

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
June 11, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held in the Village Hall, 180E Main St. Suite 103, Smithtown, NY 11787 at seven thirty p.m. on June 11, 2019. Mayor Delaney, Trustee Carro, Ryan, Albrecht and Botto, Treasurer Mequia, Village Attorney 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 May Board of Trustees minutes and Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. All are in favor.

Trustee Ryan made a **motion** to accept the June Board of Trustees work session and Trustee Botto seconded the motion. All are in favor.

At this time Mayor Delaney read proposed Local Law # 4 of 2019 into the record.

Local Law No. 4 of the Year 2019

Village of The Branch, County of Suffolk

LOCAL LAW #4 TO REPEAL LOCAL LAW NUMBER # 1 OF 2019 -- TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-c

Be it enacted by the Village of The Branch as follows:

SECTION 1: LEGISLATIVE INTENT: This Local Law shall be known as “Local Law Number 4 of 2019”. It is the intent of this Local Law to repeal Local Law Number 1 of 2019, and to thus reinstate the limits on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village of The Branch pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c.

SECTION 2: EFFECT: This Local Law hereby thus repeals in its entirety said Local Law Number 1 of 2019, and declares the same of no force or effect, and thus the Village of The Branch repeals the prior tax cap override local law of the Village of The Branch and reinstates the tax levy limits imposed by General Municipal Law §3-c.

SECTION 3: SEVERABILITY: If any portion this Local Law, or the application thereof to any person, entity, or circumstance, shall be determined by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, such determination shall be confined in its operation to the invalid part hereof, or in its application to such person, entity, or circumstance as is directly involved in the controversy in which such determination shall have been rendered, and the remainder of this Local Law shall not be impaired thereby and such determination shall not be deemed or construed to apply to other persons, entities, or circumstances.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE: This Local Law shall take effect immediately

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept Local Law #4 of 2019. Trustee Carro seconded the motion. All are in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Tax bills are out along with the Mayors letter.
- 2 delinquent taxes from last year were paid.
- Sign permits almost ready to go out, want to extend due date to July since going out late.
- Also want to change sign permit letter to let them know that will need to appear in Court if payment is late.
- 9 Branch Drive owes full taxes this year, since house is no longer in his fathers name.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2149 totaling \$310,568.68. Trustee Albrecht seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

At this time meeting was opened to public:

Jerry Powers – Director of Citizens Options – Wants to work together and establish a relationship with neighbors of Oaktree Drive. Mr. Powers has been employed with Citizens Options for 20 years, but only in this new role for 4 months. Mayor Delaney asked Mr. Powers to look into traffic light at the intersection of Oaktree and Route 111 and enforcement. The Mayor is hoping that having the Group Home there will help out the cause. Trustee Botto asked Mr. Powers if it was ok to give out his phone number to residents and Mr. Powers complied. Trustee Carro wanted to point out that in his experience of living across from a Group Home that it is the workers who don't realize they live in a neighborhood and sometimes don't do the right thing, not the residents of the home. Mayor Delaney also pointed out that we can use our website to communicate with the neighbors if Mr. Powers wants or needs to get information out.

JP – Fusion Architecture Consultants representing United Way of Long Island. Also present were expediter Amy DeVito and Jackie Delinardo from Beacon House. Fusion currently has an application in with the Planning Board for 301 E. Main Street and thanked the BOT for having an informal meeting with them to see what the future of their plans will be. UWLI purchased a property and made a presentation to PB with the assistance of Rick. UWLI develops specialized housing (unique, green homes) for non profits. They want to retro fit the house and make it as affordable to operate and then sell it to Beacon House. It is not a home in the traditional sense. It doesn't fit our code of single family housing. It will be for Veterans to live in until they get back on their feet, however, it is located in the Historic District. Want to do 900 sq ft addition, put ramps in for handicap, retro fit for energy, emergency generator, refurbish interior. UWLI has met with PB, but initially weren't forthcoming with their intentions and now want to be transparent. UWLI is looking for relief for the past sins of the previous owner (siding, windows etc..) JP is asking if there is a pathway to get relaxation of Village requirements? JP mentioned the driveway would need a guardrail system for safety on the Westside of the driveway. Mayor Delaney mentioned guardrail is not something typical in the Village. UWLI and Beacon House are looking for guidance on how to proceed. Ms. DeVito spoke and said this is transitional housing for Veterans, approximately 6 months to help them get the benefits they need. NYS allows up to 2

years, but they do 6 months. Beacon House is so energy efficient that they charge zero or little money for them to live there. Funding is partially provided by HUD. BH tries to blend into the Community, Smithtown is excellent location due to close proximity to stores, parks and train. BH has won awards for affordable housing. They have 2 locations 40 Depot Rd, Huntington and 49 Maple Ave in Village of Patchogue. Trustee Carro asked JP why or who bought the property? Didn't they realize that is in Historical District and that we are zoned single family residences?

Attorney Ring had a few questions for JP. Mr. Ring asked if anyone formally withdrew the PB application. He informed them that they would need to do that to move forward. Mr. Ring also asked what if any work has been done to property since it was bought by UWLI? JP answered some interior work, outside siding (done by previous owner) and mentioned they have application in to do an addition, but it has been put on hold.

Mr. Ring also asked is there a contract or any agreement in place with Beacon House? JP answered he doesn't know where they are with this. Trustee Carro asked about TDRs?

He noted it would probably need to secure them. It was also noted that Beacon House doesn't pay a mortgage or taxes either. Trustee Carro asked if there was a Federal Program that Beacon House works with? Ms. Delinardo answered they work with the VA in Northport and have 3 and some work or go to trade school and transport to medical appointments. She mentioned that 205 Veterans live in all of Beacon Houses on any given day.

Mayor Delaney concluded that how you got here wasn't elegant, but want to clean the slate.

Dawn Verini - 1 Cresthill Drive – wanted to let the Board know that the contractor for the culvert project started work at 5:30 – 6:00 am which is in violation of our code. Ms. Verini Inquired if there is a back-up plan if the contractor just stops and leaves the project. Mayor Delaney informed her that the project is being overseen by County not Village. He stated the DPW Director is new and the Contractor is unreliable. He said that in order for contractor to get paid the project needs to be completed by August 31. The Branch culvert is now in. Mayor Delaney said he demanded a meeting with Leslie Kennedy and DPW Director. He has also instructed Public Safety to keep an eye on contractors and issue a violation for starting work before 8am. Ms Verini also wanted to let the Board know about the issues going on at Cresthill Injury. They have a new resident that requires medication and goes off his medications a lot and requires medical attention. This resident of Group Home has had many outbursts recently. Mayor Delaney told Ms Verini he is going to have Attorney Ring send a letter to see if there is another location better suited for this individual. Ms Verini is scared for her children as summer is here and the kids are out of school. There are police cars and ambulances called to the house for every outburst this individual has. She noted that parking is becoming a problem as well. One car parks 2 feet from the curb.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Need to repeal local law #1 of 2019
- Drafted language for repeaters but going to table for the work session.
- Sent letter to Nextdoor on May 10.
- Justice Court- now having Court in June and July. 5 cases – 4 reduced fines (3 handicap and 1 sign permit) 1 case adjourned to August, didn't show up.
- Mayor Delaney asked Attorney Ring to look into door to door soliciting.
- Reaching out to local Mayors regarding Altice contract renewal.

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Old route 111 lights, the contractor needs access. Can we get a lift 24 inches wide in there? Need to put the lights up on the pole. Mayor Delaney needs to get in touch with Dagnelli.
- The contractor will connect the lights on Cresthill that PSEG disconnected when they started the culvert work.
- Asked Karen from Public Safety to check complaint about 2 Rice Lane having an apartment in basement. There is no kitchen in the basement.
- Dogwood retaining wall obtained 2 estimates each for \$125,000. Mayor Delaney will meet with the homeowner of 24 Dogwood.
- Lt Lohman told Trustee Carro that he needs to tell Mayor Delaney to let John Valentine know that it is ok for him to do so.

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan had nothing to report:

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Check to see if Verizon is available to use at Village Hall
- Getting quotes for computer maintenance and alarm system
- Looking at move out date of June 27th or 28th

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Arico reported that:

- Resident was renovating Ash Court without permit.
- Fresh Farms clean up site
- 270 N Country Rd – weeds growing high, sent it over to Karen Sylvester
- PODS need to be addressed
- 9 Branch Drive – every day is a new offense, so need to date the summons with new day, not original day
- 28 Branch – met with owner and Engineer Falasco; getting surveys
- 11 Branch – hired an architect to get plans for the shed, was given a NOV, now needs time to get the plans. No more than 3 weeks.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Holding onto contract for Town of Smithtown for street/road maintenance, waiting to hear back from John Valentine.
- Set up a meeting with Library Director
- SCOVA summer party August 8
- Trustee Ryan will be the point person for Group Home on Oaktree.

Trustee Albrecht's Report

Trustee Albrecht reported that:

- Drain repairs at Hemlock, Daisy and Oaktree.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Albrecht seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk