

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
April 14, 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 April 15, 2015. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Donnelly, Buonaiuto and Newman, Building Inspector Jerry Harris, Attorney Christopher Ring, Treasurer Theresa Mequia and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30pm.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to open the Public Hearing on the budget. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The budget increased from last year, but we were able to stay under the tax cap. Mayor Delaney said it is less than 1.6% and approximately \$15-20 household. The contingency account, snow removal, drainage and road accounts were all increased accordingly to reflect a more accurate amount.

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

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to accept the budget. Trustee Donnelly seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

At this time Mayor Delaney appointed Trustees Tom Newman and Mike Donnelly each to another 2 year term. Clerk Cozine swore both Trustee's in the book.

Mayor Delaney appointed the following people:

Jerry Harris	1yr	Building Inspector
Dan Falasco	1yr	Engineer
John Caro	1yr	Chairman of Planning Board
Chris Ring	1yr	Attorney
Christine Cozine	2yr	Clerk
Teri Mequia	2yr	Treasurer/Deputy Clerk
Paul Buonaiuto	1yr	Deputy Mayor
Denis Bader	5yr	Board of Zoning Appeals
Joseph Magliato	1yr	Chairman of Board of Zoning Appeals

Mayor Delaney appointed Smithtown News as the official paper of the Village as well as Class and First National Bank as the official banks of the Village. The Village has also purchased bonds for the treasurer, clerk and justices. Mayor Delaney will keep the Work Session the first Tuesday of the month and Trustee meeting the second Tuesday of the month. He also talked about the procurement policy and how we need to do a better job adhering to the rules.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to keep the travel reimbursement rate equivalent to the IRS standards. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to allow the Treasurer to make advance payments when necessary to avoid late fees or fines. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to allow the Treasurer to be the sole signature on checks. Trustee Newman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Buonaiuto made a **motion** to allow attendance at NYCOM/ SCOVA meetings. Trustee Donnelly seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the April work session. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. All was approved unanimously.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the March Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. All was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia distributed her reports.

- Received 2 delinquent resident tax payments since letters went out from Attorney's office.
- Also received mortgage tax check thru 12/31/14 from \$9,200.00

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2099 totaling \$43,923.60. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Harris distributed his report.

- 7 CO's were issued, 8 permits issued.
- 2 Notice of Violations were issued. Mr. Tabacco for light in window and Mr. Bieber of 1 Cresthill for boat and trailer in front yard.
- 1 summons issued to Mr. Bieber for Boat and Trailer (81-65-A) have April 27th Court date.
- 2 sign permits issued; Fresh Market (temporary) and White Top Mountain (New Bldg.)
- Mr. Tabacco at Singer Lane cleared away the vegetation that was over grown.
- Trustee Donnelly asked about the Diner and if Inspector Harris issued summons, but Diner cleared away the snow so no need to summons. Next year need to make letter more specific and stern.
- Trustee Donnelly also inquired about 6 Birchbrook and the legality of blighted house. Do we have any code on that type of property? It is uninhabitable. Mayor Delaney Spoke to Public Safety about razing the house and it is approx. \$7,000. We can ask Fire Department to check it out or even Health Department. The Mayor said he would talk to John Valentine about it.
- Inspector Harris said Cloud should be in Court on April 27th.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Sent letter out for pothole repayment request.

- On 3/26/15 delinquent tax letters went out.
- Brothers Waste contract is now expired need to start bid process. Per Mike Donnelly, he will put out to bid and contact Chris. He already spoke to Brothers and they will honor the current contract through the summer/bidding process. Mike asked Chris to send letter to Brothers to acknowledge the situation.
- Working with Mayor Delaney with regard to improvements that need to be made on Village Hall now that we have deed to building.
- Found out that Suffolk County owns the lots on Judges Lane.
- Attorney Ring advised Mayor that just received a 90 day notice of a lawsuit against the Village. He had no prior knowledge of this. The case was filed back in 2004 but nothing has been done to date. Will look into further.
- Attorney Ring looked into “Peddlers case” and the Federal case was dismissed, but State cause of action is still alive. However, nothing has been done with it for years.
- Future Energy solutions application is fine and advised Trustee Buonaiuto to move ahead with it. Chris stated he has issue with the audit commitment and will look into it.
- Justice Court – Ring stated he would let Trustee Newman explain.
- Attorney Ring mentioned the need to finalize Code Review and Justice Court fees.

Trustee Donnelly’s Report

Trustee Donnelly reported that:

- Spring sweep was cancelled due to weather, so pushing it back to Thursday.
- Permanent repairs are being made to potholes.
- Brush/leaf pickups 4/27 and 6/1.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to clean up large chunks of asphalt at the property 43 Mt. Pleasant Road at the right of way. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. Mayor Delaney abstained from the vote and Trustee Newman was not in favor.

Trustee Newman’s Report

Trustee Newman had been in touch with Sunrise regarding the Fire Marshall tickets that were issued. There were 3 notices of violations and they had been given warnings. The Fire Marshall is currently working with Sunrise on their issues.

The lighting along the walkway of the Village Hall is fixed.

Justice Court has several handicap tickets issued and 1 is going to go to trial. We also need to look into the overtime the public safety officer gets paid. He gets a minimum of 4 hours even though sometimes only here for only half an hour.

Trustee Newman was inquiring about the possibility of putting a traffic light at the corner of Wood Hollow and Oak Tree. Mayor Delaney said his wife tried about 8 or 9 years ago to inquire at Albany about same light and they flat out said No, not going to happen.

Trustee Newman reported that Jeremy of Acadia does not own the piece of heavy equipment and will have the Fresh Market crew remove it. Trustee Newman also suggested for Mayor Delaney to meet with Jeremy regarding the parking issue (towing of cars) going on in his parking lot. Also wants to send Jeremy a letter regarding salt and sand that was never moved this past winter.

Trustee Spica's Report

Trustee Spica had no report.

Trustee Buonaiuto's Report

Trustee Buonaiuto reported that:

- Transformer blew at Ingram Court, so lights are not fixed. Parts are being ordered by Welsbach. There are 2 outages at Dogwood and should be fixed soon.
- Going to put in contract proposal with Future Energy Solutions. New lighting contract with Future Energy Solutions will save us money in the long run. Would love to have them up and running in August, so they can run simultaneously with Welsbach.

Mike Donnelly left at 8:38 pm.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Group Home – rubber gloves have been corrected and will hire someone come the winter to remove snow so there won't be any more issues relating to that. Idling cars are a problem at 8 am for half hour or more.
- Cresthill trailer was taken care of by Building Inspector Harris
- Asked Trustee Paul to look into the cost of a sign for a hearing impaired resident Mitch Shapiro.
- Meeting next week with Legislator Leslie Kennedy to talk about Judges Lane and the stream
- Next work session will be devoted to process document and Fees/fines.
- Wanted to say Thank You to the Board and Chris for all your help and support throughout the year.

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.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk