

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF MONTICELLO, N.Y.
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2007

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:

James Barnicle, Mayor
Gordon Jenkins, Trustee
Victor, Marinello, Jr., Trustee
Scott Schoonmaker, Trustee
Brian VanDermark, Trustee

Also Present: Ray Nargizian, Village Manager
John Barbarite, Deputy Village Manager
Tim Havas, Deputy Village Attorney
Brenda Galligan, Treasurer
Douglas Solomon, Chief of Police
Alan Reynolds, Highway Superintendent
Bill Bertholf, Sewer Superintendent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES BOARD MEETINGS OF JUNE 18, 2007

A motion was made by Trustee VanDermark, seconded by Trustee Marinello, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to adopt the minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2007 as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Broadway Project

Mayor Barnicle reminded everyone that the Broadway Project will not begin until next spring when the bidding process will start.

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PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Mayor Barnicle presented Certificates of Appreciation on behalf of the Village Board to many volunteer groups that are community minded and have helped the Village in a variety of ways.

1. Brigade of Community Action-Cleaning the Village
2. Sullivan County Renaissance-Demolition of a Building
3. New Hope Community, Inc.-Donation of \$1,200 for flags and banners.
4. Trading Post-Donation of 22 American Flags.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Our Police force once again has out preformed previous year's statistics. It should be noted, though arrests have been record breaking, crime and its victims are lower than previous years. That is because we are arresting the trouble makers before they commit the crime.

Total arrests since the beginning of the year are 400.

Felony arrests since operation joint Impact Patrol began 72

160 drug related arrests

32 DWI arrests

113 arrests involving a suspended operator license or registration

84 arrests involving outstanding warrants

13 firearms have been removed from our streets.

Our building and code enforcement dept. once again went above and beyond the call of duty. June 29th we closed the building known as this building was closed for health reasons. Millions of bed bugs infested this site. Its time

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for slum landlords, flop house greedy building owners and the parasitic property owners who live off of the poor and offer them uninhabitable living conditions to move out of the Village of Monticello. I don't care if you wear a pair of jeans to work or a suit, if you offer substandard housing to our villagers you're a slum landlord and your not welcome in our village.

Well the Flags are up and Broadway has been decorated with hanging Flowers. Special thanks to: Cindy Deitchman from the Trading Post for donating 22 Flags. Special thanks to Dan Berkowitz from New Hope Community Inc. for donating 22 Flags, brackets and hanging flowers. Momentarily our Mayor and Board will honor them with Certificates of appreciation.

Special thanks to Sullivan County Renaissance for their assistance in removing the building at 22 Pleasant St.

After a lengthy interview process 2 men were selected as our new "grounds keepers". They are Clifford Manning and Fernando Retina. Clifford Manning has worked for the Village before and earned the respect of management and his co-workers; Fernando Retina is a part-time worker and has earned the right to become full-time. Village Management wishes both these men success in their new position.

Empire Resorts invited The Mayor, board members, Management and Dept. Heads to an informative, casual meet the CEO session. Chief Executive officer David Hanlon spoke about gaming and its positive effects on the Village.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Displaces Persons

Roz Sharoff questioned what happens to the residents of the homes that have been closed by the Village for unsafe conditions?

The Village Manager responded that many organizations such as the Federation of the Homeless, the Red Cross find rooms

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for these people, as well as the police department and the Sullivan County Social Services that have the task of finding rooms for these displaced persons.

Affordable Prices

Harry Brantz felt the Village should try to get merchants have affordable prices on items such as gasoline and groceries for the low income residents to be able to manage to pay for everyday purchases.

Employment Selection

Shawn Wiles, Monticello Raceway General Manager explained that the new Village employee just hired, Fernando Retana worked for him for approximately four years and found that he was an exceptional employee and named employee of the year in 2006.

Waverly Avenue Drainage and Trash Removal

Carmen Rue was concerned about the deplorable, dirty conditions in front of Fialkoff's and on Waverly Avenue and Broadway last Saturday with old booklets discarded on the ground and the dumpsters overflowing. She felt the property owner should be ticketed whenever these conditions exist especially since this is a major roadway into the Village from the east.

Carmen Rue speaking for the owner of 21 Bennett Street was concerned about the drainage problems not being corrected at that location and because they are not being corrected it is causing damage to the homeowner's driveway.

Employment Selection

Carmen Rue felt that the Village should employ American citizens. She indicated that she is being blamed for someone who is Hispanic getting the job when she had no input in the selection and does not know this individual and feels the job should have been offered to citizens of this country.

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Betty Friedland questioned why at least one of these new employees did not have a CDL license and since these employees are being assigned to the Sanitation Department it would be beneficial for them to have that grade of license to fill in, if necessary, when a driver is needed.

Safety Conditions in the Atwell Lane Neighborhood

Betty Friedland explained that she has spoken to the Superintendent of the Monticello Central Schools and the Chief of Police regarding problems with speeding cars on Atwell Lane and possible drug use and sales on and near the Rutherford Elementary School grounds. The Superintendent of Schools assured her that fences would be installed around the school grounds this fall, but this will not solve the total problem. She felt the taxpayers in that neighborhood are not about to put up with these conditions and they are presently living in fear with houses being cased with strangers knocking on the door to use their bathroom or telephone. She asked that something be done about these conditions.

Recycling Program

Betty Friedland questioned what is being done about enforcing the recycling laws, since it appears that the summer residents are not obeying the summer recycling laws. She felt that the recycling laws should be strictly enforced since not recycling is taking the money and throwing it into the garbage. She felt that the Village of Liberty is recycling up to 80%, so the Village should be able to do the same since these new employees were supposed to be assigned to recycling patrol.

Budget Calculations

Betty Friedland questioned how the Village came up with the 2% decrease in taxes since she felt it should have been reduced more with the fire department no longer part of the budget, as well as an additional amount of approximately \$550,000 from the State from the gaming proceeds which be about \$1,000,000. She questioned where this money is included in the budget.

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The Mayor indicated that the Village Treasurer will answer these questions when the Board is voting on the budget.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF MONTICELLO (2) A SUMMARY OF THE ENTIRE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE 2007/08 FISCAL YEAR (3) SANITATION RATES AND (4) SETTING WATER RATES FOR THE 2007/08 FISCAL YEAR

The Village Treasurer explained that she has made no changes since the public hearing. She indicated the Village did receive \$552,000 from the State for the Racino which leaves the Village over at least \$200,000 from last year. The State Audit & Control has allowed her to apply \$330,000 toward the tax levy for this year, and she further explained that health insurance and workman's compensation have increased substantially. The Treasurer indicated that between the sewer and the general fund the rate will be about a 2% decrease. She explained that the fire department decrease was only the Village's portion which amounted to \$150,000

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello has held a work session and a public hearing on the 2007/08 General Village Budget; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello has also held a public hearing on setting water rates for the 2007/08 fiscal year in order to maintain the Water Treatment Plant as follows:

\$3.30 per 100 cubic feet
\$6.60 per 100 cubic feet (Outside)

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello does hereby adopt the General Government budget, Sanitation Budget and rates for the Village of Monticello and does hereby set the water rates for the 2007/08 Fiscal Year.

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

