

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF MONTICELLO, N.Y.
TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2004

MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Barnicle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Roll Call

Upon call of the roll, the following were:

Present:	Absent:
James Barnicle, Mayor	Scott Schoonmaker, Trustee
Ariel Escobar, Trustee	
Victor, Marinello, Jr. Trustee	
Brian VanDermark, Trustee	

Also Present: E. Danielle Jose, Village Attorney
Tim Havas, Deputy Village Attorney
Carl Houman, Director of Fire Services
Sue Flora, Code Enforcement Officer

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Barnicle asked for a moment of silence in memory of Diane Decker, wife of Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Officer Gobel's father, Irwin Siegel and Harriet Ledina, wife of County Court Judge Burton Ledina all who were long time members of the Monticello community who passed away recently.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2004 AND THE MINUTES SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2004

A motion was made by Trustee Marinello, seconded by Trustee Escobar, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to adopt the minutes of the Village Board regular meeting of June 21, 2004 and the Special Village Board meeting of June 28, 2004 as presented.

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OLD BUSINESS

Alternatives to the Landfill Committee

Mayor Barnicle announced that David Rosenberg has agreed to serve on the Alternative to the Landfill Committee being formed with the Town of Thompson. The Mayor also asked for more volunteers to serve on this committee which will be investigating handling of garbage in the next two years due to the anticipated closure of the Sullivan County Landfill.

Quadrant Report - Trustee Marinello

Trustee Marinello reported that as a result of complaints brought up during public comment at the June 21st Board meeting the grass has been mowed at the corner of Park Avenue and Cross Street. The morning after the last meeting he sent the Village Manager, a Police Officer and the Code Enforcement Officer to investigate the complaints regarding the condition of the structure and within two days the property was sold and the new owner is renovating the building.

Tractor Trailer Parking

Mayor Barnicle explained that a survey has been done of the number of tractor trailer cabs being parking in residential neighborhoods as a result of a complaint at the last meeting. The Mayor asked that the matter be put on the next agenda of the next Village Board meeting for further discussion. He noted that some of these vehicles are parked in locations that are not appropriate and then there are some that are parked on cement pads. He also noted that when driving around the Village he noticed the amount of cars and/or equipment that are parked on the lawns and he felt this must be discussed also as they lower the value of properties owners on that street.

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Neighborhood Facility Building

Mayor Barnicle reported that the Village is considering renaming the Neighborhood Facility Building the "Neighborhood Center" because it does house many activities such as the Ambulance Corp, seniors and expanding Youth activities.

RESOLUTION APPROVING INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE OF MONTICELLO AND THE TOWN OF THOMPSON FOR CONSOLIDATION OF THE GRANTS DEPARTMENTS OF BOTH MUNICIPALITIES

Discussion-Trustee VanDermark explained that his main concern is that the demographic area of the Village is maintained and the grant funds for the Village will only be distributed to Village residents for grants that are given only to the Village of Monticello. He also felt that this should be a two year agreement.

Mayor Barnicle explained that the Village did not have a Grant's Department and it was done piecemeal with many opportunities lost. He felt that because of the amount of grants that we do qualify for, the Village needs a full time department to administer them, inspect them and to follow up on them. He noted that Arlene Glass has years of experience and is qualified to write these grant applications, along with three other employees that work for the Village. He felt that Trustee VanDermark's concerns will be addressed. He noted that in the past the Village used and paid two grant companies to write and administer these grants. The Mayor noted that each time Camoin Associates "draw down" funds from the State they get an additional \$300.00.

Trustee VanDermark noted that Arlene Glass will not be working full time for both the Town and the Village.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 5-G of the General Municipal Law, the Village and Town are authorized to enter into a Municipal Cooperation Agreement with respect to the provision of consolidated grants administration services; and,

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WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello finds that it is in the best interest of the Village of Monticello to cooperate with the Town of Thompson to apply for, receive and disburse funds available to municipalities and to take such actions in cooperation with the Town of Thompson as may be necessary to participate in grants programs; and,

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the proposed cost of creating, maintaining and operating a satisfactory, fully functional Grants Department would be too costly to be carried on by either municipality on an individual basis; and,

WHEREAS, there is funding available to pay for the majority of the proposed grants department through grants administration fees.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello

1. That the Village of Monticello shall be and hereby is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Town of Thompson for the Village fiscal year 2004-05 and 2005-06 to consolidate the Grants Departments of the two municipalities, creating the full time position of Grants Administrator, Assistant Grants Administrator, and two part-time Grants Inspectors. The cost of the employees shall be paid from the administrative fees for grants actually received.
2. That this resolution shall be effective immediately.

A motion was made by Trustee Marinello, seconded by Trustee VanDermark, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to adopt the above resolution.

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DISCUSSION OF ADOPT A STREET PROGRAM

Mayor Barnicle was concerned that the "main drags" that are wooded such as Park Avenue, Osborne Street, High Street, Monticello Street, etc. are being neglected with people throwing trash onto the vacant lots on those streets and no one cleaning them up. He asked each Trustee to approach either businesses or individuals in their quadrants to ask if they would be willing to adopt these streets. He asked that the Trustees bring volunteers' names that are will to adopt a street to the next Board meeting.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Mayor explained that the State Comptroller who is auditing the Village's records advised him that the Village really has to concentrate on is economic development, in other words broaden the tax base. He explained that the Village is one catastrophe away from being in deep financial trouble. With all this in mind he felt it is time to establish an Economic Development Board, and recommended that Jeffry Sternberg, who has agreed to serve, be designated the Chairman of this Board. Other members named to this Board are Michael Levinson, Susan Laverty and William Rosenberg.

The Mayor asked that this Board begin by creating an informational package giving potential businesses easier access to what is available such as grants, loans, names of key Village department heads, phone numbers, etc.

Trustee Marinello asked that this Board look for businesses that pay taxes.

DISCUSSION OF REQUEST FROM ROBERT FRIEDLAND FOR REDUCTION OF WATER BILL

Mayor Barnicle referred to the letter the Mr. Friedland wrote requesting a reduction in his water bill because of the problems he is encountering with yellow water and having to run the water to clear the pipes. He explained that the Manager emailed him to ask that the matter be discussed this evening, but table any decision until a later date. The Mayor further explained that the Manager

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will be evaluating all utility accounts to see if they qualify for any type of reduction, or if they are being charged the proper amount for sanitation pickup.

Betty Friedland explained that at the direction of Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Clarence Decker those area residents were told to run their water. She indicated that she did not understand how the Board can sit there and know they have dirty water, especially after bringing in water samples, and not do something to relieve the situation. Ms. Friedland said she would gladly pay for what she uses if it clean and drinkable, however, three quarters of her water is just going down the drain and unusable. She felt that the Board is being very unfair to the residents that live in that section of the Village known as "Miller Hill".

The Mayor explained that he is not disagreeing; however, the Village wants to make all the adjustments at the same time, not individually and thereby establishing a consistent approach in how such problems are handled. The Mayor explained that the Village is looking for grants to remedy the situation such as a rechlorination station for a cost of approximately \$50,000 to \$70,000.

Trustee Escobar stated that he is very concerned, especially after seeing the water sample she brought in at the last Board meeting.

Betty Friedland noted that the Village Manager did not feel it was necessary to bring a water sample in to show the Board members just what she is encountering, but was glad she did so that the Board members better understanding the situation.

Trustee Marinello indicated that he too understands and is disturbed about this problem and will do what it takes to try to find a solution to the problem. He explained that he asked the Village Manager to have the water sample tested to find out exactly what was in the water.

The Village Attorney explained that the Village is waiting for the Water Superintendent to return from his bereavement leave and the proper water testing will be done using sterilized bottles.

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Bob Friedland explained that he has had to buy bottled water for drinking and cooking which costs him \$25.00 each time he needs a new container.

The Mayor explained that it will be discussed at the next meeting also when the Village Manager is present.

Trustee VanDermark noted that he lives in the same neighborhood and does not have this problem, so he was surprised when he did see the water sample. He now understands the problem and it is a high priority.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSAL TO NAME VILLAGE PROPERTY FOR DONORS

Tabled to the next meeting.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CHANGING BEDFORD AVENUE TO A TWO-WAY STREET AND PROHIBITING PARKING ON JONES STREET AND EAST BROADWAY

Bedford Avenue

Mayor Barnicle explained that since the Middle School is no longer using the building on St. John Street the Mayor suggested that Bedford Avenue be changed back to a two way street especially since there is less vehicular school bus traffic.

Trustee VanDermark was concerned that there are many children living on Bedford Avenue who are not accustomed to traffic coming from both directions.

Bob Friedland felt that the street is too narrow for two-way traffic especially when cars are allowed to park on the roadway.

Carl Houman, Director of Fire Services felt that Bedford Avenue is a very narrow street and he advised against making it two-way especially since it will be very difficult for fire apparatus to maneuver.

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Trustee Marinello questioned if law prevents vehicles parking on the sidewalk since he personally sees them parked that way.

Mayor Barnicle felt that after hearing all the comments Bedford Avenue should remain one-way.

Jones Street and East Broadway

Mayor Barnicle was concerned with vehicles parking and/or standing on Jones Street and East Broadway.

The Village Clerk advised him that presently the Village Code prohibits parking on these streets; however there is no signage so the law cannot be enforced.

**RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT TO
ADOPTION OF PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 9 OF 2004 WHICH WOULD
AMEND SECTION 252-20 OF THE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC CODE
PROHIBITING STANDING ON BOTH SIDES OF EAST BROADWAY AND
JONES STREET**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello has identified traffic hazards caused by standing automobiles on the North side of East Broadway from the Village line to Pleasant Street; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello has identified traffic hazards caused by standing automobiles on the South side of East Broadway from the Village line to Pleasant Street; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello has identified traffic hazards caused by standing automobiles on BOTH SIDES OF Jones Street over the entire length of the street; and,

WHEREAS, the traffic hazards referenced above have not adequately been addressed by the current parking prohibitions along the respective roadways, and;

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WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello has determined that prohibiting standing on the aforementioned sections of East Broadway and Jones Street is in the best interest of the Village of Monticello and its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello wishes to set a time and place for a public hearing with respect to proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2004 which would amend Section 252-20 of the Village Code by prohibiting standing on both sides of certain sections of East Broadway and the entire length of Jones Street, so that the public may be heard.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello with respect to the aforesaid proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2004 at 7:00 p.m. on July 19, 2004, at Village Hall, 2 Pleasant Street, Monticello, NY 12701; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause public notice of said hearing to be given as provided by law.

A motion was made by Trustee VanDermark, seconded by Trustee Marinello, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to adopt the above resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Racino Revenue

Harry Brantz was concerned that the Village is not receiving any revenue from the recently opened Racino at the Monticello Raceway even though it is located within the Village of Monticello.

Bank Street - No Parking

Harry Brantz felt that parking should be prohibited on Bank Street also.

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Speeding Vehicles

Harry Brantz noted that he tries to control speeding vehicles on High Street.

Broadway American Flags

Betty Friedland felt the American flags on the poles on Broadway look old and worn and not appropriate for display.

Mayor Barnicle explained that it is public comment not discussion, so after the meeting the Mayor will discuss her concerns with her.

Unpaved Parking Lots

Betty Friedland asked that the law be enforced requiring parking lots be paved for all locations, but in particular the Kosher Pizza Restaurant and Bakery on East Broadway. She felt that these two businesses are located on a main entrance to the Village and are creating a dusty, dirty appearance. She felt that seasonal businesses should be required to keep their premises clean.

The Mayor referred Ms. Friedland to the Code Enforcement Officer to further discuss this matter.

Truck Route Signs

Betty Friedland questioned the Truck Route Signs?

Mayor Barnicle explained that this is just a comment time and he has to be consistent that no responses be given during this part of the meeting.

Financial Conditions of the Village of Monticello

Betty Friedland questioned the Mayor as to the remark made earlier in this meeting about the poor financial condition of the Village according to the State Comptroller's Office.

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Mayor Barnicle responded that the Village is at "razor's edge", and we are very tight financially. The Village is just about at the constitutional tax limit and merging services is imperative at this time.

Betty Friedland felt that raises should not have been given to certain employees in light of the Village's financial condition.

The Village Attorney felt that discussing employee raises is a personnel issue that should not be discussed in public.

Condition of Traffic Sign

Janie Malman was concerned that a "One Way or Do Not Enter" sign has been spray painted with black paint so that it is unreadable.

The Mayor will direct the complaint to the DPW.

Adopt A Street Signs

Mayor Barnicle recommended that the Highway Department take down the Town of Thompson's Adopt A Street signs because the Village's Program supercedes it.

Code Enforcement

Rochelle Massey questioned when the unregistered vehicles will be removed from many locations?

Mayor Barnicle responded that once the Village hires an Assistant Code Enforcement Officer that department will be enforcing it.

Carmen Rue felt that the Village is not picking up the branches and brush that are being put out by the property owners and the Village is looking very dirty, as well as unlicensed vehicles not being removed. She felt there is no code enforcement being done.

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Code Enforcement Officer Sue Flora explained that violations have been sent out, and the property owner on Fisk Avenue had until this date to clean up the rubbish. She will be reinspecting the property tomorrow.

The Mayor noted that the Village Manager is working with the Village Attorney to try to shorten the time frame of when the violation is given and the fine and remedy has to occur.

Potholes

Jeffry Sternberg was concerned about potholes on the Village portion of the roadway on Crystal Street.

The Mayor noted that the complaint will be forwarded to the DPW.

Wall of Fame

Former Mayor Friedland questioned why the former Mayor's pictures were removed from the wall behind the Village Board's dais?

Mayor Barnicle explained that the alcove near the elevator will be known as the Hall of Fame and all the Mayor's pictures will be displayed in that location. He promised that they will up by the next Village Board meeting.

ORDERING BILLS PAID

Fiscal Year 2003/04

General Fund Claims #1120-1197 in the amount of \$161,863.03 said set forth in abstract A-21 dated July 6, 2004.

Water Fund Claims #289-314 in the amount of \$20,053.03 said set forth in abstract F-21 dated July 6, 2004.

Sewer Fund Claims #216-238 in the amount of \$60,130.09 said set forth in abstract G-21 dated July 6, 2004.

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Sanitation Fund Claims #65-69 in the amount of \$45,534.22 said set forth in abstract CL-21 dated July 6, 2004.

Capital Fund Claims #60-63 the amount of \$30,790.82 said set forth in abstract H-21 dated July 6, 2004.

Community Development Fund Claims 120-137 in the amount of \$60,058.20 said set forth in abstract CD-21 dated July 6, 2004.

Trust and Agency Fund Claims #108-114 in the amount of \$35,339.80 said set forth in Abstract TA-21 dated July 6, 2004.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:19 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Marinello, seconded by Mayor Barnicle, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to move into Executive Session to discuss sale of village owned property.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:28 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Marinello, seconded by Trustee Escobar, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to adjourn the Regular Village Board meeting.

EDITH SCHOP, Village Clerk

