

# **Village of Oriskany**

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## **Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2022**

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 in the back room of Oriskany Masonic Lodge #799 at 701 Utica St., Oriskany, NY to provide enough space for social distancing.

In attendance were Mayor Clifford O'Connor, Jr.; Trustees John Kasprzyk, Sean Fortnam, Christopher Burtch, and Paul Rieben; Village Treasurer Peggy Nugent; Village Clerk Alexis Albright; Police Chief Richard Zabek; Street Superintendent Brian Moulton, Fire Chief Jeff Burkhardt and Codes Enforcement Officer George Farley. Also in attendance were Asst. Fire Chief Glenn Block and Robert Ritchie.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:01 p.m.

The following reports were submitted:

<b>Report</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Result</b>
Minutes	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Burtch	Approved
Treasurer's Report	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Fortnam	Approved
Police	Trustee Fortnam	Trustee Burtch	Approved
Fire	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Burtch	Approved
Museum	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Kasprzyk	Approved
Codes	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Fortnam	Approved

The mayor then addressed the trustees and department heads. Chief Burkhardt requested that a member of the Village Board attend meetings with Whitestown to discuss the proposed fire district. Trustee Burtch recommended the fire chief reach out to the town first. The mayor added that a board member will attend "when the time comes."

Museum Curator Alexis Albright updated the board on the museum furnace, which failed this week. She said that proper temperature and moisture control is important for artifact storage and preservation. The furnace is 25 years old and has been repaired multiple times in the last three years. The repair would be more than 20% of the cost of replacing the furnace. The new unit would cost \$6,300. The air conditioning is also about the same age and has had problems. It could be replaced at the same time for \$6,500. Trustee Burtch motioned to replace the museum furnace and air conditioner. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Codes Enforcement Officer George Farley would like to update the zoning fee schedule, which would add a fee for refabrication/reconditioning of a house, for which Oriskany does not have a fee type. The mayor asked some questions and it was clarified that this fee would not be for things like roofing, siding, carpeting, etc. but for larger remodeling projects. Mr. Farley said residents could call him if they had any questions. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the new fee schedule, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Jeff Burkhart thanked the village board for the repairs on the 2 truck room heaters that failed over Christmas. He informed the board that the new rescue truck, purchased from New Hartford, is being put in service on Saturday. There were problems getting parts and labor, so Burkhart completed much of the work himself.

The fire department has filed for a FEMA grant for new airpacks, but they are now on “borrowed time” as the August cut off approaches.

Police Chief Rich Zabek informed the board of the Letter of Lateral Transfer from Officer Adam Sardina. Officer Sardina is taking a position with the New Hartford Police Department. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the transfer, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Zabek asked permission to replace Officer Sardina. A motion to this effect was made by Trustee Burtch and seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried.

Street Supt. Moulton said everything is running smooth.

Trustee Burtch said that the Fire Department met last Tuesday. There is a new slate of officers, which was read aloud. Trustee Burtch motioned to approve the new officers. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next, Trustee Rieben introduced Robert Ritchie who has applied for fire department membership. Trustee Rieben motioned to accept the application. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustees Fortnam and Kasprzyk had no new business.

The meeting then opened for public comment. There was no public comment or police reform questions.

Moving on to old business, the Oriskany Creek Commission was discussed. The group will meet again on January 18.

The village attorney was not in attendance, so there was no update on the large-scale solar moratorium. Trustee Burtch motioned to table the topic again for thirty days. Seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried.

Proceeding to new business, a local law to exceed the property tax cap limit was proposed. The local law would be used in the event that the budget cannot be balanced within the state limit. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to have a hearing for the local law at 6:45 pm before the next monthly meeting on February 8. Seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Whitestown Fire Contract was submitted for renewal. Motion to renew was made by Trustee Burtch, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried.

A Polling Place Resolution was made for Village Elections. The 2022 Village Election will be on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 from 12 noon to 9:00 p.m. at the Oriskany Public Library. Two trustee terms will be on the ballot. Motioned by Trustee Burtch. Seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried.

Election inspectors were then selected for the village elections. Glenn Block, chairman, and Helen Block will serve as election inspectors. Camile Jasinski was also named an election inspector. The motion was made by Trustee Fortnam, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried. (Camile was later found unable to act as inspector and alternate Theda Bower was substituted.)

The Oriskany Ladies Fire Auxiliary was discussed. There has been a long standing question as to whether the group was independent or part of the fire department. Per a fire department lawyer and NYS, it seems that the auxiliary is part of the department itself. Chris Burtch has been asked to facilitate a reconciliation between the two groups.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Kasprzyk made a motion to close the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Trustee Fortnam seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge. The public hearing for Local Law 2022.1 will be held before the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright  
Oriskany Village Clerk  
January 26, 2022