

March 9, 2015

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Called to Order at 8:00PM

The meeting opened with the salute to the flag and Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

TRUSTEE	Giordano
TRUSTEE	Quigley
TRUSTEE	Luisi
TRUSTEE	Alfasi
MAYOR	Ecklund

**APPOINTMENTS -**

1. Trustee Quigley motioned for the appointment of Thomas Ringwald to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Nicholas DiSalvo to expire April 1, 2019; motion was seconded by Trustee Giordano and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.
2. Trustee Quigley motioned for the appointment of Kathleen Skinner to the Library Board for a 5 year term from April 1, 2015 to April 1, 2020; motion was seconded by Trustee Giordano and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

**PRESENTATIONS –**

1. James Tulotta gave an Eagle Scout project presentation “Design, building, installation of a cabinet at the Tuckahoe Community Center for Historical Memorabilia.”
2. The Eastchester Irish-American Social Club spoke about the upcoming St. Patrick’s Day Parade scheduled for March 15, 2015
3. Amy Persaud from LiveOnNY spoke about Organ Donor Awareness. Mayor Ecklund, Sgt. Larry Rotta and Paul Brand each spoke about their own experiences. Sgt. Rotta said that going through such an experience has given him the ability and desire to create as much awareness as possible about Organ donation.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Trustee Alfasi made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 9, 2015; motion was seconded by Trustee Giordano and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE-** Mayor Ecklund reported on a letter he received from a karate student which letter will be forward it to the Planning Board.

**FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Ron Gallo welcomed Thomas Ringwald to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**RESOLUTIONS**

- 1) **RESOLUTION #1** Approving James Tulotta’s Eagle Scout Project. Trustee Giordano made a motion to adopt resolution #1; motion was seconded by Trustee Alfasi and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

- 2) RESOLUTION #2 Scheduling a Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law entitled "A Local Law concerning an amendment to Section 8-1 of the Village of Tuckahoe Zoning Ordinance of 2001 regarding Planning Board". Trustee Quigley made a motion to adopt resolution #2; motion was seconded by Trustee Luisi and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.
- 3) RESOLUTION #3 Accepting a donation from the Generoso Pope Foundation in the amount of \$14,215.54 for the Winterfest events held on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2014. Trustee Quigley made a motion to adopt resolution #3; motion was seconded by Trustee Giordano and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.
- 4) RESOLUTION #4 Committing to 50% matching funds for certain capital improvement projects through the Community Housing Infrastructure Investment Program (CHIIP)

The first project is for Marbledale Road sanitary sewer relining. CDBG recommended \$125,000 of funding with a local match of \$111,200 for a total project cost of \$236,200. The Village will apply for the \$125,000 with a local match of \$125,000; dependent on final cost of the project. This would be to reline sanitary sewer lines from Stewart to Lincoln and the second separate area from Lincoln to approximately Jackson Ave. This would be the final portion of main sewer drainage lines on Marbledale to be relined.

The second potential funding is \$100,000 worth of upgrades to the sidewalks on Columbus from Circuit to Dante – either on the east or west side. The County funding could be \$50,000 with the Village portion coming through in-kind services performed by DPW. The final area of Columbus could be determined at a later date after closer examination in the spring if funding was awarded. Trustee Luisi made a motion to adopt resolution #4; motion was seconded by Trustee Quigley and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

5) RESOLUTION #5 Awarding bids for municipal surplus equipment

1. 2012 Dodge Charger Police package  
VIN # 2C3CDXAG4CH205198  
Color-Black  
Highest bid of \$13,107.00 awarded to: Annette Meerkamp, Bergheim, Germany
2. Jamis SN#: WLH802610M Men's 26", 21 Speed, Manitou Spyder Front Shocks,, Color: Black  
Highest bid of \$81.10 awarded to: George Thebold, Ogbensburg, NJ
3. Jamis SN#: WLH03436M Men's 26", 21 Speed, Manitou Spyder Front Shocks, Color: Black  
Highest bid of \$114.05 awarded to: Daniel Belles, Tuckahoe, NY
4. Jamis SN#: WLH802545M Men's 26", 21 Speed, Manitou Spyder Front Shocks, Color: Black  
Highest bid of \$128.49 awarded to: William Borfitz, Tuckahoe, NY
5. Mongoose SN#: M5AI07745 Men's 26", 21 Speed, Manitou Posi-Link Front Shocks, Color: Blue  
Highest bid of \$77.55 awarded to: Daniel Belles, Tuckahoe, NY
6. Mongoose SN#: M5KI94485 Men's 26", 21 Speed, Manitou Posi-Link Front Shocks, Color: Blue  
Highest bid of \$101.55 awarded to: George Thebold, Ogbensburg, NJ.

7. Mongoose SN#: M5H81176 Men's 26", 21 Speed, Manitou Posi-Link Front Shocks Color: Blue  
Highest bid of \$53.00 awarded to: George Thebold, Ogbensburg, NJ

Trustee Luisi made a motion to adopt resolution #5; motion was seconded by Trustee Giordano and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Trustee Luisi remarked, "When I first took office in 2011, the Tuckahoe Police Department had gone thru four budget cycles without any vehicles being replaced. The maintenance costs to keep these vehicles on the road was substantial and costly to the Village. Members of this Board undertook a capital improvement project to replace the fleet. The benefits to the Village are impressive now that new vehicles are covered for three years under warranty keeping our maintenance costs to a minimum. At the end of the three years, we now can sell the vehicle and apply that money to purchase a new one. We recently sold a 2012 Dodge Charger on e-Bay for \$13,107 to a buyer in Germany. We also sold on eBay our used bicycles that were used by our police officers in the warm months. My thanks to the Chief and Sgt. Rotta for helping to implement this program."

- 6) RESOLUTION #6 Authorizing request for door-to-door solicitation by Kevin Jones, Jamica A. Legrand and Rodney Ridgel of Synergy Management, as authorized door-to-door agent for Verizon, offering Verizon FIOS services for a period of six months. Trustee Quigley made a motion to adopt resolution #6; motion was seconded by Trustee Giordano and upon roll call, vote was as follows: Mayor Ecklund and Trustee Quigley in favor.  
Trustee Luisi, Trustee Giordano and Trustee Alfasi opposed. Request Denied.

Trustee Luisi remarked "I know I am beginning to sound like a broken record. But once again, this issue is before the Board and my position remains the same. According to the Wall Street Journal, Verizon spent \$408 million dollars on TV advertising between January and June of 2014. This does not take into account the amount spent on print media or other forms of advertising. There is no need for Verizon to have go door to door in Tuckahoe to solicit phone service for new customers during the day or night. Residents should not have to be inconvenienced by this type of sales pitch."

- 7) RESOLUTION #7 Authorizing the approval of vouchers in the amount of \$575,299.62, Abstract 38: \$4,188.50, Abstract 39: \$149,364.59, Abstract 40: \$136,693.61, Abstract 41: \$2,029.23 and Abstract 42: \$283,023.69.

Three Largest Invoices:

- 1) \$213,060 Garbage Truck
- 2) \$ 68,664.11 P&I serial bond
- 3) \$ 68,450 TCC roof replacement

Trustee Quigley made a motion to adopt resolution #7; motion was seconded by Trustee Giordano and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

- 8) RESOLUTION # 8 Scheduling a Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget Fiscal Year 6/1/2015 to May 31, 2016. Trustee Luisi made a motion to adopt resolution #8; motion was seconded by Trustee Quigley and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

- 9) RESOLUTION #9 approving the use of the Trolley for the St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday March 15, 2015. Village will provide a driver. Trustee Quigley made a motion to adopt resolution #9; motion was seconded by Trustee Luisi and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

**POLICE**-Chief Costanzo commended all donor speakers and congratulated Sgt. Rotta. The Chief spoke about the active shooter training which included a classroom component, practical component, incident component, and tactical command component. Alternate side of the street parking will be in affect within the next few weeks.

**DPW**- The DPW have begun fixing potholes and should be done by the end on the week.

**LIBRARY**- Swadesh gave an update on library events and welcomed Kathleen Skinner to the board. The library has received 2 grants. \$4300.00 from the Community Fund and State Construction for \$10, 214.00.

Kathleen Skinner thanked the Board.

**RECREATION**- John congratulated James Tulotta on his scout project.

**ATTORNEY**- Gary explained that the resident parking sticker does not exempt anyone from the 48 hour parking rule.

**ADMINISTRATOR**- David said that soil sampling is going on by the hotel site. We are still working on the budget.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

The Mayor announced the Reorganization meeting, April 6, 2015,Village Board/ Budget Hearing, April 13, 2015,the Budget Workshop, March 14, 2015, the Special Meeting/Budget Adoption, April 27, 2015, Village Elections, March 18, 2015 and that Village Offices closed are April 3, 2015 for Good Friday.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER REPORTS**

► **TRUSTEE** Giordano announced upcoming Zoning and Planning meetings. He urged all citizens to come out and vote.

► **TRUSTEE** Quigley said the Swadesh gave his report and that there are 2 other scouts working towards Eagle projects.

► **TRUSTEE** Luisi said the Seniors membership has increased for two reasons, Jennifer Vetromile and the move to Fr. Fata Hall. The History Committee has donated a framed coverlet to the Community Center. They are working on donations from Spanish American war and WWI.

► **TRUSTEE** Alfasi said that the new Zoning committee will meet on April 8<sup>th</sup> to look at some zoning ordinance items.

► **MAYOR** Ecklund read the following statement:

I want to start off talking about the Fiscal Stress report that was recently in the news At last month's Board meeting I reported that when the NYS Comptroller's office released their annual "Fiscal Stress Monitoring Report" that we would be on the list. The list came out 2 weeks ago and as I anticipated, we were on it.

In determining who gets the Fiscal Stress Rating, the primary indicator they look at is a municipalities "Fund Balance" or what I call savings account balance.

A municipality should work towards 5-10% in fund balance for us that is roughly \$500g to \$1mil.

The purpose of this monitoring is so the State can watch Municipalities and School Districts to make sure that while we all do our best to stay under the 2% tax cap that we do not use up all of our fund balance to accomplish this.

I want to explain again this month, the primary reason why we ended up on this list.

When we closed our books on May 31st of 2014, we had a much lower than anticipated fund balance. This was due to projects & tax certs we paid for with the anticipation of borrowing to pay them back.

We intentionally held off in borrowing in order to capture most of the costs for projects that were being completed but unfortunately the Comptroller's office takes a snapshot of your fund balance only once at the end of your fiscal year end and does not take into account the fact that we just borrowed just over a million dollars to replenish the funds that we had expended.

Our fund balance is at the level we wanted to achieve during our budget process, and as an added measure of caution during our budget process for the budget we are in now, we did not account for some of the large DOB fees, that have come in, which adds more to our fund balance.

Unfortunately for us, what also hit us on the expense side of the balance sheet was a huge unexpected increase in our Comp & Liability Insurance Premiums.

We are closely monitoring this to make sure we stay in 5-10% the window of fund balance and are more cautious of making sure whenever possible we do more long term financial planning for projects including funding them before they are completed.

Over the past year we have also started and completed some capital projects. Some of these were emergency based, and all of which were not included in our standard budgeting process since these are projects that provide a benefit to the community over the long term. Projects like these require us to go out for long-term borrowing and with the near zero percent interest rates we are currently seeing, this is a good time to borrow for these needed jobs and we will be doing just that in the next month or two.

Examples of some of these projects are;

The Main Street Parking Lot ADA Sidewalk Project The Oak Avenue Parking Lot Restoration project The Depot Square Island Upgrade Project The Lincoln Ave.-Marbledale Road Pedestrian Intersection Safety Project The Hollywood Avenue Flooding Mitigation Project The Columbus Avenue-MTA Retaining Wall Stabilization Project

We have another large Tax Cert settlement coming up that we must borrow for along with these Capital Improvement Projects.

The Village Administrator is focusing on a Capital Project Schedule which we have never had in the past so moving forward, each year, we can pre-plan for infrastructure repairs and projects and start budgeting for some of these projects as well.

Mayor Ecklund, the Board of Trustees and department heads wished Susan Ciamarra well on her retirement.

There being no further business, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:30P.M.

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Susan Ciamarra, Village Clerk

