

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
July 9, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held in the Village Hall, 40 Route 111, N.Y. 11787 at seven thirty p.m. on July 9, 2019. Deputy Mayor Carro, Trustee Ryan, and Botto, Treasurer Mequia, 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 7:30 pm.

Trustee Ryan made a **motion** to accept the June Board of Trustees minutes and Trustee Botto seconded the motion. All are in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Very busy with taxes coming in, should know by the end of the week how much tax money is outstanding.
- Branch bills were sent to 2 different addresses
- 2 arrears were paid

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2150 totaling \$29,779.97. Trustee Ryan seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously. All were in favor.

At this time meeting was opened to public:

Vincent Trimarco – Is here representing Frank Vero Sr. and Jr. of Aurora Contractors and asking about the change of zone. After realizing there was not a full Board, he doesn't want to go forward and would like to push meeting off until August. They have been waiting over 2 ½ years for a decision. Also noted he hasn't received anything in writing from the Planning Board with their findings. Attorney Ring said that there should be something in writing and assured them it would be done. Mr. Trimarco reiterated they are only asking for change of zoning and that they are not there to discuss size. He mentioned that years ago the Village gave a change of zone to Steve Wilde. The only thing they plan on doing is putting parking there and will probably need a variance at a later date. He wants the Board to redirect its attention to the rezone. It is an economic burden to my client, also keep in mind the tax revenue.

Libby Smith – Planning board Chairperson informed the board that Mr. DiCanio requested through the Planning Board that he would prefer that the Board of Trustees let him take control of the water bill for the next two years to keep continuity. Attorney Ring asked Libby how the residents feel about that and she replied that he still has a few items to take care of before he gets his CO. Wants to see what the Building Inspector and Village Engineer Dan Falasco has to say before they make a decision.

Special Use Permit- 9-12-19 Country Fair – United Methodist Church Approved

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Brothers Leaf and Brush contract is up August 1st. We need to go out to bid, but in the mean time we can go month to month.
- Welsbach contract will expire on its own.
- Sonnenberg snow renewal is due 9/30/19
- Sonnenberg drainage expired in 2018. (awaiting shared services decision)
- Filed Local Law#4 with the State
- Sent letter to Head Injury on Cresthill due to the large amount of fire and police activity because of one of the residents going on and off his medication and there has been no response to date. It is costing a lot in resources for the Fire Dept. to go on all these calls. The neighbors are concerned with the safety of their children as well. Attorney Ring also stated the Head Injury has strict reporting requirements so he wonders if they are reporting these incidents.
- Justice Court – there was 5 cases; 3 reduced fines and 1 trial

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Did National Grid give dates when they will open roads on Dogwood?

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan reported that:

- Group home update – all plantings not done yet and some of them aren't even done correctly.
- Jerry Powers from AHRC was very receptive to the fire alarms going off randomly at night.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Village Hall moving along, punch list needs to be finished before final payment is done.
- Fire alarm system
- Generator almost ready to go
- Microphones need to be set up.
- Need road inventory list

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Arico was not here to report:

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- NE Branch Restoration – had productive meeting with representatives from SC DPW, local water quality activists and Legislator Kennedy. The main points were

that they understand the frustration and are committed to getting the project back on track. The team committed to more regular and comprehensive updates and all believe the balance of the project will go substantially smoother and faster than the work done thus far

- 9 Branch – the property continues to deteriorate and while Chris can report the County now has a lien on the property. Joe is issuing daily summonses as every day is a recurring violation and we look forward to the village's day in court to provide relief to neighbors. The roof tarp is again ripping and that should be added as an additional summons so as not to confuse the issue with the ones being issued daily
- 12 Village Way – a scene of alleged drug dealing that is being monitored by SPS and SCPD. The mayor has spoken with numerous nearby neighbors and expressed his frustration. We believe that this is one of two houses being rented by a landlord possibly living in FL and that the other property in Dix Hills may be for sale. The mayor has asked Joe to add this to his weekly watch list along with a couple of other homes in the village. Residents have been encouraged to take pictures discreetly and share them with law enforcement. I'm also asking the Clerk to maintain a specific file on this property and for all communication to be via e-mail with her copied to ensure proper documentation
- Cresthill Group Home – despite a legal communication to the Head Injury Assoc CEO nearly a month ago (6/19) no change has been observed and the FD and SCPD continue to get calls about the violent patient. On 7/8 the mayor reached out to OPWWD (NY State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities) and left word with the Director there that we want to file a formal complaint and do whatever we can to suspend and/or current the operation there. Neighbors are scared to let kids play in the neighborhood and that's simply not acceptable. The mayor has been communicating with SFD and SPS on this matter. As of last conversation SFD is willing to join the complaint as they continue to respond to the home – wasting valuable resources
- “Storm” Pickup – while there were some branches down and some minor damage from a brief windstorm he doesn't see the need to schedule an additional pickup. History has shown those pickups to be very light and given the expense it doesn't make sense. Perhaps the first Fall pickup can be moved a little earlier to resolve any debris in back yards.
- 11 Branch / 30 Village Way – a meeting took place last weekend with Dan Falasco in attendance – there is concern that runoff may be being diverted on to 30's property given a new swimming pool and retaining wall. The mayor asks that Joe and Dan coordinate on a report with action steps that can be shared with the BOT and the two homeowners. (The mayor would also like an update on the unpermitted structure on the property also)
- Dogwood Wall – The mayor will try and meet with the homeowner there privately prior to the next BOT meeting and asks that Chris provide a summary of the

steps required to use Park Funds for this work to the BOT (the mayor and the attorney are also discussing other potential options)

- Senator Flanagan – with Albany out of session the mayor will arrange a meeting with the Senator (and likely Assemblyman Fitzpatrick also)
- The mayor had a call (following up on a F2F) with Supervisor Werheim on Monday to discuss shared services. Next step is a financial overview that may happen as soon as the 17th. The mayor will not be signing any contracts with the Town until this happens
- The mayor will reschedule a meeting with the Smithtown Library director to discuss the signs and other property maintenance concerns. The mayor asks the attorney to briefly review with the BOT why the library does not feel they need to adhere to our code
- 2 Oaktree – guessing Libby will report on this but plantings seem to be going well and Dennis indicated the manager was responsive to the fire alarm issue so hopefully all is going well there
- Village Hall – thanks to everyone’s efforts and patience we are now back in our remodeled home – special thanks to Roger and Joe for doing everything they could to balance progress with disruption – never an easy task. We will look to August or September to do an official ribbon cutting with some invited guests and publicly thank Tommy and Ann for their years of service – more to follow. (Only suggesting Sept due to vacation schedules – might be better when the kids are back in school and schedules get a little calmer)
- The mayor asks everyone to start thinking about the Fall newsletter, pickup dates etc. and apologizes for not being there in person

Trustee Albrecht’s Report

Trustee Albrecht was not here to report:

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to close the meeting. Deputy Mayor Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk

