

**Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
October 10, 2023
Track #76**

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on October 10, 2023. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Carro, Botto, Damm, Ryan, Village Attorney Ring, Treasurer Mequia, Building Inspector Arico and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve the August 2023 Board of Trustees minutes. Mayor Delaney seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve the September 2023 Board of Trustees minutes. Trustee Ryan seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Mayor Delaney abstained since not present at the September meeting.

Special Use Permit – SHS- Holiday Lights Festival – 11/24-12/31/23- 5:30-9pm Fri-Sun– Approved
Will be open all week during school break.
SHS – Baptism- 9/20/23 - Approved

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Only 6 outstanding tax bills; received 24 Cambridge who had longstanding tax arrears.
- Auditors sent email out for audit.
- The new tax program has been installed, but no information is in there yet.
- The interest rate for a 12-month CD is 4.75% at our bank, so we should consider putting some of our savings, \$500-600K.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to accept the treasurer’s report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2201 totaling \$13,743.67. Mayor Delaney seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve the mayor to sign 3 contracts for Brothers Waste Services Inc. leaf and brush, Smithtown Fire Dept. for fire protection and Triple J Cesspool for snowplowing. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Attorney Ring’s Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Asked the Board if they had received the leaf and brush and Fire Department contracts yet.

Trustee Ryan’s Report

Trustee Ryan reported that:

- Saw Gator in Uncle G’s parking lot and spoke to them about the signs in their shopping center.

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Justice Court – 21 cases on agenda, 4 no shows, 10 second timers, 7 guilty, 5 reschedule.
- Spoke to Michele Road from Gator Shopping Center and told them they need to redo the parking lot striping and put up some stop signs.
- Gave NY Trenchless the OK to put up a second pole on Clearbrook.
- Shumacher reported that out of the 6 reported light outages, 3 of them are low voltage issues.
- Coldwell Banker – approved black sign and white letters.
- EV Charges in Acadia shopping center still in the works Acadia is waiting for a written contract with them.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Behind on the signs
- Cambridge and Oxford still flood when we have heavy rains, and it is due to a pipe underneath the ground that is the issue.
- Ideas for the bridge on old route 111

Trustee Damm's Report

Trustee Damm reported that:

- Fall cleanup is coming up.
- "No Water Flow" because there is actually no water running.
- J Fuentes cleaned up behind 14 Cresthill worried about the mosquitos.
- Bought and installed new sump locks and made copies of the key for Board members and Clerk.
- Suggest steel bridge for the stream by old route 111, not the country club types.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to open the meeting to the public. Mayor Delaney seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

James Ewart III – still needs a few weeks to get final CO. Countertops not done, needs vanities, toilets bathroom floors and tiling. Trustee Botto mentioned he would like the porta potty removed before the Holidays as well as the dumpster. Building Inspector Arico told him he still needs an underwriter's certificate and needs to do a final inspection. Mr. Arico said he will speak to the contractor and have the expediter call back.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting to the public. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Requested Mr. Ewart III come back to the Nov 14th meeting.

Building Inspector's Report

Building Inspector was not present to report, but left notes:

- Received \$6,414 income.
- 6 Permits, 3 CO's, 21 inspections
- Missed SCOVA meeting.
- Gave Carmelina's a NOV for flag signs out front of Gator shopping center.
- Changing Building codes and will need new books.

Mayor Delaney Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Would like Jacks Tobacco in Court for signs violations.
- Banners at Carmelina's, Uncle G's and Rejuvenation need to be addressed.
- Received feedback that many residents are upset with Uncle G's displays. They are specifically having issues with pumpkins. Asked the Board if they consider pumpkins food? To which they all voted and responded no.
- Should be receiving a \$75,000 grant with a match from us. Feeling guardrail should be our priority.
- LI Sound Infrastructure grant is looking good as well with approximately \$125,000, however, could be a year to 6 months before we see any of that monies.
- Should have .GOV domain within 6 weeks.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting at 8:51pm. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Cozine
Village Clerk