

**REGULAR MEETING  
SOUTH NYACK BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021  
VIA ZOOM**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bonnie Christian  
Deputy Mayor Catherine McCue  
Trustee Michael Hogan  
Trustee Jeffrey Hirsch  
Trustee Michael Lockett

**ALSO PRESENT:** Village Clerk Jill Schwarz  
Village Attorney James Birnbaum  
DPW Superintendent James Johnson  
Police Chief Daniel Wilson

Members of the public

Mayor Christian called the open session of the regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:42pm. Comments from the public included:

- Kay Levinson: Inquired about the Olson Center property.
- Lee Prisament: Commented about the retirement health care liability and requested clarification of details related to this. Also noted that Laberge Group agreed that the Critical Environmental Areas (CEA) should be registered and inquired if that should happen now or should the Town of Orangetown do that.
- T. Paul Bailey: Agreed with Mr. Prisament's comments about CEA's and recommended that a covenant be included in the deed of any property transferred to the Town of Orangetown.
- Charles Cross: Agreed with Mr. Prisament's comments about the designation of CEA and felt that this should be done prior to dissolution. He also commented about the legacy costs for health benefits – the village residents currently pay those costs and would continue to pay those costs after dissolution.
- Laurie Needal: Commented that residents will be stuck with legacy costs related to the lawsuit and inquired if the lawsuit can be dropped.
- Vicki Schwaid: Agreed with Mr. Prisament's comments about the CEA. She also inquired about the police investigation of the zoom meeting bombing and asked about the Village's plans related to the Olson Center property.

Mayor Christian stated that the village is looking into available funding that can be obtained to purchase the Olson Center property and that the Living Christ Church plans to come before the Planning Board to subdivide that property into four parcels.

Trustee Hogan expressed his apologies for what happened during the dissolution information meeting held on June 2nd. He also noted that he has been in touch with Senator Reichlin-Melnick about the Olson property.

Mayor Christian closed the open session at 8:00pm.

**SOUTH NYACK DISSOLUTION PLAN – DRAFT PLAN APPROVAL:** Mayor Christian moved as follows:

**#22 RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees approved the draft Village of South Nyack Dissolution Plan that was established by the dissolution steering committee and the village's dissolution consultant, Laberge Group.

Trustee Lockett seconded the resolution.

Trustee Hogan commented that he does not feel that the services provided by the Department of Public Works and Highway Department of the Town of Orangetown comes anywhere near the services that the Village of South Nyack presently has and that the tax savings that he will see is not worth the transition. He also expressed that he is not confident that the Town of Orangetown can meet the kind of expectations that he has regarding police reform and diversifying the Police Department and that the Police Department must reflect the diversity of our communities.

Trustee Hirsch inquired about how changes to the draft plan will be handled.

Mayor Christian responded that Laberge Group was making some changes to the draft plan.

Deputy Mayor McCue expressed that the services we receive from our Department of Public Works and Police Department will not be at the same level when we shift to the Town of Orangetown. She also shared her concern about the vagueness of the future of our employees and the proposed Land Use Advisory Board.

Trustee Lockett agreed with the comments from the other Trustees. He noted that the public must provide input about this draft plan and noted that by law there is nothing in the plan that binds the Town of Orangetown. He also urged the Board, village employees, and residents to work hard in the time we have left to make things happen, such as Critical Environmental Areas and historical districts.

Mayor Christian agreed with the comments from the other Trustees. She noted that she is counting on the Town of Orangetown to support and transition with us, but in the end the Town of Orangetown can do what they want to do.

The resolution was adopted with a 5-0 vote as follows:

Bonnie Christian – Aye  
Catherine McCue - Aye  
Michael Lockett – Aye  
Michael Hogan – Aye  
Jeffrey Hirsch – Aye

#### **SOUTH NYACK DISSOLUTION PLAN – PUBLIC HEARING DATE:**

The Village Clerk noted that there is a Question and Answer document prepared by Laberge Group which is available on the village website and Laberge Group's dissolution website.

Mayor Christian moved as follows:

**#23 RESOLVED**, to hold a Public Hearing on July 21, 2021, at 7:00pm via Zoom to elicit public comment regarding the Village of South Nyack draft dissolution plan.

Trustee Lockett seconded this resolution, and it was adopted with a 5-0 vote as follows:

Bonnie Christian – Aye  
Catherine McCue - Aye  
Michael Lockett – Aye  
Michael Hogan – Aye  
Jeffrey Hirsch – Aye

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Upon a motion by Mayor Christian, seconded by Trustee Hirsch, the minutes of the regular Board of Trustees meeting of May 25, 2021, were adopted with a 5-0 vote as follows:

Bonnie Christian – Aye  
Catherine McCue - Aye  
Michael Lockett – Aye  
Michael Hogan – Aye  
Jeffrey Hirsch – Aye

**REPORTS:**

**POLICE:** Chief Wilson presented the May report including that \$10.00 in fees were collected. Chief Wilson also reported the following:

- The zoom meeting bombing is being investigated with the assistance of the Sheriff’s Office and District Attorney’s office.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> was the last day our Police Department patrolled Grand View. Village of Grand View is now receiving police services from the Piermont Police Department.
- He is working with the Center for Safety & Change to coordinate the “Getting to the Root” anti-bias training workshop for his Officers.

**DPW:** The May report was reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

**BLDG/CODE/FIRE INSPECTOR:** The May report was reviewed including that \$2,275.00 in fees were collected.

**VILLAGE JUSTICE:** \$9,938.00 in May fines were collected.

- Of the \$19,408 in fines collected in April 2021, \$10,568 remained in the Village and \$8,840 went to the State.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2021 MS4 REPORT – Board Acknowledgement:** Mayor Christian moved as follows:

**#24 RESOLVED**, that the Village of South Nyack acknowledged receipt of the 2020-2021 DEC report prepared and submitted by Mancuso Engineering, PLLC. The report will be posted on the Village website and will be available to the public at Village Hall for thirty days.

This resolution was seconded by Trustee Hirsch and adopted with a 5-0 vote as follows:

- Bonnie Christian – Aye
- Catherine McCue - Aye
- Michael Lockett – Aye
- Michael Hogan – Aye
- Jeffrey Hirsch – Aye

**PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE MEMBER – Appointment:** Mayor Christian moved as follows:

**#25 RESOLVED**, to approve the appointment of Susan McDermott to Alternate Planning Board Member.

This resolution was seconded by Deputy Mayor McCue and adopted with a 5-0 vote as follows:

- Bonnie Christian – Aye
- Catherine McCue - Aye
- Michael Lockett – Aye
- Michael Hogan – Aye
- Jeffrey Hirsch – Aye

**DPW SEASONAL LABORER – Appointment:** Mayor Christian moved as follows:

**#26 RESOLVED**, to approve the appointment of Mario Zamora to Seasonal DPW Laborer, pending approval from Rockland County Department of Personnel.

This resolution was seconded by Trustee Lockett and adopted with a 5-0 vote as follows:

- Bonnie Christian – Aye
- Catherine McCue - Aye
- Michael Lockett – Aye
- Michael Hogan – Aye
- Jeffrey Hirsch – Aye

Mayor Christian noted that although a seasonal DPW Laborer was not in the 21-22 budget, there is money budgeted for a part time Clerk/Typist that is available to fund this temporary position. Mayor Christian noted that this position is expected to cost no more than \$8,000.00.

**BLOCK PARTY – Clinton Avenue – September 5, 2021:** Mayor Christian moved as follows:

**#27 RESOLVED,** to approve the request of Kristy Leader to close Clinton Avenue (west of Franklin Street) for a block party on September 5, 2021 from 10:00am – 10:00pm and to suspend the Open Container Law at that location during that time.

This resolution was seconded by Trustee Hirsch and adopted with a 5-0 vote as follows:

Bonnie Christian – Aye  
Catherine McCue - Aye  
Michael Lockett – Aye  
Michael Hogan – Aye  
Jeffrey Hirsch – Aye

Trustee Hirsch reported that resident, Cliff Weathers, suggested re-naming South Nyack parks after someone significant to the village.

A discussion took place about whether to hold the July 21<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing both virtually and in-person.

Trustee Hirsch reported that resident, Diane Churchill, would like to install a miniature art gallery in the verge. Following discussion, it was suggested she install this structure on her private property.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Mayor Christian called the open session of the regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 9:13pm.

Comments from the public included:

- T. Paul Bailey: Requested that the chat feature allow messages to be seen by everyone in the meeting, not just the panelists. Requested that appraisals be posted on the website.
- Vicki Schwaid: Expressed her disappointment about Trustees commenting negatively about the Town of Orangetown related to the DPW and Police Department and noted that South Nyack will receive equal service to the rest of the Orangetown residents. She encouraged people to get involved with Orangetown committees.
- Charles Cross: Requested that the chat feature allow messages to be seen by everyone in the meeting, not just hearing from the public during the open sessions. He also requested clarification of how many months of police services are being covered by the police cost noted in the village budget.
- T. Paul Bailey: Supported what Ms. Schwaid stated about people participating in Orangetown committees.

Mayor Christian closed the open session at 9:24pm.

**PAYMENT OF ABSTRACTS:** Upon a motion made by Mayor Christian, seconded by Deputy Mayor McCue, the following abstracts of audited vouchers were approved for payment with a 5-0 vote as follows:

Bonnie Christian – Aye  
Catherine McCue - Aye  
Michael Lockett – Aye  
Michael Hogan – Aye  
Jeffrey Hirsch - Aye

No. A22 - 01 - General Fund - \$130,295.81

No. B22 - 01 – Police Fund - \$50,446.00

Village Treasurer Baietti noted that there was a 2014 Bond payment of \$80,000.00 and \$6,690.00 interest payment.

Deputy Mayor McCue acknowledged letters from Dr. Frances Pratt and Ms. Hillsman which expressed their thanks for the Dr. Frances Pratt honorary street naming celebration.

Trustee Hogan stated that he is not a racist or an elitist, he has been on the board for about 6 months and has great promise for this community and the river towns that are substantially different in character from Pearl River, Blauvelt, and Orangeburg.

At 9:27pm, upon motion made by Mayor Christian, seconded by Trustee Lockett, the meeting was adjourned with a 5-0 vote as follows:

Bonnie Christian – Aye  
Catherine McCue - Aye  
Michael Lockett – Aye  
Michael Hogan – Aye  
Jeffrey Hirsch - Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Schwarz  
Village Clerk