

Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
April 12, 2022
Track #48

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on April 12, 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 7:43 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Carrro made a **motion** to accept the March 2022 Board of Trustees minutes and mayor Delaney seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Received delinquent tax payment for 32 Hemlock
- Received audited financials for Year Ended 2021

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2183 totaling \$28,456.85. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to open the Public Hearing to discuss the 2022-23 Budget. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

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.

There was nobody from the public present. Mayor Delaney mentioned that Treasurer Mequia made all the adjustments that were spoken at the work session. The only thing that didn't come up was discussion of sumps. We can always move funds around to handle that. Also, if we have extra monies, we can use it for that. Trustee Ryan suggested we should check the Village trees to assess.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to approve the budget as is. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to open the Public Hearing. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

Treasurer Mequia added that we finished paying off the bond that was used for Village Hall renovations.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Received \$1600 check from BBCG Landscaper regarding the underground electric breaks at 3 Spruce Court for repayment of damages.
- Sent letter to Nextdoor.com on March 8, 2022
- Mayor Delaney asked how long does it take to get someone evicted? Attorney Ring said approximately 2 years.

**** Joe Arico arrived at 7:54 pm****

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Potholes all over, mostly on Carriagehouse and 25A
- Hemlock is going to get the new equipment to patch it up.
- Met with Jim Deutch about paving lines
- Sweeping will be done this week & storm drains too
- Leaf and brush pick up will be week of May 16th. Asked the Deputy Clerk to email Brothers Waste to let them know.

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Justice Court had 8 people on the agenda. 2 found guilty, 2 next month and 4 sign permits for next month as well. Trial had a guilty verdict for handicap parking.
- Requiring the Court Officer to stay until the women leave the building.
- 3 lighting problems – Ash Court was fixed Monday. Need to call NY Trenchless for Wheelwright and Windmill.

Trustee Damm's Report

Trustee Damm reported that:

- J Fuentes has not started bridge clean up. Probably next week.
- J Fuentes will get estimate to put together clean up of Old Route 111.

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan reported that:

- Sent emails to Mayor Delaney
- Needs to look at stuff Treasurer Mequia sent him.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector reported that:

- Issued 3 new permits, 1 sign permit, issued 3 C/O, and 19 inspections
- Met with Ace Hardware about sidewalk permit to do BBQ demos with food
- Mayor Delaney wants to start to charge for outside eating permits since this is not COVID related anymore.
- Sign permit fee analysis will send via email to the Board.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to advertise for increase in sign permit fees and BZA fee. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to approve the Court Audit for year ending 2021. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**. All are in favor, approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney's Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Will meet with Mike Fitzpatrick to walk the Old Route 111 trail.
- Organizational Appointments and motions – Clerk Cozine swore in Trustees Roger Botto and Kevin Damm for 2-year terms and Mayor Mark Delaney for 2-year term. Also elected was Justice Brian Murphy for 4-year term.

Mayor Delaney appointed the following people:

Joseph Arico	1yr	Building Inspector
Dan Falasco	1yr	Engineer
Libby Smith	1yr	Chairman of Planning Board
Chris Ring	1yr	Attorney
Christine Cozine	2yr	Court Clerk
Joseph Magliato	1yr	Chairman of Board of Zoning Appeals
Christine Cozine	2yr	Clerk
Theresa Mequia	2yr	Treasurer
Theresa Mequia	2yr	Deputy Clerk
David Wetzel	5yr	Planning Board
Glenn Haberfield	5yr	Planning Board
John Carro	1yr	Deputy Mayor

Mayor Delaney appointed Smithtown News as the official paper and Newsday as alternate of the Village as well as Class and First National Bank as the official banks of the Village. The Village has also purchased bonds for the treasurer, clerk, and justices. Mayor Delaney will keep the Work Session the first Tuesday of the month and Trustee meeting the second Tuesday of the month. He also talked about the procurement policy.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to keep the travel reimbursement rate equivalent to the IRS standards. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to allow the Treasurer to make advance payments when necessary to avoid late fees or fines. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to allow the Treasurer and/or Mayor to be the sole signature on checks. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**, which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to allow attendance at NYCOM/ SCOVA meetings. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion**, which was approved unanimously.

Special Use Permits

05/22/22 SHS Choral Concert Approved

4/30/22 SHS 5th Bday Party Approved

5/15/22 SHS Spring Farm Fest Approved

6/12/22 SHS Antique Bottles Approved

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to close the meeting at 8:46pm. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk