

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
April 14, 2020
Track #14

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held via zoom at seven thirty p.m. on April 14, 2020. Mayor Delaney was present at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, Trustees Carro, Ryan, and Botto, Treasurer Mequia, Village Attorney Ring, Building Inspector Arico and Village Clerk Cozine were present via zoom due to Covid 19 restrictions in place.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to accept the March 2020 Board of Trustees minutes and Trustee Botto seconded the motion. All are in favor, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Budget is up on the website
- The max tap cap is \$708,728 and we are below that by \$14.12
- Currently asking people to mail in tax payments as opposed to coming in person.
- Mortgage tax check from the County is approx \$12,088. I expect the next one to be a lot less due to Covid pandemic.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2159 totaling \$23,390.09 signed by Mayor Delaney only due to Covid 19 pandemic. Trustee Ryan seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Ryan made a **motion** to open the Public Hearing for Budget Review 2020/21. Trustee Carro seconded the motion. All are in favor, and approved unanimously.

Discussion ensued and no questions asked

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to close the Public Hearing for Budget Review 2020/21. Trustee Botto seconded the motion. All are in favor.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to open the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2020 - Codification of Village of Branch Code. Trustee Ryan seconded the motion. All are in favor, and approved unanimously.

Clerk Cozine read into record Local Law#2 of 2020.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept Local Law #2 of 2020 -Codification of Village of Branch Code. Trustee Carro seconded the motion. All are in favor, and approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2020. Trustee Carro seconded the motion. All are in favor, and approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve Village of The Branch Fiscal Budget 2020/21. Trustee Botto seconded the motion. All are in favor, and approved unanimously.

At this time Mayor Delaney opened the meeting to the Public and there was no response so the meeting was then closed to the Public.

Engineer Falasco's Report

Engineer Falasco reported that:

- Price of oil is low right now, so is it better to do our paving now? There is only a 6% cost savings right now.
- Dogwood estimates based on square yardage of road (always go a little higher in my estimate) \$104,000, Rice Lane \$17,400, Perdue Court \$9,500, White Birch Court \$23,500, and Spruce Court \$19,100, for a grand total of approximately \$175,000.
- Clearbrook estimates are twofold, with curbs and without curbs. With no curb paving is \$77,000. Curbing costs \$87,000. Mountable curb is suggested so if do both the total is \$163,000.
- Trustee Botto asked about Belgium Block curbing and Engineer Falasco said it would cost a little more since it is more labor intensive.
- Engineer Falasco said we \$103,000 in Chips monies and Pave NY we have \$6,500 and Emergency winter repair have \$5,000.
- Mayor Delaney asked for Clerk Cozine to check paperwork for the Dogwood retaining wall and see how long the grant is good for. Also Mayor said he will call Senator Zeldin and ask about road infrastructure.
- Engineer Falasco sent over bridge drawings for the Route 111 area. Suggests going with a narrower bridge which discourages ATV's, Quad's etc..)
- Trustee Botto asked engineer if he has drainage maps and the way the water flows.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector Arico reported that:

- No structural fire at the Fresh Market, was called out to assess care fire at building.
- Working with Pele Damianos and doing inspections on Saturdays due to Covid pandemic.
- Did a zoom meeting with a potential salon owner.
- Reported that the Board of Health is giving Villages the leeway/discretion on septic tanks, especially in areas with high ground water tables. We then inform the Board of Health with a letter telling them what we want.
- 257 Middle Country Road is NOT vinyl siding, it is primer stained gray and the front door is still original, it has just been stripped of all the old paint.
- Mayor Delaney should be getting the Code from the NYS DOS to access online Building Code Book.
- 9 Woodhollow Drive was given a NOV for their tree, still hasn't been rectified so now need to give a summons.
- 12 Village Way is evicting tenant, but not sure that can happen due to COVID.
- 55 Mount Pleasant, 8 Claremont Court need to go to BZA for fence variances.
- 11 Branch Drive came into the office before Covid came in and said they were moving their building so they weren't moving forward with their variance process.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Local Law #1 was filed on March 16th, 2020.
- Need to a repeal of Local Law #1 since you just approved the Budget and did not pierce the tax cap.
- Local Law #2 will be filed shortly
- No Justice Court since COVID pandemic.
- Brothers Waste contract for leaf and brush pickup will expire on August 1, 2020 so need to get ready to put that to bid.
- Need Clerk Cozine to get the Inter municipal Agreements together and provide copies to myself and Mayor and Trustee Botto to review.

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan had nothing to report:

- Sent Firewall information to the Clerk.
- Asked about the marking on Dogwood Drive.

Trustee Carro's Report

Deputy Mayor Carro reported that:

- Perma Road Survey will be done by Trustee Botto.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Playing phone tag with Alex of Sonnenberg Nurseries about driving around the village.
- Couple of trees came down during wind storm on Mt. Pleasant and had Alex fix and car away
- Had Sonnenberg Nurseries cleaning drains on Dogwood Drive
- Tree came down in Culvert; got a quote of \$350 to take care of it.
- Trying to get super sucker vacuum to N Hemlock
- Getting an estimate to clean the other side of Uncle Guiseppe's from Sonnenberg Nurseries and wants to include that in landscaping contract going forward.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Reached out to Jeremy from Acadia Realty regarding the neighbor that has been having issues and asked him to join us for a meeting when Covid is over. He in return had given some nice feedback about working with our Village compared to other Villages and appreciated our efforts.
- Wanted to thank the group for all the emails and helping out during this difficult time and taking on the Covid virus.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to close the meeting. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk

