

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
January 13, 2015

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 January 13, 2015. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Donnelly, Spica, Buonaiuto and Newman, Building Inspector Jerry Harris, Attorney Christopher Ring, Treasurer Theresa Mequia and Village Clerk Hernandez were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:36pm.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the January work session. Trustee Spica seconded the motion. All voted “yes” except for Trustee Donnelly who abstained. Motion was approved.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the December Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to advertise for a Public Hearing at the February meeting for the purpose of enacting a local law allowing the Village to exceed the 2% Tax Cap. Trustee Spica seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to provide that there will not be a village registration day. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to identify the polling place for the Village Election on Wednesday, March 18th, 2015 as Village Hall, 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY and that the polls will be open from 12noon to 9pm. Trustee Spica seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney appointed Patricia Weingrow and Mary Cuccurullo as Election Inspectors for the 2015 election to be paid at the rate of \$125.00/day.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Mequia distributed her reports.

- A couple of tax payments were received.
- One irate resident came in to complain about an arrears letter mistakenly sent to him
- In order to comply with the tax freeze rules the Local Law allowing the Village to exceed the 2% Tax Cap may need to be repealed at a later date.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2096 totaling \$198,870.85. Trustee Donnelly seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Building Inspector’s Report

Building Inspector Harris distributed his report.

- 12 permits issued
- Already received \$15,000 for exterior work on Fresh Market – will get an additional \$14,000 for interior work

- Uncle Giuseppe's has stuff for sale on the sidewalk right now and they do not have a valid permit. Building Inspector Harris to issue a Summons.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- There was no Justice Court in December
- A letter answering the auditor's questions was sent back to R. S. Abrams on December 9th
- Contract Extension was sent to Welsbach but has not been returned yet
- The owner of Yogurtini is requesting relief from the fine the Justice Court issued. The attorney sent her a letter in response.
- He will check with Trustee Newman about the Notice of Violation for 12 Hemlock one week from today – if the issue is not resolved then the attorney will send a letter to the resident
- He reviewed the proposed Solar code and will discuss with Trustee Newman this week.

Mayor Delaney asked Attorney Ring his opinion on the size of the overnight parking signs – the Board wishes them to be smaller like the ones in Village of Old Brookville.

At this time the Mayor opened the meeting up to public comments.

Mr. Sal Panico of 4 Fir Lane reported that he is still having problems with his neighbor and that he went to the Police but they informed him they cannot do anything at this time. He asked if there was anything the Village can do.

Ms. Pat Biancanello of "Smithtown Matters" spoke about the events surrounding the 350th Anniversary of the Town of Smithtown - especially the Bull Smith relay on March 1st. She urged the Village to be involved in the festivities.

Trustee Donnelly's Report

Trustee Donnelly reported that:

- Pothole work continues – the repairs at 43 Mt. Pleasant, Woodhollow and Hemlock North were all done with temporary cold patch now due to the weather
- Crack seal work was complete in December
- Drainage issues being worked on by Village Engineer Falasco and the contractor. The problems on Birchbrook and Mt. Pleasant were taken care of and the issue at the intersection of Daisy and Berkely still needed to be finished.
- 2 snow/ice events last week
- he thought the new recycling program information from the town should be placed on the Village website
- he suggested that we put the SCVOA request for pictures of the Village of The Branch out to residents via the website
- final leaf/brush p/u was completed but now 24 Village Way has stuff out for pick up
- the Christmas tree p/u was completed today – 150 trees were picked up
- he wanted to know if the contract extensions for Elite and Brothers Waste were done?

Trustee Newman's Report

Trustee Newman spoke about the proposed solar code he put together and distributed to the board.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to join the Suffolk County Highway Superintendent's Association with an annual membership cost of \$100.00. Mayor Delaney seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to re-open the discussion of the Village sponsoring a mile in the Bull Smith Run. Trustee Spica seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

- Mayor Delaney – No
- Trustee Buonaiuto – No
- Trustee Spica – No
- Trustee Newman – No
- Trustee Donnelly – Yes

The motion did not pass.

Trustee Newman will be meeting with Smithtown Public Safety next week on various matters.

The trailer at 270 North Country Road is gone.

Trustee Spica's Report

Trustee Spica had no report.

Trustee Buonaiuto's Report

Trustee Buonaiuto reported that:

- The day burner light at 34 Dogwood has been repaired
- The day burner light on Branch was reported to the contractor
- The light at the old Rt. 111 footbridge was repaired at a cost of \$1000.00
- Repair of the lamp post at Executive costs \$1000.00
- The lights on Ingram Court have been fixed
- Street signs are delayed but should be done soon

Trustee Newman reported a dayburner light between 50 and 54 Branchbrook Dr.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Mr. Tobacco has his perimeter lights lit again – asked Jerry Harris to issue a NOV
- Wants to make sure all issues with the Sillam's pool at 67 Birchbrook Drive are resolved
- Code review remains a top priority and will be the main subject of the next work session
- He has an alternate quote for fixing the heat in the Clerk's Office by tying into the existing gas forced air system heating the rest of the building. Cost is approximately \$3,100.00

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Hernandez
Village Clerk