

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

6:00 pm

### **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm 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. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

### **Approval of Minutes for the June 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### **Mayors Comments**

On a personal note, let me say, there is a new sheriff in town, and I will let everyone know that I will enforce the laws of the Village. Recently I and Trustee Gordon Jenkins were harassed at our home by an individual, and that is intolerable. I will not allow myself to be intimidated by anyone. The laws of the Village will be enforced to their fullest.

In my past newsletters, I wrote about the importance of getting down to work for the residents of Monticello, here's what I have accomplished:

1. June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - I attended the Naturalization Hearing. 21 resident aliens from 10 different countries were granted legal citizenship in the US.
2. June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 -I attended the Senior Meeting. I was able to listen to their complaints and concerns.
3. June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - I attended a meeting of the residents of John Crawford Senior. One of their biggest concerns was that there seems to be addicts hanging out and even doing drugs in front of the doors. I plan to address this issue by asking

for a step up in the police presence.

I have been continuously litter-plucking which should involve all community members. I want to stress the importance of maintaining the appearance and integrity of the visuals of the town so we all have to work together to maintain it!

### Agenda

I know I stated it before, but the Village website needs to be updated immediately. Then a message needs to be posted to residents describing the grim status of Monticello's finances and further stating that it is crucial to confront the significant financial challenges and obligations confronting us at this time.

I have been in touch and plan to continuously meet with people who possesses grant-writing experience.

I stress once again that Homeowners and landlords will be accountable for maintenance of their properties and buildings. I stress the fact of cleaning up their act. They will be billed by the Village at the highest rate.

Workers, I will say and continuously say, you are responsible for the maintenance of the Village and Town and the jobs that you have been entrusted with. You need to be aware of your responsibilities and uphold them. It is tax- payer money that funds your salary.

Again, please remind residents to scoop their poop. This is an on-going problem, and we must find a resolution.

### Reminders:

1. There is no overnight parking on Broadway. All resident vehicles will be ticketed or towed and fined daily.
2. The Village Hall is closed from 12noon -1:00pm
3. July 19<sup>th</sup> is a legal holiday for all Village workers. Juneteenth National Independence Day, is a federal holiday in the United States. It is celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger ordered the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas at the end of the American Civil War which commemorates the enslaved people learning of their freedom under the Emancipation Proclamation.

Although my agenda appears to be uncompromising, this is the first step in cleaning up this Village.

### Dates to remember:

June 19<sup>th</sup>-The Sullivan County Branch of the NAACP in conjunction with The Black Library will host a special Juneteenth Event and BBQ. The Black Library will open at 10 a.m. NAACP membership/renewals and voter registration until 12 noon.

## 6-18-24 Village Board Meeting Minutes

June 20<sup>th</sup> - September 26<sup>th</sup>- Sullivan Fresh Monticello Farmers Market sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension every Thursday 10:00am-1:00pm behind the Ted Strobel Recreation Center 10 Jefferson Street, and they also accept SNAP and EBT

July 8<sup>th</sup>-Presentation by Nessin Cultural Arts Center 1:00pm, the event will be held at Temple Shalom 5 East Dillion Rd

July 14<sup>th</sup>- The Church of Saint Peter is hosting their 150th Anniversary Celebration. There will be a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan. This event will be held at St. Peters Church located at 10 Liberty Street Monticello, New York.

July 18<sup>th</sup>- Bus trip to Wind Creek Casino in Bethlehem, PA Cost- \$55 per person, each person will be given a \$30 free play card

### **Managers' Report**

Mr. Snowden appointed Helen Alli to the Monticello Housing Authority Board for (five) 5-year term.

He also gave an update on the Village Pool and Splash Pad. He stated that the pool has been repainted and cleaned, and they are getting it ready to be filled. Regarding the Splash Pad, they are waiting to pour the concrete for the actual pad. The Water and Sewer Departments have done their part along with the Highway Department. The shed has been built for the Electricals to operate the Splash Pad and things are moving along.

Lastly, he stated that there's a resolution on the agenda for him to sign a contract with Barton & Loguidice for the Flow Meters on Rock Ridge Avenue for \$8,000.00. He stated that he wants the Board to understand that the Flow Meters will service the entire area and not just the forthcoming housing project on Rock Ridge.

Trustee Jenkins asked, why won't the developer of that project pay for it?

Mr. Snowden explained that the developer is putting in a \$2M dollar Pump Station, so the Village should be able to eat this \$8,000.00. We have to look at the bigger picture. The Pump Station that they are putting in will service that entire area, Starr, Rock Ridge, Nelshore, Pleasant St Ext, all of those areas will benefit from their \$2M dollar Pump Station and this installation is for the Village lines in all, not just for that project, so hopefully you all will pass the resolution.

### **Presentation- Chad Granger, Vice President of Employee Benefits & Tim Beadel-The Reis Group**

Chad Granger from the Reis Group was present and gave a presentation in regard to the MVP Health Plan and its cost effectiveness for the Village employees.

Tim Beadell was also present with him and gave a presentation on a more cost-effective and user-friendly payroll system for the Village.

**Discussion-Dr. R. Naghavi-Spring Hills Project-NYS Route 17B (SBL#131.-1-1, 2 & 3)**

Dr. Ray Naghavi was present before the Board to see if they could assist him in the forward movement of his project that was approved through the Planning Board last year. He stated that the Department of Health has halted everything due to the water issue in the Village and he felt that the Village Board could help.

The Board informed him that they do not have the authority to force the DOH to do anything. They have their rules and regulations and they have to look out for the welfare of the people and he has to do whatever they require.

**Discussion-Brush Pick-Ups**

It was established by the Board that the residential brush will be picked up 2x's a month by the Highway Department. The dates will be publicized at the beginning of each month and also listed on the Village Website.

**Resolution authorizing payment of the Village Bills in the amount of \$ 80,132.49**

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

**Resolution awarding the Annual Village Bids to all of the Lowest Bidders for the Highway, Water & Sewer Departments**

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

**Resolution authorizing the Village Manager and the Village Special Counsel to sign the PKF O'Connor Davies Contract for the Forensic Audit of the Villages Payroll from 2019 to date**

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

**Resolution authorizing the Village Manager to sign a contract with Barton & Loguidice in the amount of \$8,000.00 for the purchase and installation of Flow Meters for the Rock Ridge Project**

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

Trustee Jenkins asked, why does the Village have to pay for this, shouldn't this come from those that looking to do the project?

Mr. Snowden stated that this is for that whole section of the Village and not just for a particular project. It will cover Rock Ridge, Nelshore, Starr and all of the other streets that have issues with brown water. Those that are doing the residential project on the corner of Rock Ridge and Starr, are being required to put in a \$2M dollar pump station that will service that entire area, the flow meter installation is the Village's responsibility because it's for our lines and our purposes.

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

**Resolution authorizing the Annual Service Contract and payment to Excelsior Blower Systems in the amount of \$2,161.10 from app#G.8130.421 (Treatment/Disposal-Repair/Maintenance) for the Sewer Department. Account balance before expense is \$6,818.40**

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

**Resolution rescinding the Payments Allowed in Advance of Audit aka Prepays passed in the Re-Organizational meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 and amending it to state the following: Resolution authorizing payment in advance of audit claims for Public Utilities, Postage, Freight and Express Charges not to exceed \$30,000.00 in accordance with Office of the New York State Comptroller Local Government Management Guide**

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

Mayor Massey asked the Clerk for an explanation of this resolution.

Mrs. McKinney made the Board aware that she's been in contact with the State and doing trainings and found out that a lot of the items that we, the Village has as prepays are illegal and must go through the purchase order and bill pay process, this way things can be tracked better and there are checks and balances. In going through everything and trying to clean-up the mess we are left, the Manager, Mr. Snowden and I are finding that a lot of things that were done by the prior administration were not according to the law and this is the reason why we are in the financial mess that we are in. Almost every day something else pops up that either was not done at all or done wrong and no one attempted to correct it, so we are going back years and it takes a lot of time, but this one here is major, because we have found that a lot of people have been overpaid that receive the Medicare reimbursements, some companies have been over paid and we have credits on accounts while payments were still being made and this took place because there was no checks and balances in place. They also informed me that doing vouchers are illegal unless for the reason stated in this resolution, other than those items listed, everything else must be done through a purchase order process to be legally paid.

Mr. Snowden commented yes, we are in a big mess and stuff comes up daily. I am not even sure how a lot of this stuff was or wasn't even done, the employees have issues that were never corrected and or addressed and Janine and I are having to go back years as she stated to make corrections and bring things up to date. It's a lot of work and takes up a lot of our time.

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

**Resolution authorizing payment to Edmunds GovTech in the amount of \$2,941.14 for the Building Department Computer Software from app#A.3620.403 (Code Enforce-Contr/Software Maint)**

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

**Resolution authorizing payment to BDP Industries(sole source) in the amount of \$1,987.32 for the purchase of a Belt Press from G.1940.400 (USDA Reserve Sewer Fund) for the Sewer**

**Department. Account balance before purchase is \$96,184.59**

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

**Resolution authorizing the Emergency Purchase of a Zero Turn Lawn Mower not to exceed \$13,000.00 from app#F.8320.459 (Source of Supply-Plant Operations) the Water Department line item. Current account balance is \$23,155.72 before expense**

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

**Executive Session (if necessary)**

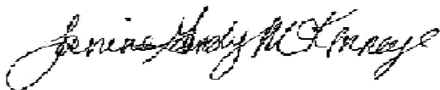
A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Jenkins to go into Executive Session at 7:30pm for Personnel. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

A motion was made by Trustee Davis with a second by Trustee Hutchins to come out of Executive Session at 8:41pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to close the meeting at 8:41pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



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Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk