

**Village of The Branch – Board of Trustees Meeting
February 11, 2025
Track #100**

The monthly meeting of the Village of The Branch was held at 40 Route 111, Smithtown, NY, seven thirty p.m. on February 11, 2025. Deputy Mayor Carro, Trustees Botto and Damm, Treasurer Mequia, Village Attorney Ring and Village Clerk Cozine were present.

Deputy Mayor Carro called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to approve February 4th, 2025 Board of Trustees work session minutes. Trustee Damm seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to approve December 10th, 2024 Board of Trustees minutes. Trustee Damm seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to approve January 14th, 2025 Board of Trustees minutes. Trustee Damm seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mequia reported that:

- We received 1 outstanding tax payment, so now it is down to 4 outstanding.
- Received the final copy of the audited financial statements from May 2023-24.
- Received the assessment roll from the Town of Smithtown.
- Received a FOIL from Newsday for the request of the annual payroll and completed today.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted and direct the Treasurer to pay all the bills on Abstract #2217 totaling \$56,188.34. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to open the public hearing to pierce the property tax cap - Local Law #1 of 2025. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

At this time Deputy Mayor Carro read Local Law #1 of 2025:

Local Law No. 1 of the year 2025

Village of The Branch, County of Suffolk

A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Village of The Branch to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1st, 2025, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The City Council/Board of Trustees of the Village of The Branch, County of Suffolk, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1st, 2025, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

There was no public comment.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to close the public hearing. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to approve Local Law #1 of 2025. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Attorney Ring's Report

Attorney Ring reported that:

- Local Law #1 of 2025 has just been addressed and will file paperwork with the State of NY.
- There is a litigation conference on Feb 26th at 9:30am.

Building Inspector Arico's Report

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

- Took in \$14,243.00 in income.
- Went on 21 inspections.
- Issued 5 permits and 4 CO's.

Trustee Ryan's Report

Trustee Ryan was not present to report.

Deputy Mayor Carro's Report

Deputy Mayor Carro reported that:

- Justice Court was January 27th – 5 second timers that did not show, now are guilty by default and judgments being filed. 5 no show first timers being rescheduled for February court, 3 guilty with fine reduced, 2 cases requested trial, and 1 trial took place and Defendant was found guilty by Justice Campisi.
- Irene Kissane reached out receiving an absentee ballot for the upcoming election.

Trustee Botto's Report

Trustee Botto reported that:

- Snow plowing went well, except Joe Magliato's corner of the property will be fixed in Springtime.
- Spoke to Frank at the TOS about the signs for picking up after your dog for the Old Route 111 trail.

Trustee Damm's Report

Trustee Damm reported that:

- I am interested in attending the Storm Water Management Conference being offered in Suffolk County.

Mayor Delaney Report

Mayor Delaney was not present to report.

Trustee Botto made a **motion** to close the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Trustee Damm seconded the **motion** which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Cozine
Village Clerk