

**INC. VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PLANDOME HEIGHTS VILLAGE HALL
JULY 12, 2021; 6:00 PM
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Present: Mayor Kenneth C. Riscica
Trustee Daniel Cataldo (arrived at 6:16 pm)
Trustee Silva Ferman
Trustee Gus Panopoulos
Trustee Dianne Sheehan
Trustee Alvin Solomon
Trustee Norman Taylor
Clerk-Treasurer Arlene Drucker
Village Attorney Christopher Prior, Esq.

Also Present: Rosemary Mascalli Resident
Katherine Hannon Special Project Associate/Court Clerk

At 6:31 p.m. Mayor Riscica called the meeting to order and called for the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor noted this is the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees being held in person following Governor Andrew M. Cuomo decision announced June 23, 2021 to end New York’s disaster emergency declared on March 7, 2020 to fight COVID-19, during which local governments were permitted to conduct public meetings remotely.

The Mayor noted that Katherine Hannon, the Village’s Special Project Associate (“SPA”), and Court Clerk (“CC”), has requested to speak to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Hannon advised the Village that she had accepted a full-time position with a law firm that would advance her goal of attending law school in 2022 and she thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to work as the SPC, an experience that has provided her with a great deal of learning and growth. She noted that she looks forward to continuing on as the CC for as long as the Board permits. Mayor Riscica noted that this career move is a great opportunity for Katie to build experience and resources toward her law school goal and the Village wishes her the best with her career path.

The Mayor then noted that NY State has advised that the Village will receive approximately \$103,000 through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), for which the Village has completed and submitted the paperwork. Mayor Riscica suggested that the Village open a new bank account in order to segregate this money from other Village funds in order to simplify the tracking of expenditures, in light of the limited purposes for which the ARPA funds may be spent, a scope which we expect to further evolve.

The Mayor then noted that Village street-lighting contractor Welsbach has been in the Village to paint light poles and install the new LED lights. The Mayor also noted that Village street stop lines were repainted. Trustee Taylor observed that this step promotes compliance and safety.

At 6:20 pm, Mayor Riscica opened the Public Hearing to consider Bill #2 of 2021 – Legalization of Marijuana and Opting Out.

At 6:28 pm upon motion by Trustee Panopoulos, seconded by Trustee Solomon, a resolution to close the public hearing for Bill #2 of 2021 was unanimously approved. A stenographic transcript of the public hearing is annexed to the minutes.

The Mayor noted that the next order of business was approval of the minutes of the Board of Trustees' June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting. The Trustees confirmed that they had read the draft minutes. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Panopoulos, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting in the form presented by the Village Clerk-Treasurer are hereby accepted and approved.

The Mayor noted that the next order of business was approval of the minutes of the Board of Trustees' June 28, 2021 Special Meeting. The Trustees confirmed that they had read the draft minutes. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Ferman, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the June 28, 2021 Special Meeting in the form presented by the Village Clerk-Treasurer are hereby accepted and approved.

The Mayor then addressed the timing for voting on Bill # 2 of 2021. Mayor Riscica noted that our normal process after a Public Hearing is to allow an additional month or two for additional comment. That would lead us to a vote at the September Board meeting. The Village Attorney suggested that the Board commit to vote on the matter at the September meeting, given that there are various procedural matters associated with the bill that do not attach to other bills. It was agreed to schedule a vote on the matter in September.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to National Grid's gas main project within the Village. The Mayor noted that he has had weekly meetings with Nat Grid for the last three weeks and participated in a walk through at the site. Nat Grid received a street opening permit for its work on The Waterway and The Neck, roads recently re-paved by the Village. Nat Grid agreed that it would pay one-half of a full curb-to-curb restoration of those roads, to be done by a contractor retained by the Village, in accord with the Village policy on road restoration for new roads. The gas main portion of that project has been completed and an agreement has been reached between the Village (Building Inspector and Village Engineer) and Nat Grid on how to repair the road. A street opening permit application from Nat Grid for Cove needs to be received and reviewed. Lastly, Nat Grid advised the Village that it plans to install a replacement gas main in the Bournedales for a January 2 start date. We need to receive a street opening permit for that also. Since the gas service lines to homes on The Bournedales are closer together, Nat Grid plans to install the new main using the trench method rather than bell holes. The Mayor noted that he has been in contact with the Manhasset Lakeville Water District to evaluate if they need to do any work that could impact the roads.

The Village intends to use Road Repaving Requirements bid process, which allows the Village to cover multiple projects, and add additional work, in a single contract, which experience tells us enables the Village to obtain better pricing than when individual, smaller projects are bid separately. Each project will have its own work order and currently 4 work orders are planned. They are WO#1 The Waterway/The Neck, WO#2 Cove, WO#3 Bournedales/The Beachway and Shore and WO#4 Miscellaneous. The share for all of the road restoration work to be borne by National Grid is being negotiated, and, at Nat Grid's request, set forth in a written agreement draft prepared by the Village Attorney. Those funds will supplement grant money and other Village resources. Once all the contemplated road restoration work is done, which we now anticipate will be by June 2022, 85% of all Village asphalt roads would be new.

After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Panopoulos, seconded by Trustee Taylor, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, the street paving payment agreement between the Village and National Grid in the form presented to the Board of Trustees be approved.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the fiscal review for the fiscal year end May 31, 2021. The Mayor gave his perspective on the financial results and the integration of those results with the long-term capital needs of the Village. A discussion ensued. Mayor Riscica stated his expectation that the fiscal year ended May 31, 2021 will end with a surplus of approximately \$20,000 or more. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Cataldo, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by all present:

RESOLVED, that the Village transfer \$20,000, as of May 31, 2021, representing the approximate projected surplus for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2021, from the General Fund – Unassigned to the General Fund – Assigned, which is specifically assigned for future capital projects under the Village Capital Plan,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that individual budget line-item balances shall be transferred in order to accommodate unbudgeted expenditures for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2021.

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

RESOLVED, that the July Abstract of Claims Number 2 of the Budget Year 2021 – 2022 for claim numbers 38 – 63 in the amount of \$ \$32,744.63 have been reviewed and approved by the Trustees and is hereby accepted.

Mayor Riscica then addressed the annual street lighting contract with Welsbach. Mayor Riscica noted that with the installation of the new LED lighting, it is expected that the need for street light repairs will be significantly reduced. Therefore, Welsbach recommended that the Village move to a “time and materials” contract rather than an annual fixed price contract, as a means for the Village to reduce its annual costs. After discussion and upon motion by Trustee Solomon, seconded by Trustee Panopoulos, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the annual street lighting maintenance agreement with Welsbach Electric, Inc. to a time and materials basis, in lieu of the annual fixed rate contract for such service, is hereby approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Drucker
Clerk-Treasurer

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