

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
August 13, 2019

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 13, 2019. Deputy Mayor Carro, Trustees Ryan, Albrecht and Botto, Treasurer Mequia, Village Attorney Ring, Building Inspector Arico and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Deputy Mayor Carro called the meeting to order and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:33 pm.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the July Board of Trustees minutes and Trustee Albrecht seconded the motion. All are in favor, Trustee Albrecht abstained since he wasn't present at July BOT meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- We currently have the least amount of delinquent taxes that we have ever had the past 14 years.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2151 totaling \$80,366.35. Trustee Albrecht seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

At this time meeting was opened to public:

Greg Osenek – 4 Terrace Lane– The culvert on Branch Drive is completed and the metal barrier put up should not be that close to the road. Mr. Osenek hopes that if the contractor is not done by August 31st, they will be fined \$500/day. Mr. Osenek stated he feels the Village should have some say in what happens to the properties of those affected by this work.

Dori Maggio – 30 Branch Drive – Still has stuff in front of her house, who will fix the damaged sprinklers that are broken. The guard rail is hideous and dangerous, there is nobody driving 90 mph down the block to warrant this type of guard rail. The edges are very sharp. At this time the Deputy Mayor asked if the group had a meeting at someone's house with Leslie Kennedy. They said yes and were told to keep the sprinklers off because the workers were getting wet and now the bushes are dead. Trustee Albrecht said unfortunately damage was done. The contractor was only bidder and we don't know about remediation yet.

Mark Bender – 12 Cresthill Place – Mr. Bender is still dealing with flooding and water issues. Deputy Mayor mentioned that the stream still needs to be dredged and the manholes need to be cleaned out as well. Mr. Osenek stated that it has been 40 years since culverts have been cleaned. He feels that this project should never have been in the first place. Mr. Albrecht rebutted with they were cleaned approximately 7 years ago. The only thing that works is lowering the level of Millers Pond according to Mr. Osenek.

Phil Antunuci – 8 – Mr. Antunuci asked many questions of the Board. Did this Village have any input into this project before it took place? Did Village have copies of the plans? Did Mayor request work stoppage order because of permits? Was there a liaison between Village and contractor? Has anyone personally on the Board seen the pictures of the new culvert?

Jeff Berkowitz – 6 Terrace Lane – Who is responsible for fixing the road? Beyond the paving that was dug? The Board answered it was probably done by the SCWA and should have been coordinated by John Anthony (contractor for paving) but it wasn't.

Levine – 1 Cresthill Place – 50-70 feet of his property is damaged, wants to know who will take care of this? Attorney Ring told him he should file a claim against the County if it isn't fixed by the end of the project. Mr. Levine wanted to know how long would he have to wait?

Michael Guglielmo – 24 Branch Drive – As a Village we should sue the contractor.

Ken Warzi – there are 2 big holes in the ground by dug by SCWA and we have to drive around them. It is becoming a big safety issue.

Sue Guglielmo – 24 Branch Drive – Can you tell the County not to put the equipment on the lawns? That way there is no damage.

Trustee Albrecht said the County is not touching the pipe by the stream. Trustee Botto also said we are in the process of updating all our drains and taking inventory so we can keep track of everything.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Need a motion to vote on Brothers extension for Leaf and Brush renewal
- Need a motion to vote on NY Trenchless for underground street light maintenance
- Landscaping contract is up on the 30th of September and has no more extensions, so we will need to go to bid for that.
- Drainage contract is up as well and we are going month to month on that.
- No changes to the snow plowing bid.
- Letter sent to Vincent Trimarco dated July 25th
- Joan Gilroy representing Altice called and wants to schedule a meeting for franchise agreement.
- Justice Court – 4 defendants; 3 were rescheduled. 1 pleaded guilty with a reduced fine.
- Deputy Mayor Carro asked on behalf of Mayor Delaney if the Justices could swing by to check on the 2 residences that were appearing at Court. Attorney Ring said he can't ask the Justices to do that before Court.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to renew NY Trenchless underground street light maintenance contract. Trustee Ryan seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to renew Brothers Waste leaf and brush contract. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously

Trustee Carro's Report

Deputy Mayor Carro reported that:

- Mayor Delaney is requesting \$500 bond be required whenever anyone wants to open a road permit. Building Inspector Arico said he will provide something to the Mayor next month.
- Trustee Albrecht is going to work with Nicole (office assistant) on updating all our drains and roads.
- Mayor Delaney will personally meet with the homeowner of 24 Dogwood regarding the retaining wall.
- Mayor Delaney would also like the Treasurer to work with Trustee Ryan regarding access to Quickbooks.
- Mayor Delaney requested picking out dates for fall leaf and brush pickups. They are as follows: Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 9, Jan 20 is Christmas tree pick up.
- Asked Clerk to get the plaques done for Tom and Ann.

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan had nothing to report:

Trustee Albrecht's Report

Trustee Albrecht had nothing to report:

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Village Hall almost complete.
- Next week phone lines for the alarm is being done.
- Punch list is being done
- Awaiting another estimate for blinds.

Special Use Permits

11/2/19	Bridal Shower	SHS Approved
9/22/19	Heritage County Fair	SHS Approved
10/19/19	Restaurant Showcase	St. Patrick's Approved
12/8/19	Breakfast with Santa	St. Patrick's Approved

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Arico reported that:

- Carvel getting CO next week
- Orange Theory – getting new AC on roof
- Pho Phan – opening next week
- Mattress Firm – going to split their space up and put something new in there.

- Quest Diagnostics – doing work at 222 bldg.
- 9 Branch Drive – still being summonsed every single day.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney was not present

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk