

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
March 8, 2016

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 March 8, 2016. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Spica, Buonaiuto, Donnelly and Newman, Attorney Christopher Ring, Treasurer Mequia, Building Inspector Harris and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

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

Trustee Spica made a **motion** to open a Public Hearing at the meeting for the purpose of increasing fines from \$35 to \$100 for parking to match the ticket book Public Safety uses. Trustee Donnelly seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

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

The Board took a vote, all in favor to pass raising the fines from \$35 to \$100 to match the ticket book used by Public Safety.

Trustee Spica made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the February Board of Trustees meeting with corrections noted on the wording of “pierce the tax cap” by Clerk Cozine . Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney read a Resolution 2016-03-01 acknowledging the receipt of the Court audit.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Mequia distributed her reports and reported that:

- Received 1 delinquent tax payment should be received soon.
- Received a gross income check from Cablevision and FIOS; both consistent with prior years amounts.
- \$15,744.35 in Building Permits this month.
- No big assessment hits this year.
- Filled preliminary tax cap form.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2110 totaling \$24,714.83. Trustee Spica seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

At this time Mayor Delaney opened the meeting to the Public:

Matt Rizzo, from Jump in Education, spoke about the water crisis currently going on. He said public enemy #1 is Nitrogen which comes from human waste, fertilizer and it seeps into the groundwater and effects aquifers (takes about 8-10 years) and surface water. High levels of nitrogen in surface water causes brown water, green tide and kills fish. Marshlands are also disappearing due to high nitrogen levels. The second enemy is pesticides. The North Shore of Long Island due to popularity of Vineyards. Also flushing medicines down the drain, which fish

eat and then humans consume. Plumes are also contaminating the aquifers as well as pet waste (flush dead fish) which throws off the ecosystem. Salt water intrusion – wells need to be closed when contaminated.

Possible solutions to be discussed - \$8 million put aside for sewage systems, but they are not doing anything for nitrogen capture, hence the same problems will exist. Need to limit fertilizer use, create something that sucks the nitrogen out and monitor the Long Island Water Compact- currently nobody is monitoring the water usage. Grey water systems - recycles water from washing machines, dishwasher and then you can use that to water your lawns. For more info check out LIwater.orgFriday's 2x a month

MAIN MESSAGE IS CONSERVE WATER AND NOTIFY RESIDENTS!!!!!!

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Harris distributed his report.

- 3 CO's and 3 CC's issued
- Hockey Store is opening in June where Pet Supplies used to be

John Carro asked about the Metal Box at 236 Middle Country Road??? It's the RPC valve and they are going to plant around it once the weather gets nice.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- New tickets for Acadia.
- Sent letter to Albany
- Reviewed documents for Mayor
- Sent Sonnenberg letter
- The contract with FES Energy is not approved yet. When we execute, they will make a bulb for us to test out.
- Amended the Code for "storage areas", gave information to Mayor.
- Justice Court – 2 Acadia, no Mathnasium, handicap case adjourned for this month
- Code Review – verbiage for Penalties for offenses reads as follows: Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter or section shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine not exceeding the sum of \$750.00 for any offense, and each day that a violation continues shall be deemed to constitute a separate offense.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to move forward with FES New Energy contract. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Donnelly's Report

Trustee Donnelly reported that:

- Pothole season is coming. Crack seal is helping. Please let Mike know of any potholes as he no longer drives around
- Snowplowing still under budget as of 3/8/16.
- Leaf/Brush pickup contractors have been notified as well as sweeper. All is good.
- Downtown revitalization, we are missing the boat on that. Mayor Delaney mentioned he is meeting with people to discuss that.

- Looking to add speed table around house #50 on Mt. Pleasant and ribbing in the roadway. Probably 30 feet wide. Will need signage and shrubbery.

Trustee Spica's Report

Trustee Spica had no report

Trustee Newman's Report

Trustee Newman reported that:

- Alarm went off about 3 weeks ago and Greg Anderson suggested getting a knock box. Authorize up to \$500 to spend on it by the Board.
- 4 overnight parking tickets asked clerk to make sure everybody got copies of tickets. Also wants to put this on a work session topic.
- 2 Dogwood Drive had garbage problem. We have proof of garbage in street. They want a dumpster, which needs to be discussed at a work session topic.

Trustee Buonaiuto's Report

Trustee Buonaiuto reported that:

- All lighting issues have been repaired.
- 32 Dogwood had commercial vehicle in driveway & bobcat across the street on corner of Dogwood & Rice Lane.
- Hemlock pole has been fixed.
- New lightning contract FES will always replace bulb & wiring to light pole, but not underground.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Resident 9 Hemlock has 2 commercial vehicles parked on driveway. Another resident keeps taking pictures and making her business to police it. Contractor has come back with DMV info that due to weight of vehicle it has to be registered commercial not passenger. Wants to have commercial sweep of entire Village by Public Safety at night time, so we are not selective enforcing.
- Uncle G's has firewood in front with no permit for sidewalk sales.
- Brush barn- meeting with Marianne
- Website – need to give Danielle feedback
- Organizational meeting next month.
- Thanked Lisa Spica for her time on the Board.

Trustee Spica made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Donnelly seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk