

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Delhi was held **Tuesday, February 18, 2025** at 6:00 pm at Village Hall.

The meeting started at 6:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor: Jeffrey Gearhart
Trustees: Jeremy Fitch, Janet Tweed, Ian Lamont and Barbara Sturdevant

Guests: Jason Merwin, Executive Director, CWC; Ed Chytalo, Eric Lane, CWC; PJ Harmer and Lillian Browne, The Reporter

Discussion was had among the board members regarding Resolution #2 of 2025 and letter of Commitment for the joint grant request between Town and Village of Delhi for comprehensive plan were discussed as someone from the town would stop by to pick these signed items up to get this grant submitted by the deadline.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to approve Resolution #01 of 2025 and approved the Mayor to sign the letter of commitment to apply for funding on a joint comprehensive plan. Resolution #01, which reads as follows:

"Resolution No. 01 of 2025 - VILLAGE OF DELHI - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OBTAINING GRANT FUNDING FOR THE CREATION OF A JOINT MUNICIPAL FACILITY

WHEREAS the Constitution and statutes of the State of New York authorize and encourage counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts, and fire districts to cooperate for purposes of pursuing common objectives and solving mutual problems; and

WHEREAS the Town and Village of Delhi share a community of interest in the health, safety, and welfare of the people residing in the area which they comprise; and

WHEREAS the said municipalities are committed to promoting the effective and economical provision of local government services and facilities within their respective jurisdictions, including by means of inter-community planning; and

WHEREAS Articles 12-C and 5-J of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York authorize cooperation among municipalities and comprehensive studies and reports to aid in the cooperative solution of local government problems and in the promotion of strong and effective local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town and Village of Delhi do hereby agree to seek a planning grant titled "Town and Village of Delhi Co-located Municipal Facilities Study" for grant funding relating to the proposed construction of a joint municipal facility; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town of Delhi will serve as lead applicant, and the Village of Delhi as co-applicant; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town and Village of Delhi are seeking a \$20,000 planning grant and are prepared to match at least 50% to be shared between municipalities with a total contribution of \$10,000 each; and it is further

RESOLVED that the costs and expenses incurred as part of this grant, exclusive of any state aid available therefor, shall be apportioned to the participating municipalities on a 50%/50% percent basis; and it is further

RESOLVED that this Resolution shall not bind the Village to any additional terms or requirements relating to the proposed joint municipal facility, including but not limited to, with regard to expenditures beyond those expressly provided for herein.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED: That this resolution shall become effective on February 18, 2025."

And signed the letter of commitment, which reads as follows:

"Subject: Letter of Commitment for Co-

Located Municipal Facility Feasibility Study - Dear [Recipient Name],

On behalf of the Village of Delhi, we are pleased to express our full commitment to conducting a Town and Village of Delhi Co-Located Municipal Facilities Feasibility Study which will enhance public services, improve efficiency, and support economic

development in our community. This study aligns with our long-term goals of optimizing municipal operations, reducing costs, and fostering intergovernmental collaboration to better serve our residents.

Recognizing the benefits of shared services and strategic municipal planning, the Town and Village of Delhi Boards are dedicated to evaluating the potential consolidation of municipal facilities to streamline operations and maximize available resources. This study will assess key factors such as site selection, financial feasibility, operational efficiencies, and community impact to ensure that any future co-location project is both viable and beneficial.

Village of Delhi: \$10,878 (In Kind Labor Match)

Village Mayor (1)

The Delhi Village Mayor commits to devote an average of 15 hours a month for 6 months of this project. (15hours per month x 6 months x \$37 per hour = \$3330)

Delhi Village Board (4)

The Delhi Village Board commits to devote an average of 6 hours a month for 6 months. (4 board members x 6 hours per month x 6 months x \$37 per hour = \$5328)

Delhi Village Clerk (2)

The Delhi Village Clerks commit to providing all requested documents to the consultant with an estimated average time commitment of 5 hours per month for 6 months.

(2 clerks x 5 hours per month x 6 months x \$37 per hour= \$2220)

We appreciate the opportunity to undertake this critical study and look forward to exploring how a co-located municipal facility can enhance governance, improve service delivery, and contribute to the long-term prosperity of [Municipality Name]. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,”

Motion was seconded by Fitch and passed unanimously.

Privilege of the floor was granted to PJ Harmer who wanted to thank the public works department for all their work with regard to taking care of the streets in the village BUT wanted to advise that the sidewalks in the village were treacherous all over the village forcing residents to walk in the street creating a dangerous situation. PJ also commented that one of the worst sidewalks was Delaware County who didn't even touch their sidewalk Monday during the holiday.

Alan Warner was also present and indicated to the village board that he submitted a request to hold their Memorial Day Service and police coverage to assist with their event. Alan attended the meeting this evening to answer any questions we might have.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to open the public hearing at 6:23 PM on proposed Local Law #1 “Tax Cap Override”, which reads “Local Law No. 1 of the year 2025 -Village of Delhi, County of Delaware

A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Village of Delhi to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2025 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Delhi, County of Delaware, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2025 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State. “

Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

PJ Harmer asked the village board how much will taxes be increased? Village board responded they were still working on the budget and were not going to raise any more than needed and would try to keep under 2%.

Jason Merwin, Executive Director at CWC spoke about wanting to assist communities with their needs regarding their aging Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Trustee Fitch made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:55 PM on proposed Local Law #1 of 2025 “Tax Cap Override”. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to approve LL #1 of 2025 “Tax Cap Override”. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Bill Brown of Delaware Engineering was present and reported on the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA Funding), Lead Service Line Inventory and WWTP Evaluation.

Bill requested the Village Board authorize Mayor to sign grant agreement with NYSEFC for Lead Service Line Inventory.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to authorize Mayor to sign grant agreement with NYSEFC for Lead Service Line Inventory. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Bill also requested Village Board authorize preparation of Engineering Planning Grant Application and signature by the Mayor.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to authorize preparation of Engineering Planning Grant Application and signature by the Mayor. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to accept the Police Report dated January 2025, Street Report dated February 2025, Water Report dated 2/14/2025, Sewer Report dated February 12, 2025, Code Enforcement Report 1/15/2025 – 2/11/2025, Treasurers report dated January 2025, and Clerk Report dated February 18, 2025. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to approve the minutes of the January 21 2025 regular

meeting and budget meeting of February 11, 2025. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to approve Abstract #009 dated February 18, 2025 in the amount of \$182,386.28 with an addition of invoice #0049626IN from Personal Safety Corporation in the amount of \$345.26, for a grand total of \$182,731.54 (General fund \$40,544.89, Water fund \$58,513.70, Sewer fund \$82,472.11, Joint Activity fund \$287.10 and Trust & Agency fund \$913.74). Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturdevant and passed unanimously.

Trustee Fitch reported for the **Police Committee**

Chief Mills made a request to the Village Board to appoint Elinor Hood to the position of Police Officer. There was confusion of whether Elinor would be working as police clerk at a rate of \$18.50 and \$23.00 as PT police officer. Trustee Fitch would clarify and bring this item back to the Village Board.

Cooperative Agreement Renewal with Delaware County DSS – discussion was had by the village board that this document should have been authorized by the village board and signed by the Mayor.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to authorize Mayor to sign the Cooperative Agreement Renewal with Delaware County DSS. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously. It was noted this agreement should be signed by Mayor/Deputy Mayor, not Chief of Police.

SUCO Range use policy – Trustee Tweed indicated they discovered there is already a range use agreement that should be followed – no need to create a new policy.

Mayor Gearhart reported for the **Public Works Committee**.

Sidewalk snow removal – Detective Croizer from our Police Dept. spoke with the Mayor about doing one side parking during winter as some of our streets are so narrow because of the snow. Mayor Gearhart will check with our village attorney to see if this is okay for us to do.

Trustee Sturdevant indicated reported for the **Joint Services Committee**

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to approve the request from Delhi Area Chamber of Commerce for St. Patrick's Day parade to hold their St. Patrick's Day Parade, police coverage to assist with their event and authorize Mayor to sign PERM 33c application for NYS DOT as the applicant and for the Village to handle any insurance requirement. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to approve request from the American Legion to hold their Memorial Day Service (5/26/2025) and police coverage to assist with their event. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Dog Warden – Chris Bodo – Discussion was had - Trustee Fitch indicated we need to firm up this process.

Mayor Gearhart reported for the **Codes, Building & Planning Committee**.

Bishop building – update – use of property (Cannon Park) – Mayor indicated that Josh Morgan, CEO, has talked to Ben Decker who indicates that he has been hired to do more work but Bishop is not well so not sure when.

There was also discussion about Olga Irwin's building on the corner of Main & Court Street which there has been an issue with icy sidewalks and the power of attorney needs to get a dumpster to clean out Main Street property, also looking to do roof repair, etc.

Trustee Sturdevant reported for the **Finance Committee**

2025 – 2026 Budget Schedule – Trustee Sturdevant indicated we are working on completing the budget for 2025 – 2026 - we are considering raising the Water, Sewer and CAP rates by 5% to balance the budget.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to schedule a budget meeting March 11, 2025 @ 6 PM at Village hall. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Sturdevant to advertise the March 18, 2025 board meeting / tentative budget and public hearing for 6:00 PM at E-Center. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Frontend Loader – Mayor Gearhart indicated that he has spoken to Daren Evans who wanted to place this for auction with a minimum bid of \$115,000 and the new lease would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$145,000 - \$150,000, which would be what we had budgeted. Daren to list for auction but the board would have to approve the bid.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Review Board – public hearing for the low impact business zones, ADU's and short-term rental – Trustee Lamont indicated the document is being updated by Chair Kopecek and we should be able to move forward soon.

IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System) – Mayor Gearhart indicated the Clerk is almost set with this

NEW BUSINESS

FYI – grants submitted to the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation for 2025 summer youth volleyball program, 2025 summer youth tennis program, 2025 summer youth little league program, 2025 summer youth basketball program and purchasing a patrol pickup truck for the Village of Delhi Police Department.

Climate Smart Communities – Mayor Gearhart indicated that KZ will be at Village Hall with him tomorrow (2/19/2025) for them to update the \$50,000 grant with NYSERDA for electric car, split, etc. to resubmit to cover additional costs that were added after the original grant submission. Daren Evans was also looking to get quotes for some electric lawn equipment from McDowell Walker to finish using the funds from the NYSERDA grant. Trustee Tweed indicated there was a Repair Café recently on Main Street and was very successful.

Delhi Kite Flying Festival – Nathan Goedel still working out details for the 4/26/2025 event but it looks like he will be looking to make this a 2 day event next year. This year's event is 4/26/2025 from 10 AM – 4 PM.

Spectrum Franchise Agreement – set public hearing – discussion was had that we need to set a public hearing for the franchise agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to schedule public hearing for franchise agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC on March 18, 2025 at 6:15 PM. Motion was seconded by Trustee Tweed and passed unanimously.

College Community Cleanup Day – Mayor Gearhart mentioned that SUNY Delhi (Ana Lis ?) will be doing a cleanup in Delhi in April and would be looking for projects that could be done in the town and village. Mayor Gearhart will talk to Daren Evans to get idea of projects for Cleanup Day.

Discussion was had that parks will need to be done soon and we should put the groundskeeping out to bid.

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to authorize the Clerk to put bid out for groundskeeping of village parks with bids due back by 3/11/2025. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Non-Unit Agreement – discussion of changes that have been proposed and looking for approval of updated agreement.

Mayor's Report

Delaware County Council of Mayors last meeting was 2/12/2025 – next meeting is 3/12/2025.

Mayor Gearhart indicated that the group met at 9 AM because of the finance committee meeting at 10:30 AM on 2/12/2025. There is talk to try to incorporate trustees and supervisors into our conversations regarding sales tax sharing with Delaware County. The next finance committee meeting in in April 2025.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Trustee Tweed to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing employment history of a particular person and contract negotiations (PBA). Motion was seconded by

Trustee Lamont and executive session started at 9:10 pm.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to exit executive session. Motion was seconded by

Trustee Lamont and the board went back to open session at 9:53 pm.

Motion was made by Trustee Lamont to approve the updated Employee Benefits Manual for Non-Unit Employees for Village Clerk and Village Treasurer. Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitch and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Fitch to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Lamont and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Cairns
Village Treasurer