

**REGULAR MEETING - BOARD OF TRUSTEES - INC. VILLAGE OF BELLE TERRE  
55 Cliff Road, Belle Terre, NY 11777**

**MINUTES OF: April 12, 2016 MEETING**

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor:** Ted Lucki

**Deputy Mayor:** Sheila Knapp

**Trustees:** Bob Sandak, Michael Sampogna, Jacquelyn Gernaey

**Others Present:** Eileen A. Powers, Village Attorney, Louise Smit, Deputy Village Clerk-Treasurer

**Absent (prior notice):** Joanne Raso, Village Clerk-Treasurer

**MEETING CONVENED: 8:04PM**

**PUBLIC HEARING-PROPOSED BUDGET**

**Motion** to close the public hearing: Made by: Deputy Mayor Sheila Knapp, Seconded by: Trustee Jackie Gernaey.

Trustee Bob Sandak discussed the proposed 2016/2017 budget to the residents in the audience, after which many questions were raised. Richard Card asked how the Village could raise the budget by 2.5 percent and it was explained that the Board passed a Resolution to allow for the Village to raise the budget higher than the tax cap. Richard Card asked why a Balance Sheet wasn't attached to the Proposed Budget and was answered by letting him know that anyone could go into the Village Office and request whatever information they would like to inspect. He asked about the line item for the Sale of Real Property and was explained that this was the sale of a piece of property that is being held up by the Town of Brookhaven and that the Village is still expecting that sale will go through. Nancy Henry questioned the proposal of \$30,000 to Port Jefferson Country Club. Discussion ensued about the benefits to all property owners through property value and the value of the relationship between Port Jefferson and Belle Terre and the school children. Richard Card discussed the idea of why we should possibly change Auditors and it was replied that it has been looked into in the past, but that this is the best option for the Village. He continued to ask for clarification on the Youth Program line and the Ambulance line. Neil Kurtz spoke on behalf of the Ambulance service with praise. Questions were raised regarding the Aerial Survey and explained that funds were found in the current years budget for the survey but unfortunately the weather became too warm to complete the survey this winter.

**Motion** to accept the 2016/2017 budget as proposed: Made by: Trustee Bob Sandak, Seconded by: Trustee Michael Sampogna.

**Motion** to approve the tax rate of \$27.18 per one hundred dollars of assessed value: Made by Trustee Mike Sampogna; Seconded by: Trustee Jackie Gernaey.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED BUDGET was adjourned at 8:50PM**

**MEETING CONVENED: 8:53PM**

**I. MINUTES** of March were corrected as follows:

There will be 20 new kayak racks built to accommodate Residents requests.

In regard to the question if Helicopter landing is allowed in Belle Terre, the approval is required by the FAA (not FCC).

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

**III. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1. Letter from Mayor Ted Lucki announcing that he will not be running for reelection as Mayor.
- 2. Letter from Brookhaven Supervisor Romaine re: creation of new Ambulance District

**IV. MAYOR’S REPORT:**

It has been four full years, but we finally have Cell Tower approval by the ZBA and Planning Boards. We do not have the building permit yet because the approvals just occurred, but the Tower has been ordered and installation should begin in 6 to 8 weeks.

A few residents have applied for solar panel installation and the Village has decided that though they will approve for a few tree removals for Solar Installation and though Solar is good for the environment, we live in a treed community and we will not approve for every tree to be removed in order for Solar installation to be completed. The Mayor thanked Trustee Bob Sandak for his help and knowledge with the Budget.

**V. LAW:** No Report

**VI. COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS:**

- 1. **BEACH:** We have now re-graded the parking lot and plan on opening the beach on July 1<sup>st</sup>. 2 more cabanas have been requested for families in the Village. We are planning the picnic for July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. **BUILDINGS:** No Report
- 3. **CONSTABULARY:** It was a quiet month with 20 calls for service, 9 emergency calls, 11 quality of life calls, 69 summonses issued and 579 house watches.
- 4. **PARKS:** The Landscape Committee will be leveling the walkway path with soil and seed. The landscaping at the Gatehouse will begin tomorrow. Kelly Brothers will begin by removing old and dead plants and replacing with all new plants. We are replacing the entire front landscaping with a new design. It should be complete in 2 to 3 weeks.
- 5. **ROADS:** No Report
- 6. **YOUTH PROGRAM:** There will be some changes to the Youth Program this year. We will be bringing in special events and guests for the children including paddleboard instruction, Riverhead Aquarium guests, Coast Guard, Yoga Instruction and other guests. The program isn’t 100 percent finalized yet. We are looking for anyone in the Village who can offer or suggest anything unique.
- 7. **CABLE/TECHNOLOGY:** The new website is about ready to go live.
- 8. **HARBOR MANAGEMENT:** Peter Koutrakis is in the Hospital. We are wishing him a speedy recovery.
- 9. **COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:** Planning the Fourth of July Picnic.
- 10. **CONSERVATION:** No report
- 11. **DEER COMMITTEE:** There are many different methods of controlling the herd but it is a difficult problem. Anywhere from 28 to 40 deer per square mile is considered a “controlled herd”. The Village has contracted to have an infrared air survey done of the Village for a fee of \$6000.00. It is necessary for the ground to be frozen to get accurate results from the survey. Unfortunately, the weather became warm too quickly to perform the survey until next winter.

**VII. MOTIONS:**

**1. MOTION** to approve Abstract of Audited Vouchers #'s 132, 133 & 134 , in the amount of \$ 48,543.47 for payment.

**Made by** Trustee Bob Sandak     **Seconded by** Trustee Jackie Gernaey     **Approved.**

**2. MOTION** to approve the appointment of the Inspectors of Election as follows: Elaine Freda, A. Lee Paige and Lorraine Doganieri. Alternate Inspectors: Ann Henry & Yvonne Dwyer. Further, that a stipend of \$100 be paid to those persons who serve on Election Day.

**Made by:** Deputy Mayor Sheila Knapp **Seconded by:** Trustee Michael Sampogna. **Approved.**

**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 Jackie Gernaey **Seconded by:** Trustee Bob Sandak. **Approved.**

**4. MOTION** to pass a resolution that the Village Hall at 55 Cliff Rd., Belle Terre, 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 21, and the hours during which the polls shall be open shall be from 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM.

**Made by:** Deputy Mayor Sheila Knapp **Seconded by** Trustee Michael Sampogna. **Approved.**

## **VII. MEETING OPENED TO PUBLIC.**

Resident Neil Kurtz praised the plans for the Coast Guard boating class and suggested that signs be placed within the Village. The Mayor agreed to place signs.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:40PM

Respectfully,

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**Louise Smit, Deputy Clerk Treasurer**