

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

MINUTES OF: April 16, 2024 MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor: Bob Sandak

Trustees: James J. von Oiste, Leza Di Bella

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

Absent with prior notice: Trustee Michael Solo; Deputy Mayor: Jacquelyn Gernaey

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BUDGET:

The public hearing on the proposed budget was called to order at 8 pm. The mayor noted that the budget had been mailed to all village residents and asked if there were any questions. There being none, a motion was made by Trustee von Oiste to close the public hearing. Motion was seconded by Trustee Di Bella and passed. Trustee Di Bella then made a motion to accept the proposed 2024/2025 budget of \$1,683,760.25. The motion was seconded by Trustee von Oiste and passed. A motion to approve the tax rate of \$29.67 per one hundred dollars of assessed value was made by Trustee von Oiste, seconded by Trustee Di Bella and passed unanimously.

CODE CHANGE: CHAPTER 123-RENTAL PROPERTIES:

The existing code already prohibits a rental for less than 30 days. The proposed change is to modify the code to make it illegal to advertise a property for short term rental.

A resident asked what the fines were and who would be responsible for payment of the fine. After some discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Di Bella to close the public hearing. Motion was seconded by Trustee von Oiste and passed. Trustee von Oiste then made a motion to adopt Local Law No. 2 of 2024 to update Chapter 123 of the village code titled Rental Properties to include provisions barring advertising for lease or rent without a valid rental permit. Motion was seconded by Trustee Di Bella and passed.

REGULAR MEETING CONVENED AT 8:15 pm

I. MINUTES: Minutes of the March public meeting and the April 2 work session were accepted as read.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's report for March was accepted.

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence:

1. Fully executed copy of contract with Port Jefferson Fire District (received 4/2/24)

Letters requesting use of the Community Center:

1. B. Sandak sponsoring Angela LoNigro for a bridal shower on Sat., June 22
2. Danielle Friedman for a baby shower on Saturday, May 11.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Sandak reported he met with Suffolk County's representative for Governor Hochul who had reached out to see what she could do to help our village. The mayor explained that the village could use help with erosion control and storm drains. They also discussed emergency services in the event of strong storm or hurricanes that might cause the loss of many trees, as the village does not have a public works department with the equipment needed to clear the roads and remove debris. They exchanged phone numbers and she said to call her if we need the state's help.

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V. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

1. BEACH: Commissioner von Oiste reported that recent storm waves brought sand from the beach up onto the parking lot. He is currently waiting for estimates from several contractors and the repairs will be done as soon as possible.

2. BUILDINGS: Commissioner Di Bella reported structural repairs to the planters in front of the community center are starting tomorrow. These repairs will fix the drainage problems and the planters will be replanted.

3. PARKS: Mayor Sandak reported that 3 pieces of exercise equipment have been ordered to be placed in the park along the walking trail and tick spraying has been started at the park.

4. ROADS: Mayor Sandak reported that commissioner Solo is continuing to meet with residents regarding flooding issues and he is still evaluating which drains need to be cleaned and where new drains may be needed. He is also planning a repaving schedule.

5. YOUTH PROGRAM: Commissioner Schachner reported that registration is open and about 39 children have registered so far.

6. CONSTABULARY: Commissioner Sandak reported March was a busy month with 39 calls for service.

VII: MOTIONS:

1. **Motion** by Trustee Di Bella, seconded by Trustee von Oiste was passed unanimously to approve for payment the abstract of audited vouchers in the amount of \$50,520.51.
2. **Motion** by Trustee von Oiste, seconded by Trustee Di Bella 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 18, and the hours during which the polls shall be open shall be from Noon to 9:00 PM. Motion carried.
3. **Motion** by Trustee Di Bella, seconded by Trustee von Oiste, to approve the appointment of the Inspectors of Election as follows: Betsy Joyner and Kathy Yunger. Alternate Inspector Judy Zaino. Further, that a stipend of \$195 be paid to those persons who serve on Election Day. Motion carried.
4. **Motion** by Trustee von Oiste, seconded by Trustee Di Bella to pass a resolution authorizing the village attorney to settle the lawsuit and execute any documents required in regard to the ligation in NYS Supreme Court against Lynn Bohlen and Canales & Sons Property Services Corp in connection with the damage and removal of trees owned by and located on village property as well as the wrongful removal of trees on the property of Lynn Bohlen. Motin carried.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

A resident complained about a piece of construction equipment that has been on his neighbor's property for over 4 months, when there are no construction projects being done on said property. The mayor responded that summonses have been issued and the matter is now in the hands of the village court. Discussion followed.