

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Mayor George Nikolados.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Mayor Nikolados-Present

Trustee Rue-Present

Trustee Massey-Present

Trustee Sabatino-Present

Trustee Banks-Present at 6:12pm

Also Present:

Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk

Michael Davidoff, Village Special Counsel

Chuck Brodowsky, Water Department

Jay Sherb, Highway Superintendent

Gary Lasher, Village Treasurer

Roy Richardson, Barton & Loguidice

Motion to accept the agenda with add-ons

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino to accept the agenda with the following two add-ons:

1. Discussion- Inadequate service provided by the Police Department
2. Resolution authorizing payment to Case Tires for tires for Truck#11 in the Sanitation Department from app#CL.8160.423 in the amount of \$2,716.24 from State Bid
3. Resolution authorizing payment to Town & Country Bridge and Rail for the Gipson Street Pipeline Project in the amount of \$33,046.40 from app#A.5110.235 from State Bid
4. Resolution increasing the Acting Justice Court Justice, Leo Glass', salary to \$25,000.00 until March 31st, 2022 for his additional duties
5. Resolution authorizing the Village Insurance company to take whatever steps necessary to settle the litigation imposed upon the Village by a former employee

Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Approval of the minutes from the October 6th, 2021 meeting

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino to approve the minutes. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law #7 of 2021 to amend Chapter 252, Vehicles and Traffic, section 18 of the Village Code, entitled, "All-Night parking" and section 19 of the Village Code, entitled, "Parking Prohibited at All Times in Certain Locations"

Mayor Nikolados explained that this Local Law is proposed because people are making it hard for the plow trucks in the winter time, along with the Emergency vehicles throughout the year to get down the Village streets. Many of the Village streets are narrow and it is hard to get cars through when cars are parked on the street. So, this law, if passed, will add the following streets to the rest in the Village Code, York Avenue, both sides, Lawrence Avenue, Lloyd Lane to Alva Lane and completely closing the one-way at 500 Broadway, next to Nelly's Restaurant. We are also changing the time for all night parking from 12am to 6am to 10pm to 6am.

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino to open the Public Hearing at 6:13pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

The floor was opened to the Public three (3) times and the following people spoke:

Gordon Jenkins-resident, for, but make sure that this gets enforced and cars are ticketed, should include all Village streets

Diana Curbelo-resident, for, thinks it's a step in the right direction

Ron Moss-resident-for, need to include all Village streets, issues on his street with residents double parking and garbage

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Rue to close the Public Hearing at 6:23pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law #8 of 2021 to amend Chapter 216, Storage and Collection Regulations, section 4 of the Village Code, entitled, "Rubbish" deleting the old language and adding new language

Mr. Davidoff informed the Public that this local law is being proposed because we are having a constant issue with contractors leaving all of their rubbish and garbage for the Village DPW to pick up after they complete jobs at residents home. It is the responsibility of the contractor to dispose of these items, not the Village, they are being paid to complete a job and this is part of the work, so the new language that will be in this law states the following:

The Village of Monticello Department of Public Works will pick up Rubbish, as defined as the following, leaves raked into piles and/or bags left at the curb, tree branches cut into 4ft bundles that are tied and broken or cut tree stumps, as a courtesy for private residences as time and weather permits. All commercial landscapers, contractors, hired workers, etc. are responsible for the dumping and removal of all rubbish accumulated from a job of a private residence. The DPW will

allow contractors and landscapers to dump any and all rubbish as defined between the hours of 7am and 2:30pm Monday-Friday at DeHoyos Park.

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Sabatino to open the Public Hearing at 6:24pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

The floor was opened to the Public three (3) times and the following people spoke:

Gordon Jenkins-resident, for, but the Village should make the contractors pay to dump, this way the Village makes money

Ron Moss-resident-for, Village keeps talking about the same thing for years, nothing changes, why is time being wasted on something like this

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue to close the Public Hearing at 6:31pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Discussion-Roy Richardson-Barton & Loguidice

Roy Richardson was present and stated that there are several good things happening in the Village. The Village and County was able to work together to get much needed repairs done on the Waverly Avenue Bridge, that work is slated to start early next year. The Village also received a grant for a new Water Department. That project we are looking to go out to bid next spring. That will alleviate some of the major issues that the Village is facing with brown water, pipe corrosion and so on.

In regards to the next item on the agenda, I understand that the tax payers are not happy about the increase in water and sewer rates, but it's necessary. The Village has taken on a lot of debt over the last years and it has to be paid back, although they received some grants from the State & USDA, some of those monies were also loans. When the Village got the grant for the water meters, part of that was a loan and that loan debt, the Village has been paying back on their own without increasing rates and now the Village is at a point where they can no longer do it on their own. To my understanding, rates have not been increase in 7 or 8 years and the cost of the new meters, should have went on to the taxpayers, but for whatever reason, it did not and now we are here. I do not believe that there needs to be a drastic increase, but there definitely has to be an increase. Right now, the Village is barely covering the cost of the new meters and there are still over 200 more that has to be purchased and installed, which the Village cannot afford right now, but once the new plant comes into play, everyone must have a new meter, a lot will be computerized and updated with remote access, so for these reasons just stated and for many more that I may not be aware of, the rates need to increase.

Mayor Nikolados stated that before he opens the Public Hearing he wants the Public to know that he's not happy about the increase, it affects him too, and he's a homeowner in the Village and will be paying these bills just like everyone else. This is something that's inevitable and if we do not do something now, the Village will go bankrupt.

Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law #9 of 2021 to amend Chapter A290 of the Village Code,

entitled, “Schedule of Fees” for the Increase in Quarterly Water & Sewer Rates in the Village of Monticello

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino to open the Public Hearing at 6:33pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

The floor was opened to the Public three (3) times and the following people spoke:

Ron Moss-resident, against, rates do not need to be doubled, water is poor now, brown, stinks, residents are not getting what they pay for and now it will be doubled

Trustee Banks-resident-for, doesn't feel rates should be doubled, but there definitely needs to be an increase to take some of the weight off the Village. Increased rates will help make some of the necessary improvements

Gordon Jenkins-resident, against, feels this is highway robbery, Village should be ashamed of themselves. What about those on fixed incomes and the less fortunate who struggle to pay bills now. This is wrong and it's not the residents fault if the Village doesn't know how to manage their finances

Dave Entwisle-resident, against, he can understand that rates need to change, but not doubled as the paper said. He like many others ae on a fixed income and can barely afford what he paying now

Trustee Rue-resident, against, stated that Board usually sits down and discusses things like this first before it is presented to the Public. The Board decides the increase in rates, no one else, this is wrong

Treasurer, Gary Lasher-resident, for, stated that the Village rate increase is something that he has to pay also. Rates haven't been increased in years and had they been increased in the previous years gradually, there wouldn't need to be such a big jump now

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue to close the Public Hearing at 6:50pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution adopting Local Law #7 of 2021 to amend Chapter 252, Vehicles and Traffic, section 18 of the Village Code, entitled, “All-Night Parking” and section 19 of the Village Code, entitled, “Parking Prohibited at All Times in Certain Locations”

A motion was made by Trustee Massey with a second by Trustee Banks to adopt Local Law #7 of 2021. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution adopting Local Law #8 of 2021 to amend Chapter 216, Storage and Collection Regulations, section 4 of the Village Code, entitled, “Rubbish” deleting the old language and adding new language

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue to adopt Local Law #8 of 2021. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution adopting Local Law #9 of 2021 to amend Chapter A290 of the Village Code, entitled, “Schedule of Fees” for the Increase in Quarterly Water & Sewer Rates in the Village of Monticello

A motion was made by Trustee Massey with a second by Trustee Massey to adopt Local Law #9 of 2021 increasing the quarterly water bill to \$82.28, quarterly sewer bill to \$69.91. Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

Mayor Nikolados-yea
Trustee Rue-nay
Trustee Massey-yea
Trustee Sabatino-yea
Trustee Banks-yea

Mayor/Manager Report

Mayor Nikolados appointed Peter Kunz to the Planning board as an Alternate member. He also gave updates on the Land Bank, houses will be going up on Park Avenue and High Street, and once the homes are sold to reputable people they will be back on the Village tax roll.

Building Department Report

No Report

Resolution authorizing the payment of the Village Bills in the amount of \$96,685.01

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue to pay the Village bills. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing the Correction of Errors by the Village Clerk regarding the 2021 Village Tax Roll for the Assessed Valuation in regards to the property exemptions for all of the properties currently owned by the Sullivan County Land Bank

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to The Reis Group Saugerties in the amount of \$8,238.41 annually for the Village’s Cyber Security Insurance

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution allowing Village employees who are members of the NYS Employee Retirement System to participate in the 41-j, which allows members to receive additional service credit for their unused & unpaid sick leave at the time of retirement. Cost of section 41-j, Employee Retirement System is \$4,425.00 valid until 3/31/22

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Banks.

Mr. Lasher explained to the Board that a lot of employees were asking about this and this will save the Village a lot of money from doing huge payouts when employees retire. Any unused & unpaid sick time can now be added to their retirement to given them additional service credit.

Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution allowing Village Police Officers Police who are members of the NYS Police & Fire Retirement System to participate in the 341-j, which allows members to receive additional service credit for their unused & unpaid sick leave at the time of retirement. Currently, there is not cost for 341-j, Police & Fire Retirement System

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Add-Ons:

Resolution authorizing payment to Case Tires for tires for Truck#11 in the Sanitation Department from app#CL.8160.423 in the amount of \$2,716.24 from State Bid

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing payment to Town & Country Bridge and Rail for the Gipson Street Pipeline Project in the amount of \$33,046.40 from app#A.5110.235 from State Bid

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution increasing the Acting Justice Court Justice, Leo Glass', salary to \$25,000.00 until March 31st, 2022 for his additional duties

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing the Village Insurance Company to take whatever steps necessary to settle the litigation imposed upon the Village by a former employee

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Discussion- Inadequate service provided by the Police Department- Trustee Banks stated that the Village Police Department needs to become more involved in the community and be more proactive with the situations that are taking place in the Village. We've had several murders, gang activity is out of control, and we have lost control of Monticello. Gangs have taken over streets and neighborhoods, people are afraid to leave and come to their homes, murders aren't being solved, overdoses are through the roof, the drug problem here is horrible and nothing is being done to rectify it.

Trustee Rue interjected that the Police Department is doing all that they can. Things take time, things have to be investigated, and things have to go to Court. It is a process that has to be followed. We should not even be discussing the Police Department without the Chief present, this is all wrong and we can get into a lot of trouble. Some things our Police Department can't handle and they have to involve other agencies like the State and DA office.

Trustee Banks stated that we cannot get into trouble, we are the Board and have the right to discuss any department we want to that in the Village. The Chief is not here, but the Lieutenant is and he can answer questions also, he's in charge if the Chief is not present. We have to find a way to handle what is going on in our community, we were elected for a reason, those that elected us, put trust in us that we will do the right thing and make better choices and changes for the better than those that were before us.

Trustee Rue stated that she was elected too, but you appoint people in positions to do certain jobs and we have to allow them to do the jobs we hire them for. We are not trained for the Police Department and should not be telling them how to do their jobs.

Trustee Banks asked the Lieutenant questions in regards to staffing and the number of men on the different shifts.

Lieutenant Goble responded that he can only schedule according to his roster, there are guys that are out due to injuries, vacation, sick days ect. He can't schedule who's not there and they do their best to make sure they have enough manpower per shift, but that's not always the case. They do the best they can with what they have.

Trustee Rue responded that these questions are for the Chief, not the Lieutenant and it is also personnel, which should not be discussed in Public.

Trustee Banks responded then we need to go into Executive Session.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Massey to go into Executive Session at 7:55pm for the following:

Personnel

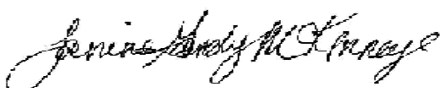
Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks to come out of Executive Session at 8:20pm. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Massey to close the meeting at 8:20pm. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk