

A regular meeting of the Village of Victor Board of Trustees was held on Monday, August 15, 2022 at the Village Hall, 60 E. Main St, Victor, NY 14564

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Gary Hadden
Deputy Mayor Michael Crowley
Trustee Carol Commisso
Trustee Robert Kelly
Trustee Michelle Chalupa
Director of Public Works John Turner
Village Clerk Pamela Hogenes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Village Attorney Reid Holter

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Stehling, Evelyn Esch, Ira Knickerbocker, Joel Richter, Warner Fisher, Thomas Driscoll, Jerry Robbins, Diane Robbins, Megan Jones, Randy Shea, Todd Hamonn, Marcy Barry-Hamonn and 1 unreadable name

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Hadden at 7:00pm.

Salute to the flag.

Open Discussion

Mayor Hadden noted there were several attendees that were here tonight to comment on the proposed Connectivity Plan. This was not a public hearing, but Mayor Hadden allowed the residents to briefly share their comments/concerns.

Mayor Hadden provided an overview of the proposed project. Referring to the July 13, 2022 public informational meeting at the Town Hall.

Diane Robbins, 944 Championship Dr., understands the purpose of the project is to alleviate traffic congestion on RT 96/Main St., but feels you can find ways around to avoid traveling through Main St. Ms. Robbins would like to attend a committee meeting.

Evelyn Esch, 138 E. Main St. has lived at her home for 47 years and feels it would be a waste of millions of dollars of taxpayer money to put in the "bypass". Ms. Esch does not want a road behind her home as well as in front of it. *Mr. Hadden noted that we are only talking about phase I of a 3 phase project. Phase I will only be from RT 251 to School St.*

Tom Driscoll, 105 School St., has lived 44 years in his home and stated the traffic on School St. has increased drastically over the years he has lived there. Mr. Driscoll is concerned that it will be almost impossible to walk on School St if the bypass is put in. Mr. Driscoll doesn't like the fact that the railroad tracks will be eliminated and is worried about the Insulator's business. He also doesn't feel it's necessary.

Warner Fisher, 729 Moseley Rd., Fairport, asked if the Village will have any recommendations/input to the Town Board for or against this project since it is a Town project and approval will come from the Town Board and asked if the Village Board had a position on the project right now? *Mayor Hadden and Mr. Kelly stated they are in agreement that a feasibility study should be done before moving forward with the project.* Mr. Fisher also noted the tax benefits to the Village from the Insulator and what impact it would have if it has to close. *Mayor Hadden stated that no one on the board wants to see the Victor Insulators close.*

Mayor Hadden stated all these comments along with a survey that was conducted in Jan. 2022 will be compiled and reviewed by the committee of which he is a member of and be taken into consideration.

Megan Jones, 1340 School Rd., feels this bypass will act as a second Main St. Feels there is a traffic problem through the Village, but doesn't think this plan is the answer.

Todd Hamonn, 6861 Co. Rd. 41, feels the bad traffic is only from 4:00 – 6:00pm and 8:00 – 9:00am and doesn't feel this project is necessary.

Randy Shea, 50 W. Main St., is extremely dissatisfied with the meetings, no minutes are taken, you can't find any information from the meetings. Mr. Shea noted it is also proposed to put a road behind his home between Moore Ave. to High St. and wants to know who proposed that idea. *Mayor Hadden stated it was discussed years ago under a former Mayor's reign.* Mr. Shea wanted to know when it was proposed and were there any minutes from that meeting. *Mayor Hadden stated he did not know what meeting it was discussed at and thinks it might be through a committee, but was not sure.* Mr. Shea was in favor of this project at the beginning until he found out the rails would be taken out and what impact it would have on the Victor Insulators.

Mayor Hadden wanted to make it clear that any decisions regarding the railroad were between Finger Lakes Railroad and Ontario County, not the Town or the Village of Victor.

Ms. Esch, feels the Village should have some say in the matter because Village and Town residents pay County taxes.

Ira Knickerbocker, 1702 Murray Rd., read a letter he submitted to the Connectivity committee on July 27, 2022. (a copy of the letter will be attached to the end of these minutes.) Mr. Knickerbocker stated his business is thriving and could easily add 15 more employees if they were willing. Mr. Knickerbocker reiterated how much his business would suffer without the rails.

Joel Richter, 125 Church St., has lived in his home for 40 years and in Victor for over 60 years. Mr. Richter thanked Mr. Turner for the wonderful event in the Village over the

weekend. Mr. Richter is President of the Friends of the Railroad (FORR) which started in 2008. Mr. Richter stated the FORR has transported 15,000 passengers on their excursions since its inception. Excursions always sell out. FORR no longer runs excursions out of Victor because the rails are unsafe and in disrepair. FORR now conducts walking tours.

Mr. Richter asked if the Village Board would submit letters of support for FORR to obtain funding to improve the rails, for their equipment and to complete projects. *Yes* Mr. Richter also asked if the Village can pay for the part of the connectivity project that lies within the Village between School St and the Village line westerly. *The Village Board will apply for grant funds if the Town approves the project.* Mr. Richter pointed out the entire project will cost \$17m and a grant only covers 80% and the Town and Village have to put in 20%.

Mayor Hadden thanked everyone for coming and if they want to talk to him after the meeting, call Village Hall and they will get a message to him.

The public in attendance exited the meeting at 8:00pm. The Board continued with the regular meeting.

Clerk Report

Resolution #70-22

Acceptance of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Michael Crowley, seconded by Trustee Robert Kelly the following resolution was APPROVED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSTAIN Mayor Hadden

Resolved to accept the meeting minutes from August 1, 2022.

Resolution #71-22

Payment of Bills

Whereas, the Village Board of Trustees has audited and approved invoices for payment, that appear on Abstract #6 using vouchers #286-352 and,

NOW, therefore on a motion made by Trustee Carol Commisso, seconded by Trustee Michelle Chalupa, the following resolution was ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

Resolved to authorize the Treasurer to pay invoices from Abstract #6 in the following amounts:

General	\$ 44,456.14
Water	\$ 16,442.28
Sewer	\$ 8,396.73

HL – Lynaugh Rd Drainage	\$ 6,727.49
HT – Veteran’s Memorial	\$ 1,368.72
HV – Victor Music & Food Fest	\$ 11,108.02
TOTAL	\$ 88,499.38

Director of Public Works Report

Mr. Turner reported the following:

- Completed work on the Veteran’s monument until the granite arrives in 2023
- Finished Lynaugh Rd reconstruction
- Distributed financials from the Victor Music and Food Festival. Set the date for next year, August 12, 2023

Trustees Reports

Carol Commisso – Met with Kathy Rayburn and Mike Cocquyt from Labella for 2023 grant opportunities. Attended the NY Forward webinar. We need more public engagement if we decided to apply again. The next webinar is on August 18.

Michelle Chalupa – None

Robert Kelly – Working on the Noise ordinance with Mayor Hadden. Will distribute the 1st draft to the board and Attorney Holter later in the week.

Michael Crowley – Have Todd Smith, Code Enforcement Officer attend the Sept. 6 meeting to discuss the code changes he is proposing.

Mayor Report

Mayor Hadden distributed a list of code changes Todd Smith, Code Enforcement Officer would like to put in place. Mr. Crowley asked that Mr. Smith attend the Sept. 6 meeting to discuss the code changes he is proposing.

Attorney Report

None

Executive Session

On a motion made by Trustee Carol Commisso, seconded by Trustee Michelle Chalupa, the following resolution was ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

Resolved, that the Village Board of Trustees will enter into executive session to discuss possible litigation. No business will be conducted after.

Ms. Hogenes and Mr. Turner exited at 8:30pm

On motion of Trustee Robert Kelly, seconded by Trustee Michael Crowley, the following resolution was ADOPTED 5 AYES 0 NAYS

Resolved, that the Village Board of Trustees will exit out of executive session at 8:45

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned on motion at 8:45pm.

Pamela Hogenes, Village Clerk



July 27, 2022

Victor Street Access and Connectivity Plan Project Team
85 E. Main Street
Victor, NY 14564

Re: Public Comments to the July 13, 2022 "Open House" Information Session
Regarding the Victor Street Access and Connectivity Plan

Dear Victor Street Access and Connectivity Plan Project Team,

This letter is to provide public comment and formally object to the Victor Street Access and Connectivity Plan to redevelop Route 96 within the Town and Village of Victor, insofar as such plans contemplate the removal of railways that service Victor Insulators, Inc. ("Victor Insulators"). Victor Insulators objects to any potential abandonment or discontinuance of rail lines in Victor, New York, as Victor Insulators depends on these lines for its business operations.

Victor Insulators, a locally owned company, was founded in 1893 in Victor, New York and has been doing business in Victor ever since. Victor Insulators currently employs over 60 people, nearly all of whom are area residents, and would have the capacity to employ nearly triple that number if employees were currently available for hire. Significantly, Victor Insulators is the last United States-owned (and one of the last two United States-based) wet-process porcelain electric insulator manufacturer and produces the broadest array of insulator types. The insulators manufactured by Victor Insulators are a critical component to insulating high voltage electrical power (the electrical grid) throughout the United States. Victor Insulators provides critical products to utilities, public transit systems, the U.S. military, and other equipment manufacturers across the United States. Many of Victor Insulators' customers rely on it as their only domestic source for their unique insulator needs.

An essential component of Victor Insulators' business is the use of rail service for supply deliveries. In particular, Victor Insulators relies on these rail lines to deliver key ingredients for its manufacture of high voltage porcelain insulators. If the railways servicing Victor Insulators are removed, deliveries of these materials would have to be made over roads, which will greatly increase costs to Victor Insulators and put it at a great economic disadvantage to its competitors. Thus, the contemplated removal of the railway along Adams Street would create a significant economic hardship for the company that could ultimately require its closure. Furthermore, deliveries made via road in the absence of rail service, while not only costly, would generate additional traffic on the already congested Village and Town roads.

Additionally, removal of the railways in Victor was discussed during the "Open House" information session for the Victor Street Access and Connectivity Plan held by the Village and Town of Victor on July 13, 2022. Statements were made during the information session that some are under the impression that the Finger Lakes Railroad ("FGLK") is providing an adequate alternative method of service to Victor Insulators. This alternative method, which



Victor Insulators, Inc.

Makers of High Voltage Porcelain Insulators

July 27, 2022

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includes necessary materials being loaded onto trucks in Seneca falls, New York and driven to Victor Insulators' facility, is insufficient. Given the delicate nature of the materials being transported, the transloading service being offered by FGLK creates a high risk of cross-contamination of the transported materials. Moreover, half of the recent deliveries using this method have taken near to a month to deliver materials to Victor Insulators' facility, further demonstrating that this alternative service is both unfeasible and unreliable, which ultimately threatens the continued existence of Victor Insulators in the community.

Finally, any actions taken to abandon or discontinue rail service requires the approval of the Federal Surface Transportation Board. Because such approval has not been obtained, the Village and Town cannot undertake any plans that include removal of the railways.

Rail service is imperative to the continued business of Victor Insulators. Discontinued rail service in Victor, New York will likely lead to the closure of Victor Insulators, a local business that is a value both to our community and the country. I hope that you consider these objections in finalizing the Victor Street Access and Connectivity Plan.

Very truly yours,

Ira Knickerbocker, CEO
Victor Insulators, Inc.

Cc: Town Board of the Town of Victor