

Village of Oriskany

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Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2020

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in the back room of Oriskany Masonic Lodge #799 at 701 Utica St., Oriskany, NY to provide enough space for social distancing.

In attendance were Mayor Clifford O'Connor, Jr.; Trustees John Kasprzyk, Sean Fortnam, Christopher Burtch, and Paul Rieben; Village Treasurer Peggy Nugent; Village Clerk Alexis Albright; Police Chief Richard Zabek; Street Superintendent Brian Moulton, Glenn Block, representing the Oriskany Fire Department; and Village Attorney Steve Deery, Jr.. Also in attendance were County Legislator Bob Koenig and resident Diane James.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes for the meeting of August 11, 2020 were submitted by Clerk Alexis Albright. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the minutes; Trustee Kasprzyk seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was submitted. Sales tax revenue from Oneida County is still a concern. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the treasurer's report; Trustee Burtch seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Police Chief's report was submitted. The new police car, ordered last year, is finally ready for pick up from Steet-Ponte Ford after numerous manufacturing delays. Trustee Fortnam motioned to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Fire Chief's report was submitted. The fire department was represented by Glenn Block. He informed the board that one of the fire trucks is damaged. The department arrived at the Charlestown Mall in Frankfort fire to find that the hose for the aerial ladder was leaking under the turntable. The leak shorted some electronics, but the aerial ladder and other pumps remain operational. The truck is from the mid 1990s and has already been refurbished once. Motion to approve the report was made by Trustee Rieben, motion seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

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The Museum Curator's report was submitted. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Burtch.

The Code Enforcement Officer's report was submitted. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the report. Trustee Fortnam seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The mayor next addressed each trustee and department head. Trustee Fortnam said everything had been quiet. Trustee Kasprzyk said he'd heard concerns about the residence on Elm Street that has taken on the appearance of a used car lot. This would be a question for the Codes Enforcement Officer.

Trustee Rieben said that holiday planning is pending state and county guidance. There was no summer program. There is not yet guidance for Halloween trick or treating and any Christmas in the Nettles events will have to be adjusted to meet pandemic guidelines.

Trustee Burtch had no new business.

Street Superintendent Brian Moulton said that Chad Miller will be working on the Ridge Road catch basin repairs soon. They are waiting on quotes for the small paving projects previously discussed.

Police Chief Zabek stated that Oriskany police officers are scheduled for their annual range qualification on October 3rd.

Glenn Block submitted the monthly fire department report from Chief Jeff Burkhart.

County Legislator Bob Koenig addressed the group. He said that the second quarter sales tax (during the initial lockdown) has to come from the state to the county first. It will be a tough budget year in general but they will "fight to hold the levy even." Prices are up on many things and there was a short discussion of the recent jump in lumber prices (30-50% in some categories; 2x4 posts are nearly \$6 each). The county is working on budget cuts and early retirement is being incentivized for county employees.

The meeting was opened to public comment. Dianne James was in attendance and asked about driveway access on Manor Lane. Nearby homeowners have had an ongoing difference of opinion over access to undeveloped parcels. The dispute is whether the parcels are landlocked or have right of way access, as one homeowner has been doing. At this point, the matter is between property owners since the village no longer owns the parcels. The mayor stated that the homeowner in question has permission to move on and off his property and it was

recommended that Ms. James contact the county clerk's office if she has additional concerns about the deed or any land use restrictions placed upon it.

The board then moved on to old business. The playground grant was found to only be for full play systems, not repairs or additions, so it was dismissed.

Proceeding to new business, the village must opt in or out of the new Federal Social Security Payroll Deferral which delays payments into Social Security from September 2020 to December 2020. The employer is made liable for the remittance of all deferred payroll liabilities by April 30, 2021. Trustee Burtch motioned to opt out of the program and continue to remit all payroll liabilities as usual. Seconded by Trustee Rieben. All in favor. Motion carried.

The village board received a draft of the Oneida County Industrial Development Agency Uniform Tax Exemption Policy (Community Solar Projects), which would provide local property tax breaks for solar energy production. This plan is an automatic opt in with a voluntary opt out. The full implications of either action were not clear and the board is awaiting further details as the project progresses.

The mayor asked to appoint Trustees Burtch and Fortnam to the Employment Anti-Discrimination/Harassment Committee. A motion to this effect was made by Trustee Rieben and seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. A vote was taken; Trustee Burtch voted against the motion. Motion carried four to one.

The village contract with Oriskany Central School District for the School Resource Officer (SSO/SRO) Contract is up for renewal. The contract was not yet available. Mayor O'Connor asked for the board's permission to sign said contract when available in consultation with the police chief and the village attorney. Trustee Burtch made a motion to this effect. Seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried.

The solid waste contract is coming due next year. The village will make inquiries with the Solid Waste Authority about putting the contract out to bid.

Clerk Alexis Albright asked the board about consolidating the village's various bills for internet, phone, and fax service. The board approved seeking quotes from telecommunication companies to lower the price and simplify the billing. The police chief asked that their current mobile service be maintained since other service providers were previously unable to provide consistent service. This was acknowledged.

The upcoming holidays were discussed in light of the ongoing pandemic. There is no state or county guidance available yet for Halloween Trick or Treating. The Fire Department has already been discussing how to modify their annual festivities to meet pandemic guidelines. While there is no guidance yet, the village board approved the usual trick or treating hours of 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2020, pending pandemic guidelines from state and county authorities. The village will encourage their regular “no light, no knock” policy so that homeowners uncomfortable with virus exposure need not participate.

Planning for Christmas in the Nettles will also depend on the state of the pandemic. Fireworks are probably a viable social distanced activity. The usual crowds in the fire house would not be possible. The raffles may need to be virtual. Trustee Rieben will schedule a meeting with the Christmas in the Nettles Committee to discuss.

There had been complaints filed by a homeowner on Hillside Drive whose mailbox was disturbed by a drainage pipe installed by the Town of Whitestown. While the ground behind the mailbox was altered, the mailbox was still in its previous condition. The homeowner believes that the village should relocate her mailbox. The board agreed that mailbox replacement was a courtesy, not a legal necessity, and since the box was still in position the village would not be relocating it.

The Fire Department representative submitted the application of Jonathon Rueger of Whitesboro for active membership in the Oriskany Fire Department. Trustee Burtch motioned to approve the application, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Burtch made a motion to close the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Trustee Kasprzyk seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright
Oriskany Village Clerk
September 14, 2020

September 8, 2020