

# **Village of Oriskany**

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## **Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2021**

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 11, 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; Officer Shreppel representing the Oriskany Police Dept.; Street Superintendent Brian Moulton; Fire Chief Jeff Burkhart; and Village Attorney Steve Deery, Jr.. Also in attendance were Oriskany Library President Michele Reid, and residents Nicolle Szalkowski, Jeanilyn Young, Bill Szalkowski, and Kirke Palmer.

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 April meeting were submitted by Clerk Alexis Albright. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the minutes; Trustee Kasprzyk seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was submitted. Trustee Burtch made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried. The following reports were submitted and approved as follows:

<b>Report</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Result</b>
Police	Trustee Burtch	Trustee Kasprzyk	Accepted
Fire	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Burtch	Accepted
Museum	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Fortnam	Accepted
Codes	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Burtch	Accepted

The mayor next addressed each trustee and department head. Officer Schreppel reported that the newest police car is getting its stripes and decals. Fire Chief Burkhart asked for a motion to approve hydrant flow testing with the Mohawk Valley Water Authority. So motioned by Trustee Burtch and seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried. Exploration into forming

a fire district has stalled. The village would like to meet with the town board to create a comprehensive plan for fire coverage in Whitestown.

Street Supt. Brian Moulton addressed paving. The following streets are in rotation for repair: Lansing St., Clinton St, and the intersection of Miller, Main and Marino St.. Trustee Burtch motioned to put the work out to bid, with bids being read at the next monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 8, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Burtch attended a meeting of the new Oriskany Creek Association, which seeks to mitigate flooding, similar to the Sauquoit Creek Project. Westmoreland and Kirkland are also included. Kristine Campbell is the point of contact. Trustee Burtch, Mayor O'Connor and Assistant Street Superintendent Chad Miller attended the first meeting earlier this evening. Trustee Burtch is willing to spearhead the project with Mr. Miller. The county is trying to establish similar initiatives for all basins and flood plains.

Trustee Rieben is arranging Memorial Day services. The Oriskany American Legion will have a public ceremony in Trinkaus Park on Monday, May 31, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Students from Oriskany Schools will assist with readings and songs.

Trustee Rieben also informed the group that the Oriskany Summer Program is so far moving forward. Hiring applications have been made available at the school. Final decisions regarding pandemic precautions will begin to be finalized the first week of June.

Trustee Fortnam had no comment. Trustee Kasprzyk attended the library meeting, the first for his new assignment. The back emergency door at the library has sustained water damage and needs a new frame or replacement. Trustee Kasprzyk suggested that a gutter may help prevent future damage. Trustee Rieben recommended installing a diverter instead. Michele Reid, library president also said the flooring is in need of replacement. The windows are also past their prime, having been installed when the building was built c. 1988. The original cupola loses a lot of heat in the winter.

For the museum report, curator Alexis Albright mentioned that the museum will likely be next in rotation for repairs. The ramp is in need of repair now and the HVAC has required more repairs. The museum was built in 1997 and also has mostly original systems. The roof will need to be replaced in the coming decade. She is hopeful that recent interest from the shipmate's association about holding reunions in Oriskany again may help with fundraising efforts. The Museum will reopen Memorial Day and scheduled hours thereafter.

The meeting was opened to public comment. Residents Jeanilyn Young and Nicolle Szalkowski informed the group about a dog bite that occurred near their residence. Ms. Young's son was

attacked by a neighbor's dog. A report has been filed with the Whitestown Dog Warden, Rusty Jones. The boy was bitten across his thigh and later developed an infection despite antibiotic treatment. The family supplied photographs of the injuries and testimonies from neighbors attesting that the dog has aggressive tendencies. The matter will be addressed in village court.

No further topics arose during public comment. There was no comment on police reform. The board then moved on to old business.

The Oriskany Public Library is eligible to receive money for a lighting upgrade through NYSERDA if they also use incentives to install an electric vehicle charging station. The matter was previously tabled for research. Library Board President Michelle Reid attended the meeting to answer questions about the proposal. Many of the library's systems are original to the building's construction in the late 1980s. The charging station and lights would come to about \$2,000 after incentives, not including the cost of a lift rental for installation and the disposal cost of the old lights. The board agreed that the replacement of the lights alone was worth the cost. The library will pay the annual networking fees of about \$250 for the charging station and the village will pay the installation costs. The charging station will service two parking spots in the rear of the building.

Also under old business was the bond anticipation note for the FEMA work and vehicle refinancing. The bank has questions for both; Treasurer Nugent will consult with Attorney Deery.

Proceeding to new business, Officer Mark Morreale has submitted a letter of resignation to move to a full time position with another agency. Trustee Burtch motioned to accept the resignation, seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried. The board wishes him well and a thank you letter will be sent for his work with the village.

Owen's Flag Fundraiser will display over 1,000 American flags in Trinkaus Park for Memorial Day. The flags are purchased in memory of service members and installed by Owen, a local student who has had previous displays in neighboring villages.

Bills were approved and signed. Trustee Burtch motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright, Oriskany Village Clerk  
June 8, 2021

*May 11, 2021*