

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, of the Board of Trustees, of the Village of Montgomery, was held in the Meeting Room, at 133 Clinton Street, Montgomery, NY 12549, on March 1, 2022, at 7:30 pm.

RE: CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Brescia opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CLARIFICATION ON A QUESTION FROM A PRIOR MEETING

Trustee Lindner wanted to clarify something from the previous meeting that Trustee Hembury had mentioned regarding the property on Railroad Avenue. When it was purchased on Railroad Avenue it was an industrial zone and the owners were looking for a zoning change. The zoning committee then met with each of the industrial property owners and explained what we were doing with the zoning changes, to get their thoughts. Rivenburgh and Rowley, explained their plans and thoughts for the property, they proposed a site plan to build four warehouses on Railroad Avenue.

After numerous discussions with them, the plan currently before the Planning Board is to build seven duplex homes, a storefront with apartments above and to donate the property on the corner to the village for the purposes of a public parking lot. The zoning committee felt that it was very good for the village and for most people except for maybe Mike and two homeowners that live off Railroad Avenue that came to the Public Hearing. He said it is better to have what is coming there than four warehouses.

He also wanted to answer Don's question from a prior meeting regarding the traffic rerouting on Route 211, the bypass. Brian had put together a tremendous packet, that he and Brian then met with the NYS DOT to try to reroute the traffic and discussed several options. He also spoke with Lee Zimmer from the state highway department, the project is not dead. They request several things from us, which is a letter from the Town of Montgomery that states the Village of Montgomery, and the County of Orange is on board with rerouting the traffic. We are working on it. However, there are still some obstacles. The biggest obstacle is trucks coming off County Route 99 that have nothing to do with Medline and want to get to Middletown. Now they turn onto the junction of Route 416 and Route 211, which is a wicked turn. He also mentioned an article where Medline had committed to not having trucks making a right turn onto Route 416. He was informed that it is a legal issue between the Town and Medline of which the NYS DOT has no say in that regard but where they do is signage. We, as the Village should put pressure on Medline and the State to put signs up, instructing the drivers where to go to get to County Route 99, coming off Route 84. It is simple; they can make a left and turn onto Neeley Town Road to access the corridor of County Route 99. He feels the Village could be instrumental by being aggressive with the Town, Medline, and the State to make that happen.

Trustee Hembury replied to the industrial property on Railroad Avenue, of which 56 people signed a petition opposing the zoning changes. He expressed his thoughts regarding the Public Hearing advertisement not being published as well as the project development on Route 211. He also felt the applicant did not intend on building four warehouses on Railroad Avenue.

Trustee Lindner felt more residents should have attended the public hearing to voice their thoughts. In fact, four warehouses were proposed in a sketch plan for Railroad Avenue. He felt four warehouses were not a good plan for the Village to have in the downtown district.

Trustee Hembury also felt it was not in the best interest of the Village to have a Trustee to be on both Boards, the Zoning Committee and Advisory Committee. The Village Board should have been independent of it. It's the Planning Board's role to handle these matters.

Mayor Brescia disagreed, it's customary to have a Village Board member as a liaison to a committee.

Trustee Hembury asked if a liaison decides what an applicant should build? He disagrees with the way the Railroad Avenue project development was handled and its outcome and does not approve of it.

Mayor Brescia replied said it was proposed and the Board made the decision to approve the final project development after a Public Hearing was held.

Historian Fitzpatrick said, in the process there is not an answer at the end of the projected outcome. It probably sat for a year and half; it all starts with the zoning. It is a tough process; Tom could tell you. Its other citizens sitting in as a committee as volunteers, which it is part of the process to involve the residents. To read the plans and looking at the guidelines and the discussion takes months or even a year. You then get to a conclusion and then it is brought to the Village Board. There is always a liaison. He has been involved in many projects throughout the Village and a liaison has always been part the process.

Trustee Hembury replied it is not the individual's integrity but for the Board's to have someone there that should not.

Historian Fitzpatrick said, could and should we get better on the process, always.

Mayor Brescia said the Village had not updated its Masterplan in over thirty years and ten to fifteen years ago that area on Railroad Avenue was talked about changing it to a B-2 zone. There was a lot of discussion with the Masterplan committee and the Planning Board, as well as the Village Board back then. It was not just talked about with recent update that was done with a mixed business and mixed residential.

Mr. Berger asked to speak. He said the Public Hearings were published well and extended twice.

Trustee Hembury said the Weaver Street residents received notices in addition the Public Hearing Notices. Again, he felt the residents surrounding the Railroad Avenue should have received the same consideration.

MINUTES

Moved by Deputy Mayor Scheels, seconded by Trustee Andolsek, the Board approved the minutes of February 15, 2022. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

REQUEST TO MEET WITH BOARD

ABSTRACT – NO. 02 – 2022

Moved by Deputy Mayor Scheels, seconded by Trustee Andolsek, all bills listed on ABSTRACT NO. 02-2022 were audited and approved for payment with \$ from the General Fund, \$ from the Water Fund, \$ from the Sewer Fund and totaling \$. Check No: - . Motion carried 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

Treasurer Griffith reported a CASH BALANCE for the month of February 28, 2022, as follows: General Fund \$, Water Fund \$, Sewer Fund \$.

OLD BUSINESS

Montgomery Little League Opening Day Parade is on April 2nd, at 8:30 am, with the parade route to step off on Bachelor Street to Bridge Street, with a rain date of April 23rd. April Hall asked the Village Board to join in on the festivities with the hope of the Mayor to say a few words at opening ceremony and throw the first pitch. Volunteers are always welcome.

TRUSTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Hembury expressed his delight about the Village locking in on the electric rate for three years. We are better off today because of the choice made earlier. Furthermore, the DPW did a great job during the snow storm. New updated Top safest communities in this country signs have been posted. He also thanked the Village of Montgomery Police Department for all they do to ensure the safety of the Village.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Police Chief Herlihy said, they are ready for the St. Pat's Ramble parade. There will be detours for the road race. We will begin closing Route 211 at 12:30 pm to 12:45 pm to make sure the line-up is safe. The EO 203 quarterly meeting is being held on March 24th at 6:00 pm, at the Senior Center 36 Bridge Street. He hopes to see more people in attendance than there were at the last meeting. He is setting up the annual Police Department training, for medical first responders as well as the AED training, to stay current with everything. In addition, to Work Place Violence and Sexual Harassment Training, that is mandated on an annual basis. We are also preparing for next fiscal year tentative budget. The speed signs will be going out, and will not announce the locations. Great results were received when the speed signs were out last.

VILLAGE OF MONTGOMERY SELECTED AS THE NATIONAL LUNCH STOP FOR THE GREAT RACE

Great Race lunch stop will be on June 19th, they are scheduled to arrive around 12:15 pm for two and half to three hours. The race starts in Warwick RI, and end in Fargo, ND. The race is nine days long and it is timed. To be selected for a lunch stop is incredible for us. We must organize the parking when they arrive. He also suggests posting the American flags along Union Street.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING POLICE CHIEF WILLIAM HERLIHY TO ENTER INTO AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF ORANGE THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND THE VILLAGE OF MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF STOP DWI PROGRAM

Moved by Deputy Mayor Scheels, seconded by Trustee Hembury, the Board authorized Police Chief William Herlihy to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement between the County of Orange, through its, Department of Emergency Services and the Village of Montgomery Police Department, for the purpose of the STOP DWI Program, to commence on March 12, 2022 and end on January 11, 2023. Motion carried, 5-Ayes. 0-Nays.

EVENTS

St. Pat's Ramble:

- Sunday, March 13th Mass at Holy Name of Mary-Assumption Church begins at 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, at 89 Union Street, Montgomery, NY.
- Friday, March 13th, Grand Marshal Reception begins at 1:00 pm, at Ward's Bridge Inn 135 Ward Street, Montgomery, NY.
- Friday, March 18th Race Packet Pickup, and Registration, begins at 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, at Montgomery Village Hall, 133 Clinton Street, Montgomery, NY.
- Saturday, March 19th, Race Packet Pickup, and Registration, begins at 8:00 am – 9:45 am, at Montgomery Village Hall, 133 Clinton Street, Montgomery, NY.
 - a. Rainbow Dash Kids Fun Run begins at 9:40 am, at the intersection of Wallkill Avenue and Clinton Street, Montgomery, NY.
 - b. 10th Annual Run for the Gold 5k begins at 10:00 am, at the intersection of Charles Street and Wallkill Avenue, Montgomery, NY.
 - c. Parade Line up begins at 12:00 pm in front of the Montgomery Elementary School, on Union Street.
 - d. St. Pat's Ramble Parade steps off at 1 pm, on Union Street at River Street and ends on lower Clinton Street, Montgomery.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Berger suggested the Village seek directional signs through the NYS DOT.

Ms. Beltrametti asked about the Snow Plow bonding saga.

Atty. Will Frank replied to Ms. Beltrametti request and was informed that after reviewing all of the documents presented to him regarding the multi-purpose bond, all the procedures were found to have been done correctly.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Lindner, seconded by Trustee Andolsek, the Board adjourned the meeting of March 1, 2022 at 8:12 pm. Motion carried, 5-Ayes, 0-Nays.

Monserrate Rivera-Fernandez, Village Clerk