

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

6:00 p.m.

**Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Mayor George Nikolados.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Roll Call**

Mayor Nikolados-Present  
Trustee Sabatino-Present

Trustee Rue-Present  
Trustee Banks-Present

Trustee Massey-Present

**Also Present:**

Michael Davidoff, Special Counsel  
Richard S. Baum, Deputy Special Counsel  
Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk  
Jay Sherb, DPW Superintendent  
Gary Lasher, Village Treasurer  
Chuck Brodowsky, Water Department  
BJ Gettel, Building Department  
Rich Manley, Building Department

**Executive Order Compliance:**

Mayor Nikolados acknowledged that we are compliant with all Covid-19 Health Pandemic regulations and Executive orders issued by the Governor of NYS in respect to conducting this Village Board Meeting via Video Conferencing with the Zoom App.

**Motion to accept the agenda**

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

**Approval of minutes from the February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Emergency Meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Sabatino. Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

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

### **Mayor/Manager Report**

Congratulated Ashley Gettle on completing her certification for Code Enforcement Officer. He also stated that he is finishing up the information for the Police Reform and will be setting up forums for the Public to comment and have discussions.

### **Building Department Report**

<b>February</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Permits Issued</b>	6	11	-45%
Income	\$7,040.00	\$28,365.00	-75%
Valuation of Construction	\$249,300.00	\$2,139,500.00	-88%
Certificate of Occupancy or Compliance	4	2	100%
Open Permits Unpaid	92	96	-4%
<b>Complaints Module</b>	54	5	980%
Violations Pd	\$555.00	\$750.00	-26%
<b>Municipal Search</b>	13	24	-46%
Municipal Search Pd	\$1,350.00	\$1,840.00	-27%
Total Income			
Complaints Unpaid	\$1,905.00	\$2,590.00	-26%
Open complaints	\$26,348.04		
Closed Complaints	328	229	43%
	11	31	-65%
<b>Fire Safety Inspections</b>			
Completed	73	29	152%
Income Unpaid	\$7,470.24	\$9,510.00	-21%
	\$4,893.92		
<b>Income</b>			
Total Income	\$16,415.24	\$32,730.00	-50%
<b>Unpaid</b>			
Total Unpaid	\$31,241.96	\$57,965.00	-46%

### **Resolution authorizing the payment of bills**

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Sabatino. Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

Mayor Nikolados-yea

Trustee Rue-abstain, again the bill pay was just given and there was no time to review, I don't know what's being paid  
Trustee Massey-nay  
Trustee Sabatino-yea  
Trustee Banks-yea

**Continuation of Discussion-Resolution setting a Public Hearing date to adopt a Proposed Local Law #2 of 2021, entitled, "Zoning Change for the area located at Fraser Avenue headed towards Rock Ridge Avenue and the Northern portion of Starr Avenue from R1 to RM" for Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm**

Mayor Nikolados asked trustee Massey if she had any other issues with this Public Hearing.

Trustee Massey responded that she doesn't agree with this and feels that the Village is being taken over by these RM zones, we are completely losing the Village and no one is trying to stop it. I understand that we need the revenue, but there has to be another way. I really hope the Public comes out and speaks against this because we are losing our single family homes and zones and that was one of the main things that I was trying to stop and I thought it was one of the goals of the re-zoning a few years ago to preserve that, no every time you look up, someone is before us trying to change the Zone, so what was the reason for all the re-zoning then, I don't understand it. Everything is so backwards here.

**Resolution setting a Public Hearing date to adopt proposed Local Law #4 of 2021 to amend Chapter 252 entitled, "Vehicle and Traffic of the Village of Monticello" for Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00pm**

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Rue to discuss.

Trustee Rue stated that she spoke with the Police Chief and he stated that he knew nothing about this and is not clear why this is before the Board. She stated that we already have a law on the books that is being followed. She asked who put this before the Board. Trustee Rue stated that the Village Board is the government here, not the department heads and contractors, what is going on here, everybody is telling us, the Government, what to do and this is wrong.

Mr. Davidoff, the Village Attorney, responded that this came as a request from the Highway Superintendent and Building Department and all he did was write up their request.

BJ Gettle from the Building Department, responded that there is a continued issue on certain streets in the Village, namely Waverly Avenue, and the plow trucks cannot get through to plow due to the cars being parked overnight, it's a safety hazard and the Police Chief is aware of this because the issue has been discussed with him and the Police Department has been involved, so this is nothing new to anyone.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

Mayor Nikolados-yea  
Trustee Rue-abstain  
Trustee Massey-yea  
Trustee Sabatino-yea

Trustee Banks-yea

**Resolution authorizing the Village to Proclaim the month of March as Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

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

**Public Hearing-CDBG Grant**

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Banks to open the Public Hearing at 6:29pm. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

Roy Richardson from Barton & Loguidice was present and stated that the Village is eligible for multiple rounds of the CDBG and this is the first round that we are applying for. The great thing is, it's all non-matching funds, so the Village will not have any financial obligations to meet.

Trustee Rue stated that the Village has applied for the CDBG before and didn't get it and that she is hopeful that this time we will get awarded some of the money because we really need it.

Richard Baum, the Deputy Village Attorney, stated that this is a Type II action and it does not require SEQR.

The floor was opened to the Public three (3) times and no one spoke.

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Rue to close the Public Hearing at 6:36pm. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

**CDBG Grant**

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Rue for Barton & Loguidice to submit an application on behalf of the Village for the CDBG Grant. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

**Board Comments**

Trustee Massey stated that she is very upset with the way that the Village is currently being ran, so she is resigning as the Deputy Village Mayor. She stated to the Mayor that there is a huge lack of communication and there are too many secret things going on. George, as the manager, you have to communicate with the Board. By law you have report to us and let us know everything that is going on in the Village, you are hiring people, firing people, doing whatever you want and we are hearing it out in the street and we are the ones that are supposed to be responsible for this government, and no one has a clue what is going on but you and you're wrong. She stated that there was an employee whose vehicle was hit by a Village vehicle and it never went to the insurance and that is wrong. The bill was over procurement and the Board knew nothing about it. Don't we keep getting in trouble by the Auditors for not following procurement? Did the employee driving the Village vehicle go for a drug test? Where were the quotes? Then on top of it, we paid for the employee's rental car and that bill was crazy and also over procurement. Nothing never came before the Board. Checks have been mailed and everything has been paid, all under the nose of the Board, what's the cover up? When former Treasurer, Heather Berg's windshield got broken by a

rock from them weed-whacking, it went through the Village insurance and the employee had to leave the job and go for a drug test, so what's the difference now? Michael Davidoff, please tell them that that claim should've been filed with the insurance and came before the Board and they were wrong for doing it the way they did.

Mr. Davidoff responded that he has no clue what she is talking about and he would have to look into it.

Trustee Banks interjected and stated that Heather's windshield was repaired the same day and the Village cut her a check.

Village Clerk, Janine Gandy-McKinney responded, yes Trustee Banks, the Village did, but I still put the claim through the insurance and we were reimbursed by them.

Trustee Rue responded that Janine is correct because we discussed it in Executive Session and came out and voted on it and the employee operating the weed-whacker was drug tested.

Trustee Massey continued, you've been having all of these zoom meetings for the Police Reform and none of us have been involved or on them, now you're talking about you're going to let us know what's going on and you need us now, we should've been a part of it from the beginning. It's a shame what's going on here in this Village and you are responsible for it. Employees telling their supervisors what to do, there's no accountability and the list goes on. You keep having all of these meetings with the County and as your deputy, I don't even know about none of this. But then when you want to get all of the blacks and minorities, you want my help and you should be ashamed of yourself, because you are wrong.

Mayor Nikolados stated that there's been a lot going on and he's been trying to put out fires. As far as the employee's vehicle being hit, it was a morning that he happened to be in the garage, it happened at 7:30am and he saw the whole thing and it was extensive damage and they were advised not to submit it to the insurance because we are already hard to insure by the Auditors. He also stated that three quotes are no longer needed and that the employee took his vehicle to a place that he trusted to get repaired, which everyone is entitled to do. In regards to the Police Reform, he stated that he was going to give the Board a full report Executive Session because there are some personnel concerns that cannot be discussed in Public. He stated that there are no secrets, he stated that he's been going to the County to try to get the Village some help, but the County needs help themselves, so there's nothing to tell.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Banks to go into Executive Session at 6:59pm for the following:

#### Personnel & Possible Litigation

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

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino to come out of Executive Session at 7:42pm. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

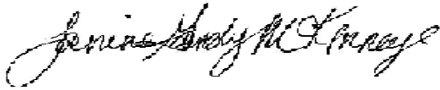
Employee Over-Time

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue rescinding any and all resolution passed paying any and all employees overtime. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino to close the meeting at 7:43pm. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

Submitted by:



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Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk