

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INC. VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE**

MINUTES OF: January 16, 2024 MEETING

PRESENT:

Mayor: Bob Sandak, Deputy Mayor: Jacquelyn Gernaey

Trustees: James J. von Oiste, Michael Solo, Leza Di Bella

Others present: Clerk Treasurer Joanne Raso; Deputy Clerk Treasurer Barbara Sakovich
& Village Attorney Eileen Powers.

MEETING CONVENED AT 8:05 pm

I. MINUTES: Minutes of the December meeting were accepted as read.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurers report for December was accepted

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to report.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Sandak reported that he is very dissatisfied with the service provided by our snow removal contractor. They were awarded the contract in 2022 and this is the first significant snowfall that they had to respond to.
- There will be a motion tonight to pass a resolution to set a public hearing to authorize a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law. This is done every year to allow us to pierce the 2% cap, if necessary, when preparing our budget. We have not raised taxes in the last 2 years.

V. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

1. BEACH: Commissioner von Oiste reported the heavy rains caused a gully to form at the entrance to the beach. It will be repaired soon.

2. BUILDINGS: Commissioner Di Bella is obtaining quotes to repair the brick wall in front of the Community Center.

3. PARKS: Commissioner Solo reported our handyman has repaired the netting around the pickleball court and is making sure all the equipment is kept in working order.

4. ROADS: Commissioner Solo reported he has prepared a list of drains that need to be cleaned out with a vac truck and is contacting companies for estimates. Installation of new drains at 4 locations has started. They will be installed on Cliff Road and on Cedar, Cliffside and Lodge. These last 3 locations are dead end streets where flooding could prohibit residents from leaving or getting back to their homes. He is also evaluating various options to repair roadside erosion.

5. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: As there was no one here to represent the BTCA, Mayor Sandak encouraged all residents to join the association during their annual membership drive.

6. CONSTABULARY: There were 33 calls for service during the month of December. The total calls for 2023 were 450.

VII. MOTIONS:

- 1. Motion** by Trustee Gernaey, seconded by Trustee Solo was passed unanimously to approve for payment the abstract of audited vouchers in the amount of \$34,418.68.

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- 2. Motion** by Trustee Solo, seconded by Trustee von Oiste to pass a resolution setting a public hearing to consider a Local Law to authorize a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c. Motion passed.
- 3. Motion** by Trustee von Oiste to pass a resolution to designate and publish offices and terms to be filled at the Village Election n June 18, 2024 was seconded by Trustee Di Bella and passed unanimously.
- 4. Motion** by Trustee Di Bella to pass a resolution to participate as an employer in the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan, and approve inclusion of its officers and employees in such system was seconded by Trustee Solo and passed unanimously.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

- A resident of Seaside Drive whose car was stolen a few weeks ago expressed concern and was wondering what the village is doing to keep something like this from happening and why other village residents weren't notified of the theft. The mayor explained that our constables are only code enforcement officers and have no police powers. He also said the board would discuss notifying residents of any crime in the village and the possible installation of license plate readers at the entrances to the village. Discussion followed.
- A resident offered his services to help improve our website. He suggested the monthly meetings be posted in the event calendar and had other suggestions. Mayor Sandak invited him to come to the village office and speak to the staff.