

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
February 10, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held in the Village Hall, 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY 11787, at seven thirty p.m. on February 10, 2015. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Donnelly, Spica, Buonaiuto and Newman, Building Inspector Jerry Harris, Attorney Christopher Ring, Treasurer Theresa Mequia and Village Deputy Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30pm.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the January Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Donnelly seconded the motion. All was approved unanimously.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to open the Public Hearing at the meeting for the purpose of enacting a local law allowing the Village to exceed the 2% Tax Cap. Trustee Spica seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The first order of business was a Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2015 – A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c. Topics included the current tax rate, the cost of snow removal so far this year and fiscal responsibility of the Board.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to close the Public Hearing. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to adopt Local Law #1 of 2015 – A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c as presented. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia distributed her reports.

- Hasn't heard from Scott regarding computer program.
- Fresh Market permit fees (\$19k) not included in the recent report.
- Need to send Chris delinquent notices for taxes in arears.

Trustee Spica made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2097 totaling \$70,489.70. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Harris distributed his report.

- 4 permits issued
- 2 Summons issued to Cloud for sign without a permit and window lighting.
- Urgent care is going into old pizza place.
- Uncle Giuseppe's was issued summons for sidewalk sales since they do not have a valid permit. Manager Carmine was on vacation. This brought up talk about imposing a daily fine of \$500/day starting from that day. Tom Newman said he would follow up with

Public Safety on Thursday since Mr. Harris would be on vacation. Uncle G's still need a correct permit that includes January and February.

- Trustee Newman asked Mr. Harris if he looked into the garbage cans on Dogwood and he said he didn't get to speak to the owner. Trustee Newman said he would get Public Safety to go there. Mr. Harris mentioned there is a code that states no garbage pails are to be left out in front of house at street level.
- The Trustees would like Mr. Harris to create a paper trail for complaints that happen chronically.
- Mayor Delaney also mentioned he wants to review fee schedules for permits.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- There was no Justice Court in January due to weather.
- Received signed contracts from Brothers and Elite, but still waiting on Welsbach.
- Held back sending a letter to a resident after having conversation with Trustee Newman.

Building Inspector Harris left at 7:57pm to attend other meeting at a different village.

Trustee Newman mad a **motion** to have a Public Hearing next month to address the incorporation of solar energy systems. Mayor Delaney seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Donnelly's Report

Trustee Donnelly reported that:

- Crack seal bill came in near \$8,500.00 budget.
- Big pot hole on Mt. Pleasant
- Snow/Ice storm (Blizzard of 2015) declared an emergency so hopefully we might get some money reimbursement.
- Christmas tree pick up was completed last month.
- Lights are out on path of walk way, these should be maintained by Sunrise.
- Still looking for people to run/walk in 1 mile relay for 350th Celebration.

Trustee Newman's Report

Trustee Newman spoke about the area behind LA Fitness was being used as a transfer/weigh station, far beyond what he has requested a permit for with the county.

Trustee Newman will be looking into a new sign vendor, since signs were too large for the Village to use. It will cost approximately \$2-3 thousand dollars.

Trustee Spica's Report

Trustee Spica had no report.

Trustee Buonaiuto's Report

Trustee Buonaiuto reported that:

- The light at 34 Dogwood has been repaired, but is out again.
- The light on Ingram Court was repaired, but out again as well.

- Street signs should be fixed **this** week!!
- Future Energy Solutions light company came in and did a demo. They would take care of all maintenance and we could possibly get rid of Welsbach. They are going to come in and create new bulbs, poles and lenses would remain, but it would be a large cost savings and a brighter light for the village.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Sent out two snow letters to residents throwing snow in the street.
- Code review mostly done.
- In March's work session he wants to work on fees schedule and review current fees schedules. Planning Board Chairman John Carro and Trustee Buonaiuto wanted copies of that as well. Deputy Cozine will sent via email.
- Send any suggestions for a new village logo within the next two weeks.
- Looking for an inexpensive general contractor to do handyman work around village.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to pass a Resolution # 2015-02-01 that acknowledges receipt of audit of the Justice Court for year ended May 31, 2014. Trustee Newman seconded the motion and all approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to approve the Historical Society's Brush Barn application to hold an event on March 21, 2015. Because this event is less than 90 days from now, it needs Board approval. Trustee Newman seconded the motion and all approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk