

March 11, 2019

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Called to Order at 7:00PM

The meeting opened with the salute to the flag and Pledge of Allegiance led by Dylan Ecklund

#### ROLL CALL

Trustee Giordano

Trustee Luisi

Trustee Andino

Trustee Lang

Mayor Ecklund

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of the regular board meeting of February 11, 2019

Trustee Giordano made a motion to approve the minutes; motion was seconded by Trustee Andino and upon roll motion was carried by a vote 5-0.

#### RESOLUTIONS

- 1) Authorizing setting a budget hearing for April 8, 2019 to consider a Tentative Budget for fiscal year June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020

Trustee Andino made a motion to approve resolution; motion was seconded by Trustee Giordano and upon roll motion was carried by a vote 5-0.

- 2) Approving vouchers in the amount of \$420,692.42

Abstract #28 for \$78,976.68

Abstract #29 for \$324,617.27

Abstract #30 for \$2,447.66

T&A for February for \$14,650.81

The three largest invoices paid were:

\$147,682.54 for Health Insurance for the month of March

\$59,218.25 for Sterling National Bank for interest payment

\$29,361.50 for John Vance Motors for new police car.

Trustee Luisi made a motion to approve resolution; motion was seconded by Trustee Andino and upon roll motion was carried by a vote 5-0.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mayor Ecklund announced:

Village Re-Organization meeting April 01, 2019

Village Board of Trustees/Budget Hearing April 08, 2019

Village Budget Work Session, Saturday, April 27, 2019

Village Special Budget Adoption Meeting April 29, 2019

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

► TRUSTEE Lang read the following:

I would like to thank both of you for all the Advice, direction and genuine interest you have taken in myself and my family ..

It has been my pleasure to serve under the guidance and leadership of these two fine Men

First

Tom thank you for your never ending support .. your words of encouragement..and most of all your confidence in me. Not to mention , all the kind words you have for everyone!!  
(you must have some super parents)

Tom your Gentle, caring approach to our village has become contagious and an inspiration to us all...

Some might refer to Tom as Calm, Cool and collective I think better words to describe Him would be Caring, Compassion and considerate All of which.. He has brought to this board .. I will proudly carry the torch you have ignited within me .. Getting to know you Tom. has made me a better person ! Your composition will truly be missed.. Thank you for your service ...

Mr. Mayor

I would like to start by thanking you for my introduction to public service  
For appointing me to our Housing authority..where I began to realize the importance of serving our community and how rewarding it can truly be I want you to know how grateful I am for the numerous opportunities you have given me and I will continue to make to most of them ..  
Serving this loving community has brought my family and I so much joy!  
I can't thank you enough! Since I'm a kid The great mayor Phil white has always been talked about as being hardworking and tireless ..You Mr. Mayor are now in that same conversation

We will forever be grateful ,for the incredible work Ethic you have brought to this board (you also must have some super parents ) Your contribution to our village is immeasurable We should all be so lucky, to be able to serve our community for as long as you have Mr. Mayor Thank you for your service !

And Most of all I would like to thank their families!! for lending them to us for all these years So Mrs. Ecklund, Dylan Mrs. Giordano, Andrew and Thomas

Thank YOU ! for the sacrifices YOU have made to our village As well!

► TRUSTEE Andino did not write a statement. She first reminded all about the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt. Trustee Andino remarked that when she was first elected she called the Mayor and deputy Mayor and asked to have coffee. They always answered her questions, availed themselves for her and she sincerely thanked them for their guidance and service.

► TRUSTEE Luisi

When I look back over the last eight years, the first thought that comes to mind is "where did the time go?" So much has happened in our lives, our world, our country and even right here in Tuckahoe. I am honored and privileged to have had a role in so many of the benefits and positives provided to our residents in Tuckahoe. This would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of our talented and professional department heads Chief Costanzo, Supt Frank DiMarco, Bill Williams, Library Director Swadesh Pachnanda , Judge David Fuller, the staff of our Village court Maureen Stevens, Village

attorney Gary Gjertsen, Clerk's office Jackie Ferretti and Camille DiSalvo and the Treasury Department Ryan Rueda/Jim LaPerche. A key component of the everyday operations in the Village our V A David Burke. Amazing work you've done with the blank canvas with handed you 4 years ago. I thank each and every one of you for always being accessible and helpful to me in your respective areas.

I've also have had the privilege of working with dedicated trustees who always provided me with open discussion and different views of the issues that affect our Village. Trustee Stephen Quigley, Janette Hayes, Steve Alfasi, & Antonio Leo. Our newest trustees now on the board, Trustee Omayra Andino & Danny Lang have brought a new and exciting presence to the Village board.

It is the Tuckahoe Seniors who have made such a lasting impression on me. What a pleasure to have been their liaison this past 8 years. The rich history that has been shared with me by the Tuckahoe History Committee has only deepened my appreciation for the place I call home. Being an assistant to the man with the red suit who visits Tuckahoe every holiday season also brings fond memories.

Lastly to the two gentlemen to my left who I have had the honor to call my colleagues and friends. I thank you for your friendship, your patience and your dedication in working to keep Tuckahoe the vibrant community it now is. I thank you for helping me to be the best I could be in my role as trustee. I'm not too sure our families will appreciate having us home more often now, that will remain to be seen.

In my last meeting as Village trustee, I would like to thank you again Tuckahoe for allowing me to serve the Village the last 8 years. I may be back here again next month that decision will lie with the voters in Tuckahoe in the upcoming election. It's been humbling experience to have served and certainly a milestone in my life. Goodnight Tuckahoe.

#### VILLAGE STAFF COMMENTS

POLICE- Chief Costanzo appreciates the fairness of Tom Giordano and that he listens and hears all sides of any issue. The Chief reminisced that the Mayor and he have known each other since the fourth grade and were in a school play together.

DPW- Frank DiMarco thanked the Mayor and Tom for their support of the DPW. He commented that Steve always believed in him.

VILLAGE CLERK- Camille DiSalvo read the following:

Mayor Ecklund, Deputy Mayor Giordano on behalf of the Clerk's office Jackie and I sincerely thank you for your professionalism, patience and dedication concerning the needs of the staff, Tuckahoe residents and Tuckahoe businesses. To all the candidates, we wish you good luck on Election Day.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY- Gary gave credit to Mayor Ecklund for keeping his campaign promise regarding the opening and final restoration of the infamous blue building at 99 Main Street which had been an eyesore for the past four mayors.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR- David Burke said March 20<sup>th</sup> the tentative budget will be stamped in by the Clerk's Office. Good bye to Jim LaPerche. He has been an asset to the Village. Thank you to Steve Ecklund and Tom Giordano for their faith in him in giving him this position.

#### MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES COMMENTS

Supervisor Colavita, Councilman Luigi Marcoccia, Mayor Mary Marvin, former Trustee Steve Alfasi, and former Mayor Mike Martino thanked Steve and Tom and wished them well. Tom Giordano's father congratulate them on their gift of generosity of spirit

PUBLIC COMMENTS Mike Dardano and Tony Fiore wished Steve and Tom well.

#### DEPUTY MAYOR'S FINAL COMMENTS

With a few flagrant exceptions, over these 9 years I have tried to keep my comments brief. I ask you to indulge me for a few extra minutes this evening.

I've been reading a Book by Daniel James Brown called "The Boys in the Boat." For those unfamiliar it tells the true story of the journey of a group of students from the Univ. of Washington, some of whom came from situations of unbelievable adversity. These 8 young men were able to achieve great success at the sport of rowing crew, first nationally, and then winning a gold medal in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin - much to the chagrin of Hitler and the Third Reich, who had ascended to power, and had tried to orchestrate that year's Olympics as a sign of Germany's inevitability and invincibility. Some of the pictures of Washington in the 1920s and 1930s in the book reminded me of those of those of our Village at the time. Run down, rough, ramshackle, bordering on impoverished. It is amazing to think about how far we have come since then, and the era of almost unparalleled prosperity we have lived in in our country over the following decades. We are blessed that Tuckahoe has followed that positive trajectory.

Anyway, it's a terrific story, and provides a fascinating view of the history of the time. What I wanted to share with you is a description from it about the sport of crew itself, and what it takes to be a great oarsman or oarswoman:

"[t]he greatest paradox of the sport has to do with the psychological makeup of the people who pull the oars. Great oarsmen and oarswomen are necessarily made up of conflicting stuff - on the one hand, they must possess enormous self-confidence, strong egos and titanic willpower. They must be almost immune to frustration. . . . And yet, at the same time - and this is key - no other sport demands and rewards the complete abandonment of the self the way that rowing does. Great crews may have men or women of exceptional talent or strength; they may have outstanding coxswains or stroke oars or bowmen; but they have no stars. The team effort - the perfectly synchronized flow of muscle, oars, boat and water; the single whole, unified and beautiful symphony that a crew in motion becomes - is all that matters. Not the individual, not the self."

These 9 years I have been surrounded by many people who fit this description - both our trustees and those who serve their careers as part of our Village operations: people committed to their service and the legacies they leave behind; committed to greater good and the betterment of a community; people who place a measure of success on how they are able to make a positive impact on those around them.

I'd like to single a few of them out this evening and thank them:

Chief Costanzo and the TPD – John, your professionalism and leadership are inspirational. You set such a high standard for your team, and they have consistently responded. In so doing you have created a PD that is made up of men and women who are both engaged and integrated partners with the community, as well as a formidable force that consistently makes us among the safest places to live in Westchester. Over the years I have grown fond of so many of them individually. And you have my great respect and admiration.

On the note of respect and admiration - Frank Demarco and the DPW – Your work and that of your team are the pride of our residents and the envy of neighboring municipalities. You have forgotten more about our infrastructure than I will ever know, and I have learned so much just from your monthly reports. The work you and your staff do to keep our Village beautiful, and functioning well is remarkable.

Our Judges, Fuller and O'Toole – for keeping the decorum of the village, and for meting out justice that may be blind, but certainly is not bereft of compassion and grace.

David Burke – The establishment of the necessary position of village administrator was sound policy of the Board. But it has been our great fortune to have selected you among our candidates. Competence well beyond your years, and unassailable integrity and professionalism. I hope you find Tuckahoe the home of your career for years and decades to come.

Ryan Rueda – You are a true gentleman, who under the guidance of Jim LaPerche is growing into a capable municipal treasurer. Thanks to both of you for cleaning up and turning around our treasury department.

Gary Gjertsen – Gary I have known you for many years, value your friendship as well as the sound, practical advice you have given me and the board over the years. Thank you.

Camille DiSalvo – Camille, you are true blue, professional and poised, but never beyond sharing a smile, a good story; a good laugh. In Italian we would say troppo simpatica.

Jackie – Thank you for being the friendly and helpful face greeting us each day, and for all the things you do on a daily basis to make the experience with our local government better. My wife Suzanne thinks you are terrific as well.

Swadesh - For all you have done for our library – truly transforming a humble space with books in it into a place of learning and development.

Bill Williams – Yours is not an easy role. While the public may not always appreciate your savior faire, your knowledge and competence are beyond question, as is your trustworthiness. And Maryann's helpful demeanor, and Mike's as well – help to smooth those rough edges.

John Galluzzi – While not able to be here this evening, I would like to recognize all John has done to improve our community center and recreation department. The center is now immaculate, well-maintained, well-organized, brings more revenue to the Village, and offers more opportunities be a

place where we build community. I hope in the years ahead we can plan to further enhance the facility, and make it even better, and most of all with John the best on the road to full recovery.

Wayne - Thank you for all your quiet work back stage filming us for all these years.

Omayra – It has been a pleasure to get to know you and work with you over the past year. I appreciate your intelligence, your spirit and your generosity over the past year – and the important perspective you bring to this Board.

Danny – Yours is the largest heart on our Board – and maybe in our Village. I have witnessed some of your many acts of kindness (that time we walked into Villaggio to get a slice of pizza between meetings, and you offered to pay for the meals that had been ordered by a group of young men). The Thanksgiving turkeys through ECAP; the roof for our veterans. The list goes on and on. What you do inspires others and makes them better. Certainly me.

Greg – From your commitment to our seniors, to your work as a docent at the WTCMM to yours and Diane's work to help those children stricken with leukemia through the Paul Luisi foundation, you have truly demonstrated yourself as a man for others. These years have seen you develop into a capable leader and ardent promoter of sound policy. You truly have the best interests of our village at heart in all you do. I have truly enjoyed our time together trudging through the cold on the campaign trail. God speed in the coming election.

I would like to thank Town Supervisor Tony Colavita and the Eastchester Town Board who have lent their support and guidance throughout the years.

I would like to acknowledge and thank those trustees with whom I have had the privilege serving over the years: Claire Gorman, John Fitzpatrick, Steve Alfasi, Antonio Leo, Jeanette Hayes; and a special remembrance for Steve Quigley, who was a dear colleague and who we miss on our board and in our community. Steve was a shining example of transcending any type of rancor along partisan lines and focusing on that which unites us. We need more like him, and this board.

Thank you to my parents, Carolyn and Vito – who instilled in me by example the importance of service to others; my mother who taught me the love of reading, and my father the art of public speaking. I am so blessed to have them both here tonight. I am blessed to have my Aunt Laura, nephew Vito and nieces Carolina, Camilla, Valentina, Benedetta and Lucia here too.

And, my lovely wife, Suzanne and sons Thomas and Andrew, who were here with me on the evening I was sworn in, are here today and have been supporting me, from first day to last, making many sacrifices along the way. I remember holding one of my boys in each arm 9 years ago when I was sworn in. Apart from the demands of my job, it is the desire to spend more time with them in the years ahead that is the main driver of my decision.

I reflect on the so many positive things have been accomplished. Financially, were in much better shape than when we started, with a healthy fund balance, sound strategies for managing long term debt to finance capital improvements. We have maintained the quality of our services while protecting against tax increases, in most years not exceeding the 2% tax cap. We have set in motion the necessary improvement of a village administrator to manage the affairs of the village in a way no part time board and mayor ever could or should do, resulting in a crucial asset to enact policy, set benchmarks. We have overseen major developments that have improved our village. We have been written up as great places to live by the WSJ and NYT. After all, Tuckahoe is a great place to live

Which brings me to last, and certainly not least individual to thank - our great mayor and my friend Steve Ecklund. By all accounts Steve is an astute businessman, and indefatigable worker. And the examples of progress in our village I just mentioned are only a few of the board's accomplishments under his leadership. But it is also his generosity of spirit, friendly and respectful manner always that I have come to admire most. I can't think of another who better has embodied the heritage and spirit of our Village.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of marching in the Eastchester St. Patrick's Day Parade, honoring the great Grand Marshall, Pat Murtagh. As we made our way along the route through our Village as the last time as a trustee (FOR NOW), I thought about what a great privilege and pleasure it has been to spend these past years in the boat with each of you accomplished oarsmen and oarswomen. Thank you all for you have done; and may you and those that come after us continue to row swiftly ahead and always on course.



#### MAYOR'S FINAL FAREWELL COMMENTS

Well - We've covered a lot of road over the past 15 years.

Most of my time in office I've passed on writing newspaper articles or making long speeches, but tonight I'm going to make up for some lost ground so please make yourselves comfortable and indulge me one last time.

This is my 252<sup>nd</sup> Village Board meeting and I can now breathe a sigh of relief because in all of these years I've had the good fortune to have never missed or been absent from a Village Board meeting.

It took a lot of work and compromising not just by me but by my family, my work family at NY Ladder & Scaffold and my colleagues on the Board to keep that perfect attendance record.

So there are a lot of people I want to thank tonight.

First is my Wife MaryAnne and my Son Dylan who is here with me tonight, both of them had to endure countless evening and weekend absences of my attending meetings or other Village related business.

This job isn't just one meeting a month so for all of the family dinners, birthdays and other gatherings missed, the sacrifice that the whole family makes to support a family member who steps up and gives back to their community is recognized and appreciated.

My son was only 2 years old when I was first sworn in to office so he has never really known what it's like to not have a Dad in public office. But, I have to think that maybe all those years and times he attended either a Police Memorial Service, a Library event, a Veterans Ceremony, a public meeting here in Village Hall or just Marching with me in a Parade, may have provided him with a sense of community and service that he may not have had otherwise. Dylan has grown up to be the finest young man I know and could have ever hoped for.

So my journey here at Village Hall started back on January 12, 2004 when Mayor Mike Martino appointed me as Trustee to the Village Board to fill Sheila Marcotte's vacancy. At that time Sheila was appointed to the Town Board by Tony Colavita. I was sworn in by my old neighbor Judge Michael O'Toole.

Shortly afterwards I ran for the office of Village Trustee with Maria McHugh and we both were elected to the Board in March 2004.

Over the Years I've had the pleasure to serve on the Board with 17 dedicated members:

Mayor Mike Martino				
Deputy Mayor Tony Sayegh				
Trustee(s)	PJ Denning	Luigi Marcoccia Maria McHugh		
Mayor John Fitzpatrick				
Trustee(s)	Clare Gorman	Ernie Zocchi	Margaret Coleman	Steve Quigley
Deputy Mayor Tom Giordano				
Trustee(s)	Janette Hayes	Greg Luisi	Steve Alfasi	Antonio Leo
	Danny Lang	Omayra Andino		

I had the good fortune to have been elected and re-elected to office 8 times and never lost an election, although there were a few that were very close, one by as close as a 7 vote spread.

There have been a lot of events and accomplishments that I am proud to have been a part of over these years. Some of them just to name a few are

1. The naming and dedication of the Gold Star Mothers Memorial Bridge (which was the former Main Street Bridge)
2. The renaming of our Post Office the "Ronald Bucca Post Office"
3. The renaming and dedication of Lower Dante to Medal of Honor Recipient, Staff Sgt. Robert C. Murray Way
4. The Crestwood Streetscape Phase 2 & 3 project including putting the overhead utility lines underground.
5. The design and construction of the Cameron Place Parking lot which is right outside this window. This was a small piece of land mostly all rock that most said could never be broken and we worked it out and made a parking lot for 18-20 cars.
6. The new DPW Office and rehabilitation of the entire complex. If anyone has been here for 20 years or more they remember what a wreck the old building was that we tore down. I was very happy to provide much nicer conditions for the DPW staff.
7. The US Army Corp of Engineers - Yonkers Avenue project. Although this turned out to be much longer than anyone expected, mainly because the Federal Government was required to hire the "Lowest Responsible Bidder" who turned out to be the "Lowest UNresponsible bidder" What the public probably never knew was how close the roadway was to actually falling into the Bronx River and had it done that, I would bet the roadway would still be closed today.
8. The overhaul and design of the Circuit Avenue Park.
9. The design and creation of the Station Plaza Park in Crestwood.
10. Bringing back fireworks year after year to Parkway Oval along with other great community events like our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Christmastime Winterfest Event which all started with just a few of us decorating the old abandoned Tuckahoe Ticket Train Station and we called it Tucka-Ho-Ho-Hoe. Lots of fun times and great memories of that.

11. Bringing back the Tuckahoe Police Motorcycle Unit which had last put Motorcycles on our streets over 50 years ago was special to me. This would not have been possible if it were not for the generosity of David Pope and his family foundation so Thank You David.
12. One of the more stressful accomplishments was immediately after I became Mayor, I found out that the Rollins Insurance Agency who occupied the whole top floor of Village Hall was moving out. Landing and working with the Andrus Early Childhood Center was a blessing in that they not only put almost a million dollars of their money into this building, they occupy all of the top floor and half of the ground floor and contribute a quarter of a million dollars each year in rent. Not a bad deal for the residents.
13. But clearly the most important event or accomplishment wasn't really an event but it was a great accomplishment. This was the creation of the position of Village Administrator in May of 2014. From the time I first got on the Board I always felt that there lacked that one position, the glue to keep it all together in Village Government. The one person who can carry out and implement the thoughts and plans of the Mayor and Village Board. Having this central person has been the most significant change to the efficiency and accountability of Village operations in all of my years on the Board.

I've been asked many times over the past month what is the best memory and worst memory during my years in office.

It's a tough question to answer but I would say the worst memory was on Thursday, April 30, 2015 when I received a call from our Police Chief informing me that our colleague on the Board Trustee Stephen Quigley had suffered a fatal cardiac event at his office that day. Steve was only 62 years old and was one of the kindest, and finest gentlemen I had the pleasure to know. That was such a sad time for all of us.

I think the best memory was my first election victory with Maria McHugh back in 2004. There was so much excitement and energy leading up to that day. I really enjoyed that first campaign because this whole process was all new to me. Back then we all seemed to be a lot more carefree, I think we had more meetings at Rockwells than anywhere else!

My good memory takeaway from my time in office will be the great friendships I made.

Elected office is a big departure from my life in the private sector and serving in office introduced me to so many wonderful and kind people.

But the men and women who work for the Village across all departments are who I will miss the most. Maybe it's because Tuckahoe is such a small Village or maybe it's because there are so many multi-generation families, some of who work for the Village, but it's clear that the people who work for the Village go the extra mile in their respective jobs and they truly care for their community.

I want to thank my friends and colleagues who came here tonight to wish us well. Please know that I will always be grateful for your friendship and indebted to you for your help to me in my public service career.

I want to thank Danny and Omayra for your service to our community.

I want to thank Greg who has worked on this Board for 8 years now and if you're successful in getting to sit in this chair in a week from tomorrow, I have confidence that you will direct this Board with the steady and logical wisdom you've shown us all these years.

And to Tom - my right hand man.

I have the utmost respect for you as a professional, a Dad, and a public servant.

You have helped me many more times than you know in keeping a balanced perspective on things during some very difficult times.

It has been an honor to serve with you by my side and I want to sincerely thank you.

So --- Everyone asks me --- what am I going to do with all of my free time?

Well for starters, in about 12 hours I'll be getting on a plane heading for Daytona Beach to spend the next week riding my Harley at Bike Week.

And after a couple of cold beers down on Main Street I think I'll just figure it all out from there.

Trustees Lang and Andino presented Mayor Ecklund, Deputy Mayor Giordano, and Trustee Luisi with plaques. They gave Mayor Ecklund the glass from his Mayor's door from Village Hall.

With that Mayor Ecklund continued...

And with that, for the last time, I will say, with there being no other business tonight.

I, Mayor Steven A. Ecklund, will make a motion to ADJOURN this, my final Village Board meeting.

Do I have a 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion?

Till we meet again Tuckahoe – Have a very good evening.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM

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Camille DiSalvo, Village Clerk