

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

**MINUTES OF:     February 18, 2020 MEETING**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor: Bob Sandak

Deputy Mayor: Sheila Knapp

Trustees: Jacquelyn Gernaey, Richard Musto

Others present: Village Attorney Eileen Powers, Clerk Treasurer Joanne Raso

Absent with prior notice: Trustee Caroline Engelhardt

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The public hearing was called to order at 8 pm. Mayor Sandak explained the purpose of this hearing is to consider a resolution which would allow the Board to exceed the tax cap imposed by the State, should it be necessary to balance the budget. There being no questions, a motion was made by Trustee Gernaey, seconded by Trustee Knapp to close the public hearing. Trustee Gernaey then made a motion to pass a resolution adopting Local Law 1-2020 to authorize a property tax levy in excess of the limit established by General Municipal Law. Motion was seconded by Trustee Musto and passed unanimously.

**REGULAR MEETING CONVENED AT 8:05 PM**

**I. MINUTES** of January were accepted as read.

**II. TREASURER'S REPORT** for January was accepted.

**III. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Fully executed copy of IMA w/Town of Brookhaven for Assessment Functions

**Letters requesting use of the Community Center:**

1. A. Rohman sponsoring PJHS Wrestling Banquet on Thursday, April 2

**IV. MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Wednesday recycling pick-up will stop at the end of February. Changes to the recycling industry has changed the way trash and recycling is collected and sorted. A visit to Maggio's trash/recycling center showed how the collections are sorted, thereby eliminating the need for individuals to sort before collection. This should result in a savings of about \$450 a month until the end of the current contract in June.
- No Soliciting/No Trespassing signs have been ordered and should be delivered soon.
- The Board is working to update and beautify the buildings at the beach, including making the bathrooms ADA compliant. We are waiting to see if DEC approval is required.
- In order to communicate better with residents who are unable to attend the regular board meetings, the Mayor has set aside two days where residents can meet with him informally to talk about their concerns or ideas.
- Mayor attended a deer forum sponsored by Town of Brookhaven

- Residents who might be feeding the deer in winter are actually killing them. Because their digestive systems change in winter when they are custom to having less to eat, feeding them causes them to bloat, which poisons them.
- The new bail reform and recovery act forces us to now hold court twice a month, which costs us more for court reporters, court officers and the court clerk. We now also have to provide a photo for every ticket issued.
- The fact that predictions for future energy use on Long Island is down may affect the use of the “peaker” power station in Port Jefferson, which doesn’t affect our Village taxes, but does affect the taxes received by the school district, fire district and library district.
- Senator Ken LaValle will be retiring this year. He has helped the Village obtain grants from the State for projects such as road repaving.
- Our annual budget work session will be at the beginning of March. Anyone who has something they would like to see added to or taken out of the budget is welcome to contact the Village office so the idea can be considered.

#### **V. COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS:**

- 1. ROADS:** Commissioner Raso reported that emergency pothole repairs were recently completed.
- 2. HARBOR MANAGEMENT:** Meetings will resume in March
- 3. CODE REVIEW:** Trustee Gernaey said she is working on more revisions to the code.
- 4. CONSTABULARY:** January had 21 calls for service, 7 were emergencies. There were 14 summonses issued and 412 house checks.

#### **VI: MOTIONS:**

- 1. Motion** by Trustee Gernaey, seconded by Trustee Knapp to approve abstract of audited vouchers #'s 277, 278 & 279 for a total amount of \$38,833.19 for payment. Motion carried.

#### **MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:**

Topics discussed:

- A question about the lighted buoy off Knapp Beach
- Enactment of the new code regarding wood piles and who is responsible for cleaning up storm debris. The Village will clean up any debris that is left as a result of a tree falling across the road. Anything else is the responsibility of the homeowner.
- Condition of the island between Upper & Lower Devon Roads. Residents would like to see it revegetated. Amy Goldberg was assigned the job of getting information on what can be done to beautify the area.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.