

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, May 15th, 2024

6:00 pm

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Mayor Massey.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call

Mayor Massey-Present
Trustee Davis-Present

Trustee Jenkins-Present

Trustee Hutchins-Present

Also Present:

James Snowden, Village Manager

Michael Sussman, Special Counsel

Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk

Motion to accept the agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Jenkins to accept the agenda with two (2) add-ons:

1. Resolution authorizing the closing of the Village Departments daily for lunch, except for the Police Department
2. Resolution setting a Public Hearing date for LL#3 of 2024, Amending Article II Traffic Control Signals §252-4 and adding subsection M(1) "The Installation of Speed Bumps and Reduced Speed Limit Signs on Terry Lane, Shaker Heights Drive and other designated streets as identified by the Village Board in the Village of Monticello and adding a reduced speed limit"

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

Approval of Minutes for the May 1, 2024 Meeting

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

Public Hearing- Proposed Local Law # 2 of 2024 entitled, "A Local Law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in the General Municipal Law Section 3C of NYS"

The Clerk read the following notice into the record:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Village of Monticello be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 15th, 2024 at 6:00pm at **Village Hall, 2 Pleasant Street, Monticello, New York 12701** to discuss the following proposed local law:

Proposed Local Law # 2 of 2024 entitled, "A Local Law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in the General Municipal Law Section 3C of NYS"

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the economic significance of said proposed regulations & local laws will be reviewed by the Village Board of Trustees incident too 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, May 3rd, 2024

By Order of the Village Board of the
Village of Monticello, New York
Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to open the Public Hearing at 6:05pm. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

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

Mattie Anderson asked exactly what this is and what it means

Special Counsel Sussman explained that this is a mechanism put in place by the State that allows municipalities to raise the property taxes for their municipality above the NYS allowable limit which is two percent (2%). This does not mean that the municipality must raise the taxes, but the State put this in place just in case an increase takes place above the allowable 2%. To enact this 2% increase, if necessary, a Public Hearing and Local Law must be passed by the governing Board which the Public Hearing is taking place now, later in the agenda, there is a proposed resolution to adopt this Local Law if the Board so chooses to do so.

No one else spoke from the Public.

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to close the Public Hearing at 6:10pm. Upon the call of the roll, all were in favor.

Mayors Comments

On a personal note, let me say, as you all know Sunday was Mother's Day. I want to extend a heartfelt greeting to all of you that are mothers or mother-like figures. Although I have no biological children of my own, I feel as though I have and still am raising many. I have now taken on the responsibility of having a hand in the upbringing of all the children involved within this Village. So, in essence I have become a mother to all the residents of Monticello.

To be a good Mayor, I must respect my elders and I am truly blessed to have many prime examples of mothers to be guided by, such as my mother Louise Massey, Marie Jenkins, Ella Snowden, Mabel Horace and many others who possess the wisdom that can only come with motherhood. Now, let's get down to business and get on to the agenda.

Let me reiterate the fact that nothing can happen in this town without teamwork, and I am very grateful to the individuals who have been lending a hand. In my last newsletter, I wrote about

the importance of getting down to work for the residents of Monticello, so in the meantime here's what we have accomplished.

AGENDA

First, I along Village Clerk spoke, via telephone conference call with the state regarding a grant to consolidate the unnecessary communications and papers contained within the village. You may think this is an unnecessary venture, however, we can become bogged down in the mountains of accumulated papers and not remember where our starting point is.

Next, we need to discuss the status of the tax increase and consider what the appropriate percentage is. The Board of Trustees must prioritize essential services and explore other ways for cost-saving measures and revenue generation. It is essential that the village can pay off its debts and create a fund for contingencies. If we have this system in place, it will provide the Board with regularly scheduled finance reports and detailed explanations of how funds are being spent and create an organized accounts management.

Next, I want to remind everyone that Monticello is facing a financial crisis. We have inherited a mess. As a result of this it is vital that now we review all contracts and salaries of Village employees and contractors. In addition to that, we need to contact the State Comptroller's Office and ask them to perform a robust rather than perfunctory audit of the Village's finances. Everyone needs to understand that stronger oversight mechanisms are now crucial for ensuring the efficient and effective management of Monticello's resources and upholding the trust placed in us by our community members.

Next, I have also met with homeowners regarding their trashcans, and we have had an overwhelming 95% agreeable response level. So, communication was the key factor there.

Next, I have been continuously litter-plucking. Even though this was an event that was held to involve all community members, I want to stress the importance of maintaining the appearance and integrity of the visuals of the town. This means we must all work together to maintain this as an everyday event and remind all residents to scoop their poop!

Additionally, the Village website needs to be updated and a message posted to all residents describing the grim status of Monticello's finances and stating that it is crucial to confront the significant financial challenges and obligations confronting us at this time.

Lastly, I will ask if anyone on this Board has or knows of someone with grant-writing experience please contact me or the Village treasurer.

Dates to remember:

1. May 19th- 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
The 3rd Annual Sullivan County Youth Book Festival is being held at the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library located at 479 Broadway in Monticello. There will be Door Prizes, a Musical Guest, Face Painting & Crafting in addition to a Character Meet and Greet.

2. June 1st- 11:00 am to 2 pm

Synergy will be hosting a public event. This event will be open to all residents of the Village of Monticello and surrounding areas. Synergy is a private practice Mental Health Care facility located at 2 High Street. They offer Marriage Counseling, TMS, and Family Therapy. They private practice specializing in TMS therapy for people with depression. We also provide chemical dependency treatment, individual or family counseling, medication management, and child psychiatry. Patients come to us because we are experienced in many different areas of mental health care. Our commitment is to offer the best treatment. Reach out to Synergy of Monticello to learn more about all of our Mental Health Care Services Today!

3. July 14th

Church of Saint Peter 150th Anniversary Celebration. Mass celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan. This event will be held at St. Peters Church, 10 Liberty Street Monticello, New York.

Managers' Report

Mr. Snowden did not give a report.

Discussion-Sunny Forest Bungalow Colony-Hayden Carnell-127 Old Liberty Road-Sewer Request

Hayden Carnell was present and stated that his firm Keystone Associates was hired by Sunny Forest. They are a bungalow colony located in the Town of Thompson and currently are in violation with the Town of Thompson, the NYS DEC & DOH due to an inoperable and inadequate sewer system. They are requesting to hook up to the Village for sewer services only. They are willing to make whatever necessary changes to their system if they can be guaranteed by the Village. Most of their camp is shut down due to sewer issues and they were only granted a "small" opening by the Town last year and are not being granted any type of opening this year.

Special Counsel Sussman stated that his concern and what the Board needs to take into consideration is the fact that they have been in violation for the last couple of years and have not taken any steps to correct their issue before it got to where it is now. Are we inheriting another problematic owner or property? If they have all these violations and have not corrected them and are aware of the issues, why would the Village want to get involved with them? It is obvious that the Town is at their wits end with them and now that they are not allowed to open at all, they want to fix the problem by coming to the Village. That concerns me and you all, the Board, should take that into consideration before giving an answer.

Mr. Carnell stated that he is aware of the concerns, and they are valid, but they have reached out to his company and are trying to do the right thing now, so there is a hope there that they are trying to do the right thing.

Mr. Snowden stated that if the Board allows, he will meet with Mr. Carnell before the next Board meeting to see what exactly is going on and if we can help his client or not.

Discussion-Varnell Road Property-Glenn Smith-Water and Sewer Request

Glenn Smith was present with Mr. Braezel who owns the Varnell Road Property. They are also looking to receive sewer and water services from the Village for a complex he is looking to construct on Varnell Road. Mr. Smith stated that the property is in the Town, and they have spoken to the Town regarding annexation, but because the Town is working on their Comprehensive Plan, they are not interested in annexations at this time. Mr. Braezel is aware of the water issues in the Village, and he is equipped to assist the Village in any way possible to make this happen whether it be adding new infrastructure or adding to the current infrastructure that is already present. He is also aware of the anticipated Water Project coming forth, so he knows that this is not something that will not happen overnight. Mr. Smith stated that he was before the last Board and now that there have been changes to the Board, we wanted to come and present this to you all. So, I know that you all need time to look over the maps that I provided and need to have some discussions, so I can always reach out to Mr. Snowden to see where we are in a few weeks.

Discussion- Taxi Medallions

We Care Transportation owner, Chrissy Bruno, was present and wanted to discuss the taxi situation in the Village. She stated that she is not receiving pickups due to all the illegal transportation services around the Village.

The Board stated that there are two (2) and three (3) hour waits for rides, and they get complaints on a regular basis, and it is not fair to the residents. So, when they see other providers, legal or illegal transporting people moving quicker, they use them.

Mrs. Bruno stated that they cannot get riders because the illegal transporters charge less once they hear the price of her driver's and then her driver loses the fare. She also stated that the Fee Schedule states zones, but it does not specify the zones or where the zones are in the Village. She also stated that the Code mentions a taxi committee and she wanted to know who is on it and when do they meet.

Special Counsel Sussman stated that we had a virtual meeting with Mrs. Bruno, we, being the Village Manager, the Clerk and myself and she stated the same concerns, and we made her aware that there is a new Board and to come to this meeting to voice her issues to the Board. I also looked at the Code and Fee schedule and her claims are indeed true regarding the zones and the Taxi Committee. He stated that he would ask Mrs. Bruno to give the new Board some time to investigate these issues and they will get back to her in an appropriate time. In the meantime, he stated that he would admonish the Police chief to start taking notice of the items she mentioned and see how we can rectify them, being that her company is the only legally registered company in the Village.

Resolution of Adoption for Local Law #2 of 2024, "Authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in the General Municipal Law Section 3C of NYS" and authorizing the Village Clerk to do the necessary NYS 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.

Resolution authorizing payment of the Village Bills in the amount of \$ 202,645.48

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 rescinding the DeHoyos Park Dumping Permit and removing the fee from Chapter A290 of the Village Fee Schedule and returning the fee for all renewals effective immediately

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 reinforcing the “No Cash Policy” in the Village effective immediately for all Village Departments including the Justice Court

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 an Emergency Purchase of 45ft of Copper for the Splash Pad not to exceed \$1,000.00 from app#F.8320.421 (Source of Supply Repairs & Maintenance). Account balance before expense is \$13,279.42

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis.

Mr. Snowden stated that the guy is coming next month to install the Splash Pad, and these are the miscellaneous items that need to be tied up to get this completed. We have moved the location of the Splash Pad; it will now be between the playground and pavilion. This way, the bathrooms are right there and there are already sewer and water lines, so this will cut down on some of the expenses instead of running the piping across the street. The next resolution is also for the Splash Pad and that one also needs to be passed.

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

Resolution authorizing an Emergency Purchase of a 2-inch water line tap not to exceed \$1,600.00 for the Splash Pad from app#F.8320.421 (Source of Supply Repairs & Maintenance). Account balance before expense is \$13,279.42

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 purchase of an InTouch Bar-Code & Biometric Finger Scan Subscription Time Clock from ADP(Sole Source Provider) for the Police Department in the amount of \$1,207.80 from app#A.3120.408(Police-Service Contracts). Current account balance is \$1,201.50

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 Sale of Properties that were foreclosed upon by the Village of Monticello through a bidding process and to be posted on the Village website

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 an Emergency Purchase of various parts for the Splash Pad for the Sewer Department not to exceed \$8,061.86 from various vendors as attached from app#G.8120.233 (Sanitary Sewers-Equip Purchase). Current account balance is \$139,971.26 before purchase

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 to William Hird & Co. (sole source provider) in the amount of \$1,690.60 for the replacement of fire hydrants in the Sewer Department from app#G.8120.233 (Sanitary Sewers-Equip Purchase). Current account balance is \$139,971.26 before purchase

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 to MTEK- Bob Woerthman (sole source provider) in the amount of \$1,351.00 for the purchase of EnviroZyme E Plus for the Sewer Department from app#G.8130.419(Treatment/Disposal-Lab Supply/Testing). Current account balance is \$5,423.78 before purchase

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 return of a Road Bond to Legacy Property's Inc in the amount of \$7,500.00 from app#A.2590.200(General Permits/Highway) for work completed on 9 Morris Drive

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

Add-Ons:

1. **Resolution authorizing the closing of the Village Departments daily for lunch, except for the Police Department**
A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Jenkins. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.
2. **Resolution setting a Public Hearing date for LL#3 of 2024, Amending Article II Traffic Control Signals §252-4 and adding subsection M(1) "The Installation of Speed Bumps and Reduced Speed Limit Signs on Terry Lane, Shaker Heights Drive and other designated streets as identified by the Village Board in the Village of Monticello and adding a reduced speed limit" on Wednesday June 5th at 6:00pm**
A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Jenkins. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Legal Update from Special Counsel Sussman

Mr. Sussman made the Board aware that four (4) grievances have been filed by the PBA:

1. Taking Village vehicles to their private residences
2. Time Clock
3. K-9 Unit being dissolved
4. Overtime Shift

Executive Session

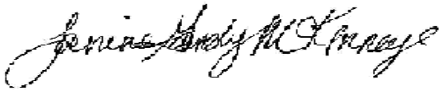
A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to go into Executive Session for Personnel & Litigation at 7:48pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Jenkins to come out of Executive Session at 8:10pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Jenkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk