



INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF OCEAN BEACH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Ocean Beach, Suffolk County, New York held on October 29, 2022 at the Boat House, 625-632 Bayberry Walk, Ocean Beach, New York and is also being conducted via Zoom.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Mallott moved to go into Executive Session at 9:01 AM from the Village Office, for the purpose of discussing personnel, contracts and pending litigation.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Blake upon call the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye, via telephone
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

No motions or resolutions were acted upon in Executive Session. Executive Session was closed at 9:58AM by Mayor Mallott. The motion was seconded by Trustee Norris, upon call the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye, via telephone
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye

GENERAL SESSION: At 10:02 AM, Mayor Mallott moved to open General Session. Trustee Blake seconded this motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Voted Aye, Absent

Following the pledge to the Flag and Roll Call at 10:03 AM:

There were present:	Mayor:	James S. Mallott, Absent
	Trustees:	Matthew M. Blake
		Dawn L. Hargraves
		Christopher F. Norris
		Marco Arment, via Zoom
	Village Counsel:	Kenneth Gray
	Village Clerk/Treasurer:	Steven W. Brautigam, Absent
	Village Administrator:	Joseph DiFrancisco

Deputy Mayor Blake: All right. We're going to call this meeting to order. Mayor Mallott had something come up and he's not able to make it. So, I'm going to do my best to fill his shoes. I'm not I'm not one for protocol, honestly. And, you know, to be in this seat now and not be following protocol anyway, we are going to start with the pledge, however. So, let's please do that.

Deputy Mayor Blake: Good to see everyone in such a short sprint here, since we convened not that long ago. Ken, Joe, do we want to just go through the agenda here? And we have a few resolutions to pass too a very light agenda. Okay. So, we should be wrapping it up pretty quickly

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 15, 2022: Resolution No. 2022-105:

Deputy Mayor Blake moved as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on October 15, 2022 are accepted as presented

Trustee Norris seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Absent

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIM VOUCHERS: Resolution No. 2022-106: Deputy Mayor Blake moved as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that bills and claim vouchers, already paid be approved as submitted and as follows:
General Fund, in the amount of \$99,525.02, for Gross Payroll from 10/04/22 through 10/18/22

BE IT RESOLVED that bills and claim vouchers to be paid, are submitted to be approved for payment as follows
General Fund, in the amount of \$ 94,484.53, starting with check number A27347, and
Water Fund, in the amount of \$ 10,378.25, starting with check number F3682, and
Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$ 19,521.66, starting with check number G668

Trustee Norris seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Absent

RATIFICATION & APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL – ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF CLERK/TREASURER: Resolution No. 2022-107: Trustee Norris moved as follows:

A. WHEREAS, the Village is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Steve W. Brautigam, dated and received by the Village Office on October 26, 2022;

Now, therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Village accepts, and terminates the employment of Steven W. Brautigam, Clerk/Treasurer, effective November 1, 2022

Trustee Blake seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Absent

RATIFICATION & APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL – APPOINTMENT OF VILLAGE CLERK: Resolution No. 2022-108: Trustee Norris moved as follows:

B. WHEREAS, the Village Mayor and Board of Trustees desire to fill the position of Village Clerk, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has appointed Jonneigh Adrion to fill the position of Village Clerk,

Now it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Village of Ocean Beach Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the appointment of Jonneigh Adrion as Village Clerk with the following terms and conditions of employment:

1. Starting date of November 2, 2022
2. Annual Exempt Salary \$110,000
3. Employee to pay 10% of medical benefits.
4. All other terms and conditions contained in the Employee Handbook not inconsistent with the above
5. Pending Civil Service approval of term which will expire on July 1, 2024

Trustee Blake seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Absent

Deputy Mayor Blake: If I can just say one thing here. Maybe a couple of things. One, I know if Jim were sitting here he would convey thanks on a number of different fronts. First, to Bunny and Linda you've been longstanding contributors to the success of this village and we're all extremely excited for this growth opportunity. There's always a learning curve on these things, but we're with you as a group on that curve, and we're really looking forward to another chapter of the village in terms the village administration and how we operate. So, best of luck to you and I think you have the support of the community. If I may take a moment, I'd also like to take a moment to say thank you, to Steve. Steve, has been integral to the success of this village over a decade. We went through a horrific storm which really, Superstorm Sandy which ultimately defined the path for well over a decade of rebuilding and improvement to this village. As a result of Steve's hard work across a number of different projects, we have received tens of millions of dollars worth of funding. That did not come to us willy nilly, that came to us through diligent follow up and hard work. And we wish Steve much success and hopefully some rest and R&R in retirement. And I know again, if Jim were here, he would express his deep gratitude to all of those years of hard work with Steve. So, I just want to say that as well.

RATIFICATION & APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL – APPOINTMENT OF VILLAGE TREASURER: Resolution No. 2022-109:

Trustee Hargraves moved as follows:

C. WHEREAS, the Village Mayor and Board of Trustees desire to fill the position of Village Treasurer, and WHEREAS, the Mayor has appointed Linda Morrisey to fill the position of Village Treasurer,

Now it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Village of Ocean Beach Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the appointment of Linda Morrisey as Village Treasurer with the following terms and conditions of employment:

1. Starting date of November 2, 2022
2. Annual Exempt Salary \$128,550
3. Employee to pay 10% of medical.
4. All other terms and conditions contained in the Employee Handbook not inconsistent with the above
5. Pending Civil Service approval of term which will expire on July 1, 2024

Trustee Norris seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Absent

Deputy Mayor Blake: Linda's not here, but hopefully she's listening in. And again, everything that was said. Congratulations, Linda. Absolutely. **Maria Silsdorf:** Will they report to Joe? Yes

AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF LEASE EQUIPMENT – PITNEY BOWES: Resolution No. 2022-110: Trustee Norris moved as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village desires to continue to retain the services of a postage meter scale and machine; and

WHEREAS, the Village is in receipt of a proposal from the firm Pitney Bowes, received October 21, 2022, to continue to provide such equipment with necessary upgrades,

Now, therefore, the Village Board of Trustees hereby accepts and approves said proposal, a copy of which is on file in the Village Office, for 60 months in an amount of \$67.93 per month for equipment and services detailed in the proposal; commencement to begin upon receipt of equipment and in-house training.

RESOLVED that the Mayor and Village Administrator are hereby authorized to execute such documents consistent with this resolution.

Trustee Blake seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Nay
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Absent

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA): Resolution No. 2022-111: Deputy Mayor Blake moved as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village hereby declares that all action items on this Agenda, unless otherwise indicated, are Type II, pursuant to SEQRA, and, therefore, no further environmental review is required; and

Now, therefore, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the SEQRA declaration on all action items as Type II, unless otherwise indicated on this Agenda.

Trustee Norris seconded the motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Absent

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS: 10:21 AM

Deputy Mayor Blake: We don't have formally as part of this agenda a hearing of the citizens that's a bit abnormal. This is an extraordinary meeting. But I do want to, with a ring fenced time here, provide 10 to 15 minutes for any comments from the group here or any questions.

Maria Silsdorf: Can you hear me Okay. So good morning. Thanks for hearing us, Matt and I'd like to add my thanks and congratulations to Bunny and Linda. Well done. I did want to make sure that there would be an opportunity to further discuss the situation with Steve Brautigam and the state audit, alleging that he's been overpaid by \$44,000 and change and under tax reported by \$11,000 and change for his vehicle. It's been covered in various news organizations, including Newsday. We discussed it briefly at the meeting two weeks ago, but I don't think all of us had had a chance to really digest the audit and come up with our questions. So, I don't know if this is the opportunity. I'm a little disappointed the mayor isn't here, so I imagine most of the questions will be directed directly to him. But how do you want to handle further discussing that? **Deputy Mayor Blake:** I believe the response from the village is posted.

Ken Gray: Yeah, it. They didn't attach the exhibits that we attached. And they said that in advance. They said, listen, if you give us voluminous exhibits, we're only going to post a letter. And that's what they did. **Maria Silsdorf:** I get that. And two weeks ago, the board stated that they had just seen the audit the day before. **Ken Gray:** We had just seen the final audit.

Maria Silsdorf: You had seen the final audit, which I'm sure isn't terribly different than the preliminary that you responded to. Right. So that was a little bit of an untruth, I guess that you weren't familiar with the audit or it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. So. You know, I have some questions. Do you want me to ask them now? **Deputy Mayor Blake:** You know, look, I think it would be beneficial to have the full board represented. **Maria Silsdorf:** Okay. So, will we have an opportunity to discuss them at the next meeting? **Deputy Mayor Blake:** That's something certainly we can raise to afford an opportunity for sure. **Maria:** Okay,

Trustee Norris: I think. And this is not kicking it down the road. Mm hmm. Right. I think that our next meeting would be the best format for that. Hopefully, the mayor will be joining us. I would say if there are specific questions that the citizens have. It would be helpful to send them via email in advance just so that we are prepared to answer where we can. Obviously, ongoing audit. There's still an audit going on that we're prepared to offer you the information that you're requesting.

Maria Silsdorf: Okay. I will follow my two questions up with an email to you, but my two very specific questions would be, the audit recommended that the village board work with the village attorney, four of whom five of the board are here today, as is as is our attorney, to get retribution (restitution) from Steve Brautigam. And I don't know if that's being perceived? restitution. What did I say? Retribution. Restitution. Thank you. Thank you, Holly and Craig. So, I would like to know how if that is being how and if that is being pursued would be my question number one. My question number two would be despite Steve's not taking his vacation days. He was granted additional vacation days more than any other employee, if I understand it correctly. So, I don't really understand the thought process behind someone who's already not taking vacation days and giving them more. If it was just a vehicle to juice up his salary. I'd like to understand that better. So those are my two questions and I will present them to you in an email. Thank you.

Ken Gray: Anybody else want to speak? **Holly Etlin:** We're waiting for a meeting where the mayor is going to be present. Is the mayor planning on dialing in from his much deserved vacation to London because he's going to be in London for the next trustee meeting? He's not going to be here. **Trustee Hargraves:** I didn't know he was going away, so I don't know. **Holly:** He's gone, like, almost an entire month. So, and that's fine. He deserves it. But rather than saying that we're going to do it, address it at the next meeting when everybody's listening, we should pick a date when you're all going to be here and we're actually going to have it happen.

Deputy Mayor Blake: I actually want to just. **Holly:** I know you were probably unaware, but yes, he's gone for several weeks. **Deputy Mayor Blake:** I think a way to address this, you know, in a probably the most precise fashion is to receive questions and to allow us to respond to those questions. And we will afford an opportunity to do that. All right. I too was unaware that Jim would be overseas. But I think we will do the best we can to satisfy the questions that come our way. Okay. I just want to comment in one particular instance here to Maria's second question. And it's just to say that the contractual type that was used historically in this goes I mean, everyone here represented we have not used the type of contractual structure that Steve had for well over a decade. Our push has been contractually with employees to work toward a much more simple and streamlined structure that keeps the components of compensation more transparent and more limited. And you know that that's not a new thing, by the way, that's been in place in an effort for well over ten years. **Maria:** those additional vacation days were granted outside of the contract or in addition to the contract. but I appreciate what you're saying. **Ken Gray:** Anybody else?

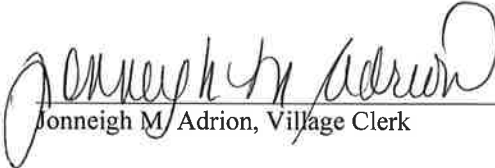
David Lipsky: this is Dave Lipsky. If you're redoing the time and leave policy and the employee handbook, what is our what is the village's timekeeping policy? People palm in signed timesheets in and out. **Deputy Mayor Blake:** They swipe biometrics. **Ken Gray:** Biometrics, biometric, a biometric finger. **David Lipsky:** And so the and when we see the budget where there's allocation of people to the wastewater or the water system and there's a certain number of labor hours attached to that, how is that allocated? **Ken Gray:** That's a budget question. I don't have an answer for that. **David Lipsky:** Or how is it tracked, I should say? **Ken Gray:** That's a budget question. **Joe DiFrancisco:** I don't understand the question. **David Lipsky:** Well, yeah, I mean. **Ken Gray:** I think there's an estimate, for instance, for, let's say, Steve salary for administrative. I think maybe they take 20% of his salary and they put it toward sewer. He estimates how much time he spends dealing with the electric or not the electric, the water or sewer. And I think that's how it gets broken up. I think it's really just an estimate of what an administrative time would be. Does that sound about right? **Joe DiFrancisco:** That's about right. **David Lipsky:** But also the staff, I mean. **Deputy Mayor Blake:** It's probably a similar approach. It's a proration across different tasks that touch different budget line items. **Trustee Norris:** Clearly, if an employee is assigned to a specific department, DPW, it should be bank there. If there are employees that are spread across the accounting, the different departments, it's an estimate. but the biometric does not automatically post to that department. **David Lipsky:** Okay. Thank you. **Ken Gray:** Anybody else which to speak?

Andrew Was: Andrew Was 870 Evergreen. I understand that the trustees are not employees of the village, technically. Is that true? **Ken Gray:** They're officials. **Andrew Was:** They're officials but they're not employees. **Ken Gray:** They're public officials. **Andrew Was:** Right. So according to the state laws that I've been reading, I'm surprised it wasn't brought up in the audit. That cash in lieu of insurance premium is illegal because it's not offered to all the village employees. And that's pretty much stated in a state law. And I want to know, how would how do we get around that? **Ken Gray:** I'd have to look into that. Anybody else?

Deputy Mayor Blake: I thought Zoom was not working, but it's now operational. **Maria Silsdorf:** I have a lot of messages that people cannot hear on Zoom. **Deputy Mayor Blake:** Okay. **Trustee Norris:** Are there any written questions? **Deputy Mayor Blake:** We are going to conclude at 30 past. So, I'm just giving a heads up. **Joe DiFrancisco:** Gina, if you have a question, go ahead. **Trustee Norris:** Marco, it's all falling apart without you. This is not going to work. **Jonneigh Adrion:** I don't think it's going to work. **Deputy Mayor Blake:** Okay, so let's draw the meeting to a close. Very good to see everyone. Thanks for your questions. **Trustee Hargraves:** Can you ask Gina to email us?

ADJOURNMENT: Deputy Mayor Blake moved to close the meeting at 10:27 PM. Trustee Hargraves seconded this motion. Upon call, the following voted:

Deputy Mayor Blake	Voted Aye
Trustee Hargraves	Voted Aye
Trustee Norris	Voted Aye
Trustee Arment	Voted Aye
Mayor Mallott	Absent


 Jonneigh M. Adrion, Village Clerk