

**INC. VILLAGE OF PLANDOME HEIGHTS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 7, 2022; 6:00 PM
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.

Also Present: Kathryn Gross Special Project Associate
Rosemary Mascali Resident, President Plandome Heights Civic Association

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by the Mayor at 6:08 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2022 telephonically, with no “in-person” location, pursuant to special legislation (S.50001/a.40001) extending virtual access to public meetings under New York State’s Open Meetings Law, which allows New York government agencies to virtually conduct public meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was recorded for later transcription.

The Mayor noted that the first order of business was to go into Executive Session for advice of counsel. At 6:14 p.m. Trustee Solomon motioned to enter into Executive Session for advice of counsel. This motion was seconded by Trustee Panopoulos. All Trustees present were in favor.

At 6:46 p.m., the Mayor announced that executive session ended with no action taken.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the approval of the minutes of the Board of Trustees’ January 3, 2022 Regular Meeting. The Trustees confirmed that they had read the draft minutes. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Sheehan, seconded by Trustee Ferman, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the January 3, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees in the form presented by the Village Clerk-Treasurer are hereby accepted and approved, as amended.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the pending NY State Budget bill requiring every city, village and town in New York state to amend its zoning code to permit accessory housing units (apartments) on each parcel of property, permit 25 housing units per acre, and remove overnight parking restrictions. Mayor Riscica noted that he sent a letter of opposition on behalf of the Village to Senator Kaplan and Assemblywoman Sillitti as urged by the Nassau County Village Officials Association.

The Mayor then updated the Trustees on the status of the digital records project.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the Village's Road Project. The Mayor noted that prior to paving Cove and Waterway, the Village must address stormwater management issues at the intersection of Cove and Waterway. That location is the first storm drain to collect stormwater from Plandome Road, Cove, Neck and Waterway. That location has a small storm grate that quickly fills up with debris and causes flooding of the road. Upon careful examination by the Village Engineer, Building Inspector and Mayor, our storm drain contractor, Stasi Brothers ("Stasi"), has recommended an engineering solution to rebuild, not replace, the existing storm drain with a larger grate, with a "curb inlet" and to change the pitch and flow into the drain. This is an engineered solution requiring design input. Stasi Brothers has satisfactorily performed storm drain work in the Village on several occasions, which has benefited from design modifications recommended by Stasi to the plans initially proposed by the Village/Village engineer. The Village engineer, the Building Inspector and the Mayor, agree that Stasi Brothers has proposed a reasonable price for both the design elements, and the work, well below the thresholds requiring competitive bidding. The Mayor observed that the design input from Stasi, with its skill level, experience with the Village's system, and track record of improving, simplifying and reducing costs of projects requested by the Village cannot feasibly be replicated unless the Village invests significant amounts to obtain design drawings.

The Mayor then noted that the American Recovery Act ("ARPA") permits Village recipients to expend such funds to address stormwater management, and so the contemplated storm drain work can be paid for with ARPA funds. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Taylor, seconded by Trustee Panopoulos, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that Village is authorized to enter into purchase orders with Stasi Brothers for one storm drain grate repair at a cost of \$9,850 on The Waterway and a concrete repair on Summit Drive at a cost of \$4,000 and the Mayor is hereby authorized to take such actions as are necessary to effect this resolution and further that the funds for this project be paid either from the Village's 2021 capital fund expenditure authorization or from the ARPA, as determined by the Mayor.

The Mayor then moved the discussion to the appointed registrar of vital records for the Village. The Mayor noted that the Village, like most other villages in the Town of North Hempstead, annually appoints the Town Clerk and Town Deputy Clerk to discharge this function for the Village. Vital records include birth and death certificates. In light of the recent general election, the persons occupying those offices at the Town have changed, and so the Village must now appoint the current holders of the offices of Town Clerk and Town Deputy Clerk to the position of Registrar of vital records for the Village. After discussion, upon motion by Trustee Ferman, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees appoints North Hempstead Town Clerk Ragini Srivastava as the Village's Registrar of Vital Records and North Hempstead Town Deputy Clerk Margaret Malito as the Village's Deputy Registrar of Vital Records.

The Mayor then addressed the request from Mr. and Mrs. Garbus, residents at 5 Bay Driveway, to remove a tree in the Village ROW, on Plandome Road abutting their property. Trustee Taylor reported that he had inspected the tree, and found that it was declining and no longer a stable tree and that it should be removed, and that, in light of abundant existing foliage in the surrounding area, he does not recommend a replacement tree. After discussion and upon motion by Trustee Panopoulos, seconded by Trustee Sheehan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all present:

RESOLVED, that the Village authorizes Mr. and Mrs. Garbus, at their cost and expense, to remove Village Tree #503 on the Village right-of-way, including stump grinding, with no need to replace the tree.

Mayor Riscica then addressed the NYS DEC's annual requirement that local municipalities including the Village complete an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) report. The new contract proposal from Village Engineer West Side Engineering has been provided to the Trustees. Mr. James Antonelli of West Side has provided this service competently for the Village for several years. After discussion and upon motion by Trustee Sheehan, seconded by Trustee Taylor, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the agreement with West Side Engineering to complete the 2022 MS4 report at rate of \$160.00 per hour, not to exceed \$1,800, is hereby approved.

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, who comprise the Board's temporary audit committee during the pandemic, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by all Trustees present:

RESOLVED, that the Abstract of Claims Number 8 of the Budget Year 2021 – 2022 for claim numbers 249 - 277 in the amount of \$35,956.82 is hereby approved and accepted, subject to review and approval by Trustee Cataldo and Dianne Sheehan, in their capacity as members of the Village's temporary audit of claims committee.

Resident Rosemary Mascali asked whether the lease for Village Hall had been renewed. The Mayor responded that the Village has timely delivered to the landlord notice that the Village is exercising its option to renew and that the Landlord then raised certain matters which the Mayor described as a "squabble" that should be resolved.

At 8:14 p.m. Trustee Panopoulos motioned to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss Personnel matters. This motion was seconded by Trustee Taylor. All Trustees present were in favor.

At 8:30 p.m., the Mayor announced that executive session ended with no action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Drucker
Clerk-Treasurer