

Board of Trustees Emergency Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Friday, July 29th, 2022

9:00 am

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:23am by Trustee Rochelle Massey.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Mayor Nikolados-Absent

Trustee Rue-Present

Trustee Banks-Absent

Trustee Massey-Present

Trustee Jenkins-Present

Also Present:

James Snowden-Village Manager

Owen McKane-The Reis Group

Gary Lasher-Village Treasurer

Motion to accept the agenda

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

Mayor Nikolados-absent

Trustee Rue-yea

Trustee Banks-absent

Trustee Massey-yea

Trustee Jenkins-yea

Resolution approving the Village of Monticello Liability Insurance Policy

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

Trustee Rue stated that she thinks this is terrible, but she understands the situation that the Village is in. No one is willing to insure us. She stated that she spoke with the Village Special Counsel, Mr. Sussman and he advised her that the Village cannot be without liability insurance, it's for the protection of the Village and we cannot take a chance and be caught without it. She stated so, that is the basis of her vote, to protect the Village and the employees. She said that she never knew anything about the previous insurance, NYMIR, giving a list to Mayor Nikolados or Mayor Sommers, so she has no clue of these stipulations and the fact that they kept this information is totally wrong and now the Village is stuck paying close to \$1 million dollars for liability insurance which is embarrassing. I have to do what is best for the Village even though I know this was done completely wrong. It's not Owen's fault or our fault.

Trustee Jenkins stated that this is a crying shame that a Village of this size has to pay this amount for Liability insurance. It's a shame that the Mayor, George Nikolados and his Deputy, Michael Banks are not here for something as important as this. Where's the accountability? We the Board should write a letter and make him resign as the Mayor. He's the one that created all of these problems and now left us here to make the decisions, so it looks like we had a part in it.

Not me, I just got here a few months ago, but the word on the street will be that Carmen, Gordon & Rochelle voted for a \$900,000.00 +/- insurance policy and so on, those three did this and that and they got the Village in this situation. It's a pure shame that the Village is in this situation due the neglect and lack of accountability of the Mayor. I've been out of that seat and off of this Board for a number of years and now I come back to this nonsense. I came back to make a difference and look what I walk into, a bunch of bull. This is embarrassing and I am ashamed to be sitting here during this time. There's no accountability in Treasury, we have no clue if there is any money at all, you ask this guy for information as the Board and a Trustee and he refuses to give it to you or lies about it and everyone just believes it. He should be written up or suspended or something for not even doing what he is asked to do. He's still running around with the Manager all day and everywhere but sitting in his office doing his job and we took the extra money from him, so I don't even know why he's not doing his treasury job only. It doesn't make sense, for all we know, he could still be paying himself the higher salary because he refuses to give payroll records, so we'll never know and it's a crying shame. No one is holding him accountable, NO ONE! When did we start allowing the employees to run the place and tell us what will be, everyone just does that they want, no one is held accountable and this insurance proves it, and now you all need me here to vote yes to pass it and in my good conscience I know this is wrong, but I am stuck with the deciding vote because the Village and employees need protection. I should just get up and walk out and say to hell with it, but then I'll get slammed for that too, Gordon left the Village with no insurance, God made the Village have to shut down and all this other crap! This is a crying shame and everyone sitting here ought to be embarrassed. How did we get here, and the people that are responsible for this are nowhere to be found.

Owen McKane, the Village's Insurance Broker, was present and stated that this has been a long time coming. He has done and advised all that he could for this not to happen and it has. NYMIR insures the uninsurable, which is what the Village has become and once NYMIR drops you, you are subject to whatever is out there at whatever price available. There are so many ways the Village could have avoided this, there were trainings and improvements that could have taken place, there were simple things that were never done, such as improvements to the building, having an HR Coordinator come in and assist the Village with all of its Personnel and Payroll issues, constant trainings were offered for the employees that were never taken advantage of. I tried to get the Village in a positive direction and I presented every advantage I knew of and things were just let undone. You know me Gordon, we worked together in 2013 and got some things done to lower the insurance cost, but those things were never followed through on, things that should have continued on a yearly or annual basis was never maintained and now are in worse shape than the initial. This didn't just happen overnight, it's been a long time coming and now we are here. I went out to over 30 companies and two of them are still looking to see if they can lower their quote, but as of right now, it is what's in front of you all and I'll admit, it is bad, but hopefully some of the suggestions and the requirements can be met in the next 3 to 6 months and we could possibly take another look to hopefully find something

cheaper, but it will take time. This is very unfortunate for the Village to be in this position, but with all of the lawsuits, the constant conflict of the Board, the constant employee turn-over rate, the morale of the Village in general, people read, people go on the internet and Face Book and see what is going on and unfortunately, the Village is not in a good light and these same people are the ones that have to insure you or cover you. They see you all as a very high risk right now because of everything and this is why this coverage has come in like this. I'm not going to keep keeping a dead horse, but there has to be some changes and major ones and quickly because soon you'll get to the place where no one will insure you at all, not matter the cost. We have to work and move forward and truly move forward to get passed this. That's all I have for you. I am here to help however I can.

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

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

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Rue with a second by Trustee Jenkins to close the meeting at 9:54am. Upon the call of the roll, the vote went as follows:

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

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk