

**Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
November 12, 2024
Track #96&97**

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on November 12, 2024. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Carro, Ryan and Damm, Village Attorney Ring, Treasurer Mequia, Building Inspector Arico and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve the October 8th, 2024, Board of Trustees minutes. Trustee Damm seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve the November 5th, 2024, Board of Trustees work session minutes. Trustee Damm seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Only 6 outstanding tax bills
- Auditors will be here December 3
- Second noticed for the sign permits are due November 30, only 8 outstanding.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2214 totaling \$96,997.87. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Snow and Fire contracts need a motion to be approved.
- Stop sign assessment – remove it from the Code. Need a Public Hearing to do, then just need a motion to put them in. Mayor Delaney asked Attorney Ring to advertise for December meeting to remove stop sign verbiage and give to Clerk Cozine
- Going to reach out to Wade Beltramo at NYCOM regarding MS4 changes.
- Article 78

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve the snow contract with Triple J for 2024-25. Trustee Damm seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve the fire district contract with the Town of Smithtown for 2025. Trustee Damm seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to go into Executive Session at 7:48pm to discuss litigation. Trustee Carro seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Damm made a **motion** to come out of Executive Session at 7:54pm. Trustee Carro seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

No action was taken in the Executive Session.

Building Inspector Arico's Report

Building Inspector reported that:

- Took in \$3,514.00 in income.
- Went on 35 inspections.
- Issued 2 permits and 2 CO's.
- The Pizzeria obtained a new plumber.
- Uncle G's applied for refrigerator trucks for the Holiday season
- The possible new gym going into Uncle G's shopping center is still waiting BOH approval.
- Corner of Route 111/ Branchbrook (Monahan's House)

Meeting opened to the Public:

Dan Falasco – Village Engineer

Hailey Jackson – Islandwide Engineering- Informed the Board of the changes that have been made to the MM4 - The State mandate to keep the water clean. There is now more reporting and making sure the public is aware of what's been going on. The Bldg. dept has a responsibility to take inventory of all our construction sites (swmp form) For year 1 we are good, year 2,3,4 is more comprehensive. Mapping is a big component going forward. Our drains are on GIS, but we can't access it because we don't have the software. Mayor Delaney mentioned that the 3 Villages are looking to go in on a grant together since we are all in the same boat. Trustee Botto (Hwy Dept) has a responsibility to make sure drains are cleaned (once every 5 years) and roads swept. By year 3 we must have recharge basin on the map and when and how you clean them. Branch personnel will need to do training with the building inspector, engineer and DEC online classes.

The Village will also need to address 503-D Impaired waters which is phosphorus in the water which is what is in Millers Pond. We will need to get fliers out to the residents on what "not to do." We will also need to evaluate bird related pathogens and have dog waste receptacles.

Mayor Delaney also asked Engineer Falasco about FEMA funding. He said Nick Kefalos from the Town of Smithtown is handling our paperwork. Some examples are cleaning drains, scope the pipes, mitigation work and scraping sumps. Mayor Delaney also asked if we should be doing crack seal. Also asked Engineer Falasco what his take is on removable speed bumps, are they feasible? Mr. Falasco replied, plastic or composite, they are bumps and then who will be picking them up in the winter when the snowplows need to come?

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan had nothing to report.

Trustee Carro's Report

Trustee Carro had reported that:

- Justice Court update- 13 people on agenda – 1 were no show for 2x so found guilty by default, 8 no shows, 2 dismissed because issued on wrong ticket letterhead, 3 guilty reduced fine, 1 requested Trial. We are not going to put anything in our code for expired registration.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto was not present to report.

Trustee Damm's Report

Trustee Damm reported that:

- Perhaps move the Eagle Scout sign to the other side of the path.

Mayor Delaney Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- 7 terrace is dumping leaves into the Greenbelt. Will give Clerk Cozine working to put on letterhead.
- The DOT will be giving a redesign of the light post to keep in line with the Historic District.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to close the meeting at 9:02pm. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk