

Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, March 30th, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm by Mayor George Nikolados.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Mayor Nikolados-Present
Trustee Sabatino-Absent

Trustee Rue-Present
Trustee Banks-Present

Trustee Massey-Absent

Also Present:

Michael Davidoff, Special Counsel
Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk
Jay Sherb, DPW Superintendent
Gary Lasher, Village Treasurer
BJ Gettel, 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 Rue to accept the agenda. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Approval of minutes from the March 17th, 2021 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Rue to approve the minutes with a change on Page 3. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing the payment of the Village bills in the amount of \$220,082.91

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 Lease Purchase of a 2021 Peterbilt 348w/25yd Loadmaster Excel-S 25yd body Garbage Truck in the amount of \$192,281.00 for the Sanitation Department.

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

Trustee Rue asked if this was three quotes.

The DPW Superintendent, Jay Sherb, stated that this was the best quote that they could find. If the Village wants to go with something cheaper, they will end up with repairs or in need of another truck in less than 5 years, these trucks that are built today have a much lighter body, we would need to get something actually built to accommodate us because the current truck that needs repairs has a heavier GVW truck and they are only selling light weight body's now, so not matter what, at some point, repairs will be needed and again we still won't have a fully working truck. We were trying to save money and get some mileage and use out of the engine we just put in last year, but it's not worth it. We got a full factory warranty on everything.

Trustee Rue asked, how will we pay for it, because it was not budgeted for

Mayor Nikolados stated that it's the same price we paid for the other one without waiting for the six months for it to be built and no it was not in the budget, but with the increase in the Sanitation that just took place, we are going to have more than enough money to pay for it. We have doubled our money just in this last billing quarter alone through that Sanitation audit, so even though it was not budgeted for, it is an emergency purchase and we can pay for it.

The Village Treasurer, Mr. Lasher stated that the Mayor is correct, we collected a lot more money in this one billing cycle than previous ones and it will not affect this budget anyway, so we will have more than enough money, because we still have another billing in this fiscal year.

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

Resolution authorizing the Adoption of the Villages Emergency Management Plan

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

Mayor Nikolados stated that this was another Executive Order that was handed down from the Governors' Office. This plan is just a simple layout of the way the Village will respond in light of another emergency or pandemic situation, hopefully this one will end soon, and we can go back to normalcy, but until that time and if there is another one, we have a layout in place.

Trustee Rue stated that the Village needs to keep a record of all of our losses because they can all be claimed and reported to the State and we can be reimbursed for it.

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

Resolution authorizing the approval and ratification of the attached policy relative to the NYS Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative in the Village of Monticello

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

The Village Clerk, Mrs. McKinney read a comment from Trustee Massey:

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. quoted, "The time is always right to do what is right."

He also quoted, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

It matters to me about the Police Reform and to make sure that we get it right. I am not

understanding why it is so difficult to do. Yes, I understand. The real truth is that our so called leaders don't want to so any kind of reform. They are more afraid of losing their state aid and if the reform is not adopted by the deadline date of April 1st.

Years back the "so-called leaders" complained about the Police Commission that was created from past board members. The "so-called leaders" hated that it was created so, the "so-called leaders" who are creating these reforms abolished the commission in 2013.

Ms. Elaine Williams was correct when she stated at the Legislative meeting that there was limited public outreach. She also stated that the reform doesn't speak anything towards people of color. I am a black business owner that have been in business for 34 years, so why didn't the Undersheriff, Eric Chaboty, visit my business? How many black business owners did he visit in the Village of Monticello, or the County? Survey, what survey? I never got a survey, forget a phone call. Our Mayor, George Nikolados, did the same, didn't share with the Village Board the reform until the last minute, like everyone else. In the meantime who suffers, our residents, my nephew, my cousins, my friends, their children, **BLACK MALES SUFFER!** Our budget is 78% for the Police Officers, fair, **ABSOLUTELY NOT!** The report does not mention anything for our residents, specifically for our youth, they are our future.

Our Prosecutor helped write the reforms, a joke! Our prosecutors are in a building that cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, but still no mention of people of color in the report, no youth center for our kids. Let's not forget the 110million dollar jail that was built, but no money invested in our kids; a jail makes money, so do they really want a reform?

We all know that racism, and injustice exist in this country or maybe our so-called leaders don't know that racism and injustice exist, because if they did, they would have done a better job on the reform. Former President Barak Obama instituted reforms that were rolled back by our prior President, but they included some of the following:

1. Have more Civil Rights investigations in Police Departments
2. Launch Community Policing and alternatives to incarceration
3. Launch a Pilot Program to track Police Use of Force nationwide
4. Commissioned a Task Force on Police Reform

And here we are today, working on Police Reform.

I'll end with two other great quotes from the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" and "Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream"

Sincerely,
Trustee Rochelle Massey

Mayor Nikolados stated that he disagrees with some of the comments made by Trustee Massey, but she entitled to her opinion, I am pleased with our Police Department and our Department was the most diverse contrary to the information that was put out by the Sheriff Departments PBA who has a 20% diversity rate of minorities, when it comes to diversity and community relations, our department far exceeds all of the other local municipalities around us. Growing up, going to school and living in the Village of Monticello, I believe most of the stuff in the reform besides the training and minor changes, most of this stuff, we were already doing, we have a presence in the schools,

the focus of this Executive Order is Community Policing, so we are going to have our newer officers come in and meet the Community, spend time with certain Stakeholders in the community and get to know them as well as get the training. Chief, I want to thank you for all of your time on this and I think our department was head and shoulders above all of the others when it comes to this and I think we are moving forward in the right direction.

Chief Mir stated that our department already had a lot of these policies in place and were moving forward on them when this Executive Order came out. Thankfully, we don't have the problems that other communities and cities face, we don't serve the mass of people that others serve, we are the same 24 officers here day in and day out dealing with the same number of people, so everyone knows each other, which makes our community relations easier. As the Mayor said, we are the most diverse department, we have a 50% diversity rate, which is highest right now locally and we want to continue to hire locally and have a department that reflects our community.

Trustee Rue commented that she agrees with the Chief, our department doesn't have the issues that other departments face. She stated that Eric Chaboty did reach out to her and they did discuss a few things, but she did not complete a survey. She stated that her only issue was that there was no communication and she agrees with Trustee Massey on that point. She stated that the Board's first seeing of this information was last week when it was given to them from the Mayor to review. There was no publication of community forums or meetings and even though she knows that she knows that the Board could not be there, she could have recused herself and sat as a Community member and at least listened to the discussion or the ideas, but other than that, she thinks that we have a very diverse and good police department. If we do not have a Police department, we will lose a lot of our State Aid, and they respond quickly to issues when called within 5 minutes, if not we'd have to wait an hour. Rochelle and myself all of us are elected officers of the Village and we have an opinion and we are entitled to that opinion and it's not right or wrong, it's just our opinion and if she wants to be in the minutes, that's her right to request that. I do not agree with all of the reforms, but again, that is my opinion, I have a good relationship with all of the officers.

Trustee Sabatino responded that he has an issue on his street a while back and he called the Police and everyone showed up within minutes along with the Sheriff and State, everyone was nice and respectable and handled the issue properly.

Trustee Banks responded that he is a black man that has basically lived this community for a number of years and has grown up in this County most of his life and he's never had a problem with the police unless he did something wrong. Monticello PD are very fair when it comes to situations, they assess the situations and make the proper and fair judgments and I just have no qualms with our department. I be in Evergreen a lot playing ball with the kids and they do stop in and try to talk to the kids, some talk and some are reluctant due to the trust thing, but they at least try. As far as the Committee Meetings, I talk to George regularly and the meetings were all posted and public, there were times when we went to the Ted Stroebele and we were all there and I think the Trustees should be more informed before they make a statement or a decision. He stated that he does not agree with Trustee Massey and he understands that's her opinion, but she should've been present to speak up for herself, some parts of it are good, but I don't agree with the majority of it.

Attorney, Michael Davidoff, stated that everyone is entitled to their own opinions as individuals, but this has to be passed by the Board today in whatever form you choose. You can always keep working on it after the fact and you shouldn't stop working on it until you get it to where you can all agree on it, but if you do not pass this and have it up to Albany by April first, you will lose your state aide and right now, we can't afford to lose that.

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

Executive Session

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue to go into Executive Session at 4:34pm for the following:

Possible Litigation

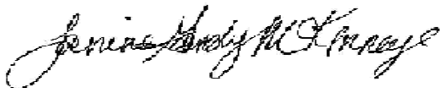
Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Banks to come out of Executive Session at 4:45pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue to close the meeting at 4:45pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk