

**Special Board Meeting of the Village of Solvay Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

**OFFICE OF THE CLERK
HARRY DECARLO**

Today, Tuesday, February 4, 2020 the **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING** of the **SOLVAY VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES** was called to order by Mayor Derek Baichi at the Village of Solvay Conference Room, 1100 Woods Road, Solvay, NY 13209 at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL:	Trustees	Deborah DeGilio	Present
		Raymond Fournier	Present
		William McVicker	Present
		John Cregg	Present
		James Cometti	Present
	Deputy Mayor	John Fall Sr	Present
	Mayor	Derek Baichi	Present

MAYOR’S COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

The Letter of Resignation from Costello, Cooney and Fearon was read in its entirety. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process was discussed and the Cerio Law Firm was introduced.

LEGAL PRESENTATION:

Tom Cerio of the Cerio Law Firm gave a brief history of the firm. Introduced members of the firm who were in attendance. Mentioned current clients such as the Town of Geddes and Dewitt.

PETITIONS:

Ron Reudink, resident stated how Costello, Cooney and Fearon has a good reputation. Upset about the constant negativity. Everyone on the board should take the blame; the community is upset.

John McPeak, resident questioned the Bellotti investigation in regard to the censure resolution that was read. Questioned if Bellotti retained his own attorney or used CCF. Mayor Baichi interjected regarding both third party investigations and how Bellotti called the firm 21 times. The Resolutions to censure were removed after executive session. Mr. McPeak questioned whether the investigation report is available in writing. Informed the severity of workplace harassment and crime involved.

Mary Lou Baichi, resident asked if the board members were entitled to a copy regarding Bellotti investigation. All investigations including past situations were given verbally. Trustee Cregg believed that a written copy is not necessary. Mayor Baichi as for a hard copy and was denied.

Joe Britton, resident referenced Syracuse.com article and errors that have been published. A clip was played from the board meeting on 1-3-2019 where Trustee Cregg said he was not happy with legal and engineering services. Another clip was played from a board meeting on 1-7-2020 where Trustee McVicker asked to remove the appointments of Village Attorney, Engineer, Electric Commission and ZBA member. Joe pointed out his disappointment with the Mayor and how he spoke to counsel. Discussed the RFQ’s and how it’s the entire boards fault on how the state of the village is, not just because of the Mayor.

John Maestri, resident discussed Cerio Law Firm and their impeccable reputation with the courts. The Town of Geddes initially worked with CCF then made the switch to the Cerio Law Firm.

Mike Kempesty, resident spoke of his extensive experience and dealings with CCF and provided various negative examples. Stated how Attorney Doer of the Cerio Law Firm has excellent experience with zoning and planning.

Sal Sciuga, resident discussed the legal RFQ. The extensive calls to the firm need to stop. Referenced the 21 calls to the law firm by former Trustee Bellotti.

Trustee McVicker stated how NYCOM encourages more frequent RFP’s to be sent out. Trustee Fournier interjected that Tom DiNapoli’s office has cited towns and village for not doing so.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Authorization from the Board of Trustees to accept the resignation of Costello, Cooney and Fearon, PLLC effective February 14, 2020.

MOTION: John Fall Sr

SECOND: William McVicker

Deborah DeGilio	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Raymond Fougner	Trustee	Voted	Yes
William McVicker	Trustee	Voted	Yes
John Cregg	Trustee	Voted	Yes
James Cometti	Trustee	Voted	Yes
John Fall Sr	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Derek Baichi	Mayor	Voted	Yes
			Motion Carried

2. Authorization from the Board of Trustees to hire the Cerio Law Firm on a month to month basis with an effective start date of February 4, 2020 and an hourly rate of \$155.

MOTION: John Fall Sr

SECOND: William McVicker

Deborah DeGilio	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Raymond Fougner	Trustee	Voted	Yes
William McVicker	Trustee	Voted	Yes
John Cregg	Trustee	Voted	Yes
James Cometti	Trustee	Voted	Yes
John Fall Sr	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Derek Baichi	Mayor	Voted	Yes
			Motion Carried

3. Authorization from the Board of Trustees to hire Matt Ryan as a Full-Time First-Class Police Officer with a salary according to the Union Contract and start date of February 22, 2020.

MOTION: John Fall Sr

SECOND: Raymond Fougner

Deborah DeGilio	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Raymond Fougner	Trustee	Voted	Yes
William McVicker	Trustee	Voted	Yes
John Cregg	Trustee	Voted	Yes
James Cometti	Trustee	Voted	Yes
John Fall Sr	Trustee	Voted	Yes
Derek Baichi	Mayor	Voted	Yes
			Motion Carried

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ADJOURNMENT:

The special meeting of the Solvay Board of Trustees be adjourned at 6:17 pm.

MOTION: John Fall Sr

SECOND: William McVicker

AYES: 7

NAYES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Harry DeCarlo, Village Clerk