

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Montgomery is held in the Meeting Room at 133 Clinton Street, Montgomery, NY 12549 on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

Present: Mayor Brescia, Deputy Mayor Scheels, Trustee Andolsek, Trustee Hembury, Trustee Lindner, Atty. Dowd, Village Clerk Rivera-Fernandez, DPW Supt. Nelson (absent), Chief of Police Walsh, Maria Beltrametti, Johanna Sweikata, Howard Garrett, Don Berger, Jessica Cohen.

Mayor Brescia opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**RE: MINUTES**

Mayor Brescia called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 2016.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Scheels, the Board approved the meeting minutes of December 20, 2016. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**RE: ABSTRACT NO. 11-2016**

Mayor Brescia called for a motion to approve the Abstract No. 11-2016.

Moved by Trustee Andolsek, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scheels, all bills listed on ABSTRACT NO.11-2016 were audited and approved for payment with \$34,573.34 from the General Fund, \$18,036.32 from the Water Fund, \$19,168.39 from the Sewer Fund and totaling \$431,778.05. Check No: 50081- 50163, 47737 - 47751. Motion carried 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

Treasurer Griffith reported a CASH BALANCE for the month of November 30, 2016, as follows: General Fund \$1,943,365.93, Water Fund \$299,644.89, Sewer Fund \$268,761.18.

**RE: DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Chief of Police Walsh reported taking delivery of the John Deer Gator, received through the Homeland Security Grant application that was filed this time last year. In addition to the Gator, we also received a high quality trailer which was inspected. We are very happy with it. The public should see it deployed during St. Patrick's Day, General Montgomery Day, or any event with large gatherings in the Village of Montgomery.

The 2016 year-end statistics for the Police Department ended with 111 arrests which is a 48% increase, blotter entries ended with 5,668 calls for service which is up by 91%, case reports taken by the officer's ended at 197 which is up by 20%, tickets issued are down by 20% ending with 1,154, traffic accidents ended with 58 which is up by 11%, and vehicle stops went up 19% although our traffic summonses are down ending with 1,918. We have been busy, the call volume is more than it has been in the past couple of years. Calls for service have certainly increased, although crime has not and that is good.

Trustee Hembury said, it is noticeable that three to four times a day the houses are being monitored for holidays and vacationers that I am aware of. It is very comforting. He asked the Chief of Police Walsh, Could this be part of the call volume increase?

Chief of Police Walsh said, every time a house check is conducted, a blotter entry is performed. Yes, it is one of the reasons for an increase. Any instance that a car stop is made or calls asking for the officer to take a report, a blotter entry is completed also. This is the time of the year the officers are checking on homes for folks that are snow birds.

**RE: RESIDENT REQUEST FOR WATER/SEWER PAYMENT PLAN AND PENALTY WAIVED**

Mayor Brescia called for a motion to approve a payment plan in four installments to be paid by April, however, the penalty is not waived for the residents of 236 Boyd Street.

He asked, that the Treasurer and or the Deputy Treasurer will check with the other nineteen municipalities' regarding their policies on waiving penalty fees. He also, asked the Village Clerk Rivera-Fernandez to add this to the next meeting agenda for a brief discussion.

Moved by Trustee Andolsek, seconded by Trustee Hembury, the Board approved a four installments payment plan for 236 Boyd Street water/sewer bill which is to be paid in full by April, along with the penalty included. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**RE: RESIDENT OF 6 BRIDGE STREET REQUEST PRIOR OWNER WATER/SEWER BALANCE BE REMOVED FROM THEIR BILL**

Mayor Brescia called for a motion to approve prior owner balance of \$105.87 be removed from 6 Bridge Street water/sewer bill.

Moved by Trustee Hembury, seconded by Trustee Lindner, the Board approved prior owner balance of \$105.87 be removed from 6 Bridge Street water/sewer bill. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

Mayor Brescia asked that the Treasurer's office be more careful in preparing the closing readings to avoid a reoccurrence of this nature. He suggested an estimate in the Villages favor, a credit can always be issued to the resident, once the readings are confirmed to be fact and final.

**RE: EVENTS**

*Grand Montgomery Chamber Music Series* presents, Asia Hickman who is the introductory performer on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, followed by the performance of, All Seasons Chamber Players at 3:10 pm at the Senior Center, 36 Bridge Street.

Howard stated that this is his 31<sup>st</sup> year as the curator for the Grand Montgomery Chamber Music Series. He mentioned getting sponsors and thanked the Village Board for their continued support and making this program possible. Thus far, his audience consists of patrons from various parts of the Hudson Valley, it is well received. He and his wife, Judy's', contributions are strictly as volunteers, and seek no monetary compensation. Their goal is to bring great listening Classical music to the people of this area. He also mentioned, his collection of Classical music tapes and vinyl records is quite extensive. Again, he thanked the Board and extended an open invitation to all.

Trustee Hembury asked, Howard if it is possible to arrange for a performance at the Montgomery Nursing Home. The residents of the Nursing Home are home bound and feels it would be well received and appreciated also.

Howard said, he knows of a pianist that may be amenable to it, let me look into it.

*St. Pat's Ramble* is on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> beginning with the 5K race at 10: 00 am, the Grand Marshals Mass is at St. Mary's; at 11:00 am, the Parade is at 1:00 pm, and the Grand Marshal is Patricia Pskowski.

**RE: VILLAGE HALL CLOSED**

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day the Village Hall is closed on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**RE: REPORTS CONTINUED**

Trustee Hembury mentioned that a couple of the Montgomery Firemen have brought a concern to his attention regarding the old Alpak facility, having numerous code violations. The sprinkler systems were all boxed in and bedrooms have been built in the back. The Montgomery Fire Department discovered this responding to an alarm call. This is a concern for the safety and the lives of both the occupants and the firemen.

Deputy Mayor Scheels stated, the Building Inspector has also been there.

Mayor Brescia said, he had received a complaint and Buddy has been there as well. A certified letter has been issued and the owner has also been spoken to regarding the issue of littering. The owner has subleased a portion of the building. However it maybe, it is the owner's responsibility to comply with the safety codes. He asked the Village Clerk, Rivera-Fernandez to have the Building Inspector contact him on these issues.

**RE: PUBLIC PORTION**

Mayor Brescia opened the meeting for public comment.

Mr. Berger asked, what the daily use is for having this John Deer.

Chief of Police Walsh said, there is no daily use for it. It is gator, a side by side ATV to carry the driver and a passenger with room for cargo. The use is patrolling the trails, accessing the Railroad tracks, accessing the Pleasure trails, and the wooded area by the River. The ATVs to be used in places where the patrol car is inaccessible. The Gator allows for a faster response on the different terrains than it would on take the officer to cover on foot.

Mayor Brescia stated, the uses are for Homeland Security. There are other municipalities, including the Town of Montgomery that have been equipped with a John Deer Gator.

Mr. Berger expressed his concerns with the freight train coming through the Village at the Boyd Street crossing, they are required to flag the crossings. It is a wooded area and it is not easy to see the engine. He heard the horn and then it went by quickly. No one got off the train today to flag the crossing. It could very well be a serious situation not to mention a violation of the rules.

Mayor Brescia asked the Chief of Police Walsh to contact the Railroad commission regarding this.

In audible (speaking over each other).

Chief of Police Walsh said, he will make a call.

Ms. Beltrametti inquired about the rescheduling of the Master Plan work session.

Mayor Brescia stated that the last meeting was canceled due to the Master Plan Chairman Conero having to attend a funeral. We will reschedule it before a Public Hearing is set. We will try having it before the next regular meeting, possible at 6:30 pm.

Atty. Dowd asked if the Board would like to have him arrange it.

Ms. Beltrametti asked, if it will be open to the public.

Mayor Brescia said, yes; it will be open to the public.

**RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Brescia called for a motion for the Board to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION under section § (f) of the open meetings law with the Chief of Police to discuss the employment history of an individual in the Police Department and the Building Department with Atty. Dowd and the Village Clerk Rivera-Fernandez in attendance.

Moved by Trustee Andolsek, seconded by Trustee Hembury, the Board entered into Executive Session at 7:49 pm. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

Chief of Police Walsh exited the Executive Session at 7:58 pm.

**RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION EXITED**

Moved by Trustee Andolsek, seconded by Trustee Lindner, the Board exited Executive Session at 8:26 pm. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**RE: CREATE TEMPORARY POSITION**

Moved by Trustee Hembury, seconded by Trustee Andolsek, the Board created a temporary position of Part Time Building Inspector. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**RE: APPOINT TEMPORARY P/T BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Moved by Trustee Hembury, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scheels, the Board appointed Jean Jaques as a temporary Part Time Building Inspector effective as soon as the Orange County Department of Personnel has the position created and filed on the Village of Montgomery register and at a rate of \$25.00 an hour. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Lindner, seconded by Deputy Mayor Scheels, the Board adjourned the meeting of January 3, 2017 at 8:27 pm. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

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Monserate Rivera-Fernandez, Village Clerk