The duly warned public hearing of the Board of Trustees was electronically held on April 21, 2021.

Trustees Present:
Riki French, Chair; Jack Anderson, Peter Gallo, Dan Young and Adam Lory
Others: Carol Robertson, General Manager, Karen Wescom, Clerk/Treasurer/Office Administrator;
Brickett Bailey, Michele Bailey, Mary Walz

Chair Riki French opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m. and opened the floor for public comments.

Brickett Bailey asked for an update on the water construction project. The GM reported the continuation of construction started this week on Fitch Hill. With the 1111 permit, issued by the Town, a condition was that the Village pay the cost of repaving curb to curb. Dufresne Group worked with the state to satisfy the request of the Town to hold bond monies in reserve and repave all Village roads other than Fitch Hill at a later date. To do so, required state approval and Fitch Hill must to be completed in 2021, at which time the water construction is planned for completion. The GM praised the work of Naomi Johnson, Dufresne Group for her diligent work to accomplish this task. Contractor N.A. Manosh will perform work throughout the Village throughout the summer to finish the water project on time and meet the conditions of the 1111 permit with the repaving costs covered by the bond.

Throughout the course of the Water project there have been and will continue to be weekly meetings, the information for attending the weekly meetings is located on the website, www.villageofhydepark.com, under public notices. Meetings are held every Thursday at 1 pm. The Resident Project Representative is Charles Flower, of Dufresne, his contact information is on the website in the public notices section. Charlie is the is the first point of contact for any questions regarding the water project. The GM reported that we have hired a new Foreman, he will begin May 3, 2021, this will allow John more time to work on new water and wastewater operation processes.

Brickett Bailey asked about the Wastewater Construction Project on Depot St. The GM reported the Wastewater project calls for an additional 1,000 tank with filters, new regulations will require a certified operator, and until such time that the new foreman is able to get the training for certification, an outside contractor is required for this service. An RFP will go out for bids to meet compliance requirements for the state.
The GM reported the owner of the furniture store building recently requested an informational hearing regarding a mixed use for the property. It is anticipated an application will be received requiring public hearings. At the April Board of trustees meeting, two alternate DRB members were appointed, Carroll Peters and Loren Leahy.

Chair Riki French noted many residents don’t understand the Bliss Library Fund. She explained the Fund came about from the will of Charles Bliss, the fund is made up of cash and investments that receive income and the income is goes to the Lanpher Library for their use. The “job” of Trustee of the Bliss Library is not overly difficult with a few meetings a year. The GM reported Norm Andrews does not want to continue to serve as a Bliss Library trustee. Norm would be appreciative if someone else were voted in by write-in.

Brickett Bailey asked why voters only approved was the General Budget. The General Department is only a small fraction of Village functions and expenses. The GM reported that utility budgets are approved by the Board of Trustees, and explained the reasons. The 2019 financial statements are on the website and the 2020 audit report will be posted following the May 19 Board meeting. The GM expressed regret that the 2020 audit report was delayed due to staff workload.

Michelle Bailey asked about the solar bond. The GM reported the Waterhouse Solar project was funded with Clean Renewable Energy Bonds Treasurer Bonds and was online in 2016. The array covers the State Renewable Energy Standards requirements until 2028, with the Renewable Energy Credits produced by the system. It is directly benefits all Hyde Park Electric ratepayers.

The GM reported there has been an enormous workload for the previous five years and it isn’t over yet. She praised Karen Wescom and John Strek for their leadership and hard work during this period. Chair Riki French thanked the staff.

There being no further business, motion by Jack Anderson and second by Adam Lory to adjourn the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. The motion carried.