

Village of Oriskany

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Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2020

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met by teleconference on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 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; Chad Miller, representing the Highway Department; and Village Attorney Steve Deery, Jr.. No residents attended.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:00 p.m.

The Treasurer's report was submitted. The village is waiting on the third installment of first quarter sales tax from the county. Most village property taxes have been collected, with about 30 bills outstanding. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the treasurer's report; Trustee Kasprzyk seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The minutes for the meeting of July 14, 2020 were submitted by Clerk Alexis Albright. Trustee Fortnam motioned to approve the minutes; Trustee Burtch seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Police Chief's report was submitted. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Fire Chief's report was submitted. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Burtch, motion seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Museum Curator's report was submitted. The museum is now open by appointment. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Kasprzyk.

The Code Enforcement Officer's report was submitted. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the report. Trustee Fortnam seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The mayor next addressed each trustee and department head. Trustees Fortnam and Kasprzyk had nothing new to report.

Trustee Rieben asked Attorney Deery about Oriskany zoning codes and when they were last reviewed. It seems the 1996 zoning code is the most recent. Next, Trustee Rieben mentioned Halloween trick or treating and the annual Christmas in the Nettles festival. Both would have to be adapted to match pandemic regulations. Certain aspects of each are more conducive to the regulations than others. Hopefully there will be state guidelines available for trick or treating.

Trustee Burtch asked about the on-going FEMA application for the damage from the Halloween 2019 Flood. Treasurer Peggy Nugent and Highway Supt. Brian Moulton have been working on the application, which is nearing completion.

Police Chief Zabek asked about the renewal for the intermunicipal shared services agreement with the Whitesboro Police Dept., which was approved last month. The renewal has been received from Whitesboro and signed. Zabek also provided an update on the new police car, which has been hung up in production since last year. The car may be built this month.

Chad Miller reported for the highway department. He said it's been business as usual. The new hedge trimmers have worked well and they would like to proceed with purchasing a second pair to speed up the work. No objections.

The meeting was opened to public comment. There was one letter submitted asking the board to discourage the display of Confederate flags. The flag in question is on private property. The board does not condone the flag or what it stands for, however the display is protected by freedom of speech. A letter will be sent to this effect.

The board then moved on to old business. The trustees were reminded to schedule audits for the treasurer and justice. The next item on the agenda was driveway access on Manor Lane, which has been a contentious issue for many years. Driveways on this road were intended for infrequent access use only. Attorney Deery and Trustee Burtch will look into any deed stipulations included when the parcels were sold. The parcels were intended only as recreational parcels; further development could impact the water retention areas that prevent flooding.

The discussion proceeded to CHIPS road paving spending. A large portion of the money was used to oil and stone Utica St along with several side streets north of Utica St (Charlotte, Miller, etc.). CHIPS funding was reduced this year due to the pandemic. The group discussed

paving one or two smaller roads with the remaining money or looking into whether the money can be used on sidewalk repair.

The Fire Chief then addressed some of the issues in his report. The fire department would like to become a fire district, since they already cover additional ground in the Town of Whitestown. This was explored several years ago. The chief will supply paperwork regarding the details to the trustees.

Proceeding to new business, the village received correspondence about a playground matching grant from a company we have ordered from in the past. There is enough mulch at the playground in Trinkaus Park, but the springs for the animals have to be replaced regularly. The clerk will look into the details of the grant and whether it can be used toward minor improvements.

There have been questions about driveway access on Manor Lane. Nearby homeowners have had an ongoing difference of opinion over access to undeveloped parcels. The access is limited, but the extent of that limitation is in question. Trustee Burtch will look into the original purchase agreement and deeds.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to close the meeting. Trustee Rieben seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright
Oriskany Village Clerk
August 28, 2020