

Village of Oriskany

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Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2021

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, November 9, 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; Village Attorney Steve Deery; Police Chief Richard Zabek; Street Superintendent Brian Moulton, and Fire Chief Jeff Burkhart. Also in attendance were Codes Enforcement Officer George Farley and Oneida County Legislator Bob Koenig.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:01 p.m.

The September meeting minutes, along with Zoning Board of Appeals minutes, were submitted by Clerk Alexis Albright. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

The following reports were submitted:

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

The mayor then addressed the attending representatives and department heads. Mr. Koenig reported that the county budget vote would be the following day. Taxes will be mostly level. Sales tax levels have caught up and the federal money helped.

Next the mayor addressed Police Chief Rich Zabek. Overnight ticketing has started for cars left parked on the street. Otherwise it has been quiet. The department is ready to assist with Christmas in the Nettles.

Codes Enforcement officer George Farley reported that the abandoned house at 315 Hillside Drive has been auctioned. Highway Superintendent Brian Moulton stated that the school will be helping with fuel tank maintenance and painting.

Fire Chief Jeff Burkhart is headed to Syracuse to pick up the repaired fire truck. It is still in need of lettering. He said that the sink drain in the fire house kitchen is broken and will need a plumber.

Trustee Christopher Burtch said that his things to address were already on the agenda. Trustee Paul Rieben went next. He submitted status changes for several fire department members for information only (Karla Banas, active to associate member; Kassandra Burkhart, active to associate member; John Zick, active to life member). He told the group that a lot of things have been accomplished toward Christmas in the Nettles and the next meeting would be November 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the village office to finalize plans. He also reported that the Oriskany Legion would be recognizing Veterans Day on November 11.

Trustee Sean Fortnam had no new business to report. Trustee John Kasprzyk reported that the library is being painted and then the new carpet will be installed.

The meeting opened to public comment. There was no public comment or police reform matters. It was discussed that the three member board established during police reform should meet in February for their annual meeting.

Next the board moved on to old business. The search for Associate Justice yielded two applicants. After reviewing the applications, Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the appointment of Joan Kulaga as Associate Justice. Seconded by Trustee Burtch. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next, Trustee Burtch updated the group on the Oriskany Creek project, which will meet again next Tuesday at the Whitestown Community Center. Membership is expected to cost less than \$1,500. A resolution was submitted to join the Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission in the interest of intermunicipal cooperation for management of stormwater, flooding, etc. along the Oriskany Creek. Trustee Burtch motioned to sign the resolution and join the commission. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

The mayor asked for board approval to renew departmental contracts, with monetary changes only, for the salaries agreed upon at the organizational meeting. So moved by Trustee Rieben, seconded by Trustee Burtch. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustees were asked to do their annual renewal of workplace policies (workplace violence prevention, sexual harassment, incident reporting, etc.). Fire Chief Burkhart stated that the fire department has been able to move to an online training model through insurance and encouraged the board to look into a similar method.

Last under old business was the large-scale solar moratorium that was put in place for one year and is nearing its expiration. (Large-scale referring to solar farms, not residential or agricultural use.) To permanently opt-out would require a local law. Trustee Burtch moved to do so and hold a hearing one half hour before the next regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Proceeding to new business, the name of Jennifer Williams Maher was submitted to become a library trustee. Trustee Burtch motioned to accept, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next agenda item was the state option to opt in or opt out of allowing retail marijuana sales. Municipalities that opt-out will not share in the new tax revenue. It was discussed that if opted-out, purchasers would likely just drive to other jurisdictions that choose to allow retail sale. The new stores would need to be licensed businesses in compliance with the state. Trustee Burtch motioned to opt in to allow retail sale of marijuana, seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried.

It was briefly discussed that some of the anchor lighting in the park has been off at odd times. Supt. Moulton will have an electrician look at the timing system.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Kasprzyk made a motion to close the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Trustee Fortnam seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright

Oriskany Village Clerk

**These minutes will be submitted to the Board of Trustees on December 14, 2021.*