



**OLDE CANAL VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Minutes of Wednesday, February 12 , 2020

1. Opening: The regular board meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.
2. Members Present: Peter Garvey, Jim Hayden, Roger Lange, Bill Williams, and Robin Lavalley
3. Financial:
  - 3a. Village bills: Bill Williams reviewed and explained the bills paid last month; all were approved as paid. Bill advised of new bills coming this month which were also approved.
  - 3b. Budget expenses: The Village budget was reviewed and expenses fit with anticipated expenditures. All condo fees are paid and up to date.
  - 3c. Reserve fund: The Village reserve fund has a balance of \$134,454. The checking account has a positive balance.
4. Trustee communication forms: All are completed or are being worked on. See some details under items below.
5. Unfinished business:
  - 5a. Roofs: One of the vendors voluntarily dropped out but a bid from a new potential vendor was received for evaluation.
  - 5b. MassSave: According to OCV records 56 of 72 owners have taken part in the MassSave weatherization program. Waiting on responses from other owners to firm up the action plan.
  - 5c. Mailbox: Under consideration is a suggestion that we cover and illuminate the mailboxes. Research for workable options is under progress.
  - 5d. Circle Issues: Due to a truck leaving deep depressions and destroying some groundcover in the circle the plowing vendor will be called back to re-stake the periphery.
  - 5e. Decks: buildings #8 and #13 will be prioritized for repair due to the extreme weathering by their further exposure. Replacement materials estimated at \$7500 . Labor will be additional.
6. New business:
  - 6a. Insurance: CAU was renewed with a modest cost of inflation increase for the year. Separate cover for the maintenance cart was refused as the annual \$500 expense is too high. Cyber insurance renewal due April is being evaluated.

- 6b. Lawn Prep: The Trustees are looking into correcting the snow plow lawn damage issue which has gotten worse in the past few years. There are new remedies being considered.
- 6c. Irrigation: Orders for sprinkler heads will be placed so the vendor can pull from our lower cost stock when the system is activated.
- 6d. Election 2020: Bill Oncay is preparing the 2020 election program for “The Commish” Romeo Berthiaume.

## 7. Trustee Comments:

Tis the tax season so it's time for the scamming slugs to make their play for your money. Don't be duped. Below is cut and pasted from the IRS site.

- If in doubt, call the IRS directly at 1-800-829-1040. Don't send money by wire transfer, prepaid card or gift card to someone claiming to be from the IRS
- Crooks impersonating the IRS either by phone, email or in person cost people their time and money. The IRS urges people to stay vigilant against schemes and scams and avoid becoming a victim.
- Here are some important tips for taxpayers to keep in mind to avoid scams:

### **How the IRS initiates contact**

- The IRS initiates most contacts with taxpayers through regular mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. However, there are special circumstances in which the IRS will call or come to a home or business, such as:
  - When a taxpayer has an overdue tax bill,
  - To secure a delinquent tax return or a delinquent employment tax payment, or
  - To tour a business, for example, as part of an audit or during criminal investigations.
- Even then, taxpayers will generally first receive a letter or sometimes more than one letter, often called notices, from the IRS in the mail.

### **Avoid telephone scams**

- Criminals impersonate IRS employees and call taxpayers in aggressive and sophisticated ways. Imposters claim to be IRS employees and sound very convincing. They use fake names and phony IRS identification badge numbers. They're demanding and threatening – and do not reflect how the IRS handles enforcement matters.

### **Note that the IRS does not:**

- Demand that people use a specific payment method, such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. The IRS will not ask for debit or credit card numbers over the phone. For people who owe taxes, make payments to the U.S. Treasury or review [IRS.gov/payments](https://www.irs.gov/payments) for IRS online options.

- Demand immediate tax payment. Normal correspondence begins with a letter in the mail and taxpayers can appeal or question what they owe. All taxpayers are advised to know [their rights as a taxpayer](#).
- Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers or other law enforcement agencies to arrest people for not paying. The IRS also cannot revoke a license or immigration status. Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use to trick victims into believing their schemes.

8. Good of the Association: \$75 was approved towards advertising or other expenses for the Community Yard Sale on April 25. Marianne Williams will put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in mid-March for all those who would like to participate.

9. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by  
Robin Lavalley