

Village of Oriskany

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Oriskany Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes for November 8, 2022

The Village of Oriskany Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 in the village office at 708 Utica Street.

In attendance were: Mayor Clifford O'Connor, Jr.; Trustees Paul Rieben, Christopher Burtch, John Kasprzyk, and Sean Fortnam; Village Treasurer Peggy Nugent, Village Clerk Alexis Albright; Highway Supt. Chad Miller, Police Chief Rich Zabek, Fire Chief Jeff Burkhart, Codes Officer George Farley and Village Attorney Steve Deery. Also in attendance were ZBA Chairman Ken Brown and County Legislator Bob Koenig.

Mayor O'Connor opened the regular monthly meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The following reports were submitted:

Report	Motion	Second	Result
Minutes	Kasprzyk	Burtch	Approved (one correction; "Asst. Highway Supt" to be corrected to "Highway Supt.")
Treasurer's Report	Fortnam	Burtch	Approved
Police	Kasprzyk	Rieben	Approved
Fire	Rieben	Kasprzyk	Approved
Museum	Kasprzyk	Burtch	Approved
Codes	Fortnam	Burtch	Approved
DPW	Fortnam	Burtch	Approved

The mayor then addressed the trustees and department heads. Chief Zabek requested to update the internet server in the building to create more secure WiFi channels for the separate offices. This would better protect internet traffic, especially during court nights. So moved by Trustee Fortnam and seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Chief Burkhardt asked if the village would split the expense of new blinds for the top floor of the municipal building. The current blinds no longer open and close. The total cost would be \$1300 for 15 windows. Trustee Fortnam moved to pay half the cost (\$650) as requested. Seconded by Trustee Burtch. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Burtch attended the Oriskany Creek Commission meeting. He said there was no quorum so there is not yet a budget. Trustee Burtch reaffirmed that he will be the lead representative for the village on the creek commission and for county sewer meetings.

Trustee Rieben recommended that the village start a request to the state to have the prison paint village buildings next year. The village would need to supply paint and scaffolding. Highway Supt. Miller has made inquiries. The current list to paint is the DPW building, the inside and outside of the fire house, the library coppola, railings/pillars at the museum, and possibly fire hydrants.

Trustee Rieben also stated that Halloween was good and safe at the firehouse. The evening ended early with rain around 7:30 pm. Trustees Fortnam and Kasprzyk had no news to report.

Museum Curator Albright shared that the USS Oriskany shipmates are having membership issues due to demographic decline. Their reunion will still be held in Oriskany in October 2023 and she hopes to help them reach out to their members for continued support. Albright was also the keynote presenter at the Oneida County Historians Association conference in October. She spoke on the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Battle of Oriskany. She's looking for members for the Battle of Oriskany Historical Society, especially people who might be interested in restarting Oriskany Days.

Highway Supt. Miller said that the department was working on painting projects and leaf pickup. With the spells of 70+ degree weather, many homeowners were putting leaves all out at the same time, which has delayed some pick up times. The new laborer, Josh, has been helping with maintenance on vehicles.

The meeting moved on to public comment. Oneida Co. Legislator Bob Koenig said the county is voting on their budget tomorrow. Inflation has also driven up sales tax revenues and they don't expect a property tax increase.

There was no additional public comment. There were no police reform questions or comments.

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

No awards have been announced yet for the NYS Downtown Revitalization Grant or NY Forward. Alexis was asked to present this year's application to the regional council on October 24 at Herkimer College. Last year's awards were announced in December.

Office phone updates are coming soon. The new unified phone system will allow transferring calls between departments and also simplify billing and service calls.

The fire chief asked about keeping parking behind the firehouse by the mill cleared of snow this winter for firemen to park during calls. The village asked the fire chief to get a letter of permission from the owner to plow the area for parking.

The Skyhawk plane in the park was going to be painted several years ago, but logistics fell through to have it painted off-site. Options are being explored to have the painting touched up. Alexis will start asking around about potential funding and vendors for the project. Trustee Burtch suggested that local veterans organizations may be able to assist.

Under new business, the village codes officer received a letter from Adam Kernan of Swift Water Rescue, LLC, which owns the Waterbury Mill, to change the zoning of the property from Manufacturing (M-1) to Commercial (C-1). The C-1 zoning would allow for store fronts, apartments, eateries, etc. and restrict industrial manufacturing. Trustee Rieben motioned to refer the mill zoning change request to the village planning board. Seconded by Trustee Burtch. Motion carried.

The mill and Mohawk Valley EDGE are also interested in applying for a Restore NY grant, which provides a 90% match from the state for building rehabilitations. The remainder can be paid by the building owner through private investment. The applications require a municipal sponsor. Trustee Burtch motioned to request the Oneida County Planning Dept. handle the mill's application. Seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vouchers were signed. Trustee Kasprzyk made a motion to close the meeting at 7:47 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 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the village office.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright, Oriskany Village Clerk
December 13, 2022

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