

Village of Margaretville
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The regular meeting of the Village of Margaretville Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Hubbell at 5:00pm on January 21, 2025, in the Village Offices, 773 Main Street, Margaretville, NY. The following members were in attendance.

John Hubbell	Mayor
Dave Budin	Trustee
Iris Mead	Trustee
Jeffrey Warren	Trustee

Also in attendance was Helen Zitomer.

All unanimous votes are with the mayor not voting unless otherwise noted

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approving last month, December 17, 2024, minutes.

Trustee Warren moved to accept as presented, and Trustee Mead seconded.

All in favor.

Meg Balcom, Assessor, wanted to present to the board an increase in the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption rate. Currently, having 5 people taking advantage of the Tax Exempt, she ran numbers with the raised rate to an additional 13 people qualify for the senior savings. It amounts to a total of \$6,000. Divided by the 387 taxable residents to be \$9.00 per resident.

The last Tax Rate changed was 1/22/24.

Trustee Warren made the motion to have a public meeting at 4:45 before the Village Board Meeting on 2/18/25 at 5:00. Trustee Mead seconded.

All in favor

Public Comment

Helen Zitomer wants to express her appreciation for all the work that went into fixing the water issues and wanted to know the emergency procedures used to get the information out to residents.

Mayor Hubbell stated we are coasting because the Town is looking at a way to contact residents as well. It would be easier for both villages: Margaretville and Fleischmanns along with the Town to do it together because it's not a big population. We looked at a bunch of different ways to do it and none of them are good.

The County has Reverse 911. They can reach out based on zip code but if they get their mail here, they will get the notice but not be in Margaretville and that can be confusing. The biggest problem with all the things that we can sign up for is a voluntary sign-up. We are not sure we can get enough people to sign up to make it worthwhile. Therefore, we are sitting back to see what the Town comes up with, they have contacted several companies.

During this last situation, we were able to contact MTC Channel 10, the Information Channel, and went door to door with the Boil Water Order which is normally how we contact our residents when we shut the water off for repairs as much in advance as possible. Catskill Air (Channel 1 on Cable) contacted us a day or two later, we gave the information we did have because in the first 14 -15 hours we really didn't know what was going on. In fact, during the first 3 phone calls to the Department of Health, they asked what's the cause, we didn't know what it was. If it was a leak, at that time we wouldn't have known where it was because we were already out of water. It turned out it was a major system failure between the two pumps which led to drainage of the two tanks. Things transpired, but we were fortunate we had enough help during the day from various agencies that gave us a hand: Department of Health (DOH) and Titan Drilling. What happened was the Fair Street Well Pump was replaced on Friday, Jan 3rd, 2025 before Saturday night. We got good use out of that pump since it was installed in 2006.

The Ball Park Well, we had trouble with this one for some time, we knew about it. DPW (Dept of Public Works) knows about it, it would shut off, so they watch it closely. The first notice I got about it was when a neighbor who lives higher than I do called and said he had no water. I turned mine on, the pressure was low. I thought it was a freeze up or a leak. The neighbor and I were out looking for it and didn't find anything. I got a hold of JP (Beers), He stated the pump cut out, so they turned it back on to let it fill up. About 3 hours later, we started getting more phone calls that people were out. Fair St Bridge Well tripped so we started that one back up. We called Titan, it took some time to gather their guys.

We found out there is a new safety feature on the new pump if it senses a leak which made it think there was since there was no pressure, it will shut it self-down so it won't burn up. Titan had a used pump and installed that for us which gradually started building up pressure. Once you drain a system like that according to the Department of Health the village must boil water until we are sure no microorganisms are present. Once the pressure is off there is a chance of bad things getting into the water. Testing had to be done for 3 consecutive days having no finds. Once you re-pressurize, the little leaks which most systems have become big leaks. We started working with Rural Water to find the leaks and got them all under control except for one. There is one that they are working with and put on hold until it warms up a bit like next week down at the corner of Orchard and Academy. Two of them were service lines to property and one major one.

After the first 3 leaks, we called in Rural Water, an Organization the Village belongs to, that finds leaks. DPW replaced some shut-off valves in brass so they will last over 30 plus years. If you have any ideas on communication, we are trying to figure out how to contact most people without causing alarms.

Discussion about the village website and how to make it an easier way to notify the village residents. Helen Zitomer has volunteered to work with the clerk.

Trustee Budin acknowledged the mayor for the job he did during the water shortage.

NEW BUSINESS

The newest truck we purchased was denied through CHIPS because it won't last 10 years, so we are moving money around to pay for that.

In March, the election is on the day of our meeting. We have a resolution to move our meeting to March 19th the day after at 5:00pm

Mayor Hubbell made a motion and Trustee Mead seconded. All in favor

Next is Resolution # 121624-01. The General Election is for a mayor and two Trustees.

Mayor Hubbell made that motion and Trustee Mead seconded. All in favor

Resolution # 121624-02 Designating Election Officials – Michael Porter and Kim Borfitz for General Election.

Mayor Hubbell made the motion and Trustee Warren seconded. All in favor

One more Resolution # 012125-01 is for the Transfer Funds from Emergency Repair fund to General Fund. The resolution is for \$50,000.

Trustee Warren made the motion Trustee Mead seconded. All in favor.

Got a new computer for the clerk that was in the budget.

Ceiling hours will be carried over to next month.

NYSIF (NYS Insurance Fund) names were changed. Former employees' names were removed and new names were added.

The Mayor thanked: The Clerk, Trustees, DPW, Town of Middletown, Titan Drilling, Delaware County Emergency Services, and NYSDOH (Dept. of Health) for helping out.

Pay Bills

Bills #183 - #212 Grand total \$49,879.58 were audited and approved by the Village Board for payment.

Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Hubbell asked motion to adjourn. Trustee Warren seconded. All in favor.