

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
September 10, 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 September 10, 2019. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Ryan, Carro, Albrecht and Botto, Treasurer Mequia, Village Attorney Ring, Building Inspector Arico 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.

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

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Couple of tax payments came in, now only have 8 delinquent tax payments.
- Called auditors to schedule audit
- Sent Mayor Delaney the last 10 years of Cabelvision franchise fees for Village of Branch.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract # 2152 totaling \$39,057.14. Trustee Albrecht seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

At this time meeting was opened to public:

Michele Stiles- 21 Branch Drive – The guardrails are on their front property and feels it is excessive for the neighborhood. The safety of the children is a concern with sharp edges. Mrs. Stiles and her husband have handed in a signed petition of 100 residents within the neighborhood who oppose the guardrail and want the dangerous rails removed and replaced with appropriate size and set back and the edges be angled back towards the stream.

At this point Mayor Delaney gave a history and explained why the culverts were being replaced. This project started because south of 347 was seeing a lot of flooding in their basements and were pumping constantly. Back when the houses in VOB were built in the 60's was historically low water table. The Village was able to secure a grant to fix the problem by replacing two of the culverts. Albany wanted to know how the Village was going to handle the project without having its own Highway Department. So the Village got the Suffolk County Department of Works to help us out. It took forever to go out to bid and when it finally did, there was only one bidder and the County accepted the bid. So this project is being handled by County DPW and Leslie Kennedy. The County is in charge, but the Mayor has been in constant contact and is always

available. Mayor Delany was informed as of Thursday that the guardrail would be taken down. He doesn't know when and what material will be put up in its place. As soon as he knows he will inform the residents. He is protecting the Village from an insurance liability.

David Stiles – 21 Branch Drive – asked the Mayor if we can see the plans before it goes in and the Mayor answered no because it's not our project to review.

Kelly Guidice – asked about Terrace Lane side

Joe Maggio – asked who will replace trees that have been removed?

Mark Bender – The village Engineer has been involved since day one. Will he be involved going forward? The Engineer was just as surprised as everyone was with the size of the guardrail.

Mayor Delaney advised the neighbors not to talk to the construction workers on site as they might give false or not accurate information.

Fred Wilcox – the initial work started piece meal, how can we be assured this won't happen again? Mayor Delaney mentioned that they have been structured for the past few weeks with a schedule.

Ken Wariz- - How can we be assured there is someone there from the County.

David Stiles- asked if the guardrail is actually required. Do we have any information on the length? Does Planning Board have anything to do with this project? Do they get involved. Mayor answered no as it being handled by County.

Mark Bender – Once culverts are done, when will they dredge the streams? Mayor Delaney answered the contractor through the County will dredge the streams.

Jesse Passola – Do you need pictures of what it looked like beforehand? We can provide you with them if you need.

At this time meeting was closed to the Public.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Prepared renewal contract for NY Trenchless for underground street light maintenance
- Prepared renewal contract for Sonnenberg for snow removal.
- Preparing tree trimming letter to residents
- Fire contract went up by 2% need a motion to approve and authorize.
- Justice Court – many cases on agenda, 9 Branch drive will be back for trial. 12 Village Way dismissed tickets for the 2 tenants. The homeowner's father will be back next month to represent his son who lives in Fla. The trial was found in favor of the Village for \$50.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to approve the Fire Contract with Smithtown. Trustee Ryan seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro's Report

Deputy Mayor Carro reported that:

- Entrance to Route 111 has been reopened.
- 3 poles need light fixtures
- 20 Branch Drive has lights out
- Sunrise hasn't done anything with the lights on our pathway.

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan had nothing to report:

Trustee Albrecht's Report

Trustee Albrecht reported that:

- Cabo Fresh has chairs and tables out front of restaurant
- Uncle Guiseppes has food outside
- Working with Nicole to get drainage information spreadsheet together.
- 49 Mt. Pleasant – cars parked on grass and possible illegal apartment. Received photos from neighbors across street. Trustee Carro asked him to send to him to follow up with Karen Sylvester.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Worked on getting microphones installed
- Clerk needs a new computer
- Getting a mark out for landscaping of Village Hall

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to release the bond with AHRC for landscaping on 2 Oaktree. Mayor Delaney seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to authorize the attorney to prepare a resolution with regard to the existing security bond for the subdivision, the landscaping and growth bond and the dedication of property on Judges Lane, subject to Trustees review. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Special Use Permits

12/14/19 Birthday Party SHS Approved

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Arico was not present to report:

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Wants to get the calculator back up on the website to show how it costs less money to live in the Village than the Town of Smithtown, although it is not as much as it used to be.

Trustee Albrecht made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Ryan seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk