

# Village of Oriskany

708 Utica Street/P. O. Box 904

Oriskany, New York 13424

315-736-3512

clerk@oriskany.org

## Oriskany Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2022

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at the village office for their regular monthly meeting.

In attendance were: Mayor Mick O'Connor; Trustees Paul Rieben, Christopher Burtch, John Kasprzyk, and Sean Fortnam; Clerk Alexis Albright; Treasurer Peggy Nugent; Street Supt. Chad Miller; Code Enforcement Officer George Farley; Asst. Fire Chief Glenn Block; Officer Stephanie Lawson representing the police dept.; Village Attorney Steve Deery; Whitestown Supervisor Shaun Kaleta; Zoning Chairman Ken Brown; Planning Chairman Mike O'Donnell; Oneida County Legislator Bob Koenig; and two representatives from Mohawk Valley EDGE, Laura Cohen and Christian Mercurio.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm. The following minutes and reports were submitted and reviewed:

<b>Report</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Result</b>
Minutes	Rieben	Burtch	Approved (one correction; "Asst. Highway Supt" to be corrected to "Highway Supt.")
Treasurer's Report	Kasprzyk	Burtch	Approved
Police	Rieben	Kasprzyk	Approved
Fire	Fortnam	Burtch	Approved
Museum	Kasprzyk	Fortnam	Approved
Codes	Rieben	Burtch	Approved
DPW	Kasprzyk	Burtch	Approved (Expenditures tabled until round table discussion)

Dec. 13, 2022

The mayor then invited guests Laura Cohen and Christian Mercurio from Mohawk Valley EDGE to begin their presentation on the Restore NY Grant. EDGE has been working with Adam Kernan, the owner's representative of the former Waterbury Mill, on how to clean up and revitalize the site. The site is currently in Phase II of an EPA evaluation.

Restore NY is a state grant program that provides up to \$2 million dollars to revitalize blighted sites. EDGE believes Oriskany is in a prime geographical position for the site to be redeveloped for commercial and residential use because of the recent investments in Rome and Marcy. They also said this grant is one of the best opportunities for "problem properties."

Trustee Burtch asked about the application process and how the funds are administered and audited. The state oversees the grant. The village would be asked to receive and disburse funds from the state when the project is complete. Trustee Kasprzyk asked about the property itself. EDGE believes it is a prime candidate for the program. Trustee Rieben asked whether an outside consultant would be brought in to oversee the project. The answer from EDGE was probably.

Town Supervisor Shaun Kaleta voiced his support for the project. He said he and the town are excited about the prospect, that the village has a lot to gain, and what benefits the village also benefits the town and county. He said the "town is here to support the village in this endeavor as much as possible."

The Planning Board met on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 for a request to change the zoning of the former Waterbury mill (107 River St.) from M-1 Manufacturing to C-1 Commercial. The board voted 4-0 to recommend the change. Minutes to this effect were submitted. Trustee Kasprzyk voted to accept the planning board's recommendation. Seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor, including the mayor. Motion carried.

Trustee Burtch motioned to accept the planning board minutes, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor, including the mayor. Motion carried.

A motion to pursue the Restore NY grant application was made by Trustee Kasprzyk and seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor, including the mayor. Motion carried. (*See: "A Resolution Authorizing the Village Of Oriskany to Apply to the NYS Empire State Development Corporation for a Restore NY Communities Initiative Round 7 Grant To Support Rehabilitation Of 107 River Street"*)

Trustee Fortnam made a motion to host the public hearing required for public input on the grant on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm. (*See "A Resolution to Host a Public Hearing*

*as Prescribed by the Restore NY Communities Initiative Round 7 Grant To Support Rehabilitation Of 107 River Street”)*

The EDGE team advised that the grant has specific criteria for newspaper ads and the village may need to access an online grant portal. They will work with Clerk Albright on these.

The mayor thanked Mohawk Valley EDGE for their presentation and then returned to the regular agenda, starting with the round table.

Officer Lawson was in attendance to represent the police department. She had no new business. Asst. Fire Chief Glenn Block represented the fire department. He said a garage door is in need of repairs to two door panels. The DPW may have spare panels on hand.

Trustee Burtch had no new business. Trustee Rieben extended a thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas in the Nettles.

Alexis Albright said the museum has been quiet for the holiday season but that plans are starting for the America250 celebrations in 2026 and for the battle in 2027.

Trustee Fortnam had no new business. Trustee Kasprzyk said the library will host their annual gala in February. This year’s event will be in memory of long-time library aid Theda Bower. Also, one of the new library windows has a bad seal so they will contact the installer about fixing it.

Street Supt. Miller requested \$2,500 from the DPW reserve account to purchase tools and lumber to build new storage shelving to replace dysfunctional storage at the highway garage. Trustee Burtch motioned to approve the expense with the caveat that the amount be taken from reserve only if need be. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supt. Miller also said that they will be getting info on the new green lights for snow plows. He is currently training the other members of his department on snow plowing best practices. The street sweeper repairs have been on hold due to the snowy weather, but all parts are on hand and the machine should be ready for spring.

Officer Lawson asked if it was customary for police officers to call in bad road conditions to the highway department. Supt. Miller said he tries to stay ahead of it so they don’t need to, but to please call if they encounter bad road conditions.

Trustee Burtch asked if there had been any issues with people parking on the street when they’re not supposed to. Supt. Miller said there were a few.

The meeting moved on to public comment. There were no public comments or police reform questions.

Moving on to old business, Trustees Rieben and Burtch are working with Judge Gu to schedule the court audit.

The Wadas Foundation Playground Grant is still in, but no updates.

The phones at the municipal building, DPW, and museum will roll over to a unified phone system on 1/13/23. More information will follow for how to set-up department voicemails.

For new business, the library board has recommended a new library trustee, Amanda Steele. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to approve their recommendation. Seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Rieben motioned to accept the new fire department officers for 2023. Trustee Burtch seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Two membership applications were submitted for informational purposes.

The village highway department employee contract needs to be signed with the latest promotions from this fall. So moved to do so by Trustee Burtch and seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vouchers were signed. Around quarter past eight, Trustee Burtch motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge meeting room following the 6 pm Restore NY hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright, Oriskany Village Clerk  
January 9, 2023

Dec. 13, 2022