

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

## **MINUTES OF: April 18, 2023 MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Mayor: Bob Sandak

Deputy Mayor: Jacquelyn Gernaey

Trustees: Richard Harris, James J. von Oiste, Michael Solo

Others present: Clerk Treasurer Joanne Raso

Absent with prior notice: Village Attorney Eileen Powers

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mayor Sandak gave a brief overview of the proposed budget, stating that savings on snow removal and not hiring a full-time building inspector, as was proposed in last year's budget, allowed them to increase some of the other budget lines without having to raise the tax rate. One resident asked why there was nothing allocated in the budget to stabilize the cliff behind the cabanas. The board explained that would be a capital expense, coming out of our capital fund, not the general operating fund. Discussion followed on when the village plans to work on that project.

**Motion** to close the public hearing: Made by: Trustee Gernaey; Seconded by: Trustee Harris passed unanimously.

**Motion** to accept the 2023/2024 budget of \$1,606,133.14 as proposed. Made by: Trustee Gernaey Seconded by Trustee Solo, passed unanimously.

**Motion** to approve the tax rate of \$29.16 per one hundred dollars of assessed value. Made by: Trustee Gernaey, Seconded by Trustee von Oiste passed unanimously.

## **REGULAR MEETING CONVENED AT 8:15 pm**

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

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

**III. CORRESPONDENCE:** There was no correspondence to report

## **IV. MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- At this evening's work session, the bids were opened for the upcoming refuse collection contract. Sealed bids were received by the Village Clerk from Maggio Environmental Services and Colucci Carting. Maggio's was the apparent low bidder by a small margin. The bids will be given to the Village Attorney for her review and if everything is in order, the bid will be awarded at next month's meeting.
- We received the new contract from the Port Jefferson Fire District. As we have no control over their budget, we are subject to pay whatever they determine to be our share of their budget, which is just under \$6,000 more than what we budgeted for. We are trying to become a part of the fire district so that as residents, we can have a say in what they propose in their budget.
- There will be a Long Island Sound Coastal Erosion Forum next month at the Port Jefferson Village Center. Several of our trustees plan to attend.
- We are arranging to have the beach buildings power washed before the start of the season.

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**V. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:**

- 1. BEACH:** Cabana letters have gone out to everyone in the community. All 26 cabana owners from last year plan to put up their cabanas and 15 new applications have been received. All lifeguards have been hired, and we plan to open the beach earlier this year to coordinate with the start of the youth program. We are also ordering a beach matt to replace the boardwalks.
- 2. BUILDINGS:** New curtains, a new refrigerator and acoustic panels for the large room are being ordered to spruce up our community center.
- 3. PARKS:** The windscreen on the pickleball court had been replaced; organic tick spraying program at the park was started on April 4. The park will be sprayed about every 21 days and Commissioner Solo intends to post a sign at the park a day in advance. Also, the playground mulch will be replaced.
- 4. ROADS:** We will be working under the Town of Brookhaven contract with Suffolk Paving to do our road paving again this year. They have reviewed the list of roads we plan to repave and are providing estimates. Residents will be notified when their road will be done. Commissioner Solo also noted that the repairs done when the drain on Northwind Drive collapsed last year are holding up well.
- 5. YOUTH PROGRAM:** The program will start at the end of June, with an option for a full day program for the younger children.
- 6. HARBOR MANAGEMENT:** The Harbor Management Commission held their first meeting of the season and determined there is a lack of funding and a lack of bay constables for this year.
- 7. CODE REVIEW:** At their next work session, the board plans to review the codes for possible changes to fines charged for different violations.
- 8. CONSTABULARY:** March had 24 calls for service, including several reports of dead deer.

**VI: MOTIONS:**

- 1. Motion** by Trustee Gernaey, seconded by Trustee Harris was passed unanimously to approve for payment the abstract of audited vouchers in the amount of \$77,941.08.
- 2. Motion** to approve the appointment of the Inspectors of Election as follows: Betsy Joyner, Judy Zaino, and Kathy Yunger. Alternate Inspector Marlene Capobianco. Further, that a stipend of \$195 be paid to those persons who serve on Election Day. Made by Trustee Gernaey, Seconded by Trustee von Oiste. Motion carried.
- 3. Motion** to give the mayor authority to sign a contract with the Port Jefferson Fire District upon approval of the Village Attorney. Made by Trustee Harris; Seconded by Trustee von Oiste. Motion carried.
- 4. Motion** to pass a resolution that the Village Hall at 55 Cliff Rd. be designated as the Village Polling Place. Registration Day has been abolished and Suffolk County Rolls will be used. Election Day will be held on Tuesday, June 20, and the hours during which the polls shall be open shall be from Noon to 9:00 PM. Made by Trustee Gernaey; Seconded by Trustee von Oiste. Motion carried.

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**MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:**

A resident suggested trying to get an agreement with Port Jefferson Village to allow Belle Terre residents to pay to get parking passes to park in Port Jefferson without having to pay the meters. Discussion followed.

She also suggested having a lighted or electronic sign to replace the bulletin board near the gatehouse where meeting and event signs are posted, to make it easier to read while driving by. There was some discussion.

Another resident asked about the procedure for cutting trees, whether dead or alive. He was told a permit was required. Applications are available at the Village office or on the website. There is no fee.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned.