

**INC. VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
JANUARY 4, 2021; 6:00 PM
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Present: Mayor Kenneth C. Riscica
Trustee Silva Ferman
Trustee Gus Panopoulos (Arrived at 6:25 pm)
Trustee Dianne Sheehan
Trustee Alvin Solomon
Trustee Norman Taylor
Clerk-Treasurer Arlene Drucker
Village Attorney Christopher Prior, Esq.

Absent: Trustee Daniel Cataldo

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by the Mayor at 6:03 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2021 by video conference, pursuant to Executive Orders relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, issued by Governor Cuomo impacting the NYS Open Meetings Law. The meeting was recorded for later transcription.

The Mayor noted that the first order of business was to ratify the following resolution in honor of the passing of Marie A. DeVito. After discussion, upon motion by Mayor Riscica, seconded by Trustee Sheehan the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the action taken on November 14, 2020 is hereby ratified by the Trustees, specifically that the flag of the Village of Plandome Heights be lowered to half-staff in respect of the passing on November 12, 2020, of Marie A. DeVito, mother of longtime resident and community leader, Marion Endrizzi, and that such flag shall remain in that state for approximately one week. Further, that such action be communicated to the Endrizzi family with the additional message, *“May God rest her soul and comfort her family.”*

The Mayor then moved the discussion to ratify the following resolution in honor of the passing of Isabella Bellacicco Cataldo. After discussion, upon motion by Mayor Riscica, seconded by Trustee Sheehan the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the action taken on December 31, 2020 in honor of Mrs. Cataldo is hereby ratified by the Trustees, specifically that the flag of the Village of Plandome Heights be lowered to half-staff in respect of the passing of Isabella Cataldo, on December 31, 2020, mother of longtime resident and Village Trustee Daniel Cataldo, and that such flag shall remain in that state for approximately one week. Further, that such action be communicated to the Cataldo family with the additional message, *“May God rest her soul and comfort her family.”*

Mayor Riscica then moved the discussion to the approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees confirmed that they had read the draft minutes. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Solomon, seconded by Trustee Ferman, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees in the form presented by the Village Clerk-Treasurer are hereby accepted and approved.

Mayor Riscica then moved the discussion to the approval of last month's abstract. Following the December 2020 Board meeting, the Mayor notified all Board members of the unanticipated unavailability of Trustee Cataldo, a member of the abstract committee, whose concurrence was a condition to the Board's approval of the December 2020 abstract. The Mayor noted that since there is nothing controversial on the Abstract of Claims and we will have other holiday absences and gaps, it is in the best interest of the Village that our critical and customary vendors be paid before year-end, which could be accomplished by the Mayor serving on an interim basis in substitution for the unavailable abstract committee member. All Board members had no objections that the Mayor should do so, and that his substitution for the unavailable abstract committee member could be ratified by the Board at the January 2021 meeting. The Mayor noted that he had, in that capacity, then reviewed and approved the abstract. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Sheehan, seconded by Trustee Panopoulos, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the substitution of Mayor Riscica for Trustee Cataldo as a member of the Abstract Committee during the period of Trustee Cataldo's unavailability, is hereby ratified and approved, until Trustee Cataldo confirms his availability to resume those duties.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the upcoming Village Election. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Ferman, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the provisions of the Election Law of the State of New York, the Village Clerk-Treasurer is hereby directed to publish a notice concerning the Annual General Village Election, that all polling shall take place at the Plandome Village Hall, 65 South Drive, Plandome, New York on Wednesday, March 16, 2021, which notice shall be published after the last day for filing nominating petitions for said election, but not less than ten days prior to the date of said election. Said notice shall contain the following information:

1. The street address of the polling place for the Village Election, to wit:
Plandome Village Hall, 65 South Drive, Plandome, New York 11030.
2. The date and hours during which the polling place will be open shall be 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m.
3. The names and addresses of all those who have been duly nominated for Village office and the term of the office for which they have been nominated.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees has previously eliminated Village Personal Registration Day. All residents interested in registering for the Village Election must be registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections. All Village residents registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections are eligible to vote in the Village Election.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following persons are appointed to the position of Election Inspector for the Village's Election Day at the aforementioned dates, times and place:

Marie Dalton Buono as Election Inspector Chair

Robert Anastasia as Election Inspector

Mayor Riscica then addressed the annual street lighting contract with Welsbach. Mayor Riscica pointed out that the current contract expired on December 31, 2020. The Mayor noted that our regular contractor was unable to provide an updated contract and will hold the current rate for the month of January. Therefore, this contract will be further reviewed and decided on at the next board meeting.

The Mayor then addressed Cow Bay's performance during the last snow storm. Mayor Riscica noted that it has been two years since our streets needed to be plowed because last winter was very mild. In addition, due to COVID -19, Cow Bay has needed to make adjustments with their personnel. Trustee Taylor noted that Cow Bay was in the Village reviewing and training personnel and adding additional snow markers. He noted that Cow Bay was on the right track to doing a good job.

Mayor Riscica then moved the discussion to unpaid taxes. The Clerk provided the Unpaid Tax Statement to the Trustees and noted that one property owner hasn't paid the village property tax.

At 6:49 p.m. Mayor Riscica moved to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss real estate matters. This motion was seconded by Trustee Sheehan. All Trustees present were in favor.

At 7:01 p.m., the Mayor announced that executive session ended with no action taken.

The Mayor stated that the next order of business was the approval of the Abstract of Claims. Trustee Sheehan noted that she reviewed the abstract as a member of the abstract committee with no exceptions. Mayor Riscica noted that he reviewed and approved the abstract as the substitute member. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Sheehan, seconded by Trustee Taylor, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the January Abstract of Claims Number 8 of the Budget Year 2020 – 2021 for claim numbers 210 - 234 in the amount of \$28,293.72 as amended, has been reviewed and approved by the Village's temporary audit of claims committee, and is hereby ratified and approved by the Board.

The Mayor then moved the conversation to the Planning Board. As discussed at last month's board meeting, the Village Attorney prepared a draft bill to amend the current code to transfer the Village Planning Board's function to the Village Board of Trustees. A revised draft bill was presented to the Trustees for consideration. A discussion ensued in which questions were asked and answered. After discussion, upon motion by Mayor Riscica, seconded by Trustee Panopoulos, the following resolution was adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that a bill to revise Section 140-13, "Planning Board" of the Village Code, as presented by the Village Attorney, is hereby introduced as Bill #1 of 2020, that the Board makes a negative declaration under SEQRA with respect to such bill, finding that there will be no material adverse impact under SEQRA, should the bill be enacted as a local law, and that a Public Hearing to address Bill No.1 of 2020 be held at the February 1, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting at 6:00 pm via zoom.

There being no further business to discuss, upon motion by Trustee Solomon seconded by Trustee Ferman, resolution adjourning the meeting was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Drucker, Clerk-Treasurer