

**Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
November 13, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Dennis Siry, Deputy Mayor Kevin Smith, Trustee Jessica Bernius, Trustee Nick LaLota, Trustee Thomas Whalen

ALSO PRESENT: Chief of Fire Department, Leland Greey  
Chief of Police, Glenn Slack  
Superintendent of Public Works, Bruce Hopper  
Village Attorney, Bruce Kennedy  
Clerk Treasurer, Catherine Murdock  
Administrative Assistant, Corliss Baskerville

The salute to the flag was led by Chief Slack

Mayor Siry welcomed everyone to the November 13, 2017 meeting of the Board of Trustees

**Mayor's Actions:**

Motion to Approve minutes for the October 23, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting.

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Trustee Bernius.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

There being no further "Mayors Actions", Mayor Siry continued with the items on the Agenda:

**Licenses:**

Taxi Driver's License – New

Bruce Barber, 5 Lincoln Ave., Amityville, for Lindy's Taxi

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Bernius and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

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**Taxi Driver License – Renewal**

Kelly Curto, 15 Fulton Street. Lake Grove, for Lindy’s Taxi  
Michael High, 78 Meister Blvd. Freeport, for Lindy’s Taxi  
Timothy Gigi, 41 Biltmore Blvd. Massapequa, for Lindy’s Taxi

Trustee Bernius questioned the application of Michael High as he did not check off the question inquiring of a criminal background. Chief Slack responded that it was investigated by Det. Smith and approval is recommended.

MOTION to APPROVE made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye	
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye	
	Trustee LaLota	aye	
	Trustee Whalen	aye	
	Trustee Bernius	aye	
Motion Carried:	5 ayes		0 nays

**Hazardous Material of Operations Permit**

Henry McDowell for HRM Tooling and Design, LLC 45 Burch Ave., Unit G Amityville

MOTION to APPROVE made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye	
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye	
	Trustee LaLota	aye	
	Trustee Whalen	aye	
	Trustee Bernius	aye	
Motion Carried:	5 ayes		0 nays

**On-Street Parking**

Joanne and John Fisk, 29 Maple Dr., Amityville

Mayor Siry explained that the Fisks have 5 cars but can only fit 4 cars in their driveway. Mayor Siry stated they are looking to either sell one car or decide how to fit a double-sided driveway. Trustee Bernius stated that there was no indication of temporary payment or permit on the application. Mayor Siry responded that the applicants intend to have the problem solved in six to twelve months.

MOTION to APPROVE made by Trustee Bernius with the suggestion of a twelve-month permit and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

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Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye	
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye	
	Trustee LaLota	aye	
	Trustee Whalen	aye	
	Trustee Bernius	aye	
Motion Carried:	5 ayes		0 nays

Kevin and Nicole Purdy, 9 Riverside St., Amityville

Mayor Siry explained that the Purdys are seeking a 6-8 week permit due to a storage container that will be occupying their driveway.

MOTION to APPROVE made by Trustee Lalota and seconded by Trustee Whalen.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye	
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye	
	Trustee LaLota	aye	
	Trustee Whalen	aye	
	Trustee Bernius	aye	
Motion Carried:	5 ayes		0 nays

Mayor Siry added the stipulation that once the container is obtained, the Purdys must obtain a permit for the container.

**Request from Deputy Treasurer:**

Request to approve Abstract from October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Trustee Bernius asked if the payment indicated on page 13 for \$1, 027 to Grant Guys for the Fire Department is for writing a grant? One of the Trustees responded but is not audibly clear what was said.

Trustee Bernius also questioned a fee on page 18 for processing serving regarding The Village vs Harper Villas Homeowners Association. Deputy Mayor Smith responded that it was for a violation that needed to be served.

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Lalota and seconded by Trustee Whalen.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye	
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye	
	Trustee Bernius	aye	
	Trustee LaLota	aye	
	Trustee Whalen	aye	
Motion Carried:	5 ayes		0 nays

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**Request from Clerk/Treasurer:**

Request from The Junior League of Amityville Woman’s Club to hold its annual Holiday Home Tour on December 2,2017 from 11am- 3pm.

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Bernius and seconded by Nick Lalota.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Request from The Junior League of Amityville Woman’s Club to post way-finding signs for its annual Home Tour on the day of the event, December 2, 2017

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Trustee Bernius.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Request from Shannon Kokoneshi to carry - over five (5) vacation days and to Buy – back (6) remaining vacation days.

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Request to update Code book and e-code online with General Code in an amount of approximately \$2,875(A1625.440)

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye

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	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Request to pay 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter NYS Unemployment Insurance in the amount of \$4,649.05 (A9050.800)

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Bernius and seconded by Trustee Whalen.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Request to pay NYS Municipal Worker's Compensation Alliance for 3rd Installment in the amount of \$87,533.00 (A9040.800)

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Bernius and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Request to pay Skinnon and Faber for Auditing services in the amount of \$4,326.25(A1325.440)

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

**Request from Police Department:**

Request from APD to surplus 47 computer-related equipment parts.

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MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

**Request from Fire Department**

Request for emergency replacement of Front Ramp of 55 West Oak St., Amityville in the amount of \$15,000 (A1624.460)

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Trustee Bernius.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

**Lauren Hefner, 292 South Bayview Ave** asked why this item is listed as an emergency expense. Mayor Siry explained that the replacement wasn't originally planned to take place for some time but with Suffolk County actively doing construction on the apron outside it appears that this is the opportune time to replace the ramp. Ms. Hefner asked if Suffolk County would be responsible for replacing the ramp. Mayor Siry answered that Suffolk County is only replacing the first 8ft. so it is sensible to replace the rest of the ramp during this time as well. Ms. Hefner then asked if there was any bidding on this matter. Mayor Siry responded that bidding was not a requirement as this matter is under \$20,000.00.

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Trustee Bernius.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Request to pay reimbursement for training expenses and hotel room – Nashville Fire Expo 2017 for Chief Erath in the amount of \$8,036.98 (A3410.445)

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**Donelle Cronin, 32 Mole Pl** stated it is clear that from the budget lines that the Fire Department has money for training. She stated there were FaceBook pictures posted that wives accompanied their husbands on the training trip. She wanted to be sure that tax payer dollars are not paying for the wives to be on vacation with their husbands but only the fire fighters training. Ms. Cronin stated that she wanted this matter to go on public record.

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Request the use of Bennet Place Parking lot #12 on Saturday, December 2, 2017 for the Annual Rescue Squad Christmas tree sale from 7:00AM – 3:00PM.

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Bernius and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

**Request from Department of Public Works**

Request to pay PSEG for service at 21 Ireland Place in the amount of \$3,607.91 (A1623.420)

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Bernius and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

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Request to pay Classic Awning Canopies Inc., for PD awning in the amount of \$500.00 (A1623.460))

Bruce Hopper explained that this is a half of the payment for the rear door of the Village Hall. Mr. Hopper stated that the door is rapidly deteriorating. He described the door as a stainless steel door with a window. Mr. Hopper stated his concern for the safety of people going in and out of the door.

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

**Resolution:**

**Resolution 2017-11-13-01**

Be it resolved that the Village Clerk-Treasurer is authorized to solicit bids for a Pelican sweeper. Whereas the Village of Amityville does seek to purchase a new pelican sweeper and; is required to award a contract to the lowest bidder. The village clerk-treasure does request approval to solicit bids for a new pelican sweeper. Resolution 17-10-23-01

Trustee Lalota questioned the cost of the Pelican sweeper. One of the Trustees responded that the cost is a little over \$150,000. Mr. Lalota asked Mayor Siry if he would object to the purchase being done in two steps with the Clerk Treasurer putting the bid out and the Board of Trustees deciding the bid from the lower cost so as not to be obligated to a bid. Deputy Mayor Smith responded stating that the language in the bid states that the Village can reject or accept any bid according the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

MOTION to APPROVE was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Trustee Lalota

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays



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**Public Hearing:**

Introductory local law No. 5 of the year 2017, a local law to abolish the position of police commissioner. Being enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Amityville as follows: Section 1: The Board of Trustees finds that the position of Police Commissioner established by Local Law No. 6 of 2015 has never been filled and is no longer necessary as the proposed duties of said Commissioner are being satisfactorily performed by the current Police Chief. Section 2, Sections 25-3 and 25-4 by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Amityville are hereby repealed. Section 3: This local law shall be effective immediately.

MOTION to OPEN PUBLIC HEARING was made by Trustee Bernius and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Trustee Whalen stated that he instituted this local law at the last meeting. He explained that after serving on the Board of Trustees for six months and being here at Board of Trustees meetings for two, this law has not been instituted and entertained over the past two years. He stated that he believes the law should be taken off of the books. Mayor Siry agreed with Trustee Whalen and stated that he hoped under his Administration, The Village would not seek a Commissioner. The Police Chief, along with his Secretary is doing a great job.

The floor was opened to the public for questions and comments.

**Joanne Salandino 251 Ocean Ave.,** asked if everything is running well without the Commissioner and Lieutenant and we are saving money would we bring back the Lieutenant down the road? Mayor Siry responded that is not what the topic is about rather abolishing the role of Commissioner.

**Donelle Cronin 32 Mole Pl** asked Trustee Whalen what a Police Commissioner does versus the Chief of Police (by definition). Trustee Whalen responded that a Police Commissioner's duties are administrative, whereas the Chief of Police runs the whole Police Department. Police Chief Slack also responded that a Police Chief is a police officer and has authority to go into the streets whereas a Police Commissioner has no authority to go into the streets and is not a police officer. Trustee Whalen then stated that his intent is to empower the Police Chief not take power away. A Police Commissioner would take power away.

Trustee LaLota stated that it doesn't cost The Village anything to keep the law in the books and that we should at least keep the law in there in the event a Commissioner or Lieutenant is needed down the road so that we are prepared for every scenario. He stated that we should keep all roles and costs for personnel on the books without eliminating any options. Mayor Siry responded

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that any Administration can make a decision to add the law back to the books if it was deemed necessary to add the positions back by public hearing. Trustee Bernius wanted to go on record and stated she totally supports the Amityville Police Department and wishes not to see it disbanded but agreed with Trustee Lalota that it would cost nothing nor take up much space to keep this on the books. Deputy Mayor Smith stated that he does not feel this is something that needs to sit on the books.

**Lauren Heffner 294 South Bayview Ave.** asked Mayor Siry if he voted in favor of putting the position of Police Commissioner on the books. Mayor Siry responded that he did not.

MOTION to CLOSE Public Hearing was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

MOTION to APPROVE Local Law No. 5 in 2017 was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith.

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	nay
	Trustee LaLota	nay
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	3 ayes	2 nays

**Loretta Weber 25 Victoria Dr.** wanted to know the status of bulk heading on South Bayview as there is frequently a lot of flooding. Mayor Siry responded that there is a resolution in the works which is currently out on bid. This must be completed by 2019 and hopes this project will be completed by Spring. Ms. Weber stated that her Association will be adding to continue the bulk head to the condominium association. Trustee Bernius stated that bids should be in within the next few weeks and all are anxious to get the project completed. Mayor Siry stated that there is a whole plan for the drainage to be repaired through the second part of the GOSHA project.

**Richard Kelly, 15 Dewey Ave.** stated that residents on Dewey and Mintor Avenues have requested to get a schedule on repaving of their streets. They were in contact with Mayor Siry's office and told repaving was on the schedule for Fall and then told it was not. Mayor Siry responded that they would most likely be part of the second part of the GOSHA project previously mentioned. Mr. Kelly stated that according to an article (not audible which one) there is excess of \$2 million for drainage surveys and upgrades. He asked if this is a separate amount

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of money. Mayor Siry responded that the monies are separate and hopes that this project can be completed within a year.

**Andrew Pulinsky 28 Victoria Dr.** (through letter read to the Board of Trustees) introduced himself and wife to the Board of Trustees and requested security cameras at the beach be placed immediately due to actions suspect of gang activity, urination/defecation and underage alcohol and drug use. Elderly people are scared to walk in their own neighborhood after dark. He suggested large signs with pictures stating that video monitoring is being done around the clock by the Amityville Police Department to avoid crime, rape or any other unwanted activity. Mr. Pulinsky stated he has begun communication with Mayor Siry requesting his time to discuss this matter. Mayor Siry responded that the Amityville Police Department will look into this matter.

**Janet Coletti 17 Wellington Pl.** expressed concern regarding 12 Wellington Pl. There are a lot of renters in the neighborhood with no respect with how they put out their garbage or where they park their cars. Ms. Coletti presented photos to the Board of Trustees and Police Chief Slack of the illegal parking matter at 12 Wellington Pl. Ms. Coletti further stated the last known owner stated that the property is a single-family home with one rental unit but has no rental permit. It has been verified that there are renters there.

**Frank (inaudible) S. Ketcham Ave** expressed concern about traffic lights on Oak St heading south on Bayview. People trying to make left turns are held at the long lights and holding up other drivers making the right turn. Mayor Siry responded the matter will be presented to Suffolk County and DOT.

**Dr. Erin Herme 108 Ocean Avenue**, owner of Amityville Wellness, expressed concern over the parking lot being repaved. Ms. Herme would like to know if the Village Road by the property owner's parking lot will be repaved. Clerk Treasurer Murdock responded the grant The Village received is only for Municipal Lot 5 not the private property. Ms. Herme mentioned that the business owners are willing to put in monies to get that area repaved. Mayor Siry said that communications will remain open over the next few weeks to come up with a solution.

**Ms. Kelly 15 Dewey Ave.** asked for an update on Security Dodge's court date. She stated the new parking lots are an eyesore. Mayor Siry responded that is a legal issue in court. There is an Article 78 for the decision of the Zoning Board.

**Laura Heffner 294 South Bayview** asked for an update on what is happening with the Zombie Houses which are bank owned and how the grant money is being spent. Mayor Siry responded the Building Department is working on any violations that exist and his office is in communication with the bank. Mayor Siry referred Ms. Heffner to the Building Department for more detailed updates on each house. Deputy Mayor Smith stated that the State Finance Committee is involved in this as well and working on some of the laws involved in this matter.

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There being no more comments from the floor or Board:

MOTION to CLOSE the public hearing was made by Trustee Whalen and seconded by Trustee LaLota

Vote on Motion:	Mayor Siry	aye
	Deputy Mayor Smith	aye
	Trustee Bernius	aye
	Trustee LaLota	aye
	Trustee Whalen	aye
Motion Carried:	5 ayes	0 nays

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm

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Catherine Murdock, Clerk/Treasurer