

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, November 1st, 2023

6:00 pm

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Nikolados.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Mayor Nikolados-Present

Trustee Rue-Present

Trustee Banks-Present

Trustee Massey-Present

Trustee Jenkins-Present

Also Present:

Antoinette Williams-Village Attorney

Gary Lasher-Village Treasurer

Rudolph (Chuck) Brodowsky-Water Superintendent

Motion to accept the agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Banks with a second by Trustee Rue to accept the agenda with one (1) add-on:

1. Resolution accepting and authorizing payment for the renewal of the Village of Monticello's Cyber Security Insurance Proposal in the amount of \$11,968.00 for the period of November 1, 2023-November 1, 2024

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

Approval of Minutes from the October 18th, 2023 Regular Meeting & October 24th, 2023 Special Meeting

October 18th, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

Mayor Nikolados-abstain

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Banks-yea

Trustee Massey-yea

Trustee Jenkins-yea

October 24th, 2023 Special Meeting

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

Mayor Nikolados-yea

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Banks-yea

Trustee Massey-abstain

Trustee Jenkins-nay

Mayor/Manager Report

Mayor Nikolados reported that Julio Mangual has been promoted to the position of DPW Forman and will be given the increase as per the CBA.

Discussion-Constable for the Justice Court

Trustee Banks stated that as he has previously said, in his opinion, there is definitely more assistance needed at the Court. He has gone and observed a few of the proceedings and he stated that things get very hairy there, although there is one Sheriff present along with our Police Officer, there is a lot of activity and things get out of control quick. I did speak with the Clerk's that work in the Court and they stated that they would feel more comfortable with our officers because they are familiar with our community and it's only for one hour, twice a month.

Trustee Jenkins stated that just as he mentioned last meeting also, the Court is a waste of money and time and needs to be dissolved. When COVID hit, we didn't have a court and everything was done at the Town of Thompson, why can that be done now? We will save ourselves so much money and time, because if we dissolve the Court, all expenses are on the Town and not us. We need our Officer's out on the street, not standing in a court room. We need to hire a constable and give him peace officer status. We are the Board, we make the decisions, not some Clerks sitting in an office. What are we doing here, now we listen to the employees, then what are we here for? The Sheriff is there and they are here to keep control of their prisoner's, that's why they are cuffed and shackled. The only thing they can do is speak, but they can run or do anything else. The Sheriff has the authority and power to shut those prisoner's up and keep them calm. A Peace Officer will have the same authority, to arrest and detain. We had a Peace Officer in the Courts before and I don't know why it's such a change now and what's so hard with putting one back in there, it's up to the Board and no one else.

Trustee Banks stated that he just wants to make the record clear that he is not listening to the Clerks in the Court, but being that they work there and know what is going on, we need to at least hear them out and consider their opinion.

Trustee Rue stated that we cannot close the Court as long as we have a judge in place. At the next election when the judge's time is up, we would have to do it through a Permissive Referendum, and when it was done before, it did not pass.

Trustee Massey asked the Village Attorney, Ms. Williams, didn't they pass a law recently that all judges must be lawyers in order to be appointed or to sit?

Ms. Williams stated that yes, a law was passed, but it is going forward, so it will not affect any judge that is sitting now, once that judge's term is up, then the new judge must be a lawyer. But any judge sitting now, can finish their term, with or without a law degree and passing the bar.

Mayor Nikolados stated that in his opinion, it needs to be bid out and we need to hire a security company and this way, they are responsible for the pay and for the health insurance. I understand that if someone needs to be arrested, they would still have to call our Police Officer, but at least it's just for that and not an officer wasting time in the Court and being paid overtime. This came down as a suggestion from the Judge Solomon and from my understanding, the Chief

is also in favor of this, but neither one of them are here to speak for themselves, so I think we need to hold off until they are present.

Trustee Jenkins stated that, yes, this recommendation did come from Doug and from my understanding the Chief is on board with it also. This makes no sense why we just can't make a decision as the Board. Heck, I'll do it for free.

Mayor Nikolados stated that although that sounds like a good proposal, it would not be something that we can do or I can allow. Again, let's just wait until the Judge and Chief can be here.

Discussion-Mobile Medic Rent Increase to \$4,000.00 per month

Mayor Nikolados stated that Trustee Banks wants to go over to the TSC and measure the area, and he hasn't had time to do that, so once that is done we can charge them accordingly, but \$4,000.00 is the minimum.

Mayor Nikolados asked for a motion to go out of order and discuss resolution #18 regarding Barton & Loguidice now. The motion was second by Trustee Banks and upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the TSC Renovations Contract with B & L in the amount of \$144,000.00

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

Mayor Nikolados stated that this resolution is for the plans that will be drawn up and bid on for the renovation of the TSC. This resolution needs to be put in place and a scope of the work has to go up to the Assembly's office to show that we are moving forward with our requirements for the 2M dollar grant that we are receiving from them. They have written us into their budget for 2024 and we have to show them that we are meeting all of the requirements and this is a major piece of the puzzle. This contract with B & L will be paid for through the grant and not the Village.

A representative was present from B & L and he stated that the Mayor is correct. This is a preliminary scope of the work, we are completely replacing the roof, windows, correcting some of the structural issues and things of that sort, which will basically be right to the penny of the grant award. We will be paid out of the grant, not by the Village, so that's why the Mayor needs to sign this contract to have all of this in place. Once this is finalized, we will prepare bid documents and move forward with the bidding process.

Trustee Jenkins stated that this is highway robbery. This 2M dollars should be enough to put in an indoor basketball court and some recreational stuff for the community. This makes no sense that we are supposed to be getting this grant that they are not sure if it's finalized or not and B & L already got their hands in the pot and plus, they'll be nothing for the kids there. Then what's the purpose of doing this grant.

Mayor Nikolados stated that we are sure that we are getting the money. I have already spoke with Assemblywoman, Aileen Gunther, and she confirmed that everything is right on track and all they need is this contract signed and the scope of the work.

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

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

Resolution authorizing the payment of the Village Bill in the amount of \$985,125.66 for fiscal year ending July 2024

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

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

Resolution authorizing payment to Callanan Industries Inc. in the amount of \$2,839.12 for Patch for invoice #1133530 & #1130143 for various Village Streets from app#A.5110.224(Street Maintenance-Paving Supplies). Account balance after purchase is \$107.78

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

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

Resolution authorizing payment to AM Zaccagnino Technical Services(sole source provider) in the amount of \$1,480.00 for the Seasonal shutdown/start up for the Trojan UV system Service Agreement from app#G.1940.400(Reserved Sewer Project). Account balance before expense is \$73,226.38

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

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

Resolution authorizing the purchase of Tires for the Highway Department Loader in the amount of \$7,829.70 from Inter City Tire (lowest quote) from app#A.1640.422(Central Garage-Tires)

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

Mayor Nikolados-yea

Trustee Rue-yea
Trustee Banks-yea
Trustee Massey-yea
Trustee Jenkins-nay

Resolution authorizing a Utility Bill Adjustment on the Sanitation Portion for Mountain Mall located at 321 E Broadway in the amount of \$1,305.00 due to their number of pickups being reduced from 3 days and 3 times a week to 1 day 1 time per week

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

Resolution authorizing a Utility Bill Adjustment on the Sewer Portion for 55 Franklin Avenue in the amount of \$43.00 due to their pool being filled for the summer

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

Resolution authorizing a Utility Bill Adjustment on the Sewer Portion for 258 E Broadway in the amount of \$702.72 due to a water leak

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

Resolution authorizing a Utility Bill Adjustment for Kings Chapel Mission located at 16 Spring Street in the amount of \$753.24 for the water portion and \$640.23 for the sewer portion due to issues with their meter readings being of by 10

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

Resolution authorizing the purchase of Parts from Peak Power Systems (sole source provider) for the Generator in the Sewer Department in the amount of \$1,572.88 from app#G.1940.400 (Reserved Sewer Project). Account balance after expense is \$70,173.50

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

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

Resolution authorizing Repairs to Truck#10 for Sanitation Department completed by Transaxle (sole source provider) in the amount of \$4,910.83 from app#CL.8160.423 (Sanitation-Truck Repairs). Current account balance after expense is \$13,878.27

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

Mayor Nikolados-yea
Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Banks-yea
Trustee Massey-nay
Trustee Jenkins-nay

Resolution authorizing payment McDowall Electric Inc. in the amount of \$2,440.23 for Emergency Work completed inside the Police Department and Outside from app#A.1620.421 (Buildings & Grounds-Repairs/ Maintenance). Account balance after the expense is \$21,372.25

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

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

Resolution authorizing payment to Glenco Supply for the purchase of Channel Post for the Highway Department in the amount of \$1,050.00 from app#A.5110.227 (Street Maintenance-Traffic Painting). Current account balance after expense is \$3,290.65

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

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

Resolution increasing the Court Clerk's salary to \$55,000.00 a year

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

Trustee Jenkins stated that there is no reason for the Court Clerk to get a raise. We are in a deficit and passed a budget in a deficit and now you all want to give the Court Clerk a raise. This is absolutely crazy. If she wants to go to the Town, let her go, why are we giving a raise in order to make her stay? It's not our fault if the Town doesn't want her and now you guys feel sorry for her because she's your friend. That's the problem, it's too many friendships and too much favoritism here. This is a crying shame.

Trustee Banks stated wait a minute, she is a quality worker and the experience she has, we are not going to find anywhere else. We have to learn to hold on to something good when it's in our hand. This employee has been with us for more than 10 years and the job she does over there, her knowledge, experience, and everything is worth more than the raise. She basically runs that whole court by herself and we are not going to be able to find anyone else to do that.

Mayor Nikolados stated Gordon you're wrong, the Town is currently still calling her, she changed her mind and they were willing to pay her more than what we are offering her and for her knowledge and experience, this is still not enough.

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Trustee Jenkins replied that she knew the pay when she took the job and if she didn't like it, then she should have never taken the job, bottom line. You tax payers out there should be outraged. This is your money that they are just giving away. I say let her leave. With the way people are unemployed today, I know we can find someone for less than that. This is crazy, I can't believe this. All we need to do is put an ad in the paper and someone will be more than happy to snatch that job up.

Trustee Banks stated that I know for a fact that we won't find anyone that can do the job she does and definitely at a cheaper rate. That's our problem, we don't take care of our employees and that's why they leave. I'm good with the raise, I believe she deserves it.

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

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

Add-On:

Resolution accepting and authorizing payment for the renewal of the Village of Monticello's Cyber Security Insurance Proposal in the amount of \$11,968.00 for the period of November 1, 2023-November 1, 2024

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

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

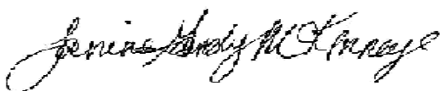
Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjournment

A motion was made by Rue with a second by Trustee Banks to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk