

**INC. VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PLANDOME HEIGHTS VILLAGE HALL
MAY 6, 2019
MINUTES OF MEETING**

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

Absent: Trustee Gus Panopoulos

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Riscica called the meeting to order and called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor noted the unexpected passing of a young resident, Michael C. Gabriel, and a moment of silence was observed. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Cataldo, seconded by Trustee Taylor it was,

RESOLVED, that the flag of the Village of Plandome Heights be lowered to half-staff in respect of the passing of Michael C. Gabriel. Further, that such action be communicated to the Gabriel family with the additional message, *“May God rest his soul and comfort his family. Our Whole Village grieves with you.”*

The Mayor noted that the first order of business was a discussion of the saw cutting and asphalt repair that Stasi Brothers did within the Village last month. Mayor Riscica noted that at the special meeting the board authorized the hiring of the contractor. Trustee Taylor was present at the meeting with the contractor and assisted in evaluating which areas needed remediation. The Mayor noted that he was very pleased with the quality of the work, the total cost and the completion time frame. A discussion of the use of existing CHIP’s grant money ensued and after discussion, upon motion by Trustee Taylor, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, it was

RESOLVED, that the Village shall request reimbursement for the recent roadwork from the existing allocation of CHIP’s grant funds and that he Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer are empowered to execute such paperwork as is necessary to effect this resolution.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the approval of the minutes. The Trustees confirmed that they had read the draft minutes of the April 1, 2019 Regular Board of Trustees Meeting and the April 10, 2019 Special Board of Trustee Meeting. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Solomon, seconded by Trustee Taylor, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on April 1, 2019 and the Special Meeting, held on April 10, 2019 are hereby accepted and approved, as amended.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to property taxes for the Village 2019 – 20 year. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Cataldo, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that Mayor Riscica be authorized to sign the Tax Warrant authorizing Clerk-Treasurer Drucker to collect the tax levy of \$349,000.00 for the 2019-2020 Village Budget and deliver Village property tax bills to Village property owners.

Mayor Riscica then discussed the request by Manhasset's American Legion Post 304 for a permit for the Annual Memorial Day Parade to set-up and start on Village roads. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Sheehan, seconded by Trustee Ferman, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Village hereby approves the request of Manhasset's American Legion Post 304 to use Village roads to set-up and start their annual Memorial Day Parade to be held on Monday, May 27, 2019 starting at 9:30 am subject to the receipt of appropriate insurance certificates evidencing the required insurance in favor of the Village.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the meeting held at Village Hall with Assemblyman Anthony D'Urso and the Port Washington and Manhasset Mayors on April 5, 2019. This is the first time Plandome Heights hosted a meeting of both Port Washington and Manhasset Mayors. Many issues of common concern were discussed including the topic of grant money. Although the Assembly doesn't get as much grant money as the Senate does, their allotment comes in June. At that time, Assemblyman D'Urso will discuss with the Villages potential grant money for capital improvements.

The Mayor noted that the next order of business was the review of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bourguet's request for permission to remove two Village Sweet Gum Trees, tree #5 and a tree which isn't numbered at 37 Webster Avenue. The request was made due to the roots impacting the driveway, sidewalk and potentially the cesspool. In addition, it was noted that because of the excessive parking on Webster Avenue due to church goers, the Bourguets are having difficulty getting out of their driveway and are considering widening the curb cut. If not removed, the trees' location could impact how they widen their driveway. In addition, Sweet Gum trees grow to 80 - 90 feet tall and drop spiky balls. In light of this situation, both trees were authorized for immediate removal, including both stumps, conditioned upon replacement at their expense with one tree. The replacement tree needs to be planted in either the Spring or Fall following the removal of the trees. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Taylor, seconded by Trustee Solomon, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Village authorizes Mr. and Mrs. Bourguet, at their cost and expense, to remove tree # 5 and a second, not numbered tree and to grind the related stumps subject to their commitment to replace one tree at the next available spring or fall opportunity. The Village Clerk is hereby directed to memorialize the decision made regarding the two trees in writing to Mr. and Mrs. Bourguet.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the Spring Projects. Mayor Riscica informed the Trustees that at the March BOT meeting the Village authorized the purchase of a new village entrance sign from Mineola Signs and to repair the halyard on the flag pole at Plandome Court at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. In addition, the Mayor noticed that the Village entrance sign at the North end of Plandome Road needs repair because the back end is disintegrating. The cost for all of this work was below \$2,500. Therefore, a purchase order was submitted to Mineola Signs for the new sign and the repair work. The halyard was repaired last month. The street repairs have been completed by Stasi Brothers. The no parking signs on Chester Drive and Webster Avenue have been replaced with signs that include arrows in the correct directions and showing that the no parking is a village ordinance code. The Mayor noted that the painting of various stop lines has been requested from the Town and will be done in the near future, when the weather is warmer.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to surge barriers. The Army Corps of Engineers is considering installing 5 movable walls in the waters surrounding Manhattan. During extreme weather occurrences these walls will move into place and block the surges from flooding the Manhattan area. The result will redirect the water to other areas. The planned surge barrier at the Throgs Neck bridge will impact the North Shore of Long Island. The Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a series of public meetings on their interim report and the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee has been working with Congressman Suozzi's office to get them to hold a

public meeting on Long Island. The Mayor showed a short video and various maps and graphics of this program to the Trustees.

Mayor Riscica observed that our Justice Court operations require an audit, either by the Trustees or by an independent audit firm, and that the Village has received a proposal from Skinnon & Faber to perform such audit at a cost of \$950, which is in line with our budget and prior years. A discussion ensued. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Cataldo, seconded by Trustee Ferman, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Village retain Skinnon and Faber to perform the audit of the Justice Court operations as outlined in their engagement letter for a fee of \$950 and the Mayor is empowered to enter into such agreement.

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 April Abstract of Claims Number 13 of the Budget Year 2018 – 2019 for claim numbers 305 – 342 in the amount of \$39,514.16 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 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Drucker, Clerk-Treasurer