

## Village of Parish, NY Forward Public Meeting

Wednesday September 21, 2022

Mayor Perkins called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was in the Village Gym.

**Roll Call:** Present – Mayor Perkins; Trustee Chatterton; Trustee Murphy; Trustee Welytok; Trustee Louer; Tasia Engst, Village Clerk

**Also Present:** Kevin Dwyer, Village Treasurer; Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Circuit Rider; Matthew Johnson, Tug Hill Planner; Carol Dwyer, Village Resident; Cynthia Morrell, REJINC Owner; Mandy Brown, OCMIC Office Manager

### COMMUNICATION:

**Mayor Perkins:** Thanked audience for attending and asked for attendance and Letter of Support signatures.

NY Forward notice was announced first week of July and explained that the funding is for smaller municipalities for renovation of their downtown area. Letters and information were sent out to Village businesses about the program to gain interest in the funding for the Letter of Intent that needed to be submitted by August 10, 2022. The Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) consists of ten regions across the state that can partake in this funding process and also issues the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) funding that is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> round. Village of Parish is part of the Central NY REDC and will be submitting to that regions director. The Letter of Intent that was submitted on August 10<sup>th</sup> had to include the Village Map showing boundaries and description of the Village's intent for its downtown area.

The Village's E. Main Street Streetscape plan that was done in 2002 was useful in helping to focus the vision of the downtown renovation plan. This will include curbing, sidewalks, lighting, foliage, and facade renovations along E. Main Street to make beautify the immediate area. The boundary also includes several business areas off of Main Street.

Businesses showed interest and provided lists of improvements for their businesses or the Village itself. These businesses also became part of the NY Forward Planning Committee for Village of Parish and attended teleconference and email communications regarding the funding process and planning.

The current phase of the process is the application submission which is Friday, September 23, 2022. Specifics in terms of costs and project work is not needed for the application, however a basic description and estimated project value must be submitted. This gives the REDC an idea of the funding needed and what the project scopes would be to help determine to award. Mayor Perkins explains the guidelines that need to be adhered to when determining project scope. Special thanks to the Tug Hill Commission for helping to provide needed information and maps for the application process.

If funding is not received during this process, it will still be good information for future funding or budget proposals.

**Clerk Engst:** Announces common question has been how is funding awarded with confirmation that each individual REDC will be awarding two or three municipalities per their region. Also confirms that all project estimates are indeed estimates and not final, exact numbers due to short application time frame. This also is for the REDC to help decide which possible award amount would be considered for our municipality, the \$2.25M or \$4.5M award. To be considered for funding the Village needs to show \$3-4M in project value for the smaller award, or \$5-6M for the larger award. Currently, the Village's estimated project value is \$4.3M with some values may needing adjustment.

Over the next few months the REDC will review the applications and determine which municipalities will be allocated the awards. Once those allocations are made, then a six month planning process will begin with the REDC, various agencies, planning companies and our own NYF planning committee. During this six month process, the project list will be reviewed, adjusted and finalized to determine exactly what projects will be funded and the fund amounts to be distributed. Funding may not be 100% to every project and may need owner, private or village funding to support project as well, the NYF funding would then supplement the project.

Project discussion, starting with the Streetscape proposal from 2002 that will be updated to match today's conditions. Area on the other side of I-81 is also proposed to have better signage to provide information in regards to what is in the Village due to the village being further away from the highway. Also explains that facades of Main Street businesses are proposed to be updated for a better visual flow. Current businesses are looking to update exteriors to meet village core codes.

List of projects is not definite and can add or subtract projects within the boundary lines. Asks for input from public and board for questions or additions.

### **Questions from Audience/Board:**

**Q:** M. Brown – What is there to do with the bank vault? **A:** Mayor Perkins – It is all rusted and not functional. When going to sell, no bank or credit union wanted to buy it as is. The Historical Society was going to use the building after refurbishment if there is still no buyer. The building is almost 100 years old so it would be good to have it refurbished and in use.

**Q:** Trustee Chatterton – Replace roof, siding, windows and doors on both buildings; they will pay for part of this? **A:** Clerk Engst – Cedar Village Apartments is the only apartment building that responded; Yes, we have heard from all private or business owners that they are willing to put forward a dollar amount or percentage toward their related projects. This is a good thing as it shows the state that we are all willing to make an effort.

**Clerk Engst:** Please sign attendance list which is separate from our mass Letter of Support. There is also time for a personal Letter of Support to be written, it just needs to be submitted by Noon on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Q:** Trustee Murphy – What is the County Route 26 property? **A:** Clerk Engst – The abandoned house on the other side of Dollar General. This is a property that we questioned and is one of the reasons we asked for funds to be put forth from owners.

**Q:** Trustee Chatterton – This house is on 26 or 69? **A:** Treasurer Dwyer – It is on 69 but there is an old wooden structure that can be viewed from 26.

**Q:** Trustee Chatterton – Putting in new sidewalks, are we maintaining or will the people have to maintain? **A:** Mayor Perkins – Language will need to be written when the time comes. Trustee Chatterton – When 69 was being worked on there was discussion of buying equipment and giving to the town to maintain the sidewalks. Clerk Engst – That is one of the things that the funding could cover is the equipment needed but not the hiring of someone to do the work. Initial purchase can be covered depending on what it is. C. Morrell – Also, if the parking lot on the corner of Mill Street comes to fruition that would need to be plowed as well and would be good use for that equipment as well.

**Q:** Trustee Louer – Who came up with the number to pave the Mill Street lot for parking? **A:** Clerk Engst – That was a number we threw at it. Trustee Welytok – That number is very low, might want to add a one to that number. Adding chargers along is going to eat up most of that \$35k. Clerk Engst – Ok, will adjust the number

**Q:** M. Brown – The Letter that was mentioned, we don't have to do but should we? And what would you like in it? **A:** We won't force you to but we would love you to. I can send sample letter that can be put on your letterhead or modified as you see fit.

**Q:** Trustee Welytok – Milling and asphalt of the Grist Mill parking lot, are they talking the entire lot? **A:** Clerk Engst – Yes, that is all of the info they gave us. Trustee Welytok is concerned about that number as well. Clerk Engst will follow up with Hadwen Fuller on the full coverage.

**Q:** M. Johnson – The project area covers quite a bit north of the Grist Mill, what is that area for? **A:** Mayor Perkins – our development area; Clerk Engst – Wanted it included just in case because once map is submitted, we cannot change it.

**Q:** Trustee Chatterton – On North Railroad are we going to the railroad tracks? **A:** Clerk Engst – not currently but we can extend. Discussion had about village/town property for the cemetery. Agreed to go down to the railroad tracks.

Discussed sidewalk/step at OCIM building and original NYS-69 work.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

September 23rd – NYF Application due by 4pm EST

**ADJOURNMENT:** Trustee Chatterton motioned to adjourn at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tasia M. Engst, Parish Village Clerk