

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
March 10, 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 March 10, 2015. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Donnelly, Spica, Buonaiuto and Newman, Building Inspector Jerry Harris, Attorney Christopher Ring, Treasurer Theresa Mequia and Village Deputy Clerk Cozine were present.

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

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to open the Public Hearing at the meeting for the purpose of enacting a local law that addresses Solar Energy Systems. Trustee Spica seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The first order of business was a Public Hearing on Local Law #2 of 2015 – A local law that addresses the application of building permits for Solar Energy System (SES) or Residential Solar Hot Water System (RSWH) in accordance with Chapter 31 of the Village Code. The Village of The Branch is proposing to include an amendment to Chapter 31 - Building and Zoning Administration, to provide regulations for the Permitting, Installation and Maintenance of rooftop Residential Solar Energy Systems (SES) in Residential Districts A and B. SESs are Photovoltaic (PV) or Residential Solar Hot Water (RSHW) panels that provide alternative sources of electricity or hot water.

Topics discussed were if they could be put on front or back of roofs, and even sheds. (Fronts only and no sheds)

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the Public Hearing. Trustee Spica seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to pass Local Law #2 of 2015. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the February Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Newman had some changes to be made, that were noted and corrected. Trustee Donnelly seconded the motion. All was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasure Mequia distributed her reports.

- Apologized for not having the budget numbers
- Cheryl from the Attorney's office will have delinquent letters by Thursday March 12.
- Noticed the Village was listed as a sponsor for the 350 year celebration run, shouldn't be listed as we are not allowed to use tax payer money for that. She informed the Mayor of her discovery.
- Budget must be adopted by May 1st, but will double check that date.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2098 totaling \$69,643.25. Mayor Delaney seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Harris distributed his report.

- 3 CO's were issued, no permits issued.
- There is a request for a temporary sign for Fresh Market to put in the corner of Singer Lane and 25. Wants the opinion of the Board. Paul feels sign is way too big. They would rather it go under the LA Fitness pylon. Still need to go through proper channels to get permit and take sign down once the store opens.
- Trustee Newman wants Jerry to follow up with Cloud regarding applying for a sign permit.
- Trustee Donnelly asked about the sidewalk at the Diner, if it was cleared of snow. He directed Mr. Harris to issue a summons the next day and Jerry agrees.
- Mayor Delaney mentioned the light was on above Jack's Tobacco. Mr. Harris said he would stop by the next day.
- The Trustee's want Mr. Harris to check Uncle Giuseppe's to fine them for sidewalk sales if stuff is still out there tomorrow. Trustees want to hold off approving the additional sidewalk sales permit for November and December months.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Needs letters from Treasurer for default taxes.
- Page 4 of Sunrise Assisted facility covenants is missing, wants to know if we have it. Asked Clerk to look into it.
- 2 Handicapped tickets paid and 1 adjourned; 1 overnight parking ticket adjourned and 1 discharged.
- Attorney Ring advised Mayor on the Islandia ticket issue.
- 3 recently approved contract extensions due to expire soon. Elite expired June 17, Brothers expires April 8, and Welsbach expires Sept. 30 all in 2015. It was agreed that the sweeping contract (Elite) would stay on board to finish spring sweep and then we will put out to bid afterwards.
- Mayor Delaney asked about "No Soliciting" law that recently passed in Hempstead and wanted to know if Smithtown had a law like that.
- Mayor Delaney mentioned he may need help on final Code Review from Attorney Ring.

Trustee Spica left meeting at 8:30 pm.

Trustee Donnelly's Report

Trustee Donnelly reported that:

- Pot holes on Mt. Pleasant- repair work is constant and costing thousands of dollars. Alex Sonnenberg (son) was hit doing work on Mt. Pleasant and had to chase down the driver. Police were involved.
- Now that weather is breaking, we can hot patch the pot holes and have a more permanent fix.
- Active February, getting positive feedback on clearing the roads.
- There is a salt shortage in the region and Smithtown our main contract supplier notified the Village of concerns. The Village agreed to have our Snow Contractor, through existing contract, to supply the next 20 yards of salt/sand we need for ice control to insure availability.

- Spring sweeping dates are as follows: week of 4/13/15, 5/4/13; Summer sweep TBD.
- Spring Leaf/Brush pickups are as follows: week of 4/27/15, 6/1/15
- Smithtown 350 Celebration, Relay and Town Hall meeting were all a big success!
- The 350 Committee wants to use our facility to hold meetings due to parking issues at the current location. Not in favor of charging them, but want to help them out. Agreed its ok, but need to let the Clerk know of future meetings.

Building Inspector Harris left meeting at 8:56pm.

Trustee Newman's Report

Trustee Newman called Sunrise Assisted facility regarding the lighting along the curbs. Barry was going to look into it. He checked with his people and they didn't feel they were responsible for maintaining the sidewalk along Route 111.

Trustee Spica's Report

Trustee Spica had no report.

Trustee Buonaiuto's Report

Trustee Buonaiuto reported that:

- Talked about his power point presentation on "Processes" and his intent to make it a living document. Needs the help of the Clerk to fill in some of the blanks.
- Asked Attorney Ring for his feedback on a document sent regarding lighting with Future Energy Solutions.
- Street signs are physically up.
- Spoke to Welsbach about lights out at Ingram Court. Another light out at Dogwood and Clearbrook Drive. (btwn 25-27)
- The Village sign by St. Patrick's church is broken, gold ball is off.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Wants to know who is available to go out March 24th to celebrate Maureen's service to the Village.
- Need to do Spring Newsletter.
- Head Injury place had medical waste found in street and feels this is unacceptable. Going to call CEO to talk about the issue.
- Need another all night parking sweep.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to appoint Christine Cozine as Village Clerk and Theresa Mequia as Deputy Village Clerk in addition to being Treasurer. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion and all approved unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk