

# Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Village of Monticello

Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

6:00 pm

## **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm by Mayor Massey.

## **Pledge to the Flag**

## **Roll Call**

Mayor Massey-Present

Trustee Jenkins-Present

Trustee Hutchins-Present

Trustee Davis-Present

Trustee Barbarite-Present

## **Also Present:**

Michael Sussman, Village Special Counsel

Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk

## **Motion to accept the agenda**

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

## **Approval of minutes from the April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meetings**

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 for Proposed Local Law #2 of 2025, adding Section 280-59 entitled, "PUD-Planned Unit Development" in the Village of Monticello**

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Jenkins to postpone the Public Hearing until Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 due to the County 239 determining that the submittal was incomplete and requesting more information. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

## **Mayor's Comments**

Neighbors, as I stated on the last agenda, don't forget that May has been designated Mental Health Awareness Month. It emphasizes the fact that everyone can help to improve mental health well-being by engaging with the community as a social-action goal. So, take the time to prioritize your mental well-being and foster your community by encouraging open dialogue through thoughtful and intentional steps to create lasting, positive changes.

Additionally, remember that Spring and Summer are approaching, It is time to do some Spring Cleaning!

Remember to:

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1. Keep grass mowed
2. Trees trimmed
3. Yard free of debris
4. Control weed and wild plant growth
5. Keep sidewalks clear
6. Ensure cars are parked correctly
7. Maintain in good repair and structurally sound all accessory constructions I.e. (detached garages, walls, fences)

These actions will cause a beautiful Monticello!

### **On a high note:**

The clean-up days went very well. I was surprised at the turn-out of community members. This attendance allowed us to service many properties and areas within the Village.

This is a reminder to all community residents that we have a noise ordinance throughout the Village of Monticello. The noise ordinance states that sound in or out of your vehicle must be kept to your ears. It is unlawful for any person to create noise or emit sound or cause the creation or emission thereof which is unreasonably loud, disturbing or unnecessary and is of such character, intensity or duration as to be detrimental to the life or health of any individual, or in disturbance of the public peace and welfare. Be mindful of your neighbors because if it disturbs them, then it becomes a problem.

In addition, all basketball and ball nets must be kept away from the road and not placed on sidewalks. It is against the law to play these games on the street. If a portable basketball hoop is placed in a public street with no end, then the Village has the right to remove it. If an owner wants to place a portable basketball goal within the end of a local street, then he must notify all the neighbors and take their recommendation first. Secondly, the owner should supervise children who want to play with the hoop. Lastly, the Village will have the right to remove it if the hoop is halting any street-maintenance operation.

### **Down to Business**

Good evening, everyone. In just a short time, we'll begin the process of preparing next year's budget. And I want to be upfront with you-it's probably going to be the most difficult budget the Village of Monticello has ever had to put together. Why? Because we're not just planning for the future we're also cleaning up the past. We've uncovered major issues with last year's budget. Millions of dollars were allocated for critical needs, but the spending never happened-and now that money is unaccounted for. We're still trying to track down exactly where it went, but the bottom line is: we have to add those costs back into this new budget just to get the village back on solid footing. And that's just the beginning. Like all of you, we're feeling the impact of rising costs. Electric rates have jumped 40%. Our insurance coverage has gone up by \$400,000 since last year. We're also expecting health insurance premiums to increase by 12 to 14% and by contract; the village has to cover that for our

employees. Payroll expenses are also going up significantly, again due to commitments made by the previous board in union agreements and we can't ignore the wider economic picture either. The federal tariffs on countries like China and Canada are already affecting the cost of supplies we rely on-things like chemicals, equipment, and parts needed to keep our water, sewer, and highway departments running smoothly. We don't yet know how big the impact will be, but it's something we need to prepare for. So, yes, this is going to be a tough budget year-but I promise you, we're facing it head-on. We're committed to being transparent, responsible, and working with all of you to get Monticello back on track.

**Ongoing Events:**

Have a hot cup of FREEDOM! Join Vet2Vet of Sullivan County for coffee and camaraderie every Monday at ATI from 10-11am at their location at 309 East Broadway, Monticello.

Weekly ANNA Meetings-Ted Strobel Center 7-8:30pm

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.

Sullivan 180: The 2025 Community Resource Guides are here! As a reminder, this valuable guide to our community's wide variety of resources is always available and kept up to date on the Sullivan 180 website - [www.sullivan180.org](http://www.sullivan180.org)

Veteran Caregiver program continues monthly from ATI. Rental assistance funding remains available for those in recovery from substance use disorders.

Community Services Now Offering Mental Health Services to Children Ages 5 and up in an effort to meet the demand for mental health services for children across the county, we are now accepting referrals for children beginning at age 5. Call (845)292-8770 for more information and to schedule appointments.

**Help Wanted:**

Center for Workforce Development- Applications are now available for Sullivan County's Summer Youth Employment Program for ages 14-20. Applications can be obtained on the SYEP- website [sullivanny.us/Departments/Youthbureau](http://sullivanny.us/Departments/Youthbureau)

Child Protective Case Worker at DSS- The Child Welfare team at DSS is looking for a few more caseworkers to join the team to enable them to expand services and supports into local school districts in time for the start of the next academic year. Civil service exams are offered weekly for this posit1011. A bachelor's degree or RN and driver's license arc required for the position.

Hepatitis C Care Coordinator- Cornerstone Health Services.

Public Health-Healthy Families is seeking a bilingual family support worker & this position requires only a HS Diploma and is a wonderful opportunity to help new mothers and babies.

**Announcements:**

Center for Workforce Development: Applications are now available for Sullivan County's Summer Youth Employment Program. Please note that the deadline to apply was Friday, May 9, 2025, but I believe that they are still taking applications. Applications can be obtained on the SYEP website.

A free Rabies Clinic will be held at the Morningside Park Pavilion, in the Town of Fallsburg, on June 18th, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. There is also an additional clinic being held on June 3rd at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

In closing, again, let me reiterate that we must all make volunteering a personal priority. The initiative with Catholic Charities Foundation that was looking for volunteer to restock the food pantry has not garnered much of a buzz. I implore you all to get out there and commit to serving your neighbors in need. This event is held every Wednesday from 9am -1pm.

As we work towards all of our planned 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.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and commitment. Together, we can progress and achieve a lot 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.

**Manager's Report**

There was no report

**Resolution authorizing payment of the Village bills in the amount of \$125,316.62**

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 and awarding the quote and payment to Sullivan County Paving for the paving of the following Village streets: Pleasant View Ext, Richardson Ave, Old Liberty Rd, Michelle Drive, & Monticello St in the amount \$199,177.50 from the CHIPS account. Current account balance before expense is \$617,586.00**

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 and awarding the quote and payment to Town & County Bridge and Rail for the guardrail replacement going along Richardson Avenue in the amount of \$5,995.00,**

**also to be paid out of the CHIPS account. Current account balance before expense is \$617,586.00**

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 supporting Save Neighborhood Social Security Offices, Medicare and Medicaid**

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 the purchase of Concrete Manhole Risers from Woodard's Concrete Products (sole source provider) for the Village street paving as listed in resolution #11 in the amount of \$1,294.80 from app#G.1990.400(Sewer-Contingent Account). Current balance before expense is \$5,000.00**

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 MTEK (sole source provider) in the amount of \$2,460.00 for the purchase of chemicals for the Sewer Department from app#G.8130.458 (Treatment/Disposal-Chemicals). Account balance before expense is \$21,519.90**

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

#### **Executive Session**

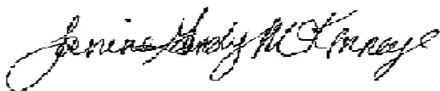
A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Davis to go into Executive Session at 6:28pm for Litigation. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

A motion was made by Trustee Hutchins with a second by Trustee Barbarite to come out of Executive Session at 7:35pm for Litigation. 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 close the meeting at 7:37pm. Upon the call of the roll, all present were in favor.

Submitted by:



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Janine Gandy-McKinney, Village Clerk