

10/7/2013 - Board of Trustees Meeting

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 7, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Inc. Village of Brightwaters was held on Monday, October 7, 2013 at 8:00 pm at Village Hall, 40 Seneca Dr., Brightwaters, NY, with the following officers present:

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Joseph A. McNulty | Mayor |
| Denise Gibson | Deputy Mayor/Trustee |
| John J. Riordan | Trustee |
| Joseph McDermott | Trustee |
| <i>John P. Finnerty, Esq.</i> | <i>Village Attorney</i> |

*Absent: John E. Lawlor, Trustee
Christine O’Shea, Village Clerk Treasurer*

At 8:05 pm, Mayor McNulty called the meeting to order followed by a salute to the flag. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mayor asked for a moment of silence for our men and women in the armed forces. A motion to approve the minutes of 7/17/13 and 9/3/13 was not made as some items were missing from the minutes. These minutes will be deferred to the next meeting. Tr. McDermott stated that when residents raise an issue or concern at a meeting, the Minutes should not refer to them as “complainers.”

Suffolk County Police Dept. Third Precinct

Police officer Circe was in attendance. He stated that a garage was broken into on North Windsor. “September has been quieter than usual. No street lighting at all”. Mr. Dahab said the village needs low diffusing lamps; regular lamps create shadows to hide in. No one stops at stop signs. Mr. Chiappetta stated that unreported incidents don’t help and he can’t see if things are better. Educate the citizens to report more. Mr. Dahab had his GPS stolen. Mrs. Bela asked about false alarm calls.

Trustee Reports

Administration

Tr. Gibson moved to approve accounts payable abstract reports. ~~~
Abstract report #3795 dated 10/4/13 with 49 vouchers for \$81,915.10 and checks will be dated 10/8/13.

I also move to approve the following abstracts that were generated during the month of September 2013.

APAR #3787 dated 9/5 with 17 vouchers for \$14,130.10
APAR #3788 dated 9/6 with 1 vouchers for \$30,789.00
APAR #3789 dated 9/11 with 4 vouchers for \$1845.97
APAR #3790 dated 9/13 with 1 vouchers for \$1,573.87

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APAR #3791 dated 9/18 with 2 vouchers for \$2,903.37
APAR #3792 dated 9/19 with 8 vouchers for \$2,855.29
APAR #3793 dated 9/19 with 1 vouchers for \$2,250.00
APAR#3794 dated 9/20 with 1 vouchers for \$192.94

Total 35 vouchers for \$56,539.84

Tr. Riordan asked about the two vouchers for Alpha Carting and requested an explanation for a down payment to Michael Errico, landscape architect for the business area.

Tr. Riordan seconded and all approved 4/0.

Tr. Riordan asked Tr. Gibson about financials sent to NYS Comptroller. Early report said surplus but later said deficit. He also asked the Mayor why he contracted with paving company without board approval. Mayor said he did because contractor was in a slow time, so he jumped on it to save money by booking it to 2013 budget. Tr. Gibson said it was the right thing to do under the circumstances and Tr. Riordan's way would have delayed the project. Tr. Riordan said such actions will hurt the village when it bonds to fix roads. Mr. Chiappetta said no debt = no fix roads. Mr. Kelly said to stop arguing and you should work this out ahead of time. Another resident criticized Tr. Riordan's demeanor. Ms. Manahan said he is just trying to get information nicely but without results. She also criticized Tr. Gibson by saying the front office girls said they would be okay with a time clock. Another resident said he doesn't want to hear screaming. Another resident said the No. Windsor Ave. paving money should have been used for paving residential streets.

Highway Dept.

Tr. Riordan read his report for this meeting.

Routine mowing and maintenance of village properties was done as needed as well as trimming and clean up around the lakes.

Regular vehicle maintenance was done as was the preparation of snow removal equipment for the upcoming winter months.

Leaf bags are in and residents may pick up their bags during normal business hours. The unlimited fall clean-up will begin October 28th for the north side of the village and October 29th for the south side.

Preparation for the annual garage sale on 10/5 at Wohseepee Park was done.

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The tree planting list has been finalized but the supplier doesn't have the trees that we wanted to plant. We are in the process of trying to find another supplier that would have the trees.

Pot holes were filled by our new asphalt transporter.

Southward Ho is taking care of tree problems along Woodland Court. Mennella is doing the work.

A bench was installed by the canal in memory of Dr. Stephan Grello. It was donated by the Bay Shore Lions Club.

Mums were planted in select garden spots around the Village.

Village Gardens is going to replant the planter boxes in the Business Dist. for the fall.

Mennella took down dangerous trees around the village.

Lakes & Parks

Tr. McDermott spoke about the Grello Memorial and dedication of the bench at the head of the harbor. The villages' annual garage sale was held on the 5th of October and was well attended. Tr. McDermott also stated that he would work on having the bathrooms at the cabin open for next years garage sale. "If anyone knows of any kids in need of service hours they could contact me." Pumpkin Run will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 and the Ragamuffin Parade will be held on Thursday, Oct. 31. The Walker Park beach walkway/plank will need a sponsor or sponsors. Tr. McDermott still wants a time clock and also wants to talk about term limits.

Treasurer Report @ 9/30/13

Tr. Gibson read the following report.

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|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Municipal checking:</i> | |
| General Fund | \$46,853 |
| Payroll Fund | \$574 |
| Trust & Agency Fund | \$-0- |
| Restoration Fund | \$3,285 |
| <i>Investments:</i> | |
| CLAS\$ General Fund | \$1,184,110 |
| CLAS\$ B.I.G. Fund | \$10,049 |
| Total Accounts Balance: | \$1,244,871 |

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Landscapers and Business Permits

Mayor stated that Tr. Lawlor asked that these permits be tabled to the mid month meeting. Tr. Gibson added that licenses and fees are being discussed and this would generate money for the village. She also stated that Tr. Lawlor is looking into the business permits. A resident said landscapers are lowest of the low and let's not add to their problems.

Tr. Riordan raised the issue of how many hours the Clerk puts in and felt that she should be following the Union Contract as to how time off may be taken. The Mayor responded that the Clerk is not part of the Union Contract and thus not bound by any of its terms. He further noted that the Contract is strictly used as a reference to establish the same benefits for the non-Union employees but doesn't make them a Union employee or Union member.

Tr. McDermott asked the mayor if he approves of the Clerk's working schedule and use of sick time when not sick, and the Mayor responded in the positive. Tr. McDermott claimed that the Clerk's schedule was "borderline criminal" and that the Clerk's working after hours to make up some time was not right, because the office isn't open and thus residents have no access to her.

Tr. Gibson noted that no one had ever brought up lack of access to the Clerk in any public meeting, while Tr. McDermott disagreed and claimed that it had been brought up. Tr. Gibson asked Tr. McDermott if it wasn't common for unions to require payment for unused sick days. Tr. McDermott responded that it happens only sometimes, and that doesn't get it in his present employment. Both Tr. Riordan and Tr. Mc Dermott said that they were not comfortable with the Clerk's schedule arrangements.

The discussion then segued into the Public Portion of the meeting.

Joan Manahan claimed that she had difficulty with the Clerk's not being present at Village Hall, after having been told by staff that only the Clerk herself handles the absentee ballots.

Kevin Kelly asked the Village Attorney if it was permissible for the Clerk's working situation to be discussed in a public meeting. Attorney Finnerty responded that as long as the Clerk's personal information, such as her SS #, etc. were not being revealed, her work schedule was a public issue.

Robert Fischer asked whether it was true that someone on the Board handed out employee time sheets to the public and which also

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included their SS #s. Tr. Riordan admitted that he had done so, including the SS #s having been viewable. Tr. Riordan wondered why the SS #s were on the time sheets in the first place.

Susan Bela raised various issues. She questioned why Mennella Landscaping always seems to get the Village's landscaping work. The Mayor responded that it was being discussed to charge landscapers per truck, and she wondered whether they have a license for handling pesticides. She also asked whether the Code requires business permits, and the Village Attorney responded in the positive. Finally, she asked that the Village paint the pole support on the NW corner of Wohseepee Park, which the Mayor then advised that same would be done.

Richard Dahab also raised numerous issues. He asked Tr. Riordan why the stop signs on LVE and LVW weren't striped and brush cut as promised. Tr. Riordan stated that the brush was cut but the striping wasn't done but that it would be. He also noted that despite his earlier requests, the poison ivy is still around the lakes, as are the lily pads, and that they will only get worse. He noted that the landscapers are starting too early and, if to be licensed, violators should have their licenses revoked. Once again he mentioned that the gas-operated leaf blowers are too loud and blow toxic substances around. They should be phased out in favor of electric ones. In addition, in his opinion the landscapers frequently block the roads with their trucks and equipment. Tr. Gibson asked Mr. Dahab if he uses a landscaper at home. He replied that he does but is contemplating firing him because of the blower noise. Finally, he recommended buying luminaire lights instead of buoy lights for the Village streets, so as save money.

Mrs. Kevin Kelly advised that Mennella starts work too early when removing trees. Tr. Gibson then advised that the homeowners should be talking to their contractors about starting too early.

Sandy Rising felt that the landscapers should learn how to mulch, and stop volcano mulching. Tr. Gibson responded that licensing landscapers will make it easier to educate them.

Joan Manahan advised the Village not to "nickel and dime" the landscapers. The fees will be a tax that never goes away.

Susan Bela felt the Orinoco Drive needs stop signs, and that the curb in front of the Post Office is "disgusting" and won't allow wheel chairs to use it. She also asked that the bulletin board there be regularly updated and the outdated notices removed. Finally she asked whether all of the private-property yard sales which popped up around the Village's yard sale at Wohseepee Park, had Village permits. The Mayor noted that many did not but the situation is very hard to regulate. Tr. McDermott

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questioned why Code Enforcement didn't enforce the Code during that event. A resident claimed that he called the Code Car about the illegal parking on Penataquit Drive during the event but that upon arrival the Code car took no action. Another resident was upset that he had to pay for his yard sale permit while his neighbors didn't bother to do so.

Carmine Chiappetta believed that recent budgets contained deficits will hurt the Village if it seeks bonding to repair the roads, to which the Mayor responded that there were no deficits. Carmine also noted that there is no need to license or regulate landscapers who do work on the Village trees, since the trees are owned by the Village.

Tr. Gibson advised the public that at some time in the future, the Village might consider putting a time limit on public comments at the meetings, as many other municipalities have done.

A resident advised that some landscaping equipment give off annoying fumes.

At 9:56 p.m. Tr. Gibson moved to adjourn, seconded by Mayor, and the meeting was adjourned on a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina O'Shea

Christine O'Shea
Village Clerk Treasurer

Public attendance: 19 (not everybody signed in).