

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting  
October 9, 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 October 9, 2018. Deputy Mayor Carro, Trustees Albrecht, Newman, and Botto, Treasurer Mequia, Building Inspector Arico, Village Attorney Ring and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Deputy Mayor Carro called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 pm.

Deputy Mayor Carro asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the October work session minutes. Trustee Botto made the **motion** and Trustee Newman seconded the **motion**. All in favor and was approved unanimously. Trustee Albrecht abstained.

Deputy Mayor Carro asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the September BOT meeting. Trustee Botto made the **motion** and Trustee Newman seconded the **motion**. All in favor and was approved unanimously. Trustee Albrecht abstained.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- All the accruals are in May 2018 Financial Statements.
- September's statement might look funny because of end of year accruals and there are still a bunch of checks to be deposited.
- The Board asked Treasurer Mequia to correct September's statement to reflect the roofing numbers are accurately reflected in Village Hall equipment instead of operations.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2141 totaling \$21,005.62. Trustee Albrecht seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

At this point, Deputy Mayor Carro opened meeting to public:

Andrea Newman – Oak Tree Street resident, wanted to inform the Board that she created a sheet with Village Hall contact numbers to voice their opinions regarding the Group Home at 2 Oak Tree Drive. She wanted to clear the air that it was done independently of her husband Tom Newman who is a Board of Trustee member.

Melissa Gallagher – 33 Branch Brook Drive resident wanted to make sure the mess at 2 Oak Street Drive is taken care of. There is a port a potty in the middle of the front lawn, wanted to know if it could be moved off to the side.

Libby Smith- Planning Board Chairman, will be handling the plantings and landscaping in front of the group home. Not a good time now to plant even though it is the Fall. It is too stressful for plants and trees because the weather is too unpredictable. Also wanted to bring to the Board's attention, the signage on the Smithtown Public Library's property needs to be addressed. The

landscaper who handles the property has a permanent sign and the Village does not allow businesses to advertise like that.

### **Attorney Ring's Report**

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Received confirmation Local Law #5 registered with the State.
- Executed the Fire Prevention contract with Smithtown Fire Department.
- Street light maintenance bids were opened this afternoon at 1pm.
- Jacks Tobacco letter was sent to property owner regarding property maintenance issues.
- Justice Court- 2 reduced fines, 5 adjournments, 1 trial, 1 conditional discharge, 1 default(no show)
- Will call Rob Lusak regarding Library signage.
- Code revamping is almost done. Mayor Delaney has a few minor things left to do. Trustee Carro offered his help to speed things along.
- Trustee Carro asked Chris Ring about Parkland funds usage for the retaining wall on Dogwood. Attorney Ring said he is looking to hear back from NYCOM for a formal opinion. If they think it is OK to use those funds to fix the retaining wall on Dogwood, then we will need to do home rule application. Trustee Carro feels strongly that the parkland funds should be able to be used to maintain the retaining wall.

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

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Was present for the street light maintenance bid opening at 1 pm.
- Will follow up with the references given for the bidders. So far NY Trenchless is lowest bidder.
- Gave the Clerk permission to post the FAQ on the website. Send to the Board first.
- Requested Teri to send bill to National Grid for the work done where the gas main break happened on Birchbrook.

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

Trustee Newman reported that:

- Wanted to put on record that the landscaping at the Group Home on 2 Oak Tree Drive will be handled by the Planning Board. This was in response to an email resident David Wetzel sent the Clerk who forwarded to the Board.
- Asked Treasurer Mequia what a 20 gap, regarding a road opening permit for Cablevision was all about? Treasurer Mequia responded it was technical lingo used for road opening permits.
- 47 Mt. Pleasant Road – It seems the commercial vehicle is back parking in the driveway overnight.
- Jacks Tobacco dumpster - Attorney Ring called and spoke to Jacks Tobacco's attorney, Vincent Trimarco, and Vinny said he would contact Jack regarding the dumpster issues.

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

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Needs to publish a bid in newspaper for Village Hall renovations and give a time frame to do a walk through to ask and answer questions with potential bidders.

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

Building Inspector Arico reported that:

- United Way came in to see Inspector Arico for a major renovation job to be done by Fusion Architects. This property lies within the Historic District and will need to go to the Planning Board for approval.
- Jacks Tobacco needs to be fined tomorrow for failure to remove illegal signage. They were given a NOV with 14 days to rectify the situation.

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

Trustee Albrecht reported that:

- Since Trustee Albrecht was absent at last month's Board meeting, he just wanted to clarify that the growing vegetation on Rte. 111 is what brought about the 2 Oak Tree Drive tree clearing issue.
- Spoke with Highway Superintendent Michael Murphy about clearing the drains up in the Courts by Weatherstone development.
- Instructed our Drain contractor Alex Sonnenberg, to fix the 3 drains on Windmill Court; Trustee Carro asked if we could get an estimate from the contractor before he does the work.
- Clerk Cozine informed Trustee Albrecht that a neighbor called the office to complain that 83 Birchbrook has some overgrown shrubs on the sidewalk, so he went to check it out.
- 7 Cambridge had a tree cut down and wants the stump ground by the Village. The tree was initially cut down by PSEG and it is not Village responsibility to remove stump, its homeowners.
- Needs to take a look at 15 Woodhollow to check and see if the tree is dead and call back resident.
- Plaza Court, Plaza Drive, Executive Court, Park Court and Traister Court have all been milled and should be paved at the end of the week weather permitting.

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

Mayor Delaney was not present to report:

Special Use Permits:

Haunted Festival 10/20/18, 10/27/18 Affair \$75 approved – Smithtown Historical Society  
St. Patrick's Tastings 10/13/18 Affair \$75 Approved – St. Patrick's Church

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine  
Village Clerk

