

**INC. VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PLANDOME HEIGHTS VILLAGE HALL
MARCH 4, 2019
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Present:	Mayor	Kenneth C. Riscica
	Trustee	Daniel Cataldo
	Trustee	Silva Ferman
	Trustee	Gus Panopoulos
	Trustee	Dianne Sheehan
	Trustee	Alvin Solomon
	Trustee	Norman Taylor
	Clerk-Treasurer	Arlene Drucker
	Village Attorney	Christopher Prior, Esq.

At 7:32 p.m. Mayor Riscica called the meeting to order and called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor noted that the first order of business was a discussion of proposed changes to the law on selling cannabis. The Mayor noted that many other villages are reviewing the law and taking action and noted further that the Village has no retail properties to which the new law would relate. A discussion occurred with no action taken by the Board.

The Mayor then moved the conversation to concerns from residents about activities and parking related to Shelter Rock Church. After discussion, it was determined that the Building Inspector should send a letter to the church with a copy of the Board of Zoning and Appeals' 1992 Decision and Order on the Church's application for variances, and invite a meeting with the Pastor to discuss the matter. In addition, the Mayor will meet with residents to further understand their concerns.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to possible amendments to the Village's Telecommunication local law. Mr. Prior, the Village Attorney, informed the Board of Trustees that the FCC has enacted rules restricting local governments in regulating applications to install wireless infrastructure for the roll-out of 5G (and for improved 4G). Mr. Prior noted that local governments are expecting such applications to become commonplace. Therefore, he is recommending that the Village amend the Telecommunications Chapter of the Village Code to address the small wireless facilities to the extent the FCC allows. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Cataldo, seconded by Trustee Panopoulos, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that a bill to revise the Telecommunications Towers Chapter of the Village Code, as recommended by the Village Attorney, is hereby introduced as Bill #1 of 2019, and that a Public Hearing be scheduled at Village Hall on Monday, April 1, 2019, at 7:00 pm to consider same.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the current Village Code provision requiring tree condition surveys. Currently the Village Code requires that the Village conduct tree condition surveys every 5 years. The Mayor noted that in recent years the Village experienced multiple serious wind events resulting in the loss of many trees within the Village, both Village trees and those on private property. Therefore, there has been a natural culling of trees in the Village in recent years. In addition, Trustee Taylor, an experienced arborist and former certified arborist, with Village Clerk Drucker, recently inspected the trees on the Village rights of way, and created a list recommending action on various trees. The Clerk will be notifying the relevant homeowners as to actions that such homeowners should take as the result of that inspection on trees in the Village right-of-way abutting their homes. As the Village, through experienced, competent and credentialed Village personnel,

regularly inspects Village trees in the rights of way, the Village Code requirement that an ISI-certified arborist be retained to conduct a formal survey every five years should be reconsidered. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Panopoulos, seconded by Trustee Cataldo, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that a bill to revise the Tree Chapter of the Village Code to amend the requirement for an ISI-certified arborist be retained to conduct a formal survey every five years is hereby introduced as Bill #2 of 2019, and a Public Hearing be scheduled at Village Hall on Monday, April 1, 2019, at 7:00 pm to consider same.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to permit fees for small projects that require ARB approval. The Mayor noted that some jobs such as direct window and door replacement need ARB approvals and that all ARB approval requests require a building permit. A discussion ensued as to whether the Village should require a building permit for small, non-structural and replacement projects, as to whether building permits for such projects add significant value to public safety, or are an unnecessary homeowner expense. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Taylor, seconded by Trustee Cataldo, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that a bill to revise Chapter 4, "Architectural Review Board," and Chapter 43, "Building Construction," to eliminate the requirement for building permits for certain small projects is hereby introduced as Bill #3 of 2019, and that a Public Hearing be scheduled at Village Hall on Monday, April 1, 2019, at 7:00 pm to consider same.

The Mayor then noted that the Village entrance sign by Plandome Pond Park on Webster Avenue has deteriorated beyond repair and is in need of replacement. In addition, the halyard on the flagpole at the Plandome Court Triangle is fraying and is also beyond repair. The Village has contacted Mineola Signs to receive a quote to replace the Village sign and CJ and Sons to receive a quote to repair the halyard. The Mayor noted that these items are located on Village parkland property, and so appropriate Parkland fund capital expenditures. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Sheehan, seconded by Trustee Ferman, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Village is authorized to purchase a new entrance sign at Plandome Pond Park on Webster Avenue from Mineola Signs and a replacement halyard for the flagpole on the Village triangle at Plandome Court from CJ and Sons at an aggregate cost not to exceed \$2,500 for both purchases, to be paid from the Village's Parkland Fund.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the annual meeting location. In the past, the Village has held the annual meeting at the Manhasset Library. Mayor Riscica suggested that, as a result of our Leasehold Improvements Capital Program, which, since last year's annual meeting, has improved the space utilization, comfort and efficiency of Village Hall, the 2019 annual meeting be held at Village Hall. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Taylor, seconded by Trustee Ferman, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Annual Meeting will be held at Village Hall at the previously noticed date and time, Monday, April 1, 2019, 7:00 pm.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the passing of longtime resident, Catherine Thornton. The flag was flown at half-staff and a framed picture of the flag with a written tribute was hand delivered to the family for display at the viewing. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Ferman, seconded by Trustee Taylor, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the tribute provided to the family of Catherine Thornton. *Plandome Heights Village Flag lowered to Half-Staff in respect of the passing, on February 16, 2019, of long-term resident Catherine Thornton. May God rest her soul and comfort her family.*

Mayor Riscica then discussed the annual recognition of the members of the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department (“MLFD”). The Mayor noted that the first responders of the MLFD are valued servants of the Village who risk their lives for the safety of the community and its people. Annually, various anniversaries and accomplishments are presented for recognition at the MLFD annual meeting. It is our desire to express the gratitude of the residents of the Village to the MLFD members noted in a memorandum from MLFD and therefore, after discussion, and on motion from Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Cataldo, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that individual Proclamations expressing the gratitude of the Village be presented to the following members of the MLFD:

Outgoing Chief of Department	Ex-Chief Brian Stone
50 Years of Service	Ex-Chief Robert DeVito
	Ex-Department President Brian Levings
25 Years of Service	Lieutenant Michael Weigand
	Firefighter Kevin Wong

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the approval of the minutes. The Trustees confirmed that they had read the draft minutes of the February 4, 2019 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Panopoulos, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on February 4, 2019, are hereby accepted and approved.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the tentative 2019-2020 budget and the Tax Cap. The Mayor noted that, based upon the level of increase to the Village property tax levy based upon the tentative 2019-2020 budget, to be addressed in more detail later in the meeting the Village has no need to pass a law to override the tax cap for the upcoming fiscal year. After discussion, the Board of Trustees agreed with the Mayor’s conclusion, and took no action with respect to a property tax levy override bill for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the tentative 2019-2020 budget itself. The Mayor indicated that, as prescribed by law, he, as Budget Officer, presented a “Tentative Budget” for the Village for the fiscal year June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020 to the Village Clerk, and the Village Clerk has presented such budget to the Trustees. The Mayor observed that both the Tentative Budget and Summary Budget had been provided to the Trustees for their review.

Mayor Riscica then reported the following key aspects of the Tentative Budget:

- The Village will comply with the Tax Cap for 2019 – 2020,
- The taxes will be 2.3% lower than they were 10 years ago,
- The average annual tax increase for the last 9 years (since the village cut taxes) will be 1.5%,
- The tax advantage vs. outside the Village will continue to be 33% (535/year) lower. This annual advantage, over 10 years is over \$5,000 of savings to each household.

The Mayor had previously indicated that Village may potentially lose \$225,00 in pending road grants. In addition, the decline in building activity may continue. As such, the Village needs to continue to monitor these developments in order to assess whether further adjustments are needed in our budgeting to support the Capital Plan and Fund Balance Policy.

As there were no changes made to the Tentative Budget, the next step in the budget process is to make the Tentative Budget available to the public and to conduct a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget. After

discussion and upon motion by Trustee Cataldo, seconded by Trustee Taylor, the following resolution was unanimously passed by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that on Monday April 1, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Village Hall, the Board of Trustees will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to consider the adoption of the Village's Tentative Budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020 and further, that the Village Clerk-Treasurer is directed to: (a) make all required public notices of the Public Hearing and (b) make copies of the Tentative Budget available to residents as provided by law, including on the Village website.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to new business. Trustee Solomon noted that with the snow fall this weekend, two of the Village's long standing contractors, CowBay and Dejana, completed their responsibilities in a timely fashion and effectively.

The Mayor stated that the next order of business was the approval of the Abstract of Claims. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Cataldo, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the March Abstract of Claims Number 11 of the Budget Year 2018 – 2019 for claim numbers 245 – 265 in the amount of \$23,258.22 have been reviewed and approved by the Trustees and is hereby accepted.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Solomon motioned to adjourn the meeting and such motion was seconded by Trustee Panopoulos. All Trustees present were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Drucker, Clerk-Treasurer