

# Village of Oriskany

708 Utica Street/P. O. Box 904

Oriskany, New York 13424

315-736-3512

**AMENDMENT SUBMITTED**

## **Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2021**

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 in the Oriskany Village Office at 708 Utica Street, Oriskany, N.Y.

In attendance were Mayor Clifford O'Connor, Jr.; Trustees John Kasprzyk, Sean Fortnam, Paul Rieben, and Christopher Burtch; Village Treasurer Peggy Nugent; Village Clerk Alexis Albright; Police Chief Richard Zabek; Street Superintendent Brian Moulton, Fire Chief Jeff Burkart, and Village Attorney Steve Deery, Jr. Also in attendance were Glenn Block, Michelle Wright, and William Gregg.

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

The following reports were submitted and approved as follows:

<b>Report</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Result</b>
Minutes	Trustee Burtch	Trustee Kasprzyk	Approved
Treasurer's Report	Trustee Fortnam	Trustee Rieben	Approved
Police	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Kasprzyk	Accepted
Fire	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Burtch	Accepted
Museum	Trustee Burtch	Trustee Kasprzyk	Accepted
Codes	Trustee Rieben	Trustee Burtch	Accepted

The mayor next addressed each trustee and department head. Brian Moulton brought up that a village tree was hanging over a homeowner's roof. A contractor could remove the encroaching limbs.

Police Chief Rich Zabek submitted the name of Taylor Yahnke to replace Mark Morreale as police officer part time. Mr. Yahnke has completed Phase I training. Trustee Burtch motioned to hire Mr. Yahnke, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Chief Zabek also asked for permission to renew the SRO contract with Oriskany Central School District with a \$1/hour increase in pay (now SSO \$24/hr and SRO \$34/hr). Attorney Deery said the contract is very similar outside of the pay increase and some statute changes. Trustee Burtch motioned to accept the renewal, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Zabek then asked for permission to order more duty and target ammunition than usual due to a fifteen month lead time on orders and increasing prices. Treasurer Nugent said there is money in their budget. Trustee Burtch motioned to approve the purchase, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Koenig followed up on the flooding discussion from the July meeting. He looked into past mentions of removing the Oriskany Creek dam. He said it was only a suggestion during flood talks in 2014 and did not progress further.

Fire Chief Burkhart said things have been “quiet but busy.” After inspection, five pieces of fire hose will need to be replaced. He is looking into pricing. Big bills are mostly out of the way for now, but the airpacks and physicals are coming up.

Trustee Burtch would like to send a letter of village support for the fire district formation for the record as rebuttal to a previous letter from Whitestown. Seconded by Trustee Rieben, motion carried.

Glenn Block submitted the name of Michelle Wright as an auxiliary member of the Oriskany Fire Department. Trustee Rieben motioned to accept membership, seconded by Trustee Burtch. All in favor. Motion carried.

An Orchard Street manhole cover currently has a lock on it that is causing difficulties during street maintenance. The suggestion is the Oneida County Sewer District replace it with a non-locking cover. Mayor O’Connor hopes it will be replaced before winter.

Trustee Burtch reported that the Treasurer’s Audit has been completed. He also reported that the disaster preparedness form discussed last meeting is just for the county to update equipment lists, etc. He also asked if we need a Space Force flag with the armed forces flags in Trinkaus Park. The flags may need to be doubled because of the number of flag poles. Burtch also said that the county has been getting inquiries about the noticeably high number of mosquitoes in the area. The county does not spray; towns and villages can. The board would need to look into price and availability. Some companies are now using drones.

The store in the former hardware store will now change hands from TJ's Buying and Selling Goods to John Dent, who will operate a similar store with surplus goods. (Edit: The name of this store was later announced as the Oriskany Corner Store.) The diner has also reopened as Rosie's Oriskany Diner. The same family has also purchased Star Bakery in Whitesboro.

Trustee Rieben submitted the following names for membership (information only) in the Fire Department Auxiliary: Raymond Kurtyka, Michelle Wright, Natalie Rieben, Ashley Kendic, and Julia Hindman.

Trustee Rieben also informed the board that he hired a third assistant for the summer recreation program "to protect the integrity of the village, school, and summer program." Superintendent Gaffney is on board to secure the extra funding. The program has had very high turnout this year.

The meeting opened for public comment. William Gregg of Clinton Street would like to have a culvert pipe added so he can add a second driveway. Stormwater is a concern. The driveway location will also have to account for traffic coming down the hill. The village engineer and highway department will make a site visit.

Resident Norma Bostwick of Utica Street submitted a letter about stormwater concerns in the vicinity of Clinton Street. The stormwater patterns have changed and are causing water issues. Mayor O'Connor suggested that a catch basin near the former St. Peter's Church could be a possible solution (avoiding new pavement). Perhaps this could be addressed in flood mitigation planning.

There was no further public comment and there were no comments on police reform.

For old business, the emergency plan had already been addressed by Trustee Burtch. The federal ARPA money was discussed. Can the money be used for sanitary or storm sewers? There are catch basins in need of repair and some drainage ditches could stand to be opened up.

For new business, Clerk Albright presented some grant opportunities, including playground grants from GameTime, the county's Main Street Program, and also the NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). There are many opportunities available. The NYS DRI may be a long shot, but the Main Street Program is closer to home. Several local projects could qualify, such as sidewalks, street lighting, bike paths, etc. Perhaps even parks and recreation.

Pandemic recommendations are changing again. Masks are now recommended for even the vaccinated. Many stores, courts, and churches are again requiring their employees/members to

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wear masks. The Utica City Hall still has masks optional. Water Safari is now requiring masks outside of rides, so the summer program is skipping their trip because of the logistics of trying to keep the kids masked. We will continue to follow county guidelines.

Bills were approved and signed. Trustee Burtch motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Oriskany Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright  
Oriskany Village Clerk  
September 14, 2021  
Resubmitted October, 12, 2021

*Page 2, paragraph 7 previously read “A River Street manhole cover currently has a lock on it that is causing difficulties during street maintenance. The suggestion is the Mohawk Valley Water Authority replace it with a non-locking cover. Mayor O’Connor hopes it will be replaced before winter.” but was updated at suggestion of the board during their September meeting.*

*Page 3, paragraph three the following statement was stricken “Perhaps the second driveway could be located near the front mailbox?” at the suggestion of the board.*

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