

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017
(www.villageofmonroe.org)**

Due to a lack of quorum, the first monthly meeting of the Village of Monroe Board of Trustees slated for Thursday, November 9, 2017 (Tuesday, November 7, 2017 was Election Day) was rescheduled to Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Boardroom of the Village Hall, 7 Stage Road Monroe, New York. Mayor James Purcell called the meeting to order and led in the pledge to the flag. Emergency exits were announced.

Present: Mayor Purcell; Trustees Conklin, Behringer, and Chan
Also present: Village Clerk Baxter and Deputy Clerk Zahra
Absent: Attorney Bonacic

Trustee Dwyer arrived at 6:38 PM

MOMENT OF SILENCE – TRAGEDIES IN NYC, TEXAS AND CALIFORNIA:

Mayor Purcell and the Village Board expressed their sympathy to the family and friends affected by the recent attacks in New York City, Texas and California. A moment of silence followed.

MINUTE APPROVAL: MEETINGS OF OCTOBER 3rd AND OCTOBER 17th 2017:

On a motion by Trustee Conklin seconded by Trustee Chan, the Minutes of the October 3rd and October 17th Meeting were approved.

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer, and Chan
Nays: None

BUDGETARY TRANSFERS / MODIFICATIONS:

On a motion by Trustee Conklin seconded by Trustee Chan, with all in favor, it was:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees authorized the Treasurer to make the following fund transfers / modifications to balance the budget:

From:	Description	To:	Description	Amount
A.1990.450	Contingency	A.8025.410	Planning Board Genl Exp	77.00
A.1990.450	Contingency	A.8010.410	Zoning Board Genl Exp	115.20
A.9950.9600	Transfers Crane Park	A.7110.450	Parks Contracual	1,276.00

Budget Modifications

A.2115	Planning Board Fees	A.8025.450	Plan Bd Enginner Contract	7,465.03
A.2260	Police Services	A.3120.135	PD OT/Grants	1,980.99
A.2705	Gifts & Donations	A.3120.410	PD General Expense	500.00
A.3389	Other Public Safety	A.3120.260	React	6,414.75

RESIGNATION: ELIZA BERNARD P/T COURT CLERK:

On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Chan, it was:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Eliza Bernard, P/T Court Clerk effective October 18, 2017.

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer, and Chan
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULING – PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 158 OF THE VILLAGE CODE “RENTAL PROPERTY”:

On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Behringer, it was:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize a Public Hearing to be scheduled on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 6:30 PM, on a proposed Local Law entitled “A Local Law

Amending Chapter 158 (“RENTAL PROPERTY”) of the Code of the Village of Monroe to amend and appeal various language through the code as well as the addition of a new subsection.

A copy of the full text of this proposed Local Law is available in the Clerk’s Office.

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer, and Chan

Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULING – PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 185 OF THE VILLAGE CODE “TOWING”:

On a motion by Trustee Behringer, seconded by Trustee Conklin, it was:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize a Public Hearing to be scheduled on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 6:45 PM, on a proposed Local Law entitled “A Local Law Amending Chapter 185 (“Towing”) of the Code of the Village of Monroe as it relates to the towing and removal of disabled, abandoned and impounded vehicles in the Village of Monroe.

A copy of the full text of this proposed Local Law is available in the Clerk’s Office.

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer, and Chan

Nays: None

OFFICES TO BE FILLED @ MARCH 20, 2018 ELECTION:

On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Chan, with all in favor, it was:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees designate the following offices to be filled pursuant to Section 14-104, subdivision 3 (a) of the Election Law, at the Village Election to be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018:

**MAYOR – 4 YEAR TERM
TRUSTEE – 2 POSITIONS, 4 YEARS EACH**

LGRMIF GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION WORKSHOP 11/15/17, VILLAGE CLERK BAXTER:

On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Behringer, it was:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approved the attendance of Village Clerk Baxter to attend the one day workshop offered by NYS Archives and the NYS Local Records Advisory Council on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 from 10 AM – 1:00 PM at the Fishkill Town Hall in Fishkill, NY. The purpose of Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grants is to help local governments establish records management programs or develop new program components. The workshop will cover an overview of the eGrants system, which will allow the Village of Monroe to apply online for an LGRMIF grant as well as cover what is new with the grants program, provide tips on preparing an effective application, and describe the review process. The seminar is free and mileage reimbursement will be submitted on a voucher and charged to budget line A.1325.4720.

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer, and Chan

Nays: None

CERTIFICATION OF UNPAID VILLAGE TAXES:

The “Unpaid Village Tax Return” was certified by the Board of Trustees and submitted to Orange County Department of Finance in the amount of \$168,156.40.

SACRED HEART CHURCH ROSARY PROCESSION – FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:

Sacred Heart Church submitted an events application for their annual rosary procession in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM, contingent on their approval of the NYS DOT 33-B permit. The purpose of this event is to reach

the spiritual needs of the parish community in both English and Spanish. The following roads will be used: beginning at the Chapel on Stage Road, left on to Route 17M, right on to Still Road, finishing at Sacred Heart Church. Signoff was received from the Building Inspector and Police Administrative Sergeant Amatetti, and certificate of insurance was provided. On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Dwyer, it was:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees approved the request of Sacred Heart Church for their annual rosary in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM contingent upon receipt of approval of the NYS DOT 33-B permit.

Ayes: Trustees Conklin, Behringer, Dwyer and Chan

Nays: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: **# PRESENT 4** **TIME: 6:39 PM**

Resident John Karl expressed his appreciation to the Board for remediating the issue of the parking on sidewalks in front of Carpenter & Smith on Spring Street. He continued that there are still many other areas where cars are still parking on sidewalks that still need to be addressed.

Mr. Karl also expressed his displeasure and concern on what appears to be a boarding house at 26 Pearsall Drive. There are so many cars there that they are parking on the lawns. He continued that his development has been dying a slow death and it has seemed to have accelerated. Empty houses, unkempt lawns, something needs to be done. Mr. Karl stated that Trustee Dwyer had been over to the neighborhood recently and asked him what he thought. Trustee Dwyer stated that there were some issues. There are real estate signs in the Village's right of way, and the signage has been removed so it is only the steel framing left behind. Trustee Conklin asked if the for-sale signs were in the Village right-of-way and Mr. Karl responded that they are, that they are between the sidewalk and the curb. He continued that the signs are gone but the L frames are still there and that someone is going to get hurt on them. Mayor Purcell asked if anyone knew who the real estate companies were and Mr. Karl United Hudson and M&K Realty. Trustee Conklin interjected and said that the signs are being stolen, and Mayor Purcell commented that perhaps the Village could reach out to the relators. Mr. Karl continued that he and his neighbors are disgusted, there are absentee landlords and enforcement is needed.

Lastly, Mr. Karl commented on portable basketball post that are in the streets and inquired as to who assumes the liability should someone drive into one of those. Mr. Karl said it was a problem over on Bliss Terrace as he almost hit one in the dark that was out in the middle of the street. Mayor Purcell stated that would be a question for the Village Attorney to answer.

Resident Anthony Leone echoed what Mr. Karl said and the neighborhood is deteriorating quickly. Mr. Leone presented the Board with the Rental Registry from the Town on Clarkstown for the Board to review. He commented that there has been significant turnover in Wingate Woods and has spent some time discussing his concerns with Trustee Dwyer. Mr. Leone spoke specifically the pressure that is being putting on agents and brokers as well as the homeowners to adhere to the code to ensure these homes are registered as rental properties. Mr. Leone continued that the violation could a \$3,500.00 fine as well.

Mr. Leone stated that at least one third of the homes in Wingate Woods are either unoccupied or rented. He requested that the Board revisit its current vegetation code, Chapter 189, with the Village's code being grass 12 inches or higher, and that other municipalities have shorter codes for cutting grass. Mr. Leone stated that he has driven throughout his neighborhood and prepared a list of homes who grass exceed the vegetation code, and that even with the recent frost weighting it down, it would be even higher.

Mr. Leone also commented regarding a home which has a 2 car driveway, front to back, not side to side, and there are now 4 cars there, and now with the no parking after 10pm restriction, they are looking at 2 cars being parked on the lawn of the home. He stated that he also looked into the Village Code regarding parking restrictions and there is nothing in there about parking cars on lawns. He continued that he looked into the codes of other municipalities in Orange County and some do have codes in place to not allow this. Mr. Leone stated that the landscape of the community is changing and we should be looking at things like this. Of the 90 homes in Wingate Woods, 30 of them are vacant, sold or now being utilized as rentals and he hopes that the Board would consider doing something like the Town of Clarkstown put in to effect. Mr. Leone also suggested an additional meeting to review the other items he brought to the Boards attention like parking on lawns and the vegetation.

Resident Kristen Moehrle stated that she had concerns regarding 20 foot metallic poles that have been erected at 12, 14 & 16 Sutherland Drive. She indicated that she was worried about them toppling over in the wind and them acting as lighting rods. There are a lot of children in the neighborhood and they don't look safe. Mrs. Moehrle inquired if there was a code against them or if they were a violation. She continued that residents are not allowed to have fences higher than 8 feet and these don't look safe. Trustee Conklin asked what they were attached too. Mayor Purcell stated they were connected with fishing line and that they were Eruv lines, which mark boundaries, essentially extending their home and allow them to carry keys, walk on their property etc. during the Sabbath. He continued that these Eruv lines pertain to the Jewish faith and protected under the Federal Rluipa Law. Mayor Purcell stated that he would speak with the Building Department regarding it. He stated that he also believed that they may already be looking into it but would also contact the Village's land use Attorney to see if there was any Federal violation of the Rluipa Law.

Resident Tony Leone asked that although the Village does not have anything currently on the books about parking on lawns, is there anything that states you cannot park a car on the property line adjacent to another home. He continued that there is something that states you cannot install a fence so many feet close to the property line, what about cars. Trustee Conklin stated that a car isn't a permanent structure. Mayor Purcell commented that this isn't happening just in this neighborhood, it is happening all over. He continued that his own neighbors are having the same difficulties. Mayor Purcell stated that he will have the Building Department look into it, that it is a Building issue, not the Police Department.

Resident Mike Anderson inquired about the new construction on Orange Turnpike where all the trees have been cleared, he asked if the Board knew what was happening over there. Mayor Purcell stated that it was a mosque. Trustee Conklin also stated that it had been a Mosque for the past 2 to 5 years. Mr. Andersen asked if they were going to build a mosque on the property. Mayor Purcell clarified that they have been operating as a mosque there for the past two years and only recently cleared the trees and began backfilling. Mayor Purcell stated that this religious organization had been functioning above Sub-17 and moved out of there about two years ago.

Mr. Anderson also asked if the Board knew what was happening at the old Gulf station. Mayor Purcell stated that it will be a Cumberland Farms, and across the street will be a bank where Mr. Cone and the strip mall used to be.

Resident Ray Diliberto commented on what a wonderful job the Monroe Police Department was doing. He recently participated in the Civilian Police Academy and it was a fantastic experience. Mr. Diliberto questioned if there was a possibility that the Village of Monroe could establish some kind of auxiliary police department to add extra eyes and ears to some of these areas. He stated that he had mentioned it to Chief Conklin and he seemed interested. Mayor Purcell stated that the Chief never mentioned anything to the Board about it, but it would be something that would need to be reviewed not only by the Board and the Police Department, but by the Attorney as well. Mayor Purcell continued that he would have Trustee Dwyer as the Police Department liaison talk to the Chief about it. He is aware that the Chief wants more men and the Building Department needs more resources as well, it's getting busier everywhere. Trustee Conklin interjected that you don't need to be part of the Police Department to say something if you see something.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by Trustee Conklin, seconded by Trustee Chan, with all in favor, the meeting was closed at 7:02 PM. Following a 5-minute recess, the Board convened in Executive Session for discussion of Attorney Client.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann-Margret Baxter
Village Clerk