

**Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
December 10, 2024
Track #98**

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on December 10, 2024. Mayor Delaney, Trustees Carro, Botto, Ryan and Damm, Treasurer Mequia, Building Inspector Arico and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Mayor Delaney called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve the November 12th, 2024, Board of Trustees minutes. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Carro made a **motion** to approve the December 3rd, 2024, Board of Trustees work session minutes. Trustee Botto seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Meeting opened to the Public:

Adam Ronkowski- 4th Precinct Liaison and resident of village; informed Board that the Post Office is still dealing with people scamming the mail and whitewashing checks, so please be careful and mail any kind of checks inside not the outside box. Also, identity theft is still rampant in Kings Park and Smithtown so please be aware and use 2 factors authenticating. The tobacco stores are now selling marijuana out of the back of store. There is also a task force monitoring Jericho Tpke because there have been lots of accidents, drag racing and speeding. The police have also been on Mt. Pleasant giving warnings to residents to stop at stop signs.

James Ewart III – 9 Branch Dr He came in to let the Board know he is trying to get his finances in order and wanted to know if the Board would be forgiving on the penalty portion of his tickets. Would like a spreadsheet of all fines. Mayor Delaney said need to get the figures together after Christmas and would need to speak with the Village Attorney Ring about what kind of latitude we have and will get back to him in the new year.

** Joe Arico arrived 7:53pm

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- Auditors were here last week; they are finishing up in their office.
- 5 outstanding tax payments to date.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2215 totaling \$27,399.29. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring not present to report.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to open public Hearing for Local Law 3 of 2024- to remove section 260-3 stop intersections from the code in its entirety. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to approve Local Law #3 of 2024. Trustee Carro seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

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

Building Inspector Arico's Report

Building Inspector reported that:

- Took in \$1,400.00 in income.
- Went on 31 inspections.
- Issued 2 permits and 2 CO's.
- Met with gym people going into Uncle G's shopping center, BOH moving along.
- Coldstone pulled out
- Pizzeria store moving slow
- 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 had reported that:

- Justice Court update- 18 people on agenda – 6 were no show for 2x so found guilty by default, 5 no shows, 5 guilty reduced fine, 1 requested Trial and 1 Trial that reserved judgment.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto was reported that:

- Singer Lane will be held off until the Spring.
- Ordered reflective signs for Old Route 111

Trustee Damm's Report

Trustee Damm reported that:

- Locks are on the gates.
- Will deal with garbage pails by Uncle Giuseppe's path.

Mayor Delaney Report

Mayor Delaney reported that:

- Spoke to Senator Mattera, wants to do a photo opportunity with the new path and bridge. He will also speak to the DOT about the Historic District light at Hemlock Lane North.
- FEMA numbers are updated and handed in to Nick Kefalos.

Mayor Delaney made a **motion** to go into contract with Peconic Solutions, grant writer for \$3,500. Trustee Botto seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Special Use Permit

St. Patrick's School – 5/4/2025 – Car & Fishing Show - Approved

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to close the meeting at 8:33pm. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk