

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
April 9, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held in the Village Hall, 180E Main St. Ste 103, Smithtown, NY 11787 at seven thirty p.m. on April 9, 2019. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Carro, Ryan, Albrecht and Botto, Treasurer Mequia, Village Attorney Ring, Village Engineer Falasco and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

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

The Board of Trustees expresses their sympathies to the Vecchio family at the passing of the former Smithtown Supervisor.

Mayor Delaney asked for a **motion** to accept the minutes of the March 2019 BOT meeting with changes noted by Trustee Albrecht. Trustee Carro made the **motion** and Trustee Botto seconded the motion. All in favor and was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney asked for a **motion** to accept the minutes of the work session April 2019 meeting. Trustee Carro made the **motion** and Trustee Botto seconded the motion. All are in favor.

Mayor Delaney appointed the following people:

Joe Arico	1yr	Building Inspector
Dan Falasco	1yr	Engineer
Libby Smith	1yr	Chairman of Planning Board
Chris Ring	1yr	Attorney
Valeri Lindeman	5yr	Planning Board
Marie Zere	5yr	Planning Board
Joseph Magliato	1yr	Chairman of Board of Zoning Appeals
John Carro	1yr	Deputy Mayor
Christine Cozine	2yr	Village Clerk
Theresa Mequia	2yr	Treasurer / Deputy Clerk
Ann Mequia	thru 5/31/19	Village Court Clerk, then Christine Cozine
6/1/19	2yr	Court Clerk

Trustees Carro and Ryan were sworn in to office for a 2 year term by Clerk Cozine.

Mayor Delaney appointed Smithtown News as the official paper and Newsday as alternate of the Village as well as Class and First National Bank of Long Island 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.

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

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

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to allow the Treasurer and/or Mayor to be the sole signature on checks. Trustee Carro seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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

Trustee Ryan made a **motion** to allow Town of Smithtown to install traffic signs and application of pavement markings on Village Streets. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

At this time the meeting was opened to the Public.

Vincent Trimarco – Representing applicant of 263 Main Street LLC. He mentioned that Trustee Carro was going to look at the upper property by this meeting date and report back to the Board regarding the cutting down of trees and impact it would have on neighbors. Trustee Carro agreed and said he did go and check out the view from the property. Trustee Carro spoke with a homeowner from there and he mentioned he didn't even know where his property ended and the other resident from that Court wasn't home to speak with. There is more than 200 ft. buffer there. Trustee Carro also asked Mr. Trimarco about the covenants and restrictions and it stated that the cottage (761 sq.ft.) should stay there. The Village Code states you can't take down any structure built before 1850. Libby Smith, Planning Chairperson, is looking into when the cottage was built. Mr. Trimarco will go back as far as he can to get the title for the property. If the cottage is not Historic, then Trustee Carro is fine with the house coming down. Attorney Ring suggested to Mr. Trimarco to get a deed search to save money and send results to him. Still need to go to Planning Board to get approval for the plans. Mr. Verro wants to move forward with the process and hopes it happens sooner than later. He has been patient and it's been going on over a year now.

Libby Smith Planning Board Chairperson updated Mayor Dealney that 301 E. Main Street has withdrawn their application for everything and has asked the Building Inspector to issue summons for the work that has been done that is not in accordance with Historic time period. Also for 2 Oak Tree Group Home AHRC will send letter with language and a map with the plantings. A Realtor called and mentioned that 9 Singer Lane property is looking to put a Psychiatry business in there. Lastly, Fresh farms are coming in with plans for the next Planning Board meeting in May.

Dan Falasco Village Engineer came in to discuss a few different items. First is 28 Branch Drive. Mr. Falasco had been away for 12 days and on trial for 2 weeks so didn't have a chance to visit Branch Drive house. The Mayor believes their fence is on Village property. Mayor Delaney also thinks the neighbor's pool has diverted an underground spring onto Diane's property.

Second is National Grid is doing a lot of marking on Dogwood and Howell Drive. Engineer Falasco would prefer them to trench. Also wants them to wait a while before we pave the road to let it settle. It will be binder to grade. Engineer Falasco said we need to figure out what's going on with the Dogwood retaining wall first, so not sure if we pave this year or not.

September is the latest date to be done for the Culvert work. Engineer Falasco will reach out to SCWA.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to go out to bid for the Dogwood retaining wall. Village Engineer will provide Clerk with all pertinent information. Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Special Use Permits

7/6/19 High School Graduation Party SHS Approved

At this time meeting closed to the Public.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- 2 tax arrears came in due to Attorney Rings letters.
- Talked to the Bank about the Bond.
- Bond is due this Friday, and let him know we will need an additional \$100,000.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2147 totaling \$102,623.82. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Arico was not there to report:

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Worked with Planning Board Chairperson, Libby Smith, for 301 E Main application.
- Sent out tax arrears letters; received 2 responses
- Need to have a Budget Hearing at next meeting and then you can repeal Local Law #1
- Local Law #2 and #3 went to NYS.
- Last Court session had 5 cases, 1 reduced fee, 2 dismissed because Public Safety Officer did not show up and 1 trial went forth.
- Landscape bid paperwork was completed and sent to Clerk Cozine.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to accept the Landscape bid for Sonnenberg Nursery. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro reported that:

- There is Dogwood problem with light pole. Underground work of about 230 feet will cost \$3,000 from NY Trenchless.
- FES needs to send a letter to PSEG regarding the correct amount of lights. It is 185 versus 160 and then they will change it.
- 4 Berkley only has 80 watt bulb instead of 110 watts. PSEG needs to get in touch with our light guy.
- Sent our Village Code into Ecode to update all our changes and they will be in touch with us.

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan had nothing to report since he is new:

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Village Hall renovations are coming along nicely.

Trustee Albrecht's Report

Trustee Albrecht reported that:

- Dogwood paved this year???
- Contractor put up speed limit signs.
- Drain on Daisy/Berkley repaired
- Clearbrook needs to be paved. Mayor Delaney said needs to go into that area and knock on doors and see neighbors about curbs.
- Houses 40 & 50 Branchbrook need obstructed view NOV's.
- Need to get a hold of Town of Smithtown for sweeping.
- Resident on Woodhollow and Village Way cut down pine trees
- \$15 Oak Tree has brush out at curb
- Cut/patch in a few spots.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- 5G is coming faster than you think and we must decide what we want to do as a Village. This will mean more cell towers and repeaters. We have addressed some of this in the Code already, but we should be proactive and prepared.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to close the meeting. Mayor Delaney seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk

