

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

MINUTES OF: April 15, 2025 MEETING

PRESENT:

Mayor: Bob Sandak, Deputy Mayor: Jacquelyn Gernaey

Trustees: Michael Solo, Leza Di Bella

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

Absent with prior notice: James von Oiste

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BUDGET:

The public hearing on the proposed budget was called to order at 8:05 pm.

Mayor Sandak noted the necessary process to prepare a budget while keeping all Village amenities in place while many of our expenses have increased such as insurance, Fire Department, sanitation, and salary. The Village continues to rely on State aid and to apply for grants. The court received a grant to install an ADA door at the Community Center and the Village is applying for a FEMA reimbursement grant from the August 2024 flooding incident. There are still unknowns as the State has not yet completed their budget.

Residents questioned the Constables on the midnight shift, possibly adding a gate at the beach to insure resident only access and the McCallister Park lot. The Mayor will be meeting with Suffolk County Legislator Englebright to discuss McCallister Park concerns..

Trustee Gernaey, our Financial Officer discussed the differences in various budget lines. The Mayor noted that the board and staff were conservative in their budget calculations with a 4.07% increase.

Motion was made by Trustee Gernaey seconded by Trustee Di Bella to close the public hearing at 8:23 p.m. Trustee Gernaey then made a motion to accept the proposed 2025/2026 budget of \$1,712,245.43 as proposed. The motion was seconded by Trustee Solo and passed.

A motion to approve the tax rate of \$30.88 per one hundred dollars of assessed value was made by Trustee Gernaey, seconded by Trustee Di Bella and passed unanimously.

CODE CHANGE – Chapter 161 (Vehicles & Traffic) Penalties for Offenses

The public hearing to discuss proposed increases to the fines imposed for parking violations was called to order at 8:24 p.m. as there were no questions or comments.

A Motion was made by Trustee Gernaey, seconded by Trustee Mike Solo to close the public hearing at 8:30 p.m.

A Motion to pass a resolution adopting Local Law No. 3 of 2025 to amend Section 161-21 of the Village code to increase penalties for parking violations and other infractions of Chapter 161.

Motion was made by Trustee Gernaey and seconded by Trustee Di Bella and passed unanimously.

MEETING CONVENED AT 8:32 pm

I. MINUTES: March minutes were accepted as read.

II. TREASURER’S REPORT: March Treasurer’s Report was accepted as read.

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III. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from NYPIRG informing us of their door-to-door outreach sometime between May 1 and September 1
2. Application from Danielle Friedman, on behalf of the Port Jefferson Prom Committee, for a prom fundraising event on May 29, 2025 from 5-11:00 p.m.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Sandak explained how the State Comptroller's Office rates the fiscal condition of all Villages, Towns, Counties with a grading system of 1-100 with a worse rating as the number increases. The Village received a 6.7 out of 100 which is a good fiscal score.

V. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

- 1. BUILDINGS:** Trustee Di Bella noted that the heat in the Community Center is not working and the new unit will be installed this Friday. The 2 trees on the north side of the building had to be removed to allow for the crane to install the new equipment. A new ADA door has been installed in the Community Center.
- 2. PARKS:** Trustee Solo noted how the organic tick treatments in the park have started as well as our landscaping services. The new exercise equipment has been received and three-quarters installed near the existing equipment and should be completed by the end of the week. Two new benches have been installed by the pickleball court and the wind screens will be replaced/repared shortly.
- 3. ROADS:** Trustee Solo completed his review of all of the Village roads and identified the areas for pothole repairs, road edge and drain repairs. The plan is to install new or improve our drainage throughout the Village. The work has not yet been scheduled.
A resident asked about the speed tables and Trustee Solo confirmed that an engineering company contract has been approved. There will be 3 speed tables installed initially with potentially 3 additional.
- 4. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:** Ted Lucki gave the rescheduled Petting Zoo/Egg Hunt date of April 26th and the discussed the success of the Murder Mystery event.
- 5. CONSTABULARY:** Mayor Sandak reported there were 27 calls for service in March.

VI: MOTIONS:

- 1. Motion** to approve Abstract of Audited Vouchers for payment in the amount of \$48,379.81. Made by Trustee Gernaey, Seconded by Trustee Di Bella and passed unanimously.
- 2. Motion** to pass a resolution to amend certain fees as established in Chapter A175 of the village code. Made by Trustee Gernaey, Seconded by Trustee Solo and passed unanimously.
- 3. Motion** to pass a resolution setting a public hearing to consider a local law adding chapter 101 (Lighting, Exterior) to protect & promote the Village of Belle Terre's quality of life, unique character & the ability to view the night sky by establishing regulations &

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INC. VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE**

a process for review of exterior lighting. Made by Trustee Di Bella, Seconded by Trustee Solo and passed unanimously.

4. **Motion** to adopt the updated Village of Belle Terre Procurement Policy. Made by Trustee Gernaey, seconded by Trustee Solo and passed unanimously.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC at 8:52 p.m.:

Residents had concerns regarding the missing spindles at the beach building, the angle of the beach mat on the sand and its accessibility to get to the beach, the high sand level while under the pergola, the poor aesthetic condition of the planting containers and the possibility to leave the bathrooms open later for those enjoying cabanas (to be locked by the Constable) and to keep the bathrooms properly stocked. A resident also questioned if the bluestone would be added in the parking lot and Trustee Solo responded that it will be and included in our pending FEMA grant.

The Mayor said that Trustee von Oiste will address these when he returns.

A resident asked where the parking violation dollars are spent and if they can be allocated for street sweeping. The Mayor explained how the funds collected go into the general operating budget and a new budget line would have to be added for street sweeping.

The Mayor expressed that these public meetings are here for this type of resident discussion and recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.