

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting  
February 14, 2017

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 14, 2017. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Donnelly, Botto and Newman, Treasurer Mequia, Attorney Christopher Ring, Building Inspector Gerard Harris and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:34 pm.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the February work session minutes. Mayor Delaney seconded the motion. Trustee Donnelly abstained, all in favor and was approved unanimously.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the January Board of Trustees minutes. Trustee Donnelly seconded the motion. All in favor and was approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Not a lot of activity
- Working on rough numbers for draft budget(kept snow numbers same as last year; drainage numbers through the roof due to sinkhole at Dogwood)
- 3 tax arrears

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2121 totaling \$208,530.77. Trustee Newman seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

### **Building Inspector's Report**

Building Inspector Harris reported that:

- 6 building permits issued, 0 sign permit
- 4 C/O- C/C
- 0 Summons
- 1 NOV – 8 Dogwood Drive - Boat in front yard.
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At this time the meeting was opened to the Public:

Marianne Howard, Executive Director SHS, Met with Trustee Newman about meeting curriculum based events. Asked if she could submit special use permits via excel spreadsheet? Trustee Newman also asked her if she could supply am/pm in the column as well as note/separate their own fundraisers for SHS.

Susan Grimm, resident Judges Lane, inquired about the flea market on Sunday and a Winter Market on Saturday.....they were both affairs, what happened?? Mayor Delaney noted the mix up and mentioned that this is a ‘process’ and we are trying to work out the kinks. Mrs. Grimm wanted further clarification on what is classified as an affair versus a curriculum? She gave an example of Farmers Market from June – Nov. It was explained that it was a curriculum event and will take place on the East end of the property away from the brush barn.

Libby Smith, resident Judges Lane, thought the goal was one weekend day without anything going on. Mayor Delaney clarified that the Village's goal was to limit the number of affairs. Ms. Smith just asks that they please keep in mind the neighbors that live there.

George Talabon, resident 21 Oak Street Drive, complained about snow storm cleanup. Contractor pushed snow onto lawn which caused mailbox to be knocked over. Took picture of the driver and called contractor and was told it was an act of God and he's not responsible for damages to mailbox. Mr. Talabon felt his behavior was unacceptable and rude. Mayor Delaney & Attorney Ring explained municipalities have limited liability for mailbox expenses.

Tim Ryan, resident 22 Village Way, mentioned there are a lot of dead trees throughout the neighborhood and worried about safety; do we do anything proactively about it? Mayor Delaney mentioned we send letter out to residents in the Fall and we go around again issue NOV. Mr. Ryan also inquired about bond floated for Village Hall repairs; was it voted on? And will it increase assessments. Mayor answered it was voted on in previous BOT meeting and it will not increase assessment. Mr. Ryan also mentioned he liked the new website and is impressed with the improvements being made to Greenbelt Trail.

At this time the public portion of the meeting was closed:

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Nothing to report in Justice Court.
- Followed up on Bond Resolution.
- FES, no automatic withdrawal, must use voucher system. Mayor Delaney will be talking to former Trustee Buonaiuto on Friday about this.
- General Code conference call went well; editorial analysis, penalty portion in a general fine section. General Code gave us sample wording to look at and use. We can also do one big blanket local law for all changes. There will be additional fees associated with changes made after 2011.

### **Trustee Donnelly's Report**

Trustee Donnelly reported that:

- Not serving or seeking another term for the Village of The Branch.
- Wanted to thank Chris Damianos for his service and dedication to the VOB
- Snow Complaints – mailbox knocked over and too much plowing
- Sweeping contract still needs to be done.

### **Trustee Botto's Report**

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Waiting for the third bid for roof renovation.

### **Trustee Newman's Report**

Trustee Newman reported that:

- Pearlman property is being maintained by some lady.
- VOB sign replacement – Using Great South Bay; extra \$200 for extra ½ inch thick with digital print. All Board members pre- approved budget of no more than \$1500
- Public Safety still working on 2<sup>nd</sup> sweep of Commercial Vehicles parked overnight parking 10pm-6am.

Waived the \$75 fee for the SHS Winter Farmers Market  
Approved Communion Party 5/13/17 12-8 pm \$75  
Approved Communion Party 5/20/17 3-9 pm \$75  
Approved Suffolk County Kennel Club 9/29-30/17 8-6pm \$75

### **Trustee Albrecht's Report**

Trustee Albrecht was not here to report

### **Mayor Delaney's Report**

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Snow removal contract – need to look more closely at and examine.
- DOT letter about the guardrail; haven't heard back, no update, going to give it to Newsday.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to approve the standard work and reporting resolution for appointed and elected officials. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to approve the Standard Workday resolution for employees. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to approve the Justice Court audit from May 31, 2016. Mayor Delaney seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Cozine  
Village Clerk