

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
April 12, 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 April 12, 2016. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Botto, Buonaiuto, Donnelly and Newman, Attorney Christopher Ring, Treasurer Mequia, and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:35pm.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to open the Public Hearing on the budget. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The budget increased from last year, but we were able to stay under the tax cap. Mayor Delaney talked about the bond anticipation note which is being used to fix up the maintenance of the Village Hall.

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

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to accept the budget. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

At this time Mayor Delaney appointed Trustees Roger Botto and Paul Buonaiuto each to another 2 year term. Clerk Cozine swore both Trustee's in the book. Clerk Cozine also swore in Mayor Delaney for another 2 year term.

Mayor Delaney appointed the following people:

Jerry Harris	1yr	Building Inspector
Dan Falasco	1yr	Engineer
John Carro	1yr	Chairman of Planning Board
Chris Ring	1yr	Attorney
Ann Mequia	2yr	Court Clerk
Joe Arico	1yr	Assistant Building Inspector
Paul Buonaiuto	2yr	Trustee
Paul Buonaiuto	1yr	Deputy Mayor
Roger Botto	2yr	Trustee
Joseph Magliato	1yr	Chairman of Board of Zoning Appeals
Fred Schwartz	4yr	Court Justice

Mayor Delaney appointed Smithtown News as the official paper and Newsday as alternate (per Chris Ring) of the Village as well as Class and First National Bank as the official banks of the Village. The Village has also purchased bonds for the treasurer, clerk and justices. Mayor Delaney will keep the Work Session the first Tuesday of the month and Trustee meeting the second Tuesday of the month. He also talked about the procurement policy.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to keep the travel reimbursement rate equivalent to the IRS standards. Trustee Donnelly seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to allow the Treasurer to make advance payments when necessary to avoid late fees or fines. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to allow the Treasurer and/or Mayor to be the sole signature on checks. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to allow attendance at NYCOM/ SCOVA meetings. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the April work session. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. All was approved unanimously.

Resolution #2016-04-12 was read by Mayor Delaney stating: Be it resolved that Village of The Branch will maintain the culvert and paving as outlined on the Suffolk County Department of Public Works' plans for the culvert replacement on Branch Drive and Terrace Lane.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia distributed her reports and reported that:

- Will forward delinquent letters to Chris Ring's office
- 6 properties still delinquent: approx. \$8,000
- Gave Trustee Roger Botto W-4 and I9 forms

Trustee Donnelly a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2111 totaling \$. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

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

Thomas Keon wanted to know if the Village Officials have any kind of badges or formal identification. He presented Mayor Delaney with a plaquard from former Mayor Stafford Ludder.

Brad Harris, President of the Historical Society and Town Historian spoke about the 61 years of harmonious neighbors. It has been recently diminished by some events that have occurred at the Brush barn. Strobe lights were used by country line dancers and they now MUST keep doors and windows closed. They now have black out curtains so the strobe lights can be used. Music will be turned off by 10pm. He explained how Barn rentals will help defray the costs of maintaining the property.

Libby Smith is a member of the Smithtown Historical Society and a resident of the Village on Judges Lane. She was there to speak about how loud the Brush barn events are and that her house shakes because it is old. The Lane is very narrow and she feels she has been patient with SHS. They not only have normal events, but fundraising event. It's to the point she can't have people over because it's so loud. People hang around the parking lot after 10pm to chit chat. She wants the Village to follow the Code for special use permits, which allows 2 events and has to be 90 days in between events.

Marianne Howard, Director of Historical Society also spoke and requested that all non-profits in VOB apply for special use permits and follow same guidelines. Having fundraisers (educational events too) is how Historical Societies work. Thinks since the law was written in the 80's, it might be time to re-write the law.

John Carro, resident and Planning Board Chairman and Historical Society member asked, if you can rent the Brush Barn out for a private party? If so, how many people? He was told by Marianne the fire code allows 100 people. John also asked, how many private events do they have permits for? Marianne responded with 9 events from now until September.

John Vigliani, a member of Historical Society also spoke and wanted to know if the Village has a noise decibel meter to measure how loud parties are? He was told we do not.

Libby Smith doesn't want the code to change. She feels it will depreciate the value of her home and the homes on Judges Lane.

Susan and Michael Grimm, residents of Judges Lane also spoke. They live directly across from the brush barn. She wants the Historical Society to be prosperous, but it's impacting their life. Half of the events they are having are in violation of the code. There is too much going on, every weekend morning/night. She feels like they are not being good neighbors.

Mayor Delaney said the Code and permits have to be addressed. Give us a week or two to talk and discuss.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Harris wasn't present, but distributed his report.

- 5 CO's and CC's issued, 11 building permits issued totaling \$12,324.00, 0 sign permits
- 2 Notice of Violations: 3 Fir Lane for shed construction and 11 Cambridge for property maintenance

Attorney's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Spoke to attorney Trimarco about Mr. Dicanio parking their trucks on Judges Lane.
- FES Energy contract, saga continues. Small issues [Paul spoke to Maggie Ramos who is our municipal contact and she gave 40% savings which is conservative #]
- Gave letter to Sonnenberg regarding vehicles.
- Spoke with Liza Azzotto from Acadia
- Justice Court – received a check for court made out to me, will reissue check
- “sample Language” 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.
- Landscape Contract forwarded to Clerk to put to bid
- Village did their due diligence shopping rates for the bond
- 11 Cambridge – have Jerry issue summons and have Chris Ring send letter to bank/homeowner.

Trustee Donnelly's Report

Trustee Donnelly reported that:

- Snow season is over and we have a surplus
- Sweep cancelled because of rain.
- Wants tree on Farm Place removed.
- Looking to add speed table around house #50 on Mt. Pleasant. Mayor Delaney has spoken to Dan about it.
- February bill from Town of Smithtown for salt and sand was \$ 6,483.00
- Pothole repair is ongoing.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto had no report

Trustee Newman's Report

Trustee Newman reported that:

- Working with Public Safety to address commercial vehicle parking in village from 10-pm - 6am. There were 16 violators in a Village of about 600 homes. Public Safety did a sweep to take inventory and less than 2% of people violating code.
- Acadia – snow removal equipment, submitted revised site plan for snow removing vehicles.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to advertise for a Public Hearing of Code 81-64 Storage of Restricted Vehicles. Mayor Delaney seconded the motion. All was approved unanimously

Trustee Buonaiuto's Report

Trustee Buonaiuto reported that:

- Replaced street light on Executive, 15 ft high
- On-coming traffic sign installed on Mt. Pleasant
- Hemlock pole has been fixed.
- Map of VOB doesn't have Sutton place on it since it's a private road, so dispatched Welsbach to make fix today.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Phone system is fried; getting a new one and using VOIP and switching to FIOS.
- Received quote in house for PA system. Was rather high, so resubmitting.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Botto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cozine
Village Clerk