

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
August 9, 2016

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 August 9, 2016. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Botto, Buonaiuto, Donnelly and Newman, Treasurer Mequia, Attorney Chris Ring, and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

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

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the July Board of Trustees minutes. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. Trustee Donnelly abstained; All was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia was not present but distributed her reports:

- 17 delinquent tax payers down from 32 last month.
- Need to call auditors and set up audit.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2115 totaling \$26,365.77. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Harris was not present to report:

- 6 building permits issued, 2 sign permits
- 1 Notice of Violations: Medical Arts - Banners
- 1 Summons – Medical Arts - Banners

Attorney's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Mystic falls Bank issues are completed
- FES agreement needs minutes approved from July meeting.
- Obtained aerial photos from 1966 and 1968 for Dogwood property. Sent them to Dan Falasco, haven't heard anything yet.
- Sample legislation for "sandwich boards" was sent to Mark. Attorney Ring asked Mayor to send to the Board since he no longer can access his emails from the old firm.
- Justice Court – Pearlman fine was reduced to \$375 and Cambridge eviction fine was reduced to \$400.

At this time, the meeting was opened to the Public:

Irene Kissane, Point of Woods resident, wanted to know if Uncle G's is being fined for having flowers out for consecutive months? Mayor Delaney explained that they paid for an extra month of sidewalk sales permit, so all is good. Also wanted to know if the Board is changing the code for SHS? Trustee Botto and Mayor Delaney said we are looking into the language of the code

now. Irene did mention that the old Board did allow for square dancing and that alcohol was to be prohibited at the Brush Barn events. The Mayor did mention that having Public safety there definitely had an impact on the wedding reception. Irene also mentioned to put in the newsletter, please do not put the leaf and brush bags out too far in advance. And finally that a resident was pumping their pool water out into the street.

Richard Smith, formerly on the Smithtown Historical Society (SHS) Board of Directors, congratulated Attorney Ring on his new endeavor. He also explained about the fundraising efforts of SHS. They have come close to achieving their goal of \$80,000 with two major events (Heritage County Fair and Heritage Gala Ball at the Watermill.) They have secured over \$900,000 by selling some of their water rights the past year or two. He is trying to steer the new Director into securing Corporate Sponsorships instead of renting the Brush Barn for parties. But realizes they also have a responsibility to their neighbors on Judges Lane.

John Carro, Dogwood resident, was inquiring why blacktop was patched on the drains on Dogwood which originally had a cement curb. Trustee Donnelly said he would look into it, but that cement is much more expensive and he remembers the contractor talking to him about it.

Jennifer Goldman, Birchbrook Drive resident, having issues with SCOPE building having their overflowing parking lot parking on her residential street on both ends of the Birchbrook. Mayor Delaney asked Trustee Newman to talk to Public Safety. Also the people parking there are driving very fast. Late at night there are also a lot of young kids on the block playing knock and tear and egging cars. The Mayor said he would reach out to Leslie Kennedy and suggested Jennifer to do the same.

At this time, the meeting closed to the public.

Trustee Donnelly's Report

Trustee Donnelly reported that:

- Thanked the Mayor, Treasurer and Clerk for helping out with the 9-11 tree ceremony.
- No parking signs are up
- Snow contract and leaf and brush contract are up for renewals
- Drainage work and asphalt work continues; Crack seal, Mayor spoke to Dan Falasco and he said sure.
- 2 Dead trees on Plaza Drive; Trustee Newman said he would look into the code since nothing specific refers to "dead trees" in code.
- Upset the flagpole bill wasn't paid in a timely manner. The contractor had to wait over 5 weeks to get paid.
- Wants to make a resolution to make repairs to get the flag done ASAP and pay the bill since we are a government building.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to make flag repairs as needed at fair market value. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. Mayor Delaney abstained from voting, Trustee Donnelly voted yes, Trustee Buonaiuto voted yes and Trustee Newman voted yes. So it passed.

Trustee Donnelly also tried to make a motion to pay utilities bills, lawyers retainer, cleaning services, etc.... when they come in and not signing the vouchers so more time can be focuses on the bigger bills that fluctuate month to month, however , he tabled the motion.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Meeting with a resident on Terrace Lane about water matter.

Trustee Newman's Report

Trustee Newman reported that:

- Pearlman's house still being maintained by Alex. They already have a prospective buyer.

Trustee Buonaiuto's Report

Trustee Buonaiuto reported that:

- Branchbrook and Oaktree still have day burners out.
- 2 dayburners on Branch Drive and 1 on Cresthill

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Needs to meet with Dan Falasco regarding: Crack seal, speed table and groundwater remediation as the County is renegeing

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to keep the legal agreement for Chris Ring's new law firm the same as we had for Tsunis, Gasparis, Lustig, Ring and Kenney until further notice. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cozine
Village Clerk