

# **Village of Oriskany**

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## **Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2022**

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 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 Paul Rieben, John Kasprzyk, and Sean Fortnam; Village Clerk Alexis Albright; Asst. Street Superintendent Chad Miller; Police Chief Rich Zabek; Codes Enforcement Officer George Farley; Village Attorney Steve Deery; Asst. Fire Chief Glenn Block; 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 7:00 p.m.

The following reports were submitted:

<b>Report</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Result</b>
Minutes	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Kasprzyk	Approved
Treasurer's Report	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Fortnam	Approved
Police	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Rieben	Approved
Fire	Trustee Fortnam	Trustee Kasprzyk	Approved
Museum	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Fortnam	Approved
Codes	Trustee Kasprzyk	Trustee Fortnam	Approved

The mayor then addressed the trustees and department heads. Codes Officer George Farley didn't have any new business.

Police Chief Rich Zabek had a number of things to discuss. One of the police laptops is broken. Replacement would be about 25% the cost of replacement. Chief Zabek will contact the county about the possibility of upgrading to tablets, which have come a long way since they were first introduced. The current computers were acquired by state grant.

The radios are also coming due when the county switches to digital at the end of the year. The department will need two new base station radios, at least two portables, and preferably two more portables for the SRO/SSO officers. Radios are about \$3,000 each per county contract pricing. Radios are exceptionally important for first responder safety. Some of the police department's bullet proof vests are also due for replacement. They have a five year life span. The Chief will be seeking grant opportunities for all of these expenses.

The Citizens Advisory Board met earlier this evening. This board was established during the police reform process to meet annually and represent the community on police matters. The meeting went well and the police reform book will be updated to reflect improvements and changes over the past year.

Asst. Street Superintendent Chad Miller said that the DPW is ready for Wednesday and Saturday's predicted snows. Equipment is doing okay.

Trustee Rieben inquired about the catch basin at the intersection of Oklahoma Ave, Utica Street, and Route 69 near the manger. It hasn't been keeping up with the snow melt and rain, resulting in pooling (now "more lake than puddle"). Mr. Miller advised that the catch basin is too high and can be fixed to address the problem. Mr. Rieben said that next month he will address Memorial Day services and the village summer program.

Trustees Fortnam had no new business. Trustee Kasprzyk said the Library Gala fundraiser on February 26 had a good turnout. Asst. Fire Chief Glenn Block said that the new rescue truck lights will be installed soon and that nothing is broken.

The meeting then opened for public comment. There was no public comment or police reform questions.

Moving on to old business, the Oriskany Creek Commission has been formed with the Village of Oriskany as a founding member. The county released a press release last Friday to this effect.

Next the large scale solar moratorium was discussed. Attorney Deery recommended extending the previous moratorium to become Local Law #2 of 2022. Trustee Rieben moved to host the hearing before the next village board meeting. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Proceeding to new business, the associate justice's appointment is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2022. Trustee Rieben motioned to renew the appointment of current associate Justice Joan M. Kulaga. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next, Chad Miller addressed the board about starting a weekly farmer's market this summer in Trinkaus Park. He and Alexis Albright have been looking at other farmer's markets and would like to spearhead an initiative to start one in Oriskany. Initial out of pocket costs would be minimal. The market would bring a weekly activity for residents while also providing more options for fresh foods. Food trucks would also be invited. It would likely be on Wednesday afternoon into the evening. Mayor O'Connor recommended they try it and charge on with the planning. An initial planning meeting will be held and then a more extensive meeting will be held for prospective volunteers and vendors.

Trustee Rieben submitted a membership change for the fire department. Rick Phelps is moving from Associate Member to Active Member. This is for information only.

Assemblywoman Buttonschon's office has requested to host two town hall meetings in Oriskany on April 19 and June 7 at 4:00 pm. The general consensus was to go forward with them. The meetings will be held at the Masonic Lodge for better spacing and accessibility.

Oneida County Soil and Water submitted the Forest Management Plan that was started before the pandemic. The plan surveyed every tree on public land and right of ways in the village, including species and condition. It also recommends new trees to be planted and the most sustainable ratios to maintain tree coverage. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the "beautiful" report. Seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Koenig spoke about the county budget. He said there are a lot of bonds coming up. The sewer district is undergoing \$378 million worth of work. There will be about a 3% rate increase, but it is still lower than other counties. The work will be finished in 1-2 years. The new anaerobic digesters will be able to heat the plant and make it self-sufficient.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Fortnam 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, April 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge. The organizational meeting, budget hearing and hearing for Local Law #2 will immediately precede the meeting at specific times to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright, Oriskany Village Clerk; March 22, 2022

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