A meeting of the Stratton Village Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday February 4, 2020 at 5:00 pm CT at the Village Clerk’s Office. Notice of the meeting was posted and availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice. A poster of the “Open Meetings Act” was clearly visible on the office wall, and Chairwoman P. McDonald directed the attention of those present to the poster. All proceedings hereafter shown occurred while the meeting was in session. Present: Chairwoman P. McDonald, Trustee F. Priddy, Trustee J. McDonald, Trustee T. Jones, Trustee J. Richardson, Utilities Superintendent K. League, Clerk T. Hedrick, Assistant Utilities Superintendent R. Grier, and Deputy Clerk Burk.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

OPEN FORUM: No public comments made.

Motion by T. Jones and second by J. McDonald to approve the previous minutes. Roll call: Unanimous Ayes. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clerk Hedrick presented a list of customers who have bills that are out of range of normal usage for this month as well as a list of meters that have had issues being read. Most of the customers on the list have spoken to the office regarding their concerns. The Board and staff discussed reasons that this might have happened. League stated that he believes many of the customers used electric space heaters or may have leaky toilets. It was also mentioned that due to bad weather and a holiday the readings were done on the 21st which is a few days later than normal. The possibility of misreading the meters was addressed however there is no way to check on this option as the meter is visual read and written down on the date of the readings by the employee. League stated that they were unable to get a reading on some of the meters and were estimated due to needing repaired or are too dirty to read or unable to access the meter due to various other reasons. The possibility of misreading or mistyping the numbers while transcribing onto the computer billing program was mentioned. Hedrick stated while that was a possibility the accounts on this list where all double checked for the past twelve months readings with no discrepancies. Although the amount due is high the board agreed that whatever the reason at some point in the past the utility was used by the customer as the current reading is correct. The board approved to allow the customers on the list to be set up on a payment plan if needed. The board discussed options moving forward to prevent this issue from reoccurring. Richardson suggested that the utility workers switch routes every other month and whoever reads the meters will not complete the re-read if needed. P. McDonald stated that they should never have a meter that they are unable to get a reading on. If there is a problem with the meter then it needs to be replaced not estimated on. League stated that he heard there may be a sale on new meters in the near future and will purchase meters at that time. Meanwhile a list will be created of the meters that are priority to be replaced. P. McDonald also stated that there has been issues with some of the dumpsters not being emptied on schedule. League stated that sometimes there is no access to a dumpster due to vehicles or other items in the way or the roll outs are placed where the truck is unable to get to and sometimes a dumpster is just accidently missed. Jones suggested that if the first example is the case a phone call should be made to the resident to let them know that they need to change things in order for service to be rendered. League stated that they could start doing this. All employees agreed to continue to watch for future problems while making adjustments for the new suggested procedures.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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Peggy McDonald, Chairperson

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Tara Hedrick, Village Clerk

The next regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday February 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Village Office.