

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, of the Village of Montgomery, held at the Meeting Room, 133 Clinton Street, Montgomery, NY 12549, on Tuesday, March 20, 2024, at 7:30pm.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Andolsek, Trustee Hembury, Trustee Picarello, Trustee Conero, Atty. Will Frank, Deputy Village Clerk Murphy, Susan Landfried, Mary Lippincott, Robert Saladin, Cynthia Nokland, Karen DeCrosta, Rose Picarello, Walt & Claire Pahucki, Larissa Fitzpatrick, Barbara Conroy, Kyle Fitzpatrick, Don Berger, Stacey & Bernie Hillman, Sallie Harris, Tom Harris, Susan Hembury, Joan Christiano, Al Baty, Tom Taylor, Mark Palczewski, Tom Steed, Sophia Romano, Bob Reynolds Sr., Lois Kurisko, Sylvie Rainaldi, James Kiernan, Karina Tipton, Jose Hernandez, Acquisitions Marketing Videographer William Ibberson.

CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Mayor Andolsek opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES:

Not available yet.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES

Deputy Mayor Andolsek – We have two men in the front row who have been with this for five years and a lot of other people were on committees and helped them, but these two have been there from the very beginning. They've been there for only one reason and not for any personal agenda, for no pay, just because they love this Village. So, I would like to present from the Village Board a little plaque. Marc, this is yours:

“Presents to Marc Devitt, thank you very much for your hard work and dedication in securing a \$4.5 million dollar grant for the Village of Montgomery. March 20, 2024. Darlene Andolsek, Deputy Mayor, Michael Hembury, Trustee, Randi Picarello, Trustee, Kevin Conero, Trustee.”

Marc Devitt – Thank you so much.

Deputy Mayor Andolsek – And Brian:

“Presents to Brian Fitzpatrick, thank you very much for your hard work and dedication in securing a \$4.5 million dollar grant for the Village of Montgomery. March 20, 2024. Darlene Andolsek, Deputy Mayor, Michael Hembury, Trustee, Randi Picarello, Trustee, Kevin Conero, Trustee.”

Deputy Mayor Andolsek – Now Marc, would you and Brian like to introduce Susan?

Brian Fitzpatrick – Thank you guys, this is very, very unexpected and everybody knows I'm taking the recognition, I'm always hiding somewhere. I want to get sort of walk through this process because Marc and I became students about six weeks ago. I just told Mike the story, when we received our check, we had no idea that amount until the governor said it at the podium and then Marc and I got thrown out, we had like a food fight, he threw a cheeseburger; it was just an unbelievable moment and it was the highlight of...and thank you, all of you here because it started-

we went through on our way home, we went through memory lane this started many, many years ago when we were making up programs and all of our, live stream...live stream tonight, don't know where it is in here. I've got to just thank my buddy Walter Lindner who's been on this journey with me, so Walt, thank you. We have a few more comments but then we'll be out of here.

REQUEST TO MEET WITH THE BOARD:

Brian Fitzpatrick - It's my pleasure to introduce you to Susan, from New York State. She's our coordinator and our champion and the person responsible for this entire program. It's a very, very involved process because we tried cashing the check right, they don't want to accept that. No one will accept it. So, Susan will tell you it's a very totally involved and incredible process, but it is a process of going on 6, 7, 8 months and the idea and hopefully our agenda and Marc and I have talked about this, is to get everyone involved too, and I mean everyone so let's do that and explain it.

Susan Landfried – First of all, I just want to say congratulations again to the Village of Montgomery. It's going to be a robust process over the next several months but it's going to be really exciting and just very much looking forward to working with all of you and all of you all, as well, on figuring out, kind of the next path forward for Montgomery. So, I just want to do some brief overview of what the program is and what to expect in the coming months. New York Forward is a statewide economic community development program that is meant to revitalize and reinvigorate downtown economies. This kind of program started back in 2016. It was called the downtown revitalization initiative, and it was a \$10 million award that went to a really much larger city. This year, for example, is White Plains, a much larger city. Really hard to compare this to, but a couple of years ago there was a realization that we're missing a lot of communities in New York State with that \$10 million award, that there are a lot of communities that have downtowns that maybe there's a smaller amount of money that is appropriate. That is when the governor proposed New York Forward and that is a \$4.5 million award to smaller, often more rural communities or neighborhoods. That is what we're here to do today. So, what this process involves is going to be; a planning process that is going to build off the application that Marc and Brian, and many others helped to put together and really lead to the implementation of mostly capital projects. We don't really do programs or long-term programming and salaries and things of that nature. We really want to see investments as kind of a one-time investment of transformative and catalytic projects. In addition to that \$4.5 million, the State has also hired a professional consulting team that is going to help lead this entire process. I will be there to support the consulting team but from here on out it'll be the consulting team that will kind of be the front of that. That consultant includes people who have been working on this initiative since 2016 so they're very familiar, but it also includes economic development specialists, urban designers, the whole array like anything that we want to do, we have the ability to get the expertise in that. Then you have the State team support so you have me from Department of State, but we also work heavily with Empire State development, which is the economic development arm, as well as homes and community renewal, who does a lot of the housing in the State, and we also work with NYSERTA and can bring in various other partners from state agencies as needed. This is a real opportunity for all of us to get together and be able to leverage the relationships that we have across the State. You all joined Highland Falls this year as the New York Forward Awardees, last year it was Cornwall and Cornwall on Hudson and Sleepy Hollow, so you all were in the second round of being awarded in

this. Just to think broadly about some of the goals, active downtown that has a really unique sense of place. We want to improve public services, help business development, provide housing if that's an appropriate thing, grow the local property tax base, and just really enhance the quality of life downtown.

So, this process started years ago, I know for you all, but officially for this process, the application that the Village submitted was submitted back in September of last year. There was an evaluation process at the regional level and then the Village of Montgomery and Highland Falls were awarded, I believe that was in February we had the event, were awarded. That's already done, now we're in the planning process which is going to last through about December and that's going to be the establishment of what we call the local planning committee, which is a group of representatives that are going to help guide this process. We're going to work on kind of establishing a vision and goals for the downtown, already building off what you all have done in the application. The big component in that is helping to identify some of the projects that are going to be coming through that are going to be eligible for funding and then those will be the projects that this local planning committee will recommend to the state for potential funding. After the State receives those recommended lists of projects, then the State will ultimately select which projects get funded. So, you all received an award of \$4.5 million but what's going to ultimately be recommended to the State is between \$6 and \$8 million dollars of projects. One of the reasons we do that is sometimes when a project is awarded, we have people come back and say you know what, actually we didn't need that money we were able to do something else, so we want to have kind of a backup list. We want to have an array of projects. That's one of the questions we get a lot is, but you get \$4.5 million, why am I awarding, why do you want 6-8? Because we definitely have projects that do not happen. They're originally awarded so we want to have some back up. After that, projects are selected and awarded and I want to note, projects can be private projects, they can be not-for-profits or they can be public projects. Right now, the Village submitted a list of potential projects in their applications. We're starting at Ground Zero. It is a blank slate. All of the projects that come through this process will compete against each other and will be reviewed independently of what was submitted in the application. The application projects were really to show that there is momentum, that there are ideas, that there are things that are ready to go in the Village, but everything is a clean slate, and nothing has been predetermined at this point. After the projects are selected, we get to work implementing. That's the fun and longer part. Those can take several years as you all know if you watch construction projects happen in town, unfortunately, they go a little slower than everyone wants. This planning process that we're going to really start kicking off in April, we talk about the vision; the consultant team is also going to come and look at your downtown and look at what are some of the opportunities and challenges, kind of bring that third party external eye that says well here's something that we see, here's ways to improve that or here's really great opportunities that you may want to continue to build on. The next big part is that project piece.

So, we will have a period of time in which we'll be soliciting project applications. These will be from the municipality. They will be, even the town could potentially submit one. I've seen that happen. Private project sponsors or not-for-profits can all submit projects. The consultant team and I will work with those projects to help develop them, help them get all of the information that they need for the State to review. We will then present all of those to the local planning committee for them to evaluate and it'll be kind of an iterative process. We'll present them, we'll be like this

is a great idea, but this project isn't quite ready to go. One of the big things about this is we look for projects that are ready to go. We want to say after a project is awarded it can be implemented in two years. That's when we want to start to see shovels in the ground. This is meant to be a planned, then act process. This isn't meant to be 10 years. It's an iterative process. The public absolutely has a role in that. The local planning committee meetings are open to the public. We will have a minimum of two public workshops that will be well advertised for you all to come in and tell us about your thoughts on the projects, but also help tell us what the vision is for downtown; what the goals are and then other little events around. Then we will continue to make sure that we're soliciting and being as inclusive and transparent as we can be. I know that these two gentlemen are particularly committed to making sure that we have as many people as possible here tonight, hopefully many more come to some of our events and give us their feedback. I just want to give quickly on what kinds of projects are eligible. We do public improvement projects. So, I've seen parks, streetscapes, public art wayfinding, signage, various other things that are public improvement projects that we typically see from a Village. We can do new construction or rehabilitation of downtown buildings; so maybe there's been a long-term vacant building downtown and they really want to reactivate the first floor. Maybe put a couple of apartments above. That's something that's eligible. We have what's called a small project grant fund, and so these are for projects that are maybe like not you know, standalone transformative catalytic on themselves, but they really want to improve their facades, they want to upgrade their windows, they maybe want to expand their business and they need some new commercial kitchen equipment. This will be the type of thing that they could apply under. Then we have branding and marketing. You know, helping to give Montgomery (inaudible) but also helping to make sure that others are aware, in the region outside of that.

I talked a little bit about public engagement, planning committee, public workshops, etcetera, that open call for projects is the thing I just want to make sure we're very aware of. That is the opportunity again, for any and all projects to come in, to submit information to be considered for funding. The goal is to have that open for at least four weeks but we're going to be advertising it well in advance of that and there will be opportunities for you all to meet with the State and consultancy teams, any project sponsors to get assistance. Project sponsors are not on their own. They are going to get assistance and continue to answer questions and develop their projects as this process goes. So, what's next? We will be starting in April, hopefully. The goal is to really have that first local planning committee, end of April, early May. We've got a few background things to finalize in advance of that and then hopefully, really starting the heavy push of public engagement in May, in about May, and take a little bit of a quieter time in the summer. Summer is tough for a lot of people. It's hard to do meetings etcetera, and we'll spend a lot of time working one-on-one with project sponsors, getting their products ready and then when school starts back, we'll kind of ramp that process up again and really be out the public working with the LDC to kind of evaluate those products to get to that final list.

Alright, I've given you, I think we had an initial 3-hour meeting worth of information in maybe 8 minutes, but just wanted to open up for any questions from the Trustees. Again, there will be a public workshop very close to the beginning of this where a lot of this will be explained again and probably in more detail, so please you know keep an eye on social media outlets and various other things, fliers, etcetera, for when that's going to happen; looking towards May, but that's all to be determined at this point. Thank you.

Brian Fitzpatrick - Thank you. This is what Marc and I just want to follow up. When we received this check, obviously, and everywhere, matter of fact, Steve Brescia was with us from the Town, and the checks went out to go to Montgomery and he kept saying this, because I would be remiss if I didn't thank Steve. So, Steve, Marc and I want to thank you and buy a watch. (laughter)

Marc Devitt - And you're not getting any of this. (laughter)

Brian Fitzpatrick - But this is the application, which you'll probably get online. There's a video that we can't wait to show you. All this stuff will be online for everybody to see but we went through this several, two times, I know we had rough draft years ago, we had all different versions of this, but we got to the point where we're competing with 9 counties, and you don't know who you are competing against what I'm sure is 20 plus municipalities. There was a woman in Albany, one of the consultants, she was talking to us on a zoom meeting, and she said, you know, so you guys got to tell your story, because you know, even in my former career I probably looked at 500 of these, you know on shelves, like vinyl's on the shelf. But what she said was, "So what is the difference? So, what makes Montgomery different? Why are we selecting you?" Marc, tell them what we said.

Marc Devitt - We said it's the people. It's our community members who care so much about the Village of Montgomery and are constantly active, always participating. It's the reason why we were awarded this grant. I'm confident of that. That we were able to show the State and the economic development council that everybody here has got ownership, everybody cares about this community equally, and we're just so happy that we were able to tell that story.

Brian Fitzpatrick - And it was a story. It's the life in here because I look out here, I can look out and you know we reminisce and we look back 5, 6, 7, 8 years ago, we went back to the first bandstand, it's everyone. You all do this. I'm walking out of humbly honored to represent you. I have a check and well it was everybody's. It's thousands and thousands of conversations, it was event after event, it kept building up momentum. It's every person here. We sat in the museum, we were stopped, and we did something, we created something and all of a sudden everybody got excited. And we asked Susan to wait until tonight for us to come back here, not knowing about the plaques, or we never would've showed up (laughter), but other than that, but just to start, because this is an opportunity, to build a vision, a new vision as part of the plan. You know, the Village has been here, incorporated since 1810 and I'm historian, and all that. It's 200 years. The legacy. Mike. I thought about Mike today a lot. The next mayor inherits the legacy to carry out a tradition that's already been...we have a responsibility to just keep that going. And Steve kept it going and now Mike takes another version of that and just keeps it, builds upon that version of what this Village is. So, we want you to know that tonight, we want to present, give the check to you. This will be your check. The Senior Center will be, we'll hope to fill it up, go through the process with Susan and engage people talking. We don't have, these were our ideas when we were talking to the Trustees and stuff, we worked on for years with Kevin on the master plan, and all of this stuff but it came down to all of you now have the opportunity to keep it going and create a different Montgomery, a bigger vision and better Montgomery, a united Montgomery. When I was on the telecom looking at the screen talking about this thing, we had 10 minutes and I said the difference was the pride, the passion, the people, and the universal love for this Village. Even when we disagreed, I said to Steve, if somebody yelled at you, go hey, I love this Village. I love this Village.

So, it's an emotional piece of it that this is paper and stuff, but the emotional piece is what made us so special from 9 counties for the Village and the feedback on this application and the video, which you'll see. So, tonight we want to give the check to you all. Marc & I have been travelling around with this check. The holidays look good this year. We'd like to take a group shot of you all holding it. We can start with the front row here, just hold the check and if you guys want to gather round; if you don't want to be in the photo, just let me know or step outside. (Take pictures of the audience and Trustees with check.)

Brian Fitzpatrick – There's going to be a special website just for New York Forward.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDER CONTRACTING ALPHA-TECH FOR IT SERVICES (TABLED FROM 3-5-24 MEETING)

Deputy Mayor Andolsek – The contract is okay according to Atty. Frank.

Trustee Conero – I would like to bring up. I did not get a chance to talk to Computech because he's been on vacation. Part of his agreement is that he's not here the month of March so I haven't had the ability to get in contact with them, so I would like to wait until the next meeting to talk to him. I know if he can't accommodate the chief's request and the rest of the Village office request then we can go forward with the other company, but I also think that he's a local guy, local business and we should support him.

Trustee Picarello – Did you get my email comparing his to what the town uses and what Walden uses; I sent it last week.

Trustee Conero – No.

Trustee Picarello - I'll resend it because I did some homework on following with Walden about how much they do like that program and they stand behind that program and then my only other concern was that I know the Town of Montgomery is very happy with what they use so I did a detailed e-mail kind of comparing everything and then if we could make sure that you know we can try to match that as best we can with Alpha-Tech, if that's what we go for.

Trustee Conero - I also did apply for technology grant as well through New York State (long name), but it's a state and local cyber security grant program which will help with our cybersecurity. They will actually scan our network to see if there's any vulnerabilities in it. They do that so I applied for the money for that and I'm waiting to hear back from them on that.

Deputy Mayor Andolsek – So, you want to wait until the April 2nd meeting? Is that all right with everyone? All agreed.

The meeting was moved to the courtroom.

**APPROVE THE VILLAGE OF MONTGOMERY LABOR & EMPLOYMENT COUNSEL
UPDATED RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.**

Moved by Trustee Picarello, seconded by Trustee Hembury, the Board motioned to approve the Village of Montgomery Labor & Employment Counsel Updated Rates for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Motion carried 4-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**RENEW THE WAIVER OF CONFLICT BETWEEN CLIENTS FOR THOMAS DROHAN
WAXMAN PETIGROW & MAYLE, LLP.**

Moved by Trustee Conero, seconded by Trustee Hembury, the Board motioned to renew the Waiver of Conflict Between Clients for Thomas Drohan Waxman Petigrow & Mayle, LLP. Motion carried 4-Ayes, 0-Nays.

NEW BUSINESS

**CONSIDER ALLOWING THE PICKLEBALL COMMITTEE TO INSTALL A PARK
BENCH AT THE NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS ON BACHELOR STREET.**

Trustee Hembury – Who would own this bench? That’s a public park. I'm okay with pickleball and all that but it’s becoming a private thing here. It’s not Gold's Gym. You know we all went around, we all campaigned, and this is what I'm hearing. One person said, I was kind of scolded because I haven't been inside bold when I was playing outside on it. I'm OK with tips and all that stuff but this is not a private court and if somebody from wherever, from Manhattan comes up and plays, we can’t have made-up commissioners going in there and throwing them out because if we did, we'll be on the cover USA and in court. It’s a public park so we can't have a group saying you're not an expert, you guys are here, it’s a public park and that's that.

Trustee Conero - What if we said, if the pickleball committee wanted to dedicate or donate the park bench to the Village and at Bachelor Street, then that would become Village property.

Trustee Hembury – I would be fine with that. But we’re putting private benches in public parks, I can’t do that.

Trustee Picarello – It says that the new village pickleball courts on Bachelor Street, I mean that's pretty clear, it doesn't say at our Village, you know at our courts it does say Village courts. The park is public, the courts are in it, it’s all public.

Trustee Hembury - I just want to be clear on that because it's being taken over by people who believe it's just for a certain group and then we heard a couple of stories where people have been removed from that or told no, we can't play. No. It’s like telling somebody to get off the swings.

Atty. McKay – So the Board has a concern, if you want to amend the motion to approve it so long as the bench is dedicated to the Village, I think that's OK.

Moved by Trustee Conero, seconded by Trustee Picarello, the Board motioned to allow the pickleball committee to install a park bench and dedicate it to the Village of Montgomery at the new pickleball courts on Bachelor Street. Motion carried 4-Ayes, 0-Nays.

CONSIDER ALLOWING THE DPW TO DONATE THEIR TIME TO ASSEMBLE PICNIC TABLES FOR THE PICKLEBALL COMMITTEE.

Deputy Mayor Andolsek - We spoke to Buddy from the DPW about this and they don't have time to this. This is a busy time of year for the DPW with the streets and things after the winter they don't have time to build picnic tables.

Trustee Hembury - Does the Village own the picnic tables or are the pickleballers donating them?

Deputy Mayor Andolsek – They were going to buy the lumber and whatever and they wanted the labor free from the Village. They don't have time. This is the spring, they're very, very busy.

Trustee Picarello – I was only asking because then we don't have to, we're not beholden to prevailing wage or public bid if somebody wants to donate their time to build...

Deputy Mayor Andolsek – If somebody wanted to, that would be great. It's not going to be the DPW.

Trustee Hembury – Now, will these be our tables?

Trustee Picarello – The pickleball community will be responsible for all the materials required to build these four picnic tables/benches.

Trustee Hembury – Yes, it sounds like it will be theirs.

Deputy Mayor Andolsek - I think we need more information because we don't know where they intend to put them, we don't know what they're going to do with them when the summer season is over.

Trustee Conero – So, why don't we go back and ask them for more information, whether they're going to dedicate those, as well.

Trustee Picarello - It says everyone will have use of these picnic tables and benches.

Deputy Mayor Andolsek - Right across the street from where they have their new pickleball courts there's a big pavilion full of picnic tables and benches. It's not a long walk. Okay, so we'll put that down for the next meeting too.

EVENTS

Just a reminder,

The St. Pat's Ramble steps off at 1:00 PM on Union and River Streets on Saturday, March 23rd.

The Grand Montgomery Chamber Music Series presents Itay Goren, pianist, on Sunday, March 24th at 3:00 pm.

PUBLIC PORTION

Deputy Mayor Andolsek – Anyone who wishes to speak, we'll go from front to back, come up to the front, identify yourself and you will have 3 minutes to speak. No one from the audience will comment and none of us will comment after your 3 minutes you'll sit down, and the next person can go. Thank you.

Walt Pahucki – 99 Union Street - I mostly want to talk about some things that I've talked about before, some things back in January, I was reviewing the minutes from January. There are some things that I'm sure progress has been made, I want to get it on public record that these are things that we want to make sure that everyone's working on and not just us saying you guys all do this but there's people who want to be on committees and want to help with things and be involved. One of the things is the roads of course I know people are working on the potholes and with the city, with the town, and everything, but driving down Union we all know it's terrible and there needs to be some kind of updates to the community as to what's actually happening and what the Village can do even if the State is not taking action.

The other thing that's concerning me is, I'll say it a million times, we need a permanent warehouse moratorium. People say we have to get money from some other places or get money from somewhere, well let's get creative. Let's talk about it, let's accept there will never be another warehouse in this Village ever no matter what and then we say, well how can we get that money. There's housing, you can make recreation, you can do offices, there's a million other things to do. We should never have another warehouse in this Village.

The bypass. A lot of people are concerned about no tractor trailers in this Village, so of course, what do they do? There has to be a bypass. I know a lot of people are working hard on that, so I think we need updates, more frequent updates on what's up with that bypass. Tractor trailers are destroying our pipes. They're destroying our foundations, and they're destroying the roads.

Technology. Talked about technology some earlier at (inaudible) meetings. Billy's here, the cameras are wonderful, there has to be voice transcription software, whatever it costs of all these technology companies that we're looking at, software has to exist. You should never have a cassette tape ever again, it's the 21st century. It's 2024. No one in this room should be touching a cassette, no one should have to be writing down furiously, all the things that everyone said. Tonight, we know there's several meetings, people talk over each other, and the poor people who are working can't get all those words in. That and the e-mail. So, I've said this before I won't say this again until I see it, we have to have an e-mail where I can e-mail mayor@villageofmontgomery.org, trustees@villageofmontgomery.org. There has to be an e-mail. Yes, everyone does a great job if I call you, if I e-mail you, if I call Tina, people do communicate. Every other town and village you look at, so many have an e-mail. That's what should be part of these. Perfect. Thank you.

Karina Tipton – 225 Union Street – I wanted to ask the Trustees to share some more information with the Village residents about how to get more involved in government. We just heard a really exciting presentation that's going to require a huge committee, a lot of small committees, probably. I know we've recently had some committee vacancies that were filled without any kind of transparency and there was no way to apply for it, no advertisement in the newspaper, for example, and we just had an unprecedented number of voters, and the number of first-time voters was through the roof. What we're seeing right now is a community that wants to show up for this Village, and so I'm asking you to make that possible. Please open up the doors to the committee and to the community. Allow us to apply for committees. Ask for our resumes. Pick the best people to do the jobs and let us work with you to help improve the Village. Thank you.

Don Berger - Waters Edge, Village of Montgomery - I just kind of want to update the Board on what I've been doing, what Walt was talking about earlier about the road conditions. I came before this Board in January and talked about what initiative that I was doing for myself to try to get everybody involved, the Village and the towns. Sadly, I haven't heard a word from this Board about that. I've been to the Town of Montgomery four times; we're working on it there. I've been to the Town of Crawford, I've been to the Town of Newburgh, I've been to the Town of Wallkill. Friday, the City of Newburgh actually reached out to me, they want to become part of this program. And what is that program? The program is bringing all the towns, the senators, the assembly people and everybody together to force New York State to get something done about our road conditions. Now Senator Scoufis has in the New York State budget last week, I guess he's adding about \$100 million to the road structures, the pavement of the roads. You may or may not know, I sent you guys Governor Hochul's wish list for the roads to be done this year. It was only one and that was on 207/300 to Rock Tavern and only \$18 million for the entire Hudson Valley, 7 counties \$18 million. It's shameful. That means our tax dollars that we pay are not being used. I'll throw it back on, you know, I'm sure everybody you see these tractor trailers and they have on the back of the tractor trailer and how much taxes they pay through our roads. Well certainly, it's not happening here, so I think I would like to see the Village of Montgomery to be more proactive, talking with Steve, and all that. Steve has promised me that he will start making phone calls to the different townships in April. I'll follow up with Steve on that, but I think that's one way of going about getting some answers. You know, we have government, we have senators, we have assembly people. They need to do their job and our road conditions are hard here.

Robert Saladin - I've been a resident of the Village of Montgomery since 2014, I'm here to ask the Board if there's a process in which to remove a sitting member of the Board, specifically Trustee Randi Picarello. While doing my research into her as a candidate, I came across a plethora of information. The material I discovered is not an opinion, it is information and data. The text messages that I was about to read, I've changed my mind up respect to the multiple generations of people here not to do it. Into the record of the meeting, are vile nature and will likely be disturbing and grotesque to most people who will be hearing them, which is why I won't read them. If you're watching the stream, this would have been the time to turn the volume off. What I've read, was going to read to you, was said a handful of years ago and not all in the same year. The following is my opinion. This can lead one to decipher that this type of language used wasn't a one-off slip of the tongue, but rather a typical way she speaks when she expects no one else is listening. This is a time that most people are most true to who they are. Just last week in a social media post Trustee Randi Picarello stated the following quote, "Life has thrown some shit my way and nothing

has changed who I am and how fiercely I will fight for my family, my friends and my community and you will not do that either.” She directed this statement at Town Supervisor Steve Brescia after she called him a liar on a live video statement on Facebook, and he responded to that accusation. It's very unfortunate that nothing has changed who she is because that means she's still the same person who authored those text messages just a few years ago. I do agree with the sentiment of fiercely fighting for one's family, friends and community, which is exactly why I'm here tonight. It is for these reasons and many more that I ask that she resign immediately from her position as Village Trustee and spare the community from having to deal with the division and harm she has brought to the Village. If she refuses to resign, the Board needs to take whatever action is procedurally proper to expel her from the position of Village Trustee. Thank you for the opportunity and I'm going to hand you guys what I didn't want to read.

Stacey Hillman - I'm going to piggyback on Walt said. I actually like his idea. I think our social media needs to be updated 100%. The Village has a Facebook page. 100% it needs to be updated to date; it needs to have more on there. That said, I don't believe anybody sitting on a Board and I don't know any other company people that sit on the Board, have their own personal official page. I don't think it's right. I don't think Village residents should have to go to five different trustees' pages to see what's going on in the Village. Randi's page, Trustee Randi's page was very, very in depth. It was written well. If she remains on the Board, maybe she should take over the social media for the Village because it was that good. And you know, I don't think any individual Trustee should have their own page, it's not necessary. The Village already has a Facebook page so, that's all. Thank you.

Deputy Mayor Andolsek - Anybody else? No? Okay, then I guess we're going to go into attorney-client, and it will be the Board members and Tina.

Atty. McKay – Is the Board going to take any action? I assume you might want to close the meeting and just adjourn to Attorney-Client Session.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT SESSION

Motioned by Trustee Conero, seconded by Trustee Hembury, the Board adjourned to enter into Attorney-Client Session at 8:34pm. Motion carried 4-Ayes, 0-Nays.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Trustee Picarello, seconded by Trustee Hembury, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm. Motion carried 4-Ayes, 0-Nays.

Tina Murphy, Deputy Village Clerk