



**VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Michael F. Curley, Mayor
Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Deputy Mayor
Steven Alpert, Trustee
Angela Denis-Hogue, Trustee
Frank Hagen, Trustee
Terry Rice, Village Attorney
Melissa B. Reimer, Village Clerk
Michael A. Genito, Village Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Curley called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all the people who are dying because of the senseless school shootings and all the shootings throughout the country and the world.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

A Regular Meeting, Monday, May 1, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

A Regular Meeting, Monday, June 5, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 6, 2023, VILLAGE OF SUFFERN BOARD MEETING.

A motion to approve the Board minutes was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Mayor Curley spoke about a trustee who resigned because he moved out of the area. The Mayor evaluated the appointment and spoke to several people. Mayor Curley made the selection of a young mother from the community. He selected Angela Denis-Hogue. She has two children who attend R.P. Connor School, and her husband is a Detective in the New York City Police Department. Ms. Denis-Hogue is a member of the Recreation Committee, is a caring, helpful young person. Ms. Denis-Hogue speaks fluent Spanish, and with the increase of Spanish-speaking people in our community the Mayor felt it was important to have someone on the Board who speaks Spanish.

Mayor Curley invited Ms. Denis-Hogue on stage and to be sworn in as a Trustee for the Village of Suffern.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENT OF THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN STANDARD SCHEDULE OF FEES WITH RESPECT TO PARKING RATES AND VIOLATION SEARCH/INSPECTION FEES AND ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR

BUILDING PERMITS SOUGHT AFTER WORK COMMENCES WITHOUT A BUILDING PERMIT

A MOTION to open the public hearing was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Mayor Curley explained that there are many Village fees that have not been updated for several years. The Mayor reviewed the proposed changes to the fees.

The public made no comments.

Mr. Hagen asked if these fees are projected into the new budget. Mayor Curley answered that these fees are not projected into the new budget. The Mayor stated that this was to help us in the future. Mr. Hagen thanked the Mayor.

A MOTION to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Hagen, with all in favor.

CONSIDERATION OF 2023-2024 WATER AND SEWER RATES

Treasurer Genito presented the 2023 – 2024 Water & Sewer Rates. He explained that these fees can be found on the Suffern Village website within the Tentative Budget. The water rates will be increasing in the average household approximately \$8 per year as a result and the sewer fees approximately \$14 per year. Rate increases reflect the increased cost of compliance with various federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations. There is a base fee for having water or sewer service and a graduated rate depending on the number of units of water consumed.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING 2023 – 2024 WATER & SEWER RATES

A MOTION to open the public hearing was made by Trustee Hagen and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Beth Koppel, 30 West Maltbie, Suffern asked if the residents of the West Ward (properties located West of the New Jersey Transit train tracks) should receive a discount on the sewer fees because of the smell emanating from the Village’s wastewater treatment plant? She stated that they are experiencing a great deal of odor from the plant. There have been promises made that this will be resolved, but it has not been resolved. Residents of the West Ward are looking for action instead of promises. She asked if that was any plan.

Mayor Curley answered that there is a major project going on right now and he said that Mr. Sawicki can speak about it. The Mayor stated that no one can promise to stop the odor. It’s a sewer plant. The Mayor stated that they have done a lot of things to mitigate the odors. The Village is doing this project to get up to code and it should mitigate some of the odors, but no one can promise that there will be a total elimination of the smell at any given point.

Ms. Koppel asked about masking agents to mask the odors to something more pleasant.

No one else from the public spoke.

A MOTION to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Hagen, with all in favor.

CONSIDERATION OF 2023-2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Mayor Curley noted that a zero percent tax increase was being proposed in the 2023-2024 Tentative Budget, and asked Treasurer Genito to provide a summary.

Treasurer Genito explained that overall, the 2023-2024 Tentative Budget changes very little from the 2022-2023 Adopted Budget. Total appropriations decrease by approximately \$7,000 and estimated revenues decrease by \$11,000. These changes have no net effect on the tax rate. Mr. Genito explained that it takes \$121,000 in estimated revenues or appropriations to change the tax rate by one percent.

Mr. Genito explained that taxable assessed valuation went up approximately \$45 thousand. Again, this had no bearing on the tax rate, as it takes \$1.3 million to make a change the tax rate by one percent.

A major benefit in keeping the tax rate stabilized for 2023-2024 is a change in the annual debt service (principal and interest) paid on the Village's 2020 Refunding Bonds. In 2020, the Village re-funded (similar to a mortgage refinancing) its 2007 Bonds and 2012 Bonds, taking advantage of lower interest rates. The first couple of years of debt service payments on the 2020 Refunding Bonds were "top heavy." Beginning in 2023-2024, the annual debt service payments are reduced, and will remain reduced for the life of those bonds.

In the 2023-2024 Tentative Budget, the Mayor is providing for an additional part-time Code Enforcer position, an additional part-time Fire Inspector position, and an additional part-time Parking Enforcement Officer position. Enforcement is a very big issue for the Village. We have a lot of activities with people buying homes, renovations, rentals, and parking.

The 2023-2024 Tentative Budget document includes a list of proposed Capital Projects. Capital Projects is defined as anything over \$15 thousand that has an estimated useful life of at least three years. It is important to note that this is only a list of proposed Capital Projects and that they are not being funded in the annual operating budget. The Village Board can decide during the year to go forward with any of these capital projects and how these projects would be financed. The Village seeks out grants to assist with the financing of capital assets. The Village does not want to overburden taxpayers with debt.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING 2023 – 2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET

A MOTION to open the public hearing was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Mr. Jim Giannettino, 2 Memorial Drive, Suffern asked about the Building Department and the raise afforded to the Building Inspector. He noted that the Fire Inspector is not getting a raise. He also questioned why the estimated revenues for Recreation Department Concession Stand and Pool Fees show an increase over the actual concession stand and pool fees received in fiscal year 2021-2022. He noted that the Village Attorney was getting a slight raise, which he did not have a

problem with, but did not see a raise for the Assistant Village Attorney. He stated that he was glad to see that the Mayor appointed a Trustee to replace the Trustee who had resigned due to moving out of the Village.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Giannettino and told him that Mr. Genito will answer all questions about the budget. Mr. Giannettino questioned Mr. Genito as to who would be answering his questions and Mr. Genito responded that the Village Treasurer answers questions concerning the budget, unless they involve policy questions, which would be answered by the Mayor.

Pat O'Brien, 3 Cross Street, Suffern asked if the budget could include financing for an electronic bulletin board to replace the unlighted bulletin board at the corner of Lafayette and Washington avenues.

A MOTION to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

The Mayor advised that he is currently in the process of researching electronic bulletin boards to replace the unlighted bulletin boards, one at the corner of Lafayette and Washington avenues (Avon Park), and the other at the corner of Washington and Orange avenues (Point Park). The Mayor said it is a good suggestion and he thanked Mr. O'Brien for offering it.

Mr. Genito advised that the Building Inspector's salary was based on a recommendation of the former Building Inspector who recently retired from the Village. The Deputy Village Attorney is receiving the same 3% raise as being provided to the Village Attorney. The Fire Inspector is a member of the CSEA and in 2023-2024 is not eligible for a step or longevity increase. The 2021-2022 recreation revenues for concession stand and pool fees represent the amounts received in the summer of 2021. The 2023-2024 estimated revenues for these accounts reflect the amounts received in the summer of 2022.

Mr. Giannettino shouted from the audience that the salary for the Building Inspector is a large increase for one person. Other department heads received 3% but the Building Inspector received more than 3%. Mr. Genito again explained the Building Inspector's salary was based on a recommendation of the former Building Inspector, who advised the Mayor and Mr. Genito the salary he was paid was below what other building inspectors were earning and too close to the amount that the Deputy Building Inspector was earning.

Mayor Curley added that the Building Inspector is a Department Head who oversees the existing and new Code Enforcers, the Deputy Building Inspector, the Building Department Clerk, and existing and new Fire Inspectors. The Mayor explained his conversation with the former Building Inspector and noted that the Building Department is one of the most important functions of the Village at this time. He chose the Building Inspector believing that he would do a good job and care for the Village. The Mayor noted that the Building Inspector has been in the building trade since he was about 13 years old and has worked in New York City and owned construction companies. The Building Inspector is just as experienced as anyone we have had in the Building Department as far as building construction.

The Mayor stated that the Board votes on the Budget at a later date. The Board will discuss it and contemplate the bulletin board and other things of that nature. The Mayor told the public that all year he and the Board discuss items. The Board is very open and very communicative.

Mr. Genito added that the public can write to budget@suffernny.gov and they will respond to any questions/comments. He stated that if the public has suggestions, they will be brought to the Board for consideration. The budget will be adopted towards the end of April 2023, most likely on April 24, 2023. Mr. Genito also said that, like the past four or five years, the NYS Comptroller's Office is conducting a budget review. They are required to perform this task while the Village has deficit bonds outstanding. Once the report is released, we will review it and consider any suggestions made to improve the budget. The report will be published on the Village website and distribute it to the Board.

The Mayor added that there will be new properties added to our tax rolls in coming years, which will help to stabilize our future tax rates. He noted that this is a strong budget and it in no way leaves us weak for next year. The Mayor noted that the Village Board they are considering the budget and the future of the Village in a responsible and reasonable manner, and are always looking forward in the best interests of the Village residents.

**RESOLUTION NO. 038 OF 2023
AMENDING THE STANDARD FEE SCHEDULE OF THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN**

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Standard Schedule of Fees is to reimburse the Village for its costs in administering various administrative functions and permits; and

WHEREAS, the Standard Schedule of Fees of the Village of Suffern has not been revised in more than 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the present fees are not sufficient to reimburse the Village for its costs in administering such functions; and

WHEREAS, the Village has reviewed its costs and the fees charged by comparable municipalities; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on the proposed revisions to the Standard Schedule of Fees on April 3, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

Section 1. The following portions of the Standard Schedule of Fees are amended to provide as follows:

Building

Dumpster permit \$ 50.00

Violation Search \$250.00

Fire re-inspection after first failed fire re-inspection \$100.00 per re-inspection

Building Inspection Fee for construction without a building permit

Regular building permit fee plus the following:

Cost of building permit: up to \$50,000: \$1,000.00

\$50,001 to \$100,000: \$2,000

\$100,001 to \$200,000: \$3,000

Over \$200,001: \$5,000.00.

Parking

Non-Resident Daily Parking permit:	\$10.00
Non-Resident Monthly parking permit	\$75.00
Annual Merchant Parking Permit	\$200.00

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 039 OF 2023

REFERRING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 266-38 OF THE ZONING LOCAL LAW OF THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN WITH RESPECT TO SPECIAL PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN THE CB DISTRICT TO THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN PLANNING BOARD AND THE ROCKLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING THEREON

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is considering an amendment to the Zoning Law with respect to the waiver of required parking spaces in the CB zoning district; and

WHEREAS, § 266-67 of the Village of Suffern Zoning Law requires that such local law be referred to the Village Planning Board and the Village Attorney for their review and recommendation; and

WHEREAS, General Municipal Law § 239 requires that such local law and supporting documentation be provided to the Rockland County Department of Planning for its review and recommendation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that the proposed local law amending the Zoning Law with respect to the waiver of required parking spaces in the CB zoning district and the EAF be referred to the Village Planning Board, the Village Attorney and the Rockland County Department of Planning for their review and recommendation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees will conduct a public hearing on the proposed local law on May 1, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. and that the Village Clerk is directed to send a copy of the notice of hearing, local law and the EAF to the Town Clerk of the Town of Ramapo, the Village Clerk of the Village of Montebello, the Village Clerk of the Village of Airmont, the Clerk of the Township of Mahwah, the County Clerk of the County of Rockland and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission at least 10 days prior to the date of the hearing; and to publish a notice of hearing in the official newspaper of the Village of Suffern not less than 10 nor more than 30 days prior to the date of the hearing.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 040 OF 2023

APPROVING THE SUFFERN FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2022

WHEREAS, in accordance with New York General Municipal Law Section 217, General Requirements of a Service Award Program, Daniel McNerney, Suffern Fire Department Local

Service Award Program (LOSAP) Administrator, prepared a preliminary report detailing the service award points earned by the members of the Suffern Fire Department for the year 2022; and

WHEREAS, for a period of no less than 30-days commencing February 13, 2023 the Suffern Fire Department LOSAP Administrator caused to be conspicuously posted a copy of the preliminary report at each Village of Suffern Firehouse during which time a firefighter may file a written appeal to the service point information contained in the report to the Fire Department.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees accepts the Service Award Program Report for 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Mayor is authorized to sign the Village of Suffern Fire Department Service Award Program 2022 Final Report Sponsor Authorization Form.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Hagen, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 041 OF 2023

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH GOOSETOWN ENTERPRISES, INC. FOR THE RENTAL OF AN AVTEL SCOUT 2 POSITION DISPATCH CONSOLE

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

WHEREAS, the Village of Suffern Police Department requires the use of a dispatch console to communicate with the public and police personnel; and

WHEREAS, the existing agreement with Goosetown Enterprises, Inc. for a dispatch console is expiring; and

WHEREAS, the Village is desirous of renting an AVTEL Scot 2 position dispatch console from Goosetown Enterprises, Inc.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that the Mayor is authorized to execute a rental agreement with Goosetown Enterprises, Inc., for the rental of an AVTEL Scot 2 position dispatch console for a term of five years, at a rental of \$2,985.00 per quarter, to be paid quarterly, subject to approval of a contract by the Village Attorney.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 042 OF 2023

AUTHORIZING JOSEPH HUNT AND WILLIAM BARISH TO ATTEND THE CSEA CONFERENCE FOR PEER LEADER TRAINING APRIL 18-20, 2023, IN SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees hereby authorizes Joseph Hunt and William Barish to attend the CSEA Conference for Peer Training, April 18-20, 2023, in Saratoga Springs at no cost to the Village.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Alpert and passed unanimously by the Board.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 043 OF 2023

DECLARING VARIOUS PROPERTY OWNED BY THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN TO NO LONGER BE NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES AND TO BE SURPLUS

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

WHEREAS, property owned by the Village of Suffern is no longer needed for any municipal purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees desires to declare the following to be surplus so that they may be properly sold or disposed of: a) 1990 GM Kodiak (Vin # 1GDE6H1J1LJ606606, license plate # M-44079), b) 2010 Ford Expedition (Vin# 1FMJU1G58AEB67514, license plate # BD-5940), c) 2005 Ford Crown Victoria (Vin# 2FAHP71W36X106677, d) S11- International Dump and R1- Refuse Packer, e) 2008 Ford expedition (VIN 1FMFU16568LA08522).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees hereby declares that a) 1990 GM Kodiak (Vin # 1GDE6H1J1LJ606606, license plate # M-44079), b) 2010 Ford Expedition (Vin# 1FMJU1G58AEB67514, license plate # BD-5940), c) 2005 Ford Crown Victoria (Vin# 2FAHP71W36X106677, d) S11- International Dump and R1- Refuse Packer, e) 2008 Ford expedition (VIN 1FMFU16568LA08522) are no longer needed for any municipal purpose and are declared to be surplus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the foregoing items of surplus property be posted for sale on GovDeals.com.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 044 OF 2023

AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF FORMAL BIDS FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF WELL NO. 2 AND WELL NO. 4

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that the solicitation of formal bids for the Redevelopment of Well No. 2 and Well No. 4 is hereby authorized, with bids to be returnable on April 14, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 045 OF 2023

ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF JOSEPH MACENTEE

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees hereby accepts the resignation of Joseph MacEntee, Full-Time Mechanic I, effective March 31, 2023, with thanks for his service to the Village.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Hagen and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 046 OF 2023

APPOINTING CRISTINO COSQUILLA TO GRADE 15 THE POSITION OF AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC I

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Curley hereby appoints Cristino Cosquilla to a Grade 15 Automotive Mechanic I Position with a salary of \$27.92 per hour and said appointment is hereby confirmed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said appointment is subject to approval by the Rockland County Personnel Department.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Hagen and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 047 OF 2023

TRANSFER FUNDS FROM CONTINGENT ACCOUNT TO FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief has advised the Village Board that the Village's 2005 Seagrave Engine 19-2000 fire truck needs emergency repairs to the vehicle's poly water tank mounts at the estimated cost not to exceed \$22,000 (the "Repairs"); and

WHEREAS, the 2022-2023 General Fund budget for Fire Department Contractual (A.3410.4) has insufficient funds available to finance the cost of the Repairs; and

WHEREAS, the 2022-2023 General Fund Contingent Account (A.1990.4) has an available balance of \$189,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees authorizes the transfer of \$22,000 from General Fund Contingent Account to General Fund Fire Department Contractual.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 048 OF 2023

AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH SPYGLASS GROUP LLC

WHEREAS, the Village Treasurer has recommended an audit of the Village of Suffern telecommunication costs including voice, data, internet, cloud services and mobile cellular services ("Telecommunication Costs") to ensure that the Village is receiving and paying for the most beneficial telecommunication rates; and

WHEREAS, The SpyGlass Group, LLC, 25777 Detroit Rd., Ste. 400, Westlake, Ohio 44145 has offered to conduct an audit of the Village's Telecommunication Costs with fees based on a percentage of any recovered overpayments and/or savings generated by service eliminations and/or cost reductions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign an agreement with The SpyGlass Group, LLC for an audit of the Village's telecommunications costs, as reviewed and approved by the Village Attorney as to substance and form.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 049 OF 2023

APPOINTING BRUCE SIMON AS CLERK (PT)

RESOLVED, Mayor Michael F. Curley hereby appoints, Bruce Simon to the vacant position of Clerk (PT) in the Parking Department, effective March 28, 2023, at a pay rate of \$15.88 per hour pending approval by the Rockland County Personnel Department and said appointment is hereby confirmed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 050 OF 2023
PURSUANT TO VILLAGE LAW SECTION 3-300(2) AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE
TREASURER, VILLAGE DEPUTY TREASURER AND/OR VILLAGE CLERK
TO RESIDE OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN BUT WITHIN THE COUNTY OF
ROCKLAND**

WHEREAS, Section 3-300(2) of the Village Law requires that Village Public Officers, including the Village Treasurer, Village Deputy Treasurer and/or Village Clerk, must reside in the Village, and said section authorizes the Board of Trustees to provide, in lieu of other residency requirements, that any appointed Village Public Officer may reside within the County in which the Village is located.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern hereby elects and determines that pursuant to the authority of Village Law Section 3-300(2), that the office of Village Treasurer, Village Deputy Treasurer and/or Village Clerk need not be occupied by a resident of the Village of Suffern but must be occupied by a resident of the County of Rockland.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: April 3, 2023

ATTORNEY

Mr. Terry Rice explained that at the last meeting they referred the amendments to the PO-40 zoning district and the zoning law to the Village Planning Board and the Rockland County Department of Planning. We received the Village Planning Board's recommendation and the Rockland County's just came in as well. To ensure that all individuals and entities that are entitled to receive notice of the hearing, we will hold the public hearing on May 1, 2023, at 7:02 P.M.

**MOTION TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR MAY 1, 2023, AT 7:02 P.M.,
REGARDING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW REGARDING LAND USES IN THE PO-40
ZONING DISTRICT**

A MOTION to set the public hearing was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Hagen, with all in favor.

The Mayor and the Board are very concerned about the sufficiency of parking in the downtown business district of the Village. There is a provision in the zoning law that allows the Planning Board to waive entirely the parking requirement for businesses located in the business district. There is also an alternative in the zoning law that if a concern cannot provide the required number of parking spaces, they can go to the Board of Trustees and make a payment in lieu of providing the parking which would be based on a parking space determination. For many years, the Board waived the parking requirement as did the Planning Board. To advance into the future and create opportunities for additional parking and parking facilities in the Village, the intent is to return the determination of parking spaces and money in lieu of parking to the Village Board. To accomplish this, as with all amendments to the zoning law, it is required to be referred to the Suffern Planning Board and Rockland County Department of Planning. The resolution does exactly that and sets a public hearing for the May 1 meeting.

GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Fred Rella congratulated Trustee Denis-Hogue on her appointment to Village Trustee. Mr. Rella explained that the Village received a grant of \$50,000 for an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) for the Fire Department. This makes it easy to gain access into a brush fire. The grant paperwork from the grantor was received this month.

Community Development Block Grants include the following:

- a. Repaving Ed Fagen Drive \$140,000. Ed Fagan Drive is located at the Suffern athletic fields; from Ramapo Avenue to the DPW garage. The Village must contribute \$10,000. We will find out if we get the grant in September 2023. We will not be doing the work until 2024.
- b. Parking Lot A \$200,000. Parking Lot A is located just northwest of the corner of Orange and Lafayette avenues. We recently received some additional paperwork and will begin paving as soon as all the paperwork has been approved. We anticipate that work will begin in the Fall of 2023 or Spring of 2024.
- c. West Maple Avenue Sidewalks \$300,000. It is anticipated that the work will be completed in 2023.
- d. Village hall boiler \$235,000. This is a Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) grant. This grant is in the final stages of paperwork approval.
- e. Garbage Truck \$200,000. The garbage truck being built and it is anticipated that the Village will be accepting delivery of the garbage truck in the Summer of 2023.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Loughlin presented the Police Department statistics for the month of March 2023. The Police Department attended the DARE graduation at R.P. Connor School. That same evening the Police Department hosted the final DARE Dance. DARE Hockey registration is currently underway.

RECREATION

Ms. Cathy Mills reported KIDS ZONE is tomorrow April 4 from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Gazebo in Avon Park. Some things coming up include: Suffern Little League Parade; Not Just Battery Saturday; Keep Rockland Beautiful; Broadway trip to see "New York, New York"; Suffern Street Fair; and Clifford Theatre auditions

PUBLIC COMMENT (limited to 4 minutes per speaker)

A MOTION to open the public comment period was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Hagen, with all in favor.

Lisa Gollihue, 25 West Maltbie Avenue, Suffern asked how a citizen can have an amendment made or provision added to the Village Code. Mayor Curley responded that a citizen could present the request to the Village Board or Village Attorney. The Mayor noted that a change to the Village Code requires a public hearing and adoption by the Village Board. Ms. Gollihue asked who she should send her ideas to, and the Mayor answered that she could send them to him. She also asked about the Avon Building. Do we know what is going on? Do we have a new tenant? Do we have any prospects? The Mayor answered that it is up to Avon. They have hired a realty firm to list the building. She asked about how much tax revenue we will lose when they leave. The Mayor answered that no tax revenue will be lost. Avon currently has and has had for decades an agreement known as a PILOT, or Payment in Lieu of Taxes, where Avon has been paying far less to the Village than they would if they were fully taxed as most other properties are. Avon leaving is not the worst thing for Suffern because the actual amount we receive from the new owner will most likely be much more than we received when Avon was owner of the property.

Patsy Wooters, 19 Mansfield Place, Suffern welcomed Ms. Denis-Hogue as the new Trustee. She asked the Village Board to consider not converting commercial properties to residential zoning. Residential areas can result in a negative tax. She is concerned that the Village will be digging themselves into a deeper and deeper hole. Ms. Wooters advocated for mixed use as opposed to residential only use. Mayor Curley thanked her and said that there are some commercial projects moving into the Village. The former Novartis property will be a tremendous commercial tax positive. We will receive more than we ever have for that property. The Mayor believes that the Village needs to receive their taxes from these commercial properties. We have changed laws, the Mayor told the public, to get more in demolition fees and to give no discounts on taxes on new buildings. The Mayor stated that taxes were raised 47% from 2015 to 2021 and that will never happen on his watch.

Mr. Joe Hunt stepped up the podium and welcomed Trustee Angela Denis-Hogue. He presented the Mayor with two framed pictures of Mayor Curley as the Grand Marshall of the Ringwood, New Jersey St. Patrick's Day Parade.

A MOTION to close the public comment was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Hagen, with all in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Charles Sawicki, Superintendent of Public Works, advised that the Village entered into a significant project with the DEC that is in the midst of completion. The project was designed for odor control for the wastewater treatment plant. Once this project is done, we will see if anything else can be done to take care of the odors. We tried to use masking agents and the Village still uses them where they are useful.

Mr. Sawicki read the resolutions to the public. Mayor Curley explained Resolution 2023-044 regarding the authorization of solicitation of formal bids for the redevelopment of water well no. 2 and water well no. 4. He stated that Village is undertaking a major water well project to protect the wells from natural disasters. While dismantling the wells, it was noticed that the screens at the bottom of the wells were getting clogged, which naturally occurs, and needed to be cleaned. The estimated cost of cleaning the screens was in excess of \$35 thousand, which requires the Village to seek competitive sealed bids for the work. If needed, the Village will transfer funds from the Water Fund Contingency Account to finance the work.

TRUSTEES

Trustee Denis-Hogue thanked the Mayor, the Clerk, Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, and Trustee Alpert for helping and guiding her. She thanked Mayor Curley for giving her the opportunity to help Suffern and make Suffern strong.

Mr. Alpert mentioned that the beautiful "Welcome to Suffern" sign on the corner of Maplewood Avenue and Fox Lane needs paint. He asked for it to be painted. Mr. Sawicki said that it would be painted within 24 hours.

MAYOR

Mayor Curley thanked Trustee Denis-Hogue for her kind words. He mentioned her husband, the New York City Detective, and how they made Suffern their home. He told the public about how they care

about the community, protecting the schools, the streets, and how he is so happy to have them. He believes he made an excellent choice in appointing Trustee Angela Denis-Hogue.

Mayor Curley mentioned the Little League parade on Saturday and asked everyone to get out and cheer for our children as they go by.

The Mayor also mentioned installing charging stations in the business district of downtown Suffern. He noted that these stations should be installed in the parking lots, and we will be looking for some grants.

The Mayor has been working with the County of Rockland on Memorial Drive for a grant. The Mayor advised that he negotiated with the Rockland County Drainage Agency (RCDA) for the RCDS to provide up to \$1 million to finance the work on Memorial Drive. Additional funds will be needed, so the Mayor will approach the Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 for additional funding. Mayor Curley shared that he has a couple of ideas of whether we open that road or make it a park. It would be a decision that would be made by the community for the community.

The Mayor also mentioned that he discussed the County of Rockland the cost of maintaining the H Lot (located on Hallett Place) which is used primarily by the County. Under the current agreement with the County, the Village receives \$1,600 per month for parking permits and can be reimbursed up to \$10 thousand per year for repairs to the H Lot. The Mayor has successfully negotiated with the County for an increase to the maximum reimbursement for repairs from \$10 thousand per year to \$30 thousand per year.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 P.M. was made by Trustee Alpert, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Respectfully,

Melissa B. Reimer, CPA
Village Clerk