

**PUBLIC HEARING  
110 E SCHUYLER STREET  
AUGUST 27, 2024  
6:45 PM**

**Present:** Mayor Dellerba, Trustees Stabb, Andrews, Brach, and Satterly, Codes & Zoning Enforcement Officer (CEO/ZEO) Kenneth Doolittle, Village Attorney Jessica Young and Clerk Lee.

Mayor Dellerba called the Hearing to order at 6:45 pm.

**Visitors:** None. The reputed owner Ivette LaFortune, or an owner-designated representative, of 110 E. Schuyler Street was not in attendance.

Attorney Young stated that the owner had been previously been contacted by the Village's CEO/ZEO Kenneth Doolittle regarding the condition of her property at 110 E. Schuyler Street and requested to have her attend the hearing originally scheduled for August 13, 2024. Ms. LaFortune did not attend the August 13, 2024 hearing and the hearing was, therefore, adjourned to August 27, 2024. Attorney Young also stated that the defendant said she doesn't have the funds to get here to appear and she does intend on trying to remediate the property, however; she is relying on her daughter who works part-time to be able to afford to drive the both of them up here to figure it out, but she doesn't know when or where. Attorney Young recommended that the Village Board continue on with the hearing as scheduled and asked the Village Board if they would like to proceed with the hearing, even in the absence of the defendant. Mayor Dellerba stated that the board would like to proceed with the hearing, since the defendant has already had two chances to attend this public hearing. The following testimony was then given:

JY: Please state your name and address.

KD: Kenneth J. Doolittle, 151 Erwin Street, Boonville, NY 13309.

JY: Okay and spell your last name for the record.

KD: D-o-o-l-i-t-t-l-e

JY: Are you employed?

KD: Yes

JY: What's your occupation?

KD: Codes Enforcement and Zoning Official for the Village of Boonville.

JY: Can you give a description of your duties?

KD: Yes. I am in charge of codes, general codes, building codes and zoning violations and zoning and uh that's it.

JY: During your time of your employment, with the description that you just gave, was there a time when you become aware of a property at 110 E. Schuyler Street, in the Village of Boonville.

KD: Yes, at some point in time. Do you want a date?

JY: Is it recently?

KD: No, it's been 3 years.

JY: Are you aware of its current condition?

KD: Yes.

JY: Can you describe the condition of the property?

KD: Yes. The condition of the property is the front porch has fallen down, side porch is ready to fall down, and the roof line appears to have significant damage which could cause a life and safety issue.

JY: Is the current condition in compliance with code? And how did you become aware of the condition of this property?

KD: I was called by the owner to come and look at the property, it was just before Covid, that could be 2020. I took a review and I let them know that the porches were in bad shape and should be re-built. I also walked through the home with them and saw the roof was leaking and told them they should get it repaired.

JY: The owner you are referring to, is that the current owner or previous owner?

KD: Yes, that is the current owner.

JY: So, my next question is just determining the current owner of the property. How did you make that determination? Was it that she presented herself as the current owner of the property?

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KD: She was listed on the tax information and that she pays the taxes on the house and I have been in communications with her through email and in writing for the last 3 years.

JY: How did you determine a current address for the owner?

KD: The tax information.

JY: Have you attempted to contact the owner of this property since she initially went through the house with you?

KD: Yes.

JY: How did you do that?

KD: I did it by letters and email.

JY: Was that more recently then?

KD: Yes, the last 2 letters were this year.

JY: And have you received any response from her?

KD: Yes, I received a response from her this morning at about 8:30 by email.

JY: And what was her response?

KD: She could not make it to the meeting, she did not have sufficient funds to get here, she has been moved in with her daughter and her daughter works part-time and they don't have enough money to get here so she didn't show.

JY: So, you sent her a notice of the defects?

KD: Yes.

JY: And then you sent a notice of the proposed hearing?

KD: Yes.

JY: And you were made aware that she received these notices because she contacted you and acknowledged the same?

KD: Yes.

JY: Has any work been performed to cure any of the defects?

KD: One more time please.

JY: Has she cured any of the defects? Has she done any type of work to address them?

KD: Not on the building...she has cut the lawn.

JY: Was the overgrown grass one of the defects?

KD: Yes.

JY: So, there are still other structural –

KD: (Interrupts JY) Yes, and I believe the neighbor is still cutting the lawn but not the rear yard.

JY: Okay. Is the property still in non-compliance with the code?

KD: Yes.

JY: Is the property a danger to the community?

KD: Yes.

JY: How?

KD: It could possibly, actually it has fallen already and um the town the village people have either been picking it up and moving it into the front porch in the fenced in area.

JY: Have you asked for an engineer's report?

KD: Yes.

JY: What was the response?

KD: I didn't get any response.

JY: Is there anyone that has come forward on behalf of the owner to show that the property is in stable or safe condition?

KD: No.

JY: Do you believe the property can be repaired and come into compliance (pause) within a reasonable expense?

KD: No.

JY: So, the cost to repair it would be more than the house can potentially be worth?

KD: Yes.

JY: In your opinion what can be done to bring the house into compliance?

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KD: They would need to have a structural engineer's report provided to me to let me know what could make it come into compliance, at least. The porches would definitely need to come down, the roof would also need to be repaired and that's a significant amount of money.

JY: So, from your knowledge, experience and training, there are structural issues with the property in addition to what an engineer's report could show as well?

KD: Yes.

JY: What needs to happen to this property to ensure it is no longer a danger to the community?

KD: It needs to come down.

JY: Thank you.

End of testimony.

Mayor Dellerba closed the Public Hearing at 7:00PM.

  
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Wendy Lee, Village Clerk