

**Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
January 14, 2025
Track #99**

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on January 14, 2025. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Carro, Botto, Ryan and Damm, Treasurer Mequia, Village Attorney Ring 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 approve January 7th, 2025, Board of Trustees work session minutes. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- We received Suffolk County Mortgage Tax check, which was higher than the previous check.
- 5 outstanding tax payments to date.
- 3 outstanding sign permits, which will now receive summons. Heard from the Post Office that they are exempt from paying the sign permit fee.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2216 totaling \$271,009.27. Trustee Ryan seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

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

Adam Ronkowski - 4th Precinct Liaison and resident of village; informed the Board that there was a robbery on 12/9/24 on Smithtown Blvd at the BP Gas Station. On 12/8/24 there was a posting by a Smithtown East teachers assistant who is being evaluated for mental health reasons. On 11/23/24 there was a stabbing at Smith Haven Mall, which was an isolated incident. They arrested a 15-year-old for this crime on 12/21/24. Mr. Ronkowski also mentioned that the police have had discussions about smoking pot while driving and not pulling people over per NYS guidelines. They currently have no test for THC. He also mentioned that murders and rapes are down in numbers.

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

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to go into executive session to discuss current litigation at 8:12pm. Trustee Ryan seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to come out of executive session at 8:26pm. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

No action was taken.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Local Law #3 of 2024 was filed with NYS on January 3, 2025.

Building Inspector Arico's Report

The Building Inspector was not present to report, but left the following info:

- Took in \$1,300.00 in income.
- Went on 19 inspections.
- Issued 2 permits and 1 CO's.
- Coldstone Ice-cream has a new franchise owner, moving forward.
- The pizzeria store is doing a black background for sign which was OK with Board.
- Buyer looking to buy 289 Middle Country Rd from Dr Zhilka

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan had nothing to report.

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro reported that:

- No Justice Court in December.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Stump on Terrace Lane is still there, asking Attorney Ring to craft a letter for the resident and have Engineer Falasco get a survey.

Trustee Damm's Report

Trustee Damm had nothing to report.

Mayor Delaney Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Asked the Board to start thinking about the upcoming budget.
- Going to tell the DOT that the Board agrees on option 2 for the light to be put up in the Historic Zone on the corner of Hemlock North.
- 39 Birchbrook – need to reach out to Acadia, Karen Sylvester and Inspector Arico and set up a meeting.
- Asked Clerk Cozine to reach out to the Head Injury Association to see if Liz Giordano is still in charge and if not, then who is.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to abolish registration day. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to identify the polling place as 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY and the hours of the election are 12-9 p.m. on March 18, 2025. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to appoint election inspectors Ellie Rowe and Eileen Bisel for March 18, 2025, election. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to advertise Local Law #1 2025 to pierce the tax cap in newspaper. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Special Use Permit

SHS – 3/30/2025 – Blue & Gold Ceremony- Boy Scouts – Approved.

SHS – 10/11/25- Birthday Party- Approved.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk