

**Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
September 12, 2023
Track #75**

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on September 12, 2023. Deputy Mayor Carro, Trustees Damm, Ryan, Village Attorney Ring, Treasurer Mequia, and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

The Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

There was not a quorum present to motion an approval for the August 2023 Board of Trustees minutes. Will do it next month.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Collected \$12,000 of taxes in arrears. Just mailed out the outstanding tax letters for September.
- Mailed out the sign permits.
- Will call the new tax program guy next week.
- With interest rates increasing, we should consider putting some of our saving into a CD to receive higher interest.

Deputy Mayor Carro made a **motion** to accept the treasurer's report as submitted and direct treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2200 totaling \$18,038.59. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

The meeting was open to the public.

Heather Sanderson – Expeditor who is representing 9 Branch. Asking for a little extension as the roof, siding, flooring and plumbing should be done by the end of the week. The cabinets should be done by the following week. The Board and Building Inspector Arico allowed a 30 day extension and Inspector Arico will come out for a final inspection. They emphasized that everything should be completed by then.

Dawn Viola – Representing Coldwell Banker, the sign out in front of their office no longer is working. Half of the letters don't light up and the neon lights can't be replaced because they are such old technology and cost prohibitive, so the sign company recommended to replace the whole sign. They want to go with "brand colors" which are blue, black white and off white. The Board told Ms. Viola that this would require a major change to the site plan because it doesn't comply with the color's red, white and green. Plus, Acadia would have to come in and present it to the Planning Board. Ms. Viola came back with pictures of the other shopping centers that have other colors than the red, white and blue allowed. Ms. Viola has spoken with Acadia, and they are ok with her using the Blue colored sign. Deputy Carro said he would speak to Jeremy over at Acadia and the Planning Board would need to decide.

Trustee Damm suggested to use the black and white colors and see if the rest of the Board when present agrees with that and if so then she wouldn't need to go to Planning Board and waste another month waiting for the meetings to take place.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- The snowplowing contract has not been received by the office yet. Mr. Ring asked if Trustee Botto could reach out to Triple J to remind him to sign it and send it back.
- Sent letter back to the auditors RS Abrams that needed signature.
- Brought the agreement from the Smithtown Fire Department for approval, but since Mayor and Trustee Botto weren't present the Board decided to hold off until they were together again to discuss. The contract went up 3%.
- There are advertising flags outside of the shopping center for Uncle G's (Now Hiring) and Carmelina's (pizza, pasta)

Deputy Mayor Carro made a **motion** to approve the Brothers Waste Services Inc. leaf and brush contract at \$3.35 /home. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro reported that:

- Justice Court – 11 no shows, 1 wanted a trial but we are going to dismiss because the lines weren't clearly painted in the parking lot.
- 3 places in the village that have darkness. Asked the lighting company to adjust the cobra heads at the Point of Woods entrance and thinks that will solve problem over there.
- Clearbrook is dark. There is a light on the opposite corner that belongs to Smithtown. It will cost \$1600 to put a new cobra head at the corner of Clearbrook/Mt. Pleasant Rd. Please take a drive and let me know what you all think.
- For the upcoming boy scout project, let's ask them to use plexiglass that doesn't allow paint on it to deter vandalism.

Special Use Permit – St Pats School- movie night – Sept 15, 2023 – Approved
SHS – Bridal Shower- March 10, 2024 - Approved

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan reported that:

- Working with Mayor Delaney on personnel stuff.

Building Inspector's Report

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

- Received \$3,250 income.
- 3 Permits, 3 CO's, 15 inspections

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto was not present to report:

Trustee Damm's Report

Trustee Damm reported that:

- The tree that fell across the stream is gone.
- There was also a shopping cart in the stream, which J Fuentes will remove in a day or two.
- Will have Fuentes check the road signs that have shrubbery around them and trim them up.

- Cresthill #14 had some overgrowth that was choking the stream and attracting mosquitos. Went to check it out and there was hardly any water flowing at all because there isn't any water flowing now.
- Inquired where we stand with the potential grant money?

Mayor Delaney Report

Mayor Delaney was not present to report:

Trustee Damm made a **motion** to close the meeting at 8:45pm. Deputy Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Cozine
Village Clerk