Village of New Berlin

Minutes of June 1, 2023

The Special Meeting of June 1, 2023 was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor, Peter Lennon.

Roll Call

Crawford: no

Canuel: no

Smith: yes

Potter: yes

Lennon: yes

Attendance: Kelly Anderson, Kelly Robertson (Greater Ops Dep Director), Justin Roberts (Greater Ops Housing Director), Mark Silvanic (Greater Ops), Robert Starr (President of the Board of Directors Greater Ops.), Robin Cotter (Catholic Charities) and Elaine Lennon.

The Village of New Berlin Board of Trustees held a public information session to host Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango to entertain a presentation by Greater Opportunities regarding a project they are proposing within the Village. They are proposing a project that will involve the renovation of four buildings located at 26 Genesee Street, 28 Genesee Street, 34 Genesee Street, and 8 Green Street in New Berlin, New York. The construction project will include gutting the building interiors including: all interior finish materials and trim; interior doors; electrical, plumbing and heating systems; lead abatement; window sashes; exterior demolition; and reconstruction, as well as new construction, for a minimum of sixteen (16) apartments.

The properties were built in 1880 and are therefore subject to historical preservation. According to Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, SHPO and SEQRA requirements will be adhered to per Homeless Housing Assistance Program grant requirements. They have received support from the Chenango County Planning Department and Chenango County DSS Commissioner. The approximate cost of the project is $4 million dollars.

The Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) is sponsored by the Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA). The HHAP is a program of State-funded grants or loans to acquire, construct or rehabilitate housing to expand the supply of housing for low-income persons who are, or would otherwise be, homeless. The annual budget of $128 million, which is available to the entire state of New York, however, 97% of those funds are earmarked for downstate NY. If HHAP funds are received, Greater Opportunities would be required to have annual state reviews of all properties funded for the next 30 years to ensure that properties are maintained in a proper manner.

Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango has requested a letter of support from the Village Board, that the Village is in support of the concept of the project as well as a letter of zoning compliance. Kelly Robertson has templates for the letters that will be sent to the Village office for use by the Village if the board is willing to furnish the letters on behalf of Greater Opportunities.

Rich Potter made a motion to generate a letter of support for the concept of the project for Greater Opportunities. Dave Smith seconded the motion. VOTE: Dave Smith: yes, Rich Potter: yes, Pete Lennon: yes. Approved.

Rich Potter made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Smith seconded the motion. VOTE: Dave Smith: yes, Rich Potter: yes, Pete Lennon: yes. Approved.

Adjourned at 6:58 PM - Kelly Anderson, Village Clerk and Treasurer