

Village of Oriskany

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Oriskany Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2023

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 in the Oriskany Village Office at 708 Utica Street, Oriskany, NY.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 pm. In attendance was Mayor Mick O'Connor, Clerk Alexis Albright, Treasurer Peggy Nugent, Trustees Sean Fortnam, John Kasprzyk, Christopher Burtch, and Paul Rieben; Highway Supt. Chad Miller; Police Sgt. Mike Colangelo; Fire Chief Jeff Burkhart; Fire Dept. President Steven Czeck; Village Attorney Steve Deery; Oneida Co. Legislator Bob Koenig; and residents Ray Tarasiewicz and James Krol.

The following minutes and reports were submitted and reviewed:

Report	Motion	Second	Result
Minutes	Kasprzyk	Rieben	Approved
Treasurer's Report	Fortnam	Burtch	Approved
Police	Kasprzyk	Fortnam	Approved
Fire	Burtch	Rieben	Approved
Museum	Kasprzyk	Burtch	Approved
Codes	Rieben	Kasprzyk	Approved
DPW	Burtch	Kasprzyk	Approved

The department heads and trustees were then addressed individually for updates:

Officer Colangelo suggested applying to Hoffman Car Wash for unlimited car washes for the police cars. The officers are currently supposed to wash the cars themselves. He said the State Police have been able to get the passes for \$10 per car per month. The proposal was discussed, but it was determined there are no Hoffman Car Washes near enough to warrant purchasing the passes.

Whitesboro dissolved the intermunicipal policing agreement between themselves and Oriskany last week. There were no concerns over ending the agreement.

Fire Chief Burkhart said that the department members had their physicals and fit tests yesterday. They were fitted for the masks that will match the new air packs and the order will be updated to reflect the best mask sizing.

Trustee Burtch said that the county sewer committee met last Wednesday for over two hours. He said there is a lot of “INI” still in the system, extra water that goes to the Mohawk River, but that compliance is much better. Non-compliance has improved from days to hours. The county is looking to borrow more money to continue improvements. The committee is returning to meeting quarterly.

Trustee Rieben said that the Little League parade went well and thanked the fire department and police department for their help. The Little League park improvements are coming along and should be finished this summer. Summer program applications are open and the Memorial Day service will be on the Monday of Memorial Day at 10 am in Trinkaus Park.

Curator Albright said that the county historians association meeting will be held at the Oriskany Museum this coming Saturday, so there will be extra cars parked near the museum. Coordination for the America250 planning are being discussed across multiple channels. A USS Oriskany shipmate, Mr. Kristoff from Pennsylvania, will also be visiting Saturday with a donation of flags for the anchor memorial. The Kristoff family and their local American Legion usually mail the flags, but this year he has requested to install the flags himself with his daughter.

There are 13 vendors registered for the farmers market, which will start Wednesday, June 7 from 2-7 pm.

Trustee Fortnam and Treasurer Nugent had no new business.

Trustee Kasprzyk said the library board president Michelle Reid is planning to step down soon after many years heading that board.

Supt. Miller said that the rain has set the department back on outdoor work. They also had difficulty sourcing red mulch for the flower beds. They've found a new supplier in Rome. Miller has talked to village engineer Jamie Kernan about getting bid books ready for summer paving projects. The town will be assisting with moving some prep materials. The new Little League

shed was delivered for the FEMA repairs. Miller has also contacted the state about the tree trunks stuck on the aqueduct.

Albright thanked the DPW for their help assembling the new office furniture.

There were no police reform questions or comments. The meeting opened to public comment.

Mr. Ray Tarasiewicz asked about culvert pipes near his home on Manor Ct. E. The metal corrugated pipe near his home is “rotting through.” The town helps install homeowner-purchased pipe for these projects. Mr. Tarasiewicz also talked to Sal at the town DPW. Supt. Miller said he provided measurements and supplier information last year but will do so again.

Mr. Tarasiewicz also asked about adding an extension to one of the flag poles around the anchor at the park so that the American flag is flown higher. The American flag is already flown higher with the other flags sitting lower on the existing poles, which were installed several decades ago.

He also asked about accessibility challenges at the firehouse. He requested that handrails be installed in the top floor bathrooms. Supt. Miller will look into whether rails can be safely installed.

Mr. James Krol of Ridge Road asked about a silver maple that is overhanging his property. The adjacent owner at 105 Sunray Terrace has not addressed it. Mr. Krol said the tree appears to be rotting from the inside. Krol is worried about branches coming down on his property. The current owner’s father did remove some branches several years ago from a different silver maple. Mr. Krol talked to his lawyer who recommended talking to the village board. There is no specific village tree ordinance. Homeowners may trim branches that overhang their property. The mayor also suggested Mr. Krol send the neighbor a letter. Mr. Krol’s lawyer has sent the neighbor a couple letters.

Mr. Koenig also talked about county sewer funding. The sewer rates have increased over the last two years. Sales tax revenue is up but there may be a funding shortage due to a change in how NYS distributes federal Medicaid funds. This may increase local property tax rates at the county level.

The phone system updates have been completed.

Trustee Burtch moved to rehire Ryan Mayo for DPW summer help, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Village zoning board procedures were discussed. The village attorney reiterated that the zoning board cannot dismiss the hearing just to vote. They shouldn't need an executive session unless they have a pending lawsuit or another matter protected by executive session. Everything has to follow Open Meeting Law.

There has been no word on the inmates painting the fire department and DPW buildings. The Fire Dept. stove vent hood may need to be repaired.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Trustee Fortnam at 8:17 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright
Oriskany Village Clerk