

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 12, 2018

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 June 12, 2018. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Carro, Newman, and Botto, Treasurer Mequia, Attorney Chris Ring, and Building Inspector Joe Arico were present. Trustee Albrecht, and Village Clerk Cozine were absent.

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

Mayor Delaney asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the May work session minutes. Trustee Newman made the motion and Trustee Botto seconded the motion. All in favor and was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney proposed delaying the approval of the minutes of the May Board of Trustees meeting until the new Local Laws passed can be added. Trustee Newman seconded the motion. All in favor and was approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Tax Bills have all been mailed, payments are coming in
- Mayor's letter has been mailed
- Sign Permits have been mailed

Mayor Delaney asked about the procedure for outstanding tax bills. Delinquent bills are eventually followed by legal letters from Attorney Ring. The bill for Welsbach will be held over until next month pending confirmation of the street light work. Trustee Botto made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2137 totaling \$ 25,092.40. Trustee Carro seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Fully executed Landscaping contract (second extension through May 31,2019) has been received
- Smithtown Historical Society decided to pay the outstanding bill in lieu of a trial
- The new code provisions have been filed with New York State
- The Local Law #2 to Override the Tax Cap (if needed) has been filed with New York State
- Have to check if audit notices have to be published
- Copies of the Town of Smithtown's vapo code was distributed to Board Members via email
- Justice Court:
  - 3 Adjournments
  - 7 Guilty pleas for a reduced fine (mostly Handicapped)
  - 1 default, 9 Branch Drive, inquest scheduled for June Court (appropriates damages)

Trustee Newman made a motion to review and approve the Vape Code. Trustee Carro seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion was approved unanimously. Public hearing scheduled for July meeting.

### **Trustee Carro's Report**

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Complaint regarding grass at 2 Rice Lane has been addressed, spoke to owner
- 270 North Country Road has very high weeds
- Lighting contractor Welsbach was asked on May 31 to repair the first 2 lights on Plaza Drive, problem appears to be underground and we will withhold payment of the bill until confirmation of the repair is made
- Has the Clearbrook Drive pole been addressed? Has pole been replaced?
- Contractor Schumacher has never received the (cobrahead) lights from FES
- Has a sample of the Air BNB application
- 24 Dogwood Drive – A title search has been ordered for 24 Dogwood Drive to ascertain the ownership of the retaining wall, if it is village property it should be parkland. May need Home Rule application for use of parkland money.
- Spruce Court complaint of curbing destroyed by snow plowing will be followed up by Mayor Delaney via email. The mayor will try to talk to contractor about replacing the curb. Village code specifies that curbs are responsibility of the homeowner. The snow plowing contract does specify that repair work undertaken by the village can be deducted from the contractor's payments. Will direct George to discuss with the contractor as well as inquire with Smithtown as to the cost of replacing the curb

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

Trustee Newman reported that:

- Regarding 9 Branch Drive:
  - Smithtown Public Safety will try to get access to the home
  - Posted letter from Judge Schwartz to the front door as per owner's instructions
  - Still needs report from the Fire Marshall – enlist help from Building Inspector
  - Owner is taking care of the grass
  - Village has estimates to give to the owner at court on June 25 for improvements to secure the home
  - Attorney Ring states that we will need pictures of the current status of the home

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

Trustee Botto reported that:

- When the sweeps for overnight parking are done do they look for boats and trailers? Trustee Newman answers that commercial parking sweeps are requested separately.
- Payroll for the new Village roof has not been submitted. Building Inspector has approved the work done.
- Has the Invoice for the roof been submitted? Answer: No
- Building Inspector met with Tommy to go over the specs for the next bid for the Village Hall improvements. Specs (as built) will be on one page.

## **Building Inspector's Report**

Building Inspector Arico reported that:

- 6 new building permits applications since June work session
- Carvel has resubmitted building permit plans
- No building permit issued yet for 2 Oak Tree Lane
- Building permit has been issued for facade of 309 Middle Country Road

## **Trustee Albrecht's Report**

Trustee Albrecht was absent.

## **Mayor Delaney's Report**

Mayor Delaney reported:

- Newsday reported that the Village of Head of the Harbor is enacting a building permit amnesty program – asked Building Inspector to inquire as to the details and to give an opinion
- The NE Branch project is moving forward, Bids went out
- Emergency repairs were done. Welding on the Bridge on Old Route 111 should be done next week.
- Mayor explained the code provisions for lighting in response to questions proposed in regard to Bagel Gallery
- Everyone should check the lighting in the Hillside Village shopping center regarding Bagel Gallery. BZA Chairman Magliato should get a letter from Gator Investments detailing that they are giving permission for Bagel Gallery to apply to the BZA on Gator's behalf.
- Does the BZA 200 foot requirement get measured from the store or the shopping center? Radius map is done from shopping center owner.
- Board should revisit code provisions regarding store lighting and lighted signs.

At this time, the meeting was open to the Public:

Nick Spangler of Newsday asked for background information regarding the NE Branch project. Mayor Delaney explained.

At this time the meeting was closed to the public.

Mayor Delaney made a motion to close the meeting. Trustee Carro seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

