendorf	Yes
Trustee Ciotti	Yes (if we can split monthly)
Mayor Finney	Yes

Motion Passed

**Outstanding Issues:**

Mayor Finney updated the outstanding issues as follows:

Onondaga County will run Village Elections this June

DPW garage repairs – The Village sent more information to Senator Mannion's office

Seventh Street project- waiting for adjustment to the cable securing the telephone pole that runs too close to the sidewalk.

American Rescue Relief Act- \$ 17,000 remaining

Truck Restrictions- certified letters will be sent to trucking companies late this week

Review of financials- completed

**Correspondence- none**

**Public comment**

Village resident, 605 Tulip Street, commented that the traffic lights on Oswego Street are out of sync and that the traffic backs up especially between 4:00 PM- 6:30 PM.

Mayor Finney stated that the police department is aware of the situation and that she will contact NYS DOT again regarding the traffic lights.

**Approve Minutes October 16 and October 27, 2023**

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Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded by Trustee Cassidy to approve the minutes of October 16<sup>th</sup> as presented. Motion Passed. (Trustee Devendorf abstained)

Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded by Trustee Ciotti, to approve the minutes of October 27, 2023 as presented. Motion Passed. (Trustee Devendorf abstained)

**7:01 Pm Public hearing Local Law E- 2023 “ A local law to amend Article 1 of Chapter 342 of the Code of the Village of Liverpool regarding tax exemption on Real Property Owned by persons sixty-five years of age or over pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 457.**

Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded by Trustee LaMontagne, to open the public hearing on Local Law E- 2024.

Attorney Andino recapped this local law. This local law raises the income levels for persons over 65 that owns a home in the village to the maximum amount of \$58,400. If the Village adopts this law, they will be in line with the Town of Salina and Onondaga County. The current maximum income level is \$37, 400.

Hearing no more questions or comments, Mayor Finney made the motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee LaMontagne. Motion Passed.

Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded by Trustee Ciotti, to adopt Local Law E- 2023, now known as Local Law 5-2023 as shown below:

Be it enacted by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Liverpool as follows:

**SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT & PURPOSE**

The Village Board of the Village of Liverpool, being ever mindful of its responsibility and obligation to provide for the welfare and financial independence of the senior citizens of the Village who have made a vital contribution to the growth, development and progress of the community, intends by the enactment of this Local Law to provide protection for limited income senior citizen homeowners from the increased cost of living.

The purpose of this Local Law is to amend the current Article I of Chapter 342 of the Code of the Village of Liverpool to update the exemptions from taxation in accordance with the criteria set forth in New York State Real Property Tax Law §467.

**SECTION 2. AUTHORITY**

The adoption of this Local Law is in accordance with Section 10 of New York’s Municipal Home Rule Law and New York Real Property Tax Law §467.

**SECTION 3. AMEND ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 342 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF LIVERPOOL**

Article I of Chapter 342 of the Code of the Village of Liverpool shall be repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

“§342-1. Exemption granted; Amounts.

- A. Real property in the Village of Liverpool owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or real property owned by spouses or by siblings as

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defined by Real Property Tax Law §467, one of whom is 65 years of age or over, shall be exempt from taxation by the Village to an extent as set forth in Subsection B of this Section based on their income. Such exemption shall also apply to real property in which a person(s) holds a legal life estate or which is held in trust solely for the benefit of a person(s) if such person(s) would otherwise be eligible for the exemption were such person(s) the owner(s) of such real property.

B. A graduated tax exemption shall be allowed in accordance with the following schedule:

<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Percentage Assessed Valuation Exempt From Taxation</b>
\$50,000.00	50%
More than \$50,000.00 but less than \$51,000.00	45%
\$51,000.00 or more but less than \$52,000.00	40%
\$52,000.00 or more but less than \$53,000.00	35%
\$53,000.00 or more but less than \$53,900.00	30%
\$53,900.00 or more but less than \$54,800.00	25%
\$54,800.00 or more but less than \$55,700.00	20%
\$55,700.00 or more but less than \$56,600.00	15%
\$56,600.00 or more	10%

but less than \$57,500.00

\$57,500.00 or more 5%

but less than \$58,400.00

§342-2. Compatibility with Real Property Tax Law §467.

The right to said exemption set forth in this Chapter, the procedures for application therefor and the restrictions and limitations thereon shall be as set forth in this Chapter in accordance with the terms, procedures, restrictions and limitations set forth in the Real Property Tax Law §467. The exemption, the procedures for application therefor and the restrictions and limitations thereon as set forth in Real Property Tax Law §467, as amended, and as from time to time shall be amended, are hereby incorporated by reference into this Chapter. If any provisions of this Chapter are in conflict with those set forth in Real Property Tax Law §467, Real Property Tax Law §467 shall be controlling.”

**SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operations to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.”

The question of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote and, upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Michael LaMontagne	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Matthew Devendorf	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Melissa Cassidy	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Rachel Ciotti	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Stacy Finney	Mayor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**Approve/deny EDR Comprehensive Plan**

Mayor Finney tabled this agenda item for a future date

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**Approve/deny quote for rehab of Village Hall kitchen from OZ Painting & Renovations Inc. for a total of \$4,890.00**

Mayor Finney tabled this agenda item for a future date and redesign of the kitchen.

**Approve transfer of 2 cemetery plots from Helen Androwski to Ed Zielinski**

Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded by Trustee Devendorf, to approve the transfer of 2 cemetery plots from Helen Androwski to Ed Zielinski. Motion Passed.

**Approve Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District Contract**

Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded by Trustee Devendorf, to approve Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District Contract for an amount up to \$7,000.

Roll Call vote:

Trustee LaMontagne	Yes
Trustee Cassidy	Yes
Trustee Devendorf	Yes
Trustee Ciotti	Yes
Mayor Finney	Yes

Motion Passed

**Authorization for Mayor Finney to sign the 2024 Agreement for the use of OCRRA Solid Waste Management System**

Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded by Trustee Ciotti, to authorize Mayor Finney to sign the 2024 Agreement for the use of OCRRA Solid Waste Management System

Roll Call vote:

Trustee LaMontagne	Yes
Trustee Cassidy	Yes
Trustee Devendorf	Yes
Trustee Ciotti	Yes
Mayor Finney	Yes

Motion Passed

**Police – STATS**

Trustee LaMontagne presented the following STATS for the Police Department for the month of October:

98	Traffic Stops
78	Tickets issued
3	DWI arrests
8	Accidents Investigated
0	Parking Tickets issued
39	Residential Property checks
106	Business checks
383	Incidents/ Calls for Service

The Liverpool Police Department arrested a total of 16 individuals this month with 25 charges filed.

Overnight parking is in effect from November 1 to April 15th

**Codes STATS**

Trustee Cassidy read the following Codes Stats for the month of October:

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- 14 New Project application reviews
- 8 Permits approved or extended
- 34 Construction inspections
- 16 Certificates of compliance
- 2 Complaint inspections
- 13 Fire Code Inspections
- 12 Miscellaneous Inspections
- 10 Rental dwelling inspections
- 27 Violation inspections/re-inspections
- 61 Letters/ notices/citations
- 12 Signs removed from Village Property
- 35 Miscellaneous Recorded actions

**DPW STATS**

Deputy Mayor LaMontagne read the following STATs for the month of October:

- Yard Waste – Leaves are ongoing
- Sewer Maintenance Calls- 7 were handled by the County
- Sewer Repairs- None
- Sign requests – none
- Banner Requests- none
- UFPO request-Thirty - five for the month of October
- Road Work – None

Motion was made by Trustee Cassidy, seconded by Trustee LaMontagne, to approve the park request from Cozmic Cauldron for Craft Bazaars in Johnson Park on the following dates- 5/11, 6/15, 6/22, 7/6, 7/20, 8/17, 8/31, 9/7, 9/21, 10/12 and 10/26. Motion Passed

**Approve Stephen Davis, DPW to come off probation after his successful 3 month probation and to raise his hourly rate by \$1.00.**

Motion was made by Trustee LaMontagne, seconded by Trustee Finney to take Stephen Davis off probation and to raise his salary by \$1.00 an hour effective 11/16/ 2023.

Roll Call vote:

Trustee LaMontagne	Yes
Trustee Cassidy	Yes
Trustee Devendorf	Yes
Trustee Ciotti	Yes
Mayor Finney	Yes

Motion Passed

**Financial – Approve Abstracts**

Motion was made by Trustee Cassidy, seconded by Trustee LaMontagne, to approve the following abstracts: General fund, claim # 334-408,413-415 in the amount of \$238,699.36; HV fund claim # 410-411 in the amount of \$236.42; HA fund claim # 592 in the amount of \$1,637.50; HB fund claim #412 in the amount of \$16,068.98 and Sewer fund Claim 3 409 in the amount of \$14,038.25.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee LaMontagne	Yes
Trustee Cassidy	Yes

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Trustee Devendorf	Yes
Trustee Ciotti	Yes
Mayor Finney	Yes

Motion Passed.

**Affidavit of Collection**

The Village Board of Trustees certified that the total of unpaid taxes for Village tax collection 2023 is \$37,799.97 with penalties amounting to \$3,075 for a total of \$ 40,874.97 is true and correct.

**Transfers**

Motion was made by Trustee Cassidy, seconded by Trustee Ciotti, to approve transfers 1-12. Motion Passed.

Monthly Report of Treasurer for the month of October was distributed to the Board of Trustees for their review.

**Committee Reports**

Trustee Ciotti recapped the committee reports.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made by Mayor Finney, seconded Trustee LaMontagne, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM. Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Sims, Village Clerk