

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
March 8, 2022
Track #47

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on March 8, 2022. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Carro, Botto, Ryan, Damm, Building Inspector Arico, Village Attorney Ring, Treasurer Mequia, and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

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

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to accept the February 2022 Board of Trustees minutes and Trustee Botto seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Putting together preliminary budget. \$14.65 tax rate

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2182 totaling \$23,406.36. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

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

Jack Raval – owner of Jack's Tobacco at 17 Singer Lane. Originally thought he was there to get permission for a new sign permit, but Building Inspector Arico corrected him and said he was there to get approval from the Board to sell electronic cigarettes, CBD and stuff sold at the other vape shops within the Village and Town of Smithtown. Jacks Tobacco only sells cigars and cigarettes and didn't want to mix the two crowds. No marijuana is being sold at this new store; everything is 100% legal. The Board had no objections, if there is no marijuana sold there like the other vape shop in the village.

Dan Falasco – Village Engineer – updated the Board on the Old Route 111 bid that is still open. Keeping it open so we don't have to start from scratch if we close the bid. Asked all 3 bidders to breakdown the "bridge" portion of the project. The lowest bidder, Pioneer, was \$230,000, who was also the overall lowest bidder on the entire project. There is also another part of the grant that is approximately \$30,000, but that portion must be done by a minority contractor. Mr. Falasco said he has secured a minority contractor to do the paving portion and was just waiting to get back the information and pricing. Trustee Ryan expressed his dismay on how much this project went up in price. The Board is going to have to pull back on the lightning and camera portion of the project to keep the costs down. Focusing on the bridge and paving portions. There is only 2 weeks left before this bid expires, so need to capitalize on this. Mayor Delaney is going to meet with the NY Senators to see if he can secure some more grant monies to help defer the cost of the project.

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

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Local Law #1 of 2022 sent to the State to file on Feb 10, 2022.
- Received a response from BBCG Landscaper regarding the underground electric breaks at 3 Spruce Court for repayment of \$1600 worth of charges. Sent out a response letter today.
- Sent letter out to Nextdoor.com per Mayor Delaney to stop sending out mailings to residents.
- Trustee Carro mentioned how he would prefer Attorney Ring to be at the Planning Board meeting next month.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Pothole repairs
- No response from Mitch at TOS for street signs
- Working on signs
- Week of April 4th for leaf and Brush pickup. Will plan a sweeping for the following week.
- Will decide next leaf and brush pick up date at the next meeting.

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Justice Court had 10 people on the agenda. 6 no shows, 4 of which was their second time were found guilty in default, the other 2 were rescheduled. There was 1 trial request, 1 dismissal, and 2 pleaded guilty to lesser fine

Trustee Damm's Report

Trustee Damm reported that:

- Reseeding of grass will not happen until Spring when weather is warmer.
- J Fuentes will be starting work at the stream from the bridge to Route 111. Cleaning up stream with the other people from the task force, starting Monday March 14, 2022.

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan had nothing to report:

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector was not present, but reported:

- Issued 3 new permits, 1 sign permit, issued 3 C/O, and 19 inspections
- Issued stop work order for 13 Dogwood Drive for tree removal without permit
- Met with Vision works and Café Lahooti multiple times
- Met with James from Uncle G's regarding plans
- Issued 6 summonses for failure to renew sign permit fees

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- 2 documents need to be printed, will send to Clerk to have done
- March 22, 2022 will be team dinner at Casa Rustica at 7:30 pm

Special Use Permits

05/28/22 SHS Craft Fair Approved

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to advertise for the Public Hearing for 2022-23 Budget. Mayor Delaney seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to accept the court audit for fiscal year ending 2021. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting at 9:14pm. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk