

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, June 17th, 2020

6:15pm

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Sommers called the Work Session to order at 6:48pm

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Mayor Sommers-Present

Trustee Nikolados-Present

Trustee Rue-Present

Trustee Massey-Present

Trustee Sabatino-Present

Also Present:

Michael Davidoff, Village Special Counsel

Richard S. Baum, Deputy Special Counsel

Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk

BJ Gettel, Building Department

Gary Lasher, Village Treasurer

Executive Order Compliance:

Mayor Sommers 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 Massey with a second by Trustee Sabatino to accept the agenda. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Approval of the minutes from the June 3rd, 2020 meeting

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

Mayor Sommers-yea

Deputy Mayor Nikolados- abstain

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Massey-yea

Trustee Sabatino-yea

Manager's Report

Mayor Sommers announced that Governor Cuomo passed Executive Order #204 Declaring Juneteenth as an official holiday for NYS Employees so the Village of Monticello will be closed on Friday, June 19th.

6/17/20-Village Board Meeting

He also asked that the Tax Bill Preparation and Postage Meter matters be tabled until all of the Board has had proper time to review the documentation.

Tax Bill Preparation

Postage Meter

Building Department Report

BJ Gettel stated that due to the current pandemic, there is really nothing to report other than they have collected \$15,000.00 in credit card payments.

Resolution authorizing the payment of Village Bills in the amount of \$333,418.68

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

Resolution authorizing Budget Transfers for fiscal year ending July 31st, 2020

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

Resolution authorizing the purchase of a Leak Detector Service from NYLD Infrastructure in the amount of \$8,250.00 from app# F.8320.421-Repairs and Maintenance. Account balance after expense is \$13,530.64

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

Resolution authorizing the extension date from May 31st, 2020 until August 31st, 2020 for the renewal of all Taxi & Medical Medallions and Hack Licenses for the taxi drivers due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Village Office being closed to the Public. Any renewals not completed by August 31st, will be revoked by the Police Department and have to pay additional fee's set by the Board of Trustee's as applicable

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a comment and a second by Trustee Massey.

Trustee Rue commented that this is a good thing being that the office was closed to the Public and this being something that has to be done face to face.

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

Resolution adopting a Cellphone/Electronic Device use policy for Employees of the Village of Monticello

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a comment and a second by Trustee Massey also with a comment.

Trustee Rue stated that she is happy that this is being enforced, it was already in the Village handbook, but not enforced. It is a very dangerous thing and the Village can get into a lot of trouble if something was to happen.

Trustee Massey asked what the consequences are.

Mr. Davidoff stated that the employee should be reprimanded and all procedures in the Village Handbook should be followed.

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

Statement by Trustee Massey

This statement is in response to what is going on in the Village right now regarding a Personnel matter and Trustee Nikolados specifically:

George, you stated out of his big mouth that I cover up, cover up what? Once someone says to me that they are going to file a grievance and seek counsel, guess what, I need not to talk to them, so I didn't. I ended my discussion with him unlike you, who knew way early in the game before any of the members of the Board did. But what did you do with the information, nothing, kept it in secret, remember, quote, "A lie cannot live". I'm trying to figure out when you became so pro-black; don't make me sick to my stomach especially when racist remarks were said about black people and the "n-" word was used by one of your staff members, do you need to be reminded? You or no one else will ever tell me what I'm supposed to feel. You're not my color which is black, you've never travelled in my shoes. Weren't you the Democrat member of the party when Gordon Jenkins, TC Hutchins, and James Snowden and I were getting our asses kicked all over this Village? Not one time did I hear you or your posse speak out about the injustice, not one time, but you are pro-black. Put up the fist George since you are claiming to love my people. I will refresh your memory, you voted on a lawsuit on a past employee who happened to get \$360,000.00, you were not upset when it stated that Mayor Jenkins hired too many "dark-skinned" people and guess who was one of those "dark-skinned" people, Stefon McGinnis, doesn't that sound racist still George, and there was no outrage from you or any white person in the community, but you voted to give that person that money. Remember that you voted to have Mr. Snowden, the past Code Enforcement Officer, fired, which was done illegally, you voted and he was a Civil Service employee, you nor the Board followed the process legally, so is that what you wanted Mayor Sommers and the rest of the Board of Trustees to do, fire the employee before due process? If we had followed you George, we would be facing the same issues and this is the very reason why Mr. Snowden is suing the Village as we speak because he was not given due process. George stop it, where is your statement that you don't condone racism, you were in charge of the DPW, how many complaints did you get, if you got some from the employees, did you share them with the rest of the Board, the Mayor? By the way, that same employee did an interview on Village tax payer time and money in a Village truck, did you speak to the Supervisor, Mayor, about the interview, no, and you were the one who set the interview up with the white media.

The same key players from the past have resurfaced from the dead, Steve Vegliante, Bill Liblick, Jill Weyer, Steve Kurlander, the list goes on and on and on, David Sager, who is the biggest racist. Jill ran on a "Make Monticello Great Again" or was it make Monticello white again, they damaged the Village with their white agenda, crucify all of the black people. Message to Steve Vegliante, when you get more color in the Town of Fallsburg, call me, otherwise, shut-up. Bill Liblick, the usual, looking for a job. Steve Kurlander, I already know how you get down, remember

that you told Mr. Jenkins outside of our business that if you resign, you can make all of the charges go away, it shows your character. Jill, I will be here all day, especially with the racist emails that you sent Les Kristt, emails that I have in my possession.

George, how many minorities, black, work in the Town, how many in the County, can you see them George, you're always up at the County, can you count them, you don't wonder about that, but you love my people don't you? Don't use BLM (Black Lives Matter) for personal issues, all of you are conspiring to get minorities out of offices, all of you are in it for yourselves, stop using BLM for your own agenda's. Young Democrats protest about the jail, protest about no youth center, protest about minorities not having jobs, protest about the housing needing rent control, protest about the need for more black teachers in the school, protest about the prison system and the mistreatment of the inmates. Young Black Democrats, form your own coalition, don't get used like I did when I first entered politics. The Democratic Committee used us until we got hip to them. The Democratic Committee never endorsed any black candidate including a great Reverend, Reverend James Matthews, God bless the dead. They have always cross-endorsed someone white from the Republican Party, so don't get suckered into any of this garbage. Their agenda is about them, you stay long enough in that party, you will see, I promise you. You need help, let me know, if not I will watch you make the mistake, just remember, be yourself.

Message To the employees of the Village of Monticello, mind your business and do your damn job. We, the tax payers pay your salary. The taxpayers don't want to see tall grass, garbage all over the streets and bad neighborhoods. If you are unhappy, good-bye, leave. Do you know how many millions of Americans that don't have jobs right now and will be happy to take yours? Clean this Village up and shut-up.

Statement by Trustee Sabatino

To those that are saying that the Village is racist, take a look at how many minorities we have working in the Village, it's a fair blend. Before they open their mouths, Michael Greco, if I'm not mistaken, do your due diligence, do your homework, because both of us happen to be married to black women by the way Michael, so neither one of us are prejudice. We also have 21 officers on the police force, 10 minorities, 6 black and 4 Hispanic. In every other department, we have a fair number and if I am correct, sanitation is all minorities.

Trustee Massey commented that we are the only municipality with minorities. No other one has any, maybe just one or two and the Town just hired Heather Berg as the Tax Collector, but that's it.

Trustee Sabatino stated that the Town has none, of excuse me one, and they are going to say that the Village is racist, come on.

Trustee Nikolados responded that we hire very well, I'll never say that the Village is racist, but we don't protect our employees and that's the problem and I'll make my statement.

Statement by Trustee Rue

Trustee Rue commented that the Village hires minorities, the Clerk, the Deputy and many others that are qualified for the job and they do the job. We follow the employee handbook that was passed by the Board and we do what we need to for the taxpayers. We have so many things in place that has been there, sexual harassment, discrimination, all of these policies are already in place. We all attended and whomever didn't show up, it's on them, the Village has done their part with the insurance company and gave the trainings.

Public Hearing for the 20/21 Village Budget

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino setting the meeting Public Hearing date for Wednesday, June 24th, 2019 at 6:00pm via Zoom. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

One Meeting date for July & August 2020

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Sabatino setting a meeting date for Wednesday, July 15th, 2020 at 6:00pm via Zoom. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Rue setting a meeting date for Wednesday, August 19th, 2020 at 6:00pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Statement from Deputy Mayor Nikolados

We have a very diverse staff here at the Village and a very fine Police Department who hasn't had these problems that we see in other parts of the Country. But the fact is that we don't act when we see a racist thing and don't act immediately, it doesn't mean shit because of the number of minorities you have working here and that's all I am going to say. Next time I think that we need to work a little better together to remedy issues like this instead of letting them go one and fester.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Sabatino with a second by Trustee Rue to close the meeting at 7:25pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk