

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

6:00 pm

Call Meeting to Order

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

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Mayor Massey-Present

Trustee Jenkins-Present

Trustee Hutchins-Present

Trustee Davis-Present

Also Present:

James Snowden, Village Manager

Michael Sussman, Special Counsel

Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk

Chief Lindsey, Police Department

Donald Appel, Village Treasurer

Motion to accept the agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to accept the agenda. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Approval of Minutes for the April 3rd, 2024 Re-Organizational Meeting and the April 10th, 2024 Special Meeting

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to approve the minutes. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Presentation-Forensic Audit-Richard J. Corcoran III-PKF O'Connor Davies

Mr. Corcoran gave an overview of the Forensic Audit performed by his firm. He stated that a forensic auditor's responsibility is to take a fine look at the books and transactions of the Village to make sure that everything was done legally and in agreement with the financial and banking laws of your state.

He stated that there was a blatant irresponsibility of the Treasurer and the Board that allowed him to not even do the basic functions of his job. There was funds allocated to pay bills such as the employees' health insurance and other bills that are necessary to keep the Village functioning and the employees protected that were completely disregarded and just not paid for whatever reason. It didn't appear to be any theft of funds in the audit that was completed, but due to the scarcity of financial information available and the lack of bank reconciliations or any type of financial documentation, it is hard to tell. Also, due to the financials not being correct, it makes it impossible for the Village to get bonding or get any type of loans from banks which also makes the Village hard to function. There was a complete lack of daily functions and attendance of the Treasurer that made things accumulate that should not have. Deposits and expenditures were

not posted by the Treasurer which makes the General ledger unbalanced along with everything else not being properly tracked or recorded.

He stated that everything was going fine until towards the end of the audit when the former Board stopped cooperating and refused to give further assistance. At that point the audit was near completion and they did not like the results which is what is aforementioned and then they called the audit fraudulent and illegal and refused to release the information to the Public and refused payment, which is where we are now.

About a week ago, I received a call from Mr. Snowden along with Mr. Sussman making me aware that a new Board was in place and asking me to come and present this information to the Public and the Board so that everyone is aware which is why I am here doing this today.

Mr. Sussman asked Mr. Corcoran, what does all of this means. Are you saying that the person responsible for handling the Village finances failed to do the basic daily duties, is the Village in any financial trouble?

Mr. Corcoran responded yes, the Treasurer did not do the basic daily duties which has left the Village in complete financial disarray, yes the Village is in trouble, how can you make and or balance a budget when you don't know what you have, you can't get grants, and it messes up your financial ratings and everything, audits have not been done bank reconciliations have not been done for years, It's hard to even understand how the Village is currently functioning. The former Treasurer has put the Village in a very difficult position.

Public Hearing- Proposed Local Law #1 of 2024 to Extend the Residency Requirements for the Acting Village Justice to the County of Sullivan

The notice was read into the record by the Village Clerk:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Village of Monticello be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 17th, 2024 at 6:00pm at **Village Hall, 2 Pleasant Street, Monticello, New York 12701** to discuss the following proposed local law:

Proposed Local Law #1 of 2024 to Extend the Residency Requirements for the Acting Village Justice to the County of Sullivan

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the economical significance of said proposed Regulations & Local Laws will be reviewed by the Village Board of Trustees incident to and as a part of said public hearing. Copies of said proposed Regulations & Local Laws are available for review at Monticello Village Hall, 2 Pleasant Street, Monticello, New York 12701.

Dated: Friday, April 9th, 2024

By Order of the Village Board of the

Village of Monticello, New York
Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk

Mr. Sussman explained that the purpose of this Public Hearing is to expand the residency of the Acting Village Justice giving others an opportunity that do not live in the Village an opportunity if they are interested.

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to open the Public Hearing at 6:46pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

The floor was opened to the Public three (3) times and the following people spoke:

Leo Glass- stated that he has served in this capacity for over 25 years and the title has changed to Associate Village Judge and he feels it needs to stay in the Village.

Nicole Snowden-stated that she agrees with Mr. Glass, but if there is no one qualified in the Village then she understands that the Board has to do what is necessary.

Diana Curbelo- feels that it's a disrespect to Mr. Glass and he should keep his job.

Lynn Bernardo-stated that it's not about personalities, but about who will best serve the Village and it will open up the horizon to others who are not biased to the community

Resolution Adopting Local Law #1 of 2024- Extending the Residency Requirements for the Acting Village Justice to the County of Sullivan and adding this new Local Law to the Village Code under Article VI-Residency Requirements- §45-17 Village Justice and authorizing the Village Clerk to complete the necessary Local and State filing

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

Mayors Comments

This is going to be an exciting time for the Village of Monticello! Recently, I have been elected Mayor and there is an entirely new board to work with. It reminds me that we stand on each other's shoulders, fostering growth and unity. The events ahead will be extraordinary and highlight the progress we expect as a community. I am honored to have been elected to represent the county seat for all municipalities within Sullivan County. This is a humbling experience, especially considering everything is as expected within the chaos I have inherited. It appears the past board has been reckless with finances and community tax dollars. As a result, we have subsequently hired a forensic accountant to work though the financial situation. I will continue to keep the needs of our population at the forefront of everything we do. We will focus upon improving the lives of our seniors, commit to supporting our small businesses and strive to maintain that sense of community, which is what makes the Village of Monticello unique and that speaks volumes about who we are. I look forward to serving this community in the capacity as mayor and I believe we can accomplish many things as one collective.

The Vision

Monticello will aspire to be the city of choice for all individuals and families looking for a safe, clean, beautiful environment.

We will achieve this vision through strong businesses, superior neighborhoods, excellent schools and recreational areas and through building a healthy economy. We will preserve Monticello's friendly, hometown atmosphere and assist in protecting, maintaining and improving the celebration of diversity within our community.

The Mayor and the Board will provide governance that is accessible, accountable, innovative and efficient through a network of partners and community members who all will contribute through work collectively.

Village of Monticello Mission Statement

Monticello's mission is to provide and maintain services that meet the mutual essential needs of the community residents. We will identify and seize opportunities that will allow all to realize an improved quality of life that is meaningful and effective.

Agenda:

- 1) Residents will be held accountable and fined for non-compliance with ordinances and building codes regarding garbage and building upkeep.
- 2) Residents will be held accountable for cleaning up after pets. Those not scooping their poop will be warned and subsequently fined.
- 3) A Litter Pluck will be held to bring about a cleaner community. This event will take place on the 20th through the 21st of April from 9am to 2pm.
- 4) Spring clean-up will be held from May 4th through May 11th. Senior clean-up day is designated for May 6th.

Managers' Report

Mr. Snowden reported that he had a meeting with Trustee Hutchins, Mr. Sussman, The Village Clerk, Supervisor Rieber and Jill Weyer from the Town in regards to various issues.

Two of the main issues discussed was the Splash Pad and the TSC Grant that was promised to the Village by Speaker Carl E. Heastie in the amount of the \$2M dollars. It was a very productive meeting and there was a lot of positive discussions and the Town is willing to help us get things moving forward in the Village. We also discussed the various water issues and checked the status of things from when I was here last and found out that nothing had been done since my termination in July of 2023. They stated that they had trouble getting any information from the prior Board and I was difficult to get things and anything completed, so they did what they could with what they had. He stated there is a lot of things that we still have to do and it has to be

done immediately because we are in jeopardy of losing a lot and we can't afford to lose anything with the shape we are in. He also made everyone aware that we are almost to the deadline with the Splash Pad. He reached out to the Engineer over it and will be setting up a meeting for some time next week.

Mr. Sussman responded that the meeting was very positive and productive. We have a lot to do and a very short time to do it and the Town is willing to help us if we can get them what they need.

Trustee Hutchins also responded that yes, the meeting was positive and we have some work to do, but we can handle it, we just have to get on it.

Mural Festival Update-Josh Deitchman

Mr. Deitchman was present and stated that things are moving forward. He stated that they just completed a Festival in Wurtsboro that was a success and they are looking to have the same success here. They want to feature all local artist and entrepreneurs in this area to give exposure to this area. He stated that they have applied to the NYS DOT for permits and they are just waiting in the approvals from them. He also stated that he has already received approvals from more owners on Broadway to paint their buildings so he will begin working on those permits shortly.

Resolution authorizing payment to PFK O'Connor Davies for the Forensic Audit in the amount of \$40,000.00 in increments of \$10,000.00 for the next four (4) months until paid in full from app#A.1320.407 (Auditor-Annual Audit)

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

Resolution authorizing the amended contract for James Snowden as the Village Manager and the Building Department Supervisor and authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract as amended

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

Resolution authorizing payment the payment of the Village Bills

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to Table the bill pay. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Resolution authorizing a 30-day Advance Notice Waiver for El Tequilero, Inc., which is located at 9 Forestburgh Rd, in the Village of Monticello for their Liquor License application

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

Resolution authorizing payment to CPE Service System Solutions in the amount of \$2,520.00 for the 1 Repl Refrigerator Assembly 11&V for a 5800 model auto samplers sled for the Sewer Department from app#G.1940.400(Reserved Sewer Project) and authorizing the Village Treasurer to fill out the necessary credit application paperwork. Account balance before

purchase is \$67,791.89

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

Resolution authorizing payment to MSA Safety Sales, LLC for the purchase of a Gas Type Sensor Enclosure in the amount of \$1,399.00 from app#G.8120.421(Sanitary Sewers-Repairs/Maintenance). Current account balance before purchase is \$4,598.65

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

Resolution authorizing payment to Day and Night Plumbing for the Emergency repair of the Women's Bathroom at the TSC in the amount of \$1,062.36 from app#A.1620.421 (Buildings & Grounds-Repairs/Maintenance)

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

Resolution directing all Department Heads to Park all Municipality-Owned vehicles at their perspective Village address at the end of the workday and that such vehicles remain parked at the Village address until the start of the next work day or the employee otherwise returns to duty effective immediately

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

Resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Cash Bond in the amount of \$75,000.00 from Meadowbrook LLC for the new construction of Phases 1 and 2 on Waverly Avenue, and the guarantee of all work listed in the Village Engineer report from Village Engineer, Glenn Smith, is to be completed before such bond can be returned. The Village will issue the Certificate of Occupancies after receiving the bond and the inspection of all units have been completed by the independent engineer, John Fuller and meets the requirements of NY States Codes as stated in his report

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

Resolution authorizing the Village Manager to have discussions with the County of Sullivan Legislature regarding making the Village's whole for unpaid taxes

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

Resolution authorizing the Water Billing Clerk to send out a letter regarding to unlawful sewer hook-ups in the Village of Monticello and the letter should be tri-lingual, in English, Spanish and Yiddish

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

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

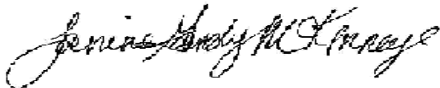
Mr. Sussman Introduced Lieutenant David Lindsey as the new Acting Police chief for the Village of Monticello.

Acting Chief Lindsay responded that he is honored & thankful to the Board for selecting him to lead the Police Department and he looks forward to working with the Board.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to close the meeting at 7:53pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk