

Village of Oriskany

708 Utica Street/P. O. Box 904
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Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2021

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 13, 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 for the budget hearing were Mayor Clifford O'Connor, Jr.; Trustees John Kasprzyk, Sean Fortnam, and Paul Rieben; Village Treasurer Peggy Nugent; Village Clerk Alexis Albright; and Fire Chief Jeff Burkhardt. The group was later joined during the organizational meeting by Street Superintendent Brian Moulton, Codes Enforcement Officer George Farley and his granddaughter, Ella. For the regular meeting, attendance grew to include Officer Adam Sardina, representing the Oriskany Police Dept., and Village Attorney Steve Deery.

The evening started with the village budget hearing. The hearing opened for public comment at 6:15 p.m. There were no comments or questions. The hearing closed at 6:31 p.m.

The organizational meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. The mayor read aloud each segment of the organizational document, including appointment of the official bank, official newspaper, staff appointments, etc. The final document, with motions and seconds, is attached. The organizational meeting closed at 6:47 p.m.

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

The minutes for the meetings of February 17, March 9, and March 16 were submitted by Clerk Alexis Albright. There was one typo to be corrected on page 2 of the March 9 minutes. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to approve the minutes as corrected; Trustee Fortnam seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was submitted by Treasurer Nugent. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the report. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. Motion carried.

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Report	Motion	Second	Result
Police	Trustee Fortnam	Trustee Kasprzyk	Accepted
Fire	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Fortnam	Accepted
Museum	Trustee Fortnam	Trustee Rieben	Accepted
Codes	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Rieben	Accepted

The fire department is approaching the Town of Whitestown again about forming a fire district, this time for only western Whitestown and the Village of Oriskany. No word yet.

The Fire Department will host their monthly drive thru dinner on the last Sunday of the month. The department would like to purchase a new pickup truck instead of adding a box to their old one, which has gotten more expensive to do. They have some of the money in reserve to put toward a new truck. Pickup trucks are getting hard to come by and some orders are being pushed out to 2022. There's still a gap in funding for the specs they would need.

Treasurer Nugent has been working with Adirondack Bank to try to refinance some of the village vehicle loans at better interest rates. Mr. Deery has been assisting but one of the bankers has been out of town and the process has slowed.

The highway department is surveying the condition of road signs and making lists for repair and replacement.

The museum did not receive the facilities grant that was offered through the Pomeroy Foundation. There were many more applicants than there was funding. The ramp, AC, furnace and roof will need repair or replacement this decade, so more grant opportunities will be pursued as they arise.

Officer Sardina informed the group that car 513 will be striped soon.

The meeting was opened to public comment. No comments were made. There were no comments or questions on police reform.

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The state has come through with some funding toward the FEMA flooding repairs, so the bank note for the remaining balance of the repairs only needs to be \$40,000. Treasurer Nugent is talking to Adirondack Bank about this.

The library would like to install an electric vehicle charging station through Potentia Energy with grants from NYSERDA. The grants would also offset the cost of new lighting for inside the building. The current lighting is original to the building and has been difficult to repair. New lighting would also save electricity. The charging station would allow the library to set energy prices at the station to collect a small profit. All told, the project would be about \$2,000 for the lights and the charging station, plus the rental price of scaffolding for the lighting installation and the cost to dispose of the old lights, which is significantly less than the cost of just replacing the needed lighting. The mayor and trustees reviewed the proposed installation site at the rear of the library building. The village would own the equipment with a three year warranty. Trustee Rieben motioned to table for 30 days to allow for research into other municipality's experiences with electric vehicle charging stations and insurance questions. Seconded by Trustee Fortnam. Motion carried.

The group moved on to new business. A motion was made by Trustee Rieben to accept the proposed 2021-2022 Village Budget. The proposed budget is under the state property tax cap and would increase property taxes around 13 cents per thousand dollars. The budget includes money for sidewalk repairs, reinstates funding for the summer youth program, and offers raises for village employees (but not the mayor or trustees). It also adds back half of the budget amounts that were cut from the departments at the beginning of the pandemic. Any monies that may be received from federal funding are not included in the budget because the amount and date of arrival is uncertain. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Oriskany Legion is planning to hold outdoor Memorial Day observances this year. They hope to include the traditional reading of "In Flanders Field" and the "Gettysburg Address" by Oriskany students. The ceremony at Oriskany Cemetery would begin around 9 a.m. with the ceremony in Trinkaus Park beginning at 10 a.m. They plan to proceed, unless the state advises otherwise, under the guidelines now available for outdoor events.

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Trustee Rieben is working with the school on what the Summer Recreation Program may look like under pandemic circumstances. He hopes to know by May 1 so the village can hire staff by mid-June.

The mayor asked for a motion to reappoint Judy Moore to an expiring seat on the Planning Board and to reappoint Ken Brown to his expiring position as chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Kasprzyk made a motion to that effect, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. Motion carried.

The trustees, mayor and Mr. Deery entered an executive session regarding a litigation matter under a motion from Trustee Rieben, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. Motion carried. Executive session entered.

The board and Mr. Deery returned. Bills were signed. At 8:15 p.m., Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to close the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright
Oriskany Village Clerk
May 11, 2021