

Village of Oriskany

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Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2020

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, November 10, 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, Fire Chief Jeff Burkhardt; Codes Enforcement Officer George Farley, and Village Attorney Steve Deery, Jr.

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 October 13, 2020 were submitted by Clerk Alexis Albright. Trustee Burtch motioned to approve the minutes; Trustee Kasprzyk seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was submitted. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the report, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried. The Police Chief's report was submitted. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the report, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried. The Fire Chief's report was submitted. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the report, seconded by Trustee Burtch. All in favor. Motion carried. The Museum Curator's report was submitted. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to approve the report, seconded by Trustee Burtch. All in favor. Motion carried. The Code Enforcement Officer's report was submitted. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve the report, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried.

There were no public comments. The mayor next addressed each trustee and department head.

Police Chief Zabek said that the department is working on the New York Police Reform. They are hoping to collaborate with the town and possibly the other village of Whitestown to streamline the verbiage for policies already in use. Matt Zabek is working on the Whitestown reform policy. Dispatches for call types are up to the county 911 dispatch center, so some decisions will be influenced at the county level. The county is recommending that all essential

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local government employees be tested routinely for COVID-19. The Oriskany Police Department will follow the recommended two week testing schedule. (Once per week was discussed, but testing availability is a concern.) The state has three free testing sites locally.

Chief Jeff Burkhart says that the aerial truck will be fixed next week. The air pack testing is due, but then equipment testing will be caught up. The Fire District concept is being looked into further.

Codes Enforcement Officer George Farley had no new business. Street Superintendent Brian Moulton said everything is in order at the highway department. The DPW intends to follow the new county testing recommendation. The only recent concern was that the Utica Street bridge was icy during the first snowfall, despite being salted.

Trustees Kasprzyk, Burtch, and Fortnam had no new business. Trustee Rieben is working with the village insurance company on updating verbiage. Adding the DMV Lens Program would provide an annual report on clean licenses for village employees who operate vehicles. The police policy will also be updated to reflect the police reform efforts.

The board then moved on to old business. There were no updates from Attorney Deery regarding the county Solar Tax Credit policy. The FEMA application for the 2019 Halloween Flood is moving forward. Alexis Albright is working with the Battle of Oriskany Historical Society for the site's required historical review.

The village's garbage collection contract is coming due. The board agreed to advertise in January and open bids in February. Requirements for bulk items, totes, and white goods will remain the same.*

Alexis has not had any luck renegotiating the village communications contracts. Faster internet speeds are not readily available for a reasonable price. A savings may still be possible for the phone and fax contracts.

Trustee Rieben followed up with Advanced Electric regarding regular maintenance to the generator at the Municipal Building. There were some questions about the maintenance schedule and on-going costs, as well as the longevity, run schedule, etc. Further follow-up is needed.

Halloween Trick or Treat went smoothly. The night was quiet. The Christmas in the Nettles Committee met today and decided to cancel the event in light of the rising virus cases. They look forward to next year.

Proceeding to new business, the fire department put forward the name of Sydney Burkhart for Fire Department Auxiliary membership. (Information only.) The mayor asked to appoint Chad Miller of Ridge Road to the vacant position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. A motion was made to do so by Trustee Fortnam and seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Due to the pandemic restrictions, the zoning and planning boards have been using more online training. The state allows a provision for local governments to approve the use of pre-recorded lectures to meet the training requirements. The village clerk asked that the board consider utilizing these provisions to expand training opportunities. Trustee Burtch made a motion to do so “conditional to the COVID situation.” This motion was seconded by Trustee Fortnam. Motion carried.

Oneida County Civil Service reached out to the village regarding the hourly limits for civil service positions that have been assigned part-time status. This has been an issue for the library. To solve this issue, it was recommended that the village establish a cleaner title at the library to re-assign custodial hours under a non-part time title. A motion was made by Trustee Rieben to establish a Cleaner position at Oriskany Public Library. The motion was seconded by Trustee Burtch. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Workplace Violence Prevention Policy & Incident Reporting needs to be reviewed and signed for this year. Copies were supplied. Work on the Village Pandemic Plan per state guidelines is on-going.

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency will host appointments to help residents apply for state heating assistance through HEAP. They will visit on Mon., Nov. 16 and Wed., Dec. 2 from 2-6 p.m. Social distancing and masking will be observed.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Kasprzyk made a motion to close the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Trustee Fortnam seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright
Oriskany Village Clerk
December 7, 2020

November 10, 2020

*The original text of this paragraph read:

“The village’s garbage collection contract is coming due. The board agreed to open bids in January and accept offers in February. Requirements for bulk items, totes, and white goods will remain the same.”

This was amended when the minutes were submitted at the December 8, 2020 meeting. The original paragraph did not accurately reflect the timeline of pre-bid, bid, and acceptance.