

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF MONTICELLO, N.Y.
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2005

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:

Absent:

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

Ariel Escobar, Trustee

Also Present: Richard Sush, Village Manager
E. Danielle Jose, Village Attorney
Tim Havas, Deputy Village Attorney
Alan Reynolds, Highway Superintendent
Clarence Decker, Water Superintendent
Bill Bertholf, Sewer Superintendent

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Barnicle asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the Tsunami disaster, the soldier killed in Afghanistan and the Monticello High School student recently killed in an auto accident.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2004

A motion was made by Trustee Marinello, seconded by Trustee VanDermark, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to adopt the minutes of the Village Board regular meeting of December 20, 2004 as presented.

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OLD BUSINESS

Web Site

Mayor Barnicle announced that the Village's new website is now available at www.villageofmonticello.com.

Ice Skating Rink

The Mayor announced that when there is enough ice to safely have ice skating on deHoyos pond it will be available to the public. He again requested donations of ice skates be donated and brought to the United Way building.

First Night Celebration

The Mayor reported that the First Night Celebration was well organized, but poorly attended.

Snow & Ice Removal From Sidewalks

Mayor Barnicle noted that Broadway merchants are required to remove ice and snow from their sidewalks or they are fined, but the residents must also shovel their sidewalks as it makes students and senior citizens walk in the roadway. The Village will begin to enforce this law and fine anyone who does not comply.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Condolences

The Village Manager reported that Police Officer Cary Dul's mother passed away last week.

Police Commendation

The Village Manager commended Detective Dietz and Detective O'Connor for their investigation that led to the capture of a suspect in the recent murder case.

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Fire Department Commendation

The Village Manager commended Professional Fire Fighter Keith Kurthy for his efforts in saving a life when called to help an individual having breathing difficulties.

Broadway Project Update

The Broadway Project will go out to bid November 2005 with construction to begin April 2006.

Fire House Construction Update

Some concrete has been poured and weather permitting the foundation footings will be completed within the next two weeks. He explained that after all the site work is completed, work will begin on the masonry tower.

The Mayor noted that there will be an update at each Village Board meeting.

Police Department Renovations

The DPW has begun renovations on the police department and that should be completely shortly. Also, Daytop Village has volunteered to do the painting on the interior of the building.

Union Negotiations

PBA negotiations have begun as their contract expires in August 2005 and negotiations will begin with the Professional Fire Fighters as their contract also expires in August 2005.

Employment Updates

Brian Van Keuren resigned to take a job with the NYS Thruway Authority and Bob Nelson formally the Sanitation foreman replaced him in the Highway Department. Ray Jones was promoted to Working Supervisor in the Sanitation Department and his former position has been posted.

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New Construction

A new residence is being built on Thelma Drive which is the second single residence to be constructed in the past year.

AWARDING OF BIDS - HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/SANITATION DEPT

Street Sweeper

A motion was made by Trustee VanDermark, seconded by Trustee Marinello, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to award the bid for a **Street Sweeper** to **Wm. H. Clark** in the amount of **\$105,960.00**.

2005 Riding Lawn Mower

A motion was made by Trustee Schoonmaker, seconded by Trustee Marinello, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to award the bid for a **2005 Riding Lawn Mower** to **Mullally Tractor Sales** in the amount of **\$5,956.07**.

2005 Loader Refuse Packer

A motion was made by Trustee Schoonmaker, seconded by Trustee Marinello, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to award the bid for a **2005 Loader Refuse Packer** to **Hacker Packers, Inc.** in the amount of **\$35,345.00** which includes a trade in the amount of \$1,500 of the Village's old Load Packer body, plus removal and installation of the new body.

RESOLUTION CHANGING THE SECOND MEETINGS IN JANUARY FROM MONDAY, JANUARY 17th TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2005 DUE TO THE MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello hold their regular meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month; and,

WHEREAS, the third Monday in January is a national day in celebration the Martin Luther King Birthday; and,

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello does hereby change the second Board meeting in January from Monday, January 17th to Tuesday, January 18, 2005.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Village of Monticello has certain personal property no longer needed for Village purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Monticello wants to dispose of this property by soliciting bids thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello does hereby authorize the Village Clerk to advertise for bids to sell to the highest bidder the following surplus equipment that the Board determines to be no longer needed for Village purposes, as follows:

- (1) 1987 ½ Ton GMC Pickup 2 x 2 - As Is Condition
- (1) 1988 ½ Ton GMC Pickup 2 x 2 - As Is Condition

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

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DESTINATION RESORTS-GAMING

Discussion - Mayor Barnicle indicated that someone had suggested that the people should think of this as Lake Tahoe where they still have the pristine lakes, the mountains and all the natural beauty verses Atlantic City or Las Vegas.

Trustee Schoonmaker felt that five is too many, and the Village will bear the brunt of the impact on traffic and schools, with the true impact unknown until one casino is

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built and operating. He felt that three casinos in the Town of Thompson will be too close in proximity for the Village to deal with.

The Mayor explained that all the "destination resorts" have agreed to pay the \$15 million. This week the Village will sit down with the County and the other towns and villages that will be impacted to negotiate the monies that will come forward to each municipality.

Trustee Schoonmaker questioned if any other town or village will be impacted as much as Monticello?

The Mayor responded that none would be, and both the Village's officials and the County Legislators representing the Village will be negotiating on our behalf. He noted that this resolution is just to support the framework of having five casinos in Sullivan County. The Mayor explained that the casinos are needed to bring in more tax money and to employ the next generation.

Trustee Schoonmaker felt that the issue before the Board is in the number of casinos that are in the close proximity to the Village and will this municipality be able to withstand these huge impacts.

The Village Manager felt that Trustee Schoonmaker is raising legitimate issues and we will have to demonstrate these impacts on the Village. He felt that before the Village would have gotten nothing from the other casinos and now we will have the opportunity to show the impacts and get some additional revenue to cover these expenses. He felt that this area withstood the impact in the 50's and 60's when there was no Quickway and everyone came up on a Friday, where the traffic now will be spread out on a daily basis.

Trustee Schoonmaker felt that other communities that have casinos should be contacted to determine what impacts a casino has had on their communities.

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The Village Manager felt that it is good that the Village is now going to sit at the table as a participant. He felt that if the impacts are greater than anticipated than there can be room for adjustments.

WHEREAS, the five proposed Casino Destination Resorts in Sullivan County recently approved by Governor Pataki will provide a long-awaited boost to economic development in the Village of Monticello, generating millions of dollars for our community and creating thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, the five Native American Tribes who will operate the proposed casino resorts will pay Sullivan County \$75 million each year and, in addition, will pay for new water and sewer systems and other infrastructure improvements for Sullivan County villages and towns; and

WHEREAS, the five resorts, one of which will be located within the Village of Monticello, three in the Town of Thompson and one in the Town of Mamakating, will collectively occupy a small fraction of land and will be located several miles apart from one another, thereby reducing the strain on local traffic and preserving the character of our villages, towns and natural wonders; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's agreement with the tribes limits the number of casinos to five and explicitly requires compliance with State and Federal environmental review laws, further precluding the Catskills from resembling Las Vegas or Atlantic City which are urban areas that have a very high number of casinos concentrated along designated "strips;" and

WHEREAS, in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's when the Catskills was a premier resort destination, it had over 500 hotels and more than 50,000 bungalows and its villages and towns were able to accommodate the annual influx of visitors and still maintain a family-friendly atmosphere where people wanted to live, work and raise their children; and

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WHEREAS, today we have an opportunity to once again become a premier resort destination, which will ensure permanent jobs and economic stability for future generations, and once again we will be able to handle a new era of economic growth while still preserving the family spirit of our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Monticello supports Governor Pataki's plan for five Native American Casino Destination Resorts in Sullivan County, with one located in the Village of Monticello, three in the Town of Thompson and one in the Town of Mamakating.

A motion was made by Trustee VanDermark, seconded by Trustee Marinello, approved on a roll call vote as follows: Trustee Schoonmaker, nay; Trustee Marinello, aye; Trustee VanDermark, aye; Mayor Barnicle, aye to adopt the above resolution. Motion carried 3 ayes - 1 nay

ORDERING BILL PAID

A motion was made by Trustee Schoonmaker, seconded by Trustee Marinello, unanimously approved on a roll call vote that the bills audited by the Auditing Committee of the Board of Trustees and appearing on the Abstracts of the bills herewith submitted are ordered paid.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Casino Opposition

Harry Brantz was opposed to casinos and the problems it brings.

First Night Celebration

Harry Brantz commended County Legislator Sam Wohl, Mayor Barnicle and Trustee Marinello for holding the First Night Celebration.

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Speeding Concerns

Harry Brantz felt that reducing the speed of motor vehicles is one of the Village's biggest concerns. He asked that the police enforce the speed limit in the Village.

The Mayor will speak to the Police Chief regarding this concern.

Public Comments Time Limits

Harry Brantz asked that Board to limit the amount of time a person can speak during public comment to two (2) minutes.

Casino Comments

Tova Rosen, a Monticello property owner questioned where the three casinos will be located in the Town of Thompson? She felt that traffic has increased on a daily basis as more people are commuting from the city to this area.

The Mayor responded that he will discuss this with her after the meeting.

County Legislator Sam Wohl noted that a good impact of casinos would be bringing more businesses to Broadway.

Gordon Jenkins agreed with Trustee Schoonmaker that the Village should not settle for what money it is given, but should be negotiating for their fair share.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:45 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee Schoonmaker, seconded by Trustee Marinello, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter regarding a particular person, pending litigation and contract negotiations.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., a motion was made by Trustee VanDermark, seconded by Trustee Schoonmaker, unanimously approved on a roll call vote to adjourn the Regular Village Board meeting.

EDITH SCHOP, Village Clerk