

## Emergency Meeting Minutes

Board of Trustees

Village of Monticello

August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

9:30am

### **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:40am by Mayor Jenkins.

### **Pledge to the Flag**

### **Roll Call**

Mayor Jenkins-Present	Carmen Rue-Present	Jill Weyer-Present
Larissa Bennett-Present	Douglas Solomon-Absent	

Also Present: Michael Davidoff-Village Attorney  
Ray Nargizian-Village Manager  
Walter Fedun-Deputy Village Manager

### **Motion to Accept the Agenda**

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

Mayor Jenkins-abstain  
Trustee Bennett-yea  
Trustee Rue-yea  
Trustee Solomon-absent  
Trustee Weyer-yea

### **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Jenkins stated that he wanted the Public to know that the USDA has approved the Village for the additional grant monies. He spoke with George Popp from the USDA and Mr. Popp stated that he did not want the news to get out until it was confirmed through the Congressman Hinchey, but there is a 99% chance that we got the grant and because it was already in the newspapers and on the radio, he felt the need to say something. He stated that he would like to thank the previous Board that consisted of himself, Trustee Rue, Trustee Bennett, Trustee Hutchins and Trustee Matthews along with the new Village Treasurer, Mrs. Li, and Village Clerk, Ms. Gandy, for all of the long hours and hard work that was put forth to get the Village to this point. We are still looking for a qualified Manager, which was a stipulation of the grant.

Trustee Rue stated that she would like to also say that part of the grant was to hire a qualified Manager and the accounting to be a part of that, so when the Mayor made his appointments for the Treasurer and the Clerk, at that point, I did not know what was going

on with the accounts or what to do, because I did not know who was putting these accounts together. When Lili came, she took over for Heather Berg and at that time there were problems with the account and there were no proper records. Lili put a lot of time into that and put all of the pieces together and that what the USDA wanted. They wanted the accounts to be completely accountable for all of the numbers and projects like Nelshore Drive and the Sewer, with all of the names. That's where the project started and the accounts were not really done right. So when the Mayor appointed Lili, I really said that I abstain, but at this moment I really want to reconsider my vote for the appointment of the Clerk and the Treasurer because we need to keep Lili. She already know all of the paperwork, she put the brains together and all of the numbers. I spoke with George Popp and he told me that Lili Li put a lot of hard work into this project and that she made all of the necessary corrections and verified all of the information and made sure that all of the numbers were correct. He told me that he sat down with Lili for hours. I know that people say that they have a hard time understanding her because of her accent, but I also have an accent too, this is America you know, but the numbers, it doesn't matter if you speak French, Chinese, whatever, the numbers are in black and white and the numbers don't change, so at this point I want to make a motion to reconsider the appointment of the Clerk and the Treasurer to keep them until 2016 because that's their legal appointment.

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Bennett appointing the Village Treasurer, Lili Li and Village Clerk, Janine Gandy as the Village Treasurer and Village Clerk for a term of two years until 2016. Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

Mayor Jenkins-yea

Trustee Bennett-yea

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Solomon-absent

Trustee Weyer-nay

Trustee Rue stated that she doesn't know if there is anything else, but she is just doing what is right. My term here is to do what is right for the people. I don't owe anything to anybody; my point is to do what is right in this Village. As long as the money is accountable, that is my point. I've always been concerned with the money. I sat down with the Treasurer and I ask her questions and she can give me the answers if we transfer money, where the money is coming from or where the money is going, that's my point. My position is protecting the people, the taxpayers, and the people who really pay and invest in this Village. That's my point, the money is there and I always follow where the money is going and yes, we have the grant because we worked for such a long time, six years we worked on it, first what we were going to put in the application, so all of those years we have been here working, working and working. Now we are doing the water grant which we just started in 2012, so we still have to wait to see what is going to happen with that. It is very important; she is now working putting all of that together, so at this point, my position is to protect what we have in the Village in order to keep the Village intact.

Trustee Bennett commented that she would like to take this time to thank Mr. Nargizian for coming on with the Village free of charge but she thinks that it is in the best interest of the Village if we make a motion to relieve him of his duties as the Village Manager.

Trustee Weyer commented that she doesn't see the need and asked why not keep Ray on until the position is filled?

Trustee Rue commented that the Village promised the people to only have Ray for two months, it's already five months and in order for us to hire a professional manager and we have like twenty-four applicants that position has to be vacant to move forward.

Mayor Jenkins stated that once the position is vacant, we can move forward with the application process. I know that we have a lot of applicants and we can go forward with starting the interview process.

Trustee Rue commented that there are over 24 applicants. and we cannot consider hiring anyone until the position is vacant.

Trustee Weyer commented that she doesn't have them either and when can we get them?

Trustee Rue stated again that the position has to be vacant before we can move forward.

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

Mayor Jenkins-yea

Trustee Bennett-yea

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Solomon-absent

Trustee Weyer-nay

Mayor Jenkins commented that we will get those resumes from the Clerk and immediately start looking for a professional manager. I will sit with Walter and we will all go over the resumes and applicants and start moving forward.

Trustee Rue stated that it is going to be the Board decision, not the Manager, not the Deputy, not the Lawyer; it's the Board's decision only and we need all of those applicants so that we can take time to look at all of those applicants so that we can be sure that we are going to hire the proper person. I know that some was received through email, but I did not get a chance to get to review all of them. I am just going to tell you that my goal for me is to hire someone from Sullivan County. I have been sitting in those meetings since 1999 and have been going back and forth and I have seen Managers come and go and we keep spending three and four thousand dollars on advertising and guess what, they come from far way and all these places, then in two months, they don't like the population here in the Village and then they leave. Out the window again, another four or five thousand dollars, my goal is really, really to hire somebody who lives in Sullivan County and who knows the people here and all of the government here and not have to be calling somebody to take them around and introduce them to everyone here and nobody knows anybody. I just want to make it clear, the Deputy Manager cannot do anything without the Board, he has no power, he cannot hire, fire, nothing, without the Board and I just want to make that clear.

Trustee Rue commented the people are coming tomorrow to clean up the Justice Court. I thought that there was supposed to be a resolution to transfer \$89,000.00 from miscellaneous revenues because Lilo cannot transfer the money or write the check until the

Board passes the resolution. The money needs to come from miscellaneous revenues which has \$248,000.00 which is the whole revenues for the whole Village for the year and we need to transfer that money legally. So, I don't know what is going on.

The Clerk responded that I did not receive any information from the Treasurer regarding this.

Mayor Jenkins asked why the Village is paying that bill, when the guy has a \$2 million dollar insurance policy.

Mr. Davidoff responded that we have to first pay it, then you start the lawsuit, it can take a couple of years or so. You and I spoke and I sent a couple of letters and got no response. You were supposed to let me know who you spoke to.

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Bennett to transfer \$89,000.00 from Miscellaneous Revenues app# A.2770 to Street Maintenance app#A.5110 in order to pay the contractors for the Justice Court clean up.

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

Mayor Jenkins-yea

Trustee Bennett-yea

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Solomon-absent

Trustee Weyer-yea

**Executive Session (if necessary)**

There was no Executive Session

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Weyer to close the meeting at 10:00am. Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

Mayor Jenkins-yea

Trustee Bennett-yea

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Solomon-absent

Trustee Weyer-yea

Submitted by:



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Janine Gandy, Village Clerk