

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
November 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 November 10, 2015. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Donnelly, Buonaiuto and Newman, Attorney Christopher Ring, Treasurer Mequia and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:31pm.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to open public hearing to increase fines. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. At this time Mayor Delaney read the following proposal:

Parking in Fire Zone – Increase from \$50 to \$200
Parking in Handicap – Increase from \$115 to \$200
Overnight Parking – Increase from \$35 to \$100
Commercial Parking in Residential Area – Increase from 1st offense \$50 to \$150
2nd offense \$150 to \$450
3rd offense \$250 to \$750

All approved unanimously. Mayor Delaney also added that all fines can be negotiated or handled through the Justice Court.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to close the Public Hearing. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

Trustee Newman made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the October Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to accept the minutes of the November work session meeting. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion. All approved unanimously and Trustee Donnelly abstained since he was not present for that meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia distributed her reports and reported that:

\$25,376.50 and \$9,284.65 Checks from Homeland Security for Superstorm Sandy
Sent out delinquent notices, if do not hear back soon, will give information to lawyer.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2106 totaling \$42,651.62. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Harris was not present, but distributed his report.

- 18 CO's were issued, 6 permits issued and 1 Sign permit.

- 3 Notice of Violations was issued. 1 Branch Drive; parking commercial vehicle overnight. 1 Woodhollow; cut back shrubs and trees overhanging. 6 Birchbrook; Reminder fall cleanup is coming.
- 6 Summons issued for sign permits; failure to renew – Return Court Date 9/28/15
- 49 Branchbrook has had no activity for past 10 days due to new baby.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Justice Court had 1 Handicap tickets that paid. 1 sign permit, Mathnasium is going to trial and other 5 sign permits all resulted in fines to be split with Court.
- Sunrise- received email from attorney and forwarded to Trustee Newman. Wants to know what is still pending? Tom and Chris Ring to discuss.
- New Energy contract heard feedback from lawyer in England. He will revise agreement and send back. Had to explain we are a municipality not a private company so changes needed to be made and he was amenable to requests.
- Reviewed specs for website, all looks good. Might want to add a disclaimer with regard to the ecode....which is a living breathing document.

At this point Mayor Delaney opened the meeting to the public:

Resident John Carro wanted to know about 270 N Country Road, they are parking on front lawn with a pickup truck and trailer attached. This has been going on for over a month. Mayor Delaney suggested Trustee Newman go to Public Safety regarding that and issue NOV.

Heather Sonneneberg of JR Holsmacher, P.E, LLC was there to speak on behalf of Jeremy from Acadia Realty Group. Acadia was issued a summons because of a site plan violation involving parking spaces being used to store snow removal equipment and salt and sand. A permit from the County is needed to store more than 1 cubic yard of salt, otherwise it is a violation of DEC. Last year Jeremy was informed of this and said he would apply for permit, but that hasn't come to fruition yet. The Board made it very clear to Jeremy last year that it was a **temporary** storage of salt and sand. Because of the equipment being in usable parking spots, they now fall below the required number of spots needed to satisfy the site plan terms. There is also ambiguity as to the correct number of parking stalls needed. Heather mentioned Jeremy went to inquire about a permit for salt and sand, but it is very costly. Acadia will need to go before the Planning Board to amend site plan. The Trustee's mentioned they didn't want to have contractor trucks parked on the property. None of our other property owners do that.

Trustee Donnelly's Report

Trustee Donnelly reported that:

- Paving of Mt. Pleasant is completed, striped and was done quickly.
- Crack seal done on or near to budget. It has taken about 6-7 years to crack seal the entire village.
- Crack seal on top of old crack seal dramatically helps to maintain our roads.
- Common area sweep is done.
- Leaf and brush pickup going on, there is a lot out there. Must be tied and bundled. Will pick up logs too.
- Speed tables, there will only be 1 of them.
- Snow contractor is ready for season.

- Number 3 and 4 Cresthill storm drains are cleaned out.

Trustee Spica's Report

Trustee Spica was not present.

Trustee Newman's Report

Trustee Newman reported that:

- 49 Branchbrook has been quiet for 2 weeks since the birth of his daughter. Public Safety has been involved.
- Trustee Newman has asked the Building Department to make sure all permits are current and not expired(construction/excavation)

Trustee Buonaiuto's Report

Trustee Buonaiuto reported that:

- Plaza and Executive still have no power – it is now a LIPA issue. Trustee Buonaiuto has asked Clerk Cozine to get him LIPA Contact.
- 4 Terrace still out – issue with intermittent light.
- Ingram Court screws tightened down.
- 46 Branchbrook repair went without incident. Lights are fixed.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Need to get a list of permanent and removable basketball hoops and wants Attorney Ring to send out a letter since Winter is upon us.
- Chris Damianos is moving the “Welcome to the Village of The Branch” sign in front of 285, will put a light on it and plant flowers.
- Wants Trustee Buonaiuto to have sign guy go ahead and make the deaf person area sign.
- Wants Building Inspector Harris to issue summons for Cambridge eviction.
- Process Implementation needs to be revisited.

Mayor Delaney made a motion to approve putting up a sign at the expense of the Cook family to honor their son who died before his 18th birthday from cancer. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion and was approved unanimously. Trustee Donnelly abstained.

Trustee Donnelly made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Buonaiuto seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk