

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, January 15th, 2025

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 Jenkins-Absent

Trustee Hutchins-Present

Trustee Davis-Present

Trustee Barbarite-Present

Also Present:

James Snowden, Village Manager

Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk

Michael Sussman, Special Counsel

Motion to accept the agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Jenkins to accept the agenda with three (3) corrections:

1. Item#16-The payment is for the Village's Liability coverage
2. Item#18-The correct amount of the refund is \$1,076.90
3. Item#20, should be completely removed, it was paid the December 18th meeting

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

Approval of minutes for the December 18th, 2024 Regular Board meeting

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

Manager's Report

Mr. Snowden appointed Mayer Rosenberg as the Police Surgeon for one (1) year and Mr. Snowden also re-appointed board member David Komatz to another five (5) year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

He also made everyone aware that the culprit was found that was vandalizing First Baptist Church on Liberty Street here in the Village.

Legal Update-Attorney Sussman gave the following information:

1. PERB was given an application for Injunction against the transference made by Board due to some of the Village employees having to change over to a new health insurance. AFSCME Local made that Injunction and the first one twice was rejected on technical

grounds. They made another application of Injunction was denied because on the grounds of there was no irreputable harm shown on any member of the union because of the switch. They still have an improper charge before PERB that has to be adjudicated, it has not been adjudicated yet, we are in the early stages of that. The new insurance that as far as I know is in effect and I am asking the Board and the Manager, if there is any issue brought up by any member regarding their coverage, to please keep me abreast as it is important that I am fully kept in the loop regarding this issue.

2. The outstanding issue with Mr. Sherb before PERB is still pending.
3. We received a request for a Voluntary Arbitration from the same Union, AESCME stating that we have deprived employees from their benefit time. I spoke with the Manager to see who has been denied what, he advised me that no one has been denied anything, so I relayed that information to PERB in hopes that the issue would be resolved. Then I received a list of five (5) arbitrators, so we will select from the list of arbitrators and have the hearing, but at this stage, I don't know what is even being alleged in a very general manner. I don't know if Mr. Snowden or any of you have any information, but it's very hard to defend something this vague.
4. Regarding to the Corley matter, as you all know, Mr. Corley filed a lawsuit against Mr. Snowden in the NYS Supreme Court in Monticello, Sullivan County. Although I have made my views of this claim with his attorney, but so far it is still continuing. There may be some discovery that will have to be done, but I have spoke with the Police Chief to make sure that we address their requests in a timely manner.
5. I have not heard anything further yet about the piece of equipment that came about when we first came into office and it was in limbo and we didn't have money for it and we repudiated before we took possession of it. It was a threat to litigate about it, but as far I know, Madame Clerk has not gotten any paper.
6. I note, that there is very outrageous insurance cost that a being projected for this municipality, it is a small Village and frankly, the insurance cost are through the roof. So, I'm prepared to do all the defending I possibly can for the Village, these insurance cost have to be dealt with. To be paying over \$300,000.00 a year for a Village this size just for lawsuits, which is mostly what it is, is pretty impossible to fathom.

Mayors Comments

Happy New Year! As we welcome the New Year, it's the perfect time to reflect on the opportunities ahead and the goals we aim to achieve together this year. As we stand on the threshold of a brand-new year, it is with great joy and optimism that I extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you in our community. As we bid farewell to 2024 and welcome the possibilities that 2025 holds, let us take a moment to reflect on our achievements, express gratitude, and embrace the bright future that lies ahead. A new year brings fresh energy and motivation to work on projects that will make Monticello an even better place to live, work, and thrive.

On a high note:

Hats off to Officer Tyrus Walker. Through his efforts an armed criminal is off the streets after Officer Walker captured him and confiscated his weapon. This is an example of an exemplary officer and his vigilance and perseverance in putting away dangerous criminals. Officer Walker is constantly working to keep our community and residents safe. So, a warm congratulation goes out to him.

Let me wrap up by saying, I would like to give a shout out to 2 young people who stepped up and supported the mayor's 1st annual Toy Drive. Mecca Hickman and Morgan Hutchins deserve your respect and honor. Even through the cold and bitter day, they strived alongside me and the other delivery volunteers as we made the day a little brighter for those less fortunate. Accordingly, a thank you goes out to those youngsters and all who put in the effort, whether it was donation or grunt work. All of you volunteers made this occasion a success! Next year, I look forward to your help in propelling this event to bigger and better proportions.

Now down to business:

This year, we are focusing on several key initiatives to enhance our community and improve the services the Village provides. Among our top priorities is the enforcement of Court backlog clean-up. Many lawbreakers of traffic, vehicle and building violations are neglecting to appear in court, going unpunished or are being postponed out to future dates. These postpone individuals than tend to disobey the law again. We have decided to take steps to pursue working with Doug Solomon, in an effort to make the court system more efficient. This initiative is designed to ensure the safety of our residents. Working through Mr. Solomon, the goal is to aim towards heightening the efficiency of sentencing the violators and better oblige the public by enhancing services for the village.

Another very important priority is to ensure sustainability Monticello for the future. The tipping fees for landfill receiving of trash have increased. So, in the name of accountability I must stress the situation with garbage handling. Please take serious note! These rules will be enforced to their fullest extent. The consequences will be severe for repeated offenders. In addition, landlords will be held fully accountable for tenant violations:

- 1) Garbage must be placed inside trash bins with lids on.
- 2) Recycling of cardboard requires it to be broken down and tied with string.
- 3) Garbage bags cannot be placed on the outside nor the side of the trash bin. Extra bags found to be located outside of the container will be fined at a cost of \$15.00 per bag.

As we work towards these initiatives, I encourage everyone in our community to get involved. You can stay informed by attending the board meetings. Whether it's getting involved in local activities, volunteering, or simply supporting one another, every effort contributes to the strong sense of community that defines Monticello.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we can make 2025 a year of

progress and achievement for the Village of Monticello. I look forward to keeping you updated as we take on more projects moving forward and to hearing your thoughts and ideas along the way. Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Ongoing Events:

- 1) Weekly AA/NA Meetings-Ted Strobel Center 7-8:30 pm
- 2) Behavioral Health Services for youth. Astor Services Satellite Clinic. Online Providers. Monticello School District. Location: Monticello High School and St. Johns Street Building. Parental Consent necessary.

Discussion-Garbage in the Village

Trustee Barbarite gave an overview of the garbage issue in the Village. He discussed that increase in tipping fees from the County which is an additional cost on the Village. Fees were raised by the County on January 1st and will increase again in July. He spoke on the importance on recycling and the lack of in the Village which is cost the tax payer's more money. There was the mention of giving a reduced rate for seniors who own their homes and live alone to aid in their monthly cost of garbage, to only charge them for one can. Also, if we bring cardboard to the Landfield, the Village ill not be charged. We have not decided how to go about it either one truck following the other or adding another day of pick up, but we have to do what is cost effective for the Village.

Mr. Sussman gave a suggestion of working with Mr. Shabazz Jack & Mrs. Pigniney out of Kingston, they reduced the garbage at Vassar College by 85%, through recycling, composting and so forth. They are Greenway Environmental, I will give their information to Mr. Snowden, so we can have a conversation with them. I believe that with the issues that you all are dealing with here in the Village and continue to deal with, they can really be an asset.

Review-239 Determination-Local Law #11 of 2024-Cannabis Regulations

Mr. Sussman made the Board aware that the 239 GML determination was received from the County, leaving the decision for local determination. So, we can now move forward with what was done with the County's blessing.

Resolution authorizing payment of the Village Bill in the amount of \$529,069.02

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

Resolution authorizing the Village Clerk to divide the Village into five (5) Election Districts in accordance with the NYS Election Law §15-110(5) for the upcoming March 18th, 2025 Village Election and designating the Monticello Fire House located at 23 Richardson Avenue as the Polling Site for registered voters from 12pm-9pm

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

Resolution awarding the lowest bid to Ryamar Landscaping Inc. of Swan Lake for the Floral Drive Sewer Manhole Replacement in the amount of \$24,500.00

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

Mr. Sussman commented that the Village Engineer, Mr. Smith, sent documentation, stating that this company is the lowest bidder and he is confident in their ability to complete the job on Floral Dive.

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

Resolution amending Local Law#10 of 2024, "Constabulary" to add the specific duties under section 131-3 as attached

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

Resolution authorizing payment to Motion Ai for the upgrades to the Win-911 System in the Sewer Department in the amount \$16,600.00 from app#G.1940.400(Reserved Sewer Project), amount to be paid out of the 2023/2024 budget. Account balance after expense is \$44,541.91 in the 2023/2024 budget

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 Honest Creative, for work completed for the new Village website in the amount of \$8,000.00 from app#A.1680.202(Web Update). Current account balance is \$20,000.00

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

Trustee Barbarite commented that the Village Clerk, Manager & myself have been working with this company to update the Village website to bring it into this century. As we know the site is pretty archaic and hard to maneuver, this company came highly recommended by the Town and they are very pleased with them, so we gave them a shot and so far, so good. Hopefully the site will be up and running before the summer hits.

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

Resolution authorizing payment to the Reis Group for the Village's Liability coverage the amount of 105,000.00 from app#CL.1910.400, \$45,000.00 from app#A.1910.400, \$90,000.00 from app#F.1910.400 & \$106,268.00 from app#G.1910.400 all funds named Unallocated Insurance

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

Resolution authorizing payment to the Town of Thompson for the 2025 tax bills in the amount of \$2,601.42 from app#A.1950.400 (Taxes/Assessments and Adjustments). Account balance after expense is \$7,134.62

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

Resolution authorizing a refund in the amount of \$1,076.90 to Mosdos Monticello Inc. for unused Planning Board escrow from app#T.0032.629. Current account balance is \$1,397.90

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

Resolution authorizing payment to The Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark in the amount of \$3,000.00 to be paid form the grant given by County and also authorizing the Clerk to advertise the March 14th, 2025 event

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 Roy Warden in the amount of \$1,264.00 for the repair of the TSC & Village Hall heating systems from app#A.1620.426 (General-Building & Grounds Oil Burner Maint.). Account balance after expense is \$486.00

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 Schmidts Wholesale Inc. in the amount of \$1,264.71 for the replacement of the lower valve at the Racetrack Pump station from app#G.8120.421 (Sanitary Sewers-Repairs/Maint.). Account balance before expense is \$15,995.92

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 Callanan Industries Inc. for the paving of the Village Roads as attached out of the CHIPS monies in the amount of \$196,094.65 from app#A.5110.229 (Street Maintenance-CHIPS). Account balance after expense is \$82,218.65

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

Resolution authorizing the repair of the 8 Street Lights on Pleasant St from the Corner of East Broadway to Starr Avenue by NYSEG, the total cost will be \$100.00 for all 8 lights from app#A.5182.200(Street Lighting-Repair/Maint). Current account balance is \$3,736.86

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

Trustee Barbarite commented that the Board should understand that this \$100.00 will be charged monthly.

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

Report from Chief Lindsay

Chief Lindsay gave an update on the recent arrests in the Village and gave huge congratulations to Officer Tyrus Walker for his arrest of an armed criminal that was wanted for murder in another area and also here in the Village. The suspect was armed with a ghost gun that he was apparently

reaching for, while being chased on foot by Officer Walker, who noticed him reaching for it and tazed him to bring him down and seize the weapon. Chief Lindsay stated that they are giving Officer Walker certificates and an award for his courageous act to protect the citizens of the Village.

He stated that he can say that for once in a long time, the moral is up and the Officers are actually excited to come to work. He feels that the respect of the community is coming back because this group of officers are giving it 110% everyday and that is being appreciated. Also, they know the community and people feel comfortable with them, plus, these guys are in shape and are not afraid to do their jobs. The Officers are out ticketing and patrolling the Village on a regular basis and they are keeping the justice Court busy, which is a good thing.

As Mr. Snowden commented, the First Baptist Church vandalizer has been caught and I am sure that he will not be seen around that premise anymore.

The other issue regarding the terminated employee has also been taken care of. He stated that he spoke the DCJS and he has been removed out of the system, this way, the employee cannot apply anywhere else under that title.

Overall, we are moving forward and this group of Officers are not afraid to work. Hopefully, we will be able to hire another or a few more officers very soon.

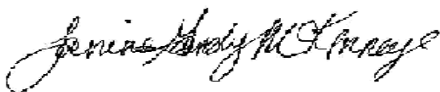
Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjournment

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to close the meeting at 7:06pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



Janine Gandy-McKinney
Village Clerk