

**Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
December 14, 2021
Track #42**

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on December 14, 2021. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Carro, Damm, Ryan Village Attorney Ring, Treasurer Mequia, and Village Engineer Falasco Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Carrro made a **motion** to accept the November 2021 Board of Trustees minutes and Trustee Damm seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

Trustee Carrro made a **motion** to accept the December 2021 Board of Trustees work session minutes and Mayor Delaney seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to open meeting to the public. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney asked Village Engineer Dan Falsaco to come in and explain the Old Route 111 (Greenbelt Trail) bid. Mr. Falasco said he originally thought the bid would be about \$200,000 worth of work but ballooned to \$600,000 due partially to the Grant that had special paperwork requirements which make it more expensive to do and because of Covid. The bridge was also increased in size which was dictated by NY State. The grant we received was \$260,000 and \$30,000 respectively. The bids we received were over \$600,000 and up. In addition to this, we have paid over \$90,000 to H2M who is engineers handling the bidding and plans. Out of pocket will cost hundreds and thousands of dollars. There are a couple of options to consider, 1) option to drop out and maybe give back the grant funds) option to fix bridge only 3) just hold off for now and wait until 2023 to see what new grants are available.

Jen, the grant writer, will look into seeing if we can get more answers about if we can get additional monies and how long we have to complete this.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close meeting to the public. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Local Law #4 went to the State
- Permissive expired over the weekend, so sending local law #5 paperwork to State.
- Received signed contract from Triple J tonight for Snow plowing
- Happy Holidays

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Received 3 delinquent tax payments today
- Auditors were here and finished their field work in 1 day.
- Received my Gold Certificate on Retirement System Training

Trustee Damm made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2179 totaling \$. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto was not present to report:

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro reported that:

- 1 Trial, 20 tickets issued, 1 Trial requested
- Attending the Suffolk Share Services Webinar

Trustee Damm's Report

Trustee Damm had nothing to report:

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan reported that:

- Trailer is gone from 51 Mt. Pleasant Road.

Special Use Permits

1/29/22 SHS Baby Shower- Approved

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector was not present to report:

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Met with David Barnes from DOT, Town of Smithtown, Suffolk County Representatives and Highway Dept, Parks and discussed Millers Pond and the stream that runs through Village of The Branch. It was noted that TOS, Highway and Parks dept 20 years ago they helped keep the stream flowing and clean. Now they are going to try to put together a task force to really fix the problems with the stream and Millers Pond.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting at 9:20pm. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Cozine

