

Village of Oriskany

708 Utica Street/P. O. Box 904
Oriskany, New York 13424
315-736-3512
clerk@oriskany.org

Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2021

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 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, and Glenn Block, representing the Oriskany Fire Department. Also in attendance were County Legislator Bob Koenig as well as Larry Rieben, Bob Graziadei, Therese Hanna, Mary Kay Bennet, Mike O'Donnell, George and Jill Dangler, Daryl Bournat, and William Gregg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:02 p.m.

The minutes for the August meeting were submitted by Clerk Alexis Albright. Mayor O'Connor offered corrections to page 2, paragraph 7. The street discussed was Orchard Street and the pertinent department was the Oneida County Sewer District. Also to remove the "perhaps" pertaining to street flooding. Trustee Burtch motioned to accept as amended. Seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to accept the corrected July minutes. Seconded by Trustee Burtch. All in favor. Motion carried.

The following reports were approved:

Report	Motion	Second	Result
Treasurer's Report	Trustee Fortnam	Trustee Rieben	Approved
Police	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Kasprzyk	Accepted
Fire	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Burtch	Accepted
Museum	Trustee Burtch	Trustee Kasprzyk	Accepted

Codes	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Burtch	Accepted
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The mayor moved ahead on the agenda to public comment. Bob Graziadei generously offered to pay for the replacement of two trees in Trinkaus Park that were downed during a windstorm this summer. The replacements were installed last Thursday. Thank you, Mr. Graziadei.

The mayor also mentioned another tree, the pine outside the post office on the village green which is used during the annual tree lighting. After two nearby trees were removed due to damage, the pine has become more visible and is showing its age. A younger pine tree may need to be installed at some point. The current tree was discussed among the audience. Someone mentioned that the current tree may have been transplanted from Donnie Midlam (Pinkie's) house to its current location on the village green.

Next, George Dangler of 124 Elm Street voiced concerns about high grass and overgrown landscaping at the Trinkaus Manor Apartments on Route 69. He stated that there is substantial brush on the property, along with a travel trailer and a van that have not moved. He stated it is a mess and he wanted to bring it to the board's attention. Codes Officer George Farley will be asked to look into it.

Next, Bob Graziadei started a discussion regarding the village flag. It had been mentioned in the most recent copy of *The O* that residents were unsure if the village had an official flag. As historian, Alexis Albright had been looking into it. Two designs have been used, one on a red field and one on a black field. Without an approximate date to search the village minutes, it's unclear if the earlier flag was ever deemed the official flag of the village. Alexis will continue to search records and photos for more information. Mr. Graziadei suggested that perhaps a competition could be presented to the school art department to create a new flag design. Mr. Graziadei and Mr. David Fay would help. The board will take this into consideration.

William Gregg of 302 Clinton Street requested a curb cut to add a side driveway at his residence. This case was previously brought before the board and investigated by both the Codes Department and the Highway Department. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Burtch and seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried. The board directed the clerk to send a letter to this effect by the following day.

The mayor next addressed each trustee and department head. Trustee Burtch discussed the Oriskany Creek Project which is moving forward. He will attend the next meeting. So far, the funding is favorable, with percentages based on the amount of creek in each jurisdiction. The initial buy-in to the program will be about \$800-1500. Whitestown and New Hartford will also be contributing. Trustee Burtch recommends joining and will continue to update the board.

Trustee Rieben asked Glenn Block to bring the names of fire department membership changes. Mr. Block was dispatched to acquire the paperwork and the discussion was postponed. Trustee Rieben then discussed the summer program, which had concluded since the previous meeting. The last week of the program was rained out and the kids had to play inside. He will submit a formal report next month. Vouchers will be sent to the school for reimbursement, including a separate voucher for the additional help hired.

Trustees Kasprzyk and Fortnam had no new business.

Police Chief Zabek submitted an update to the SRO contract, which spelled out a specific law. Trustee Burtch motioned to approve the contract, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Zabek also addressed an email he received from Whitestown Police Chief Mark Sojda regarding maintenance at the town gun range. Chief Sojda would like to levy a small fee among the town's villages for maintenance of the facility. The exact amount is forthcoming. The board recommended the chief add a line to his upcoming budget year for the dues.

Street Superintendent Brian Moulton said the highway department is doing good and preparing for fall: leaves and road salt.

Next Alexis Albright spoke about the Museum. The USS *Oriskany* shipmates are considering scheduling their 2023 reunion in Oriskany.

Proceeding to new business, Trustee Burtch motioned to approve renewing the five year Oneida County Shared Services Agreement, seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Rieben made a motion to pass a resolution that all audits were completed for the court and treasurer. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk Albright presented information regarding two grant opportunities: the NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and the Oneida County Main Streets Grant. Both could help complete updates like sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle racks, park benches, etc. The DRI awards up to \$10 million which could also be used for building improvements and expansions, with proposed updates for all four village buildings, the playground equipment, and energy upgrades across the board. Trustee Burtch motioned to apply for both grants, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Fortnam motioned to approve the Clerk filing all applicable paperwork for 2022 village elections. Seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion passed.

Trick or Treat hours were discussed and tabled for the October meeting. The Christmas in the Nettles Committee will meet at the Masonic Lodge on October 12 before the village meeting at a time to be determined.

Trustee Rieben motioned to accept the following people for fire department membership: Raymond Kurtyka, Julia Hamon (junior member), Natalie Rieben (junior member), Ashley Kendic. Seconded by Trustee Burtch. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Burtch made a motion to close the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Trustee Kasprzyk seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright
Oriskany Village Clerk
October 12, 2021