



VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 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
Melissa B. Reimer, Village Clerk
Michael A. Genito, Village Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Curley called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all the veterans and all the people that are trying to keep freedom for everyone in our country now and all over 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.

RESOLUTION NO. 051 OF 2023

AWARDING BID FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF WELL NO. 2 AND WELL NO. 4

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees authorized the submission of competitive bids for the Redevelopment of Water Well No. 2 and Water Well No. 4 (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the bids were returnable on April 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, William Stothoff Company submitted the only bid; and

WHEREAS, the price submitted has been reviewed for its reasonableness and found to be reasonable; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Works has investigated the qualifications, capacity, capability, and history of William Stothoff Company.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that the bid for the Redevelopment of Water Well No. 2 and Water Well No. 4 is awarded to William Stothoff Company, 110 River Road, Flemington, New Jersey 08822 in the amount of \$45,210.00, subject to entering into a contract acceptable to the Village Attorney; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Treasurer is authorized to transfer \$45,210.00 from the Water Fund Contingency Account to the Water Fund Source of Supply Contractual Costs to finance the cost of the Project.

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

Adopted: April 24, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 052 of 2023

AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE

WHEREAS, the Village’s life insurance agent, J.J. Stanis and Company, Inc., 377 Oak Street, Suite 406, Garden City, NY 11530 (“J.J. Stanis”), has reviewed the Village’s renewal of life insurance coverage for Village employees and retirees for June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, J.J. Stanis sought proposals for life insurance from five reputable life insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, The Standard Life Insurance Company of NY, 333 Westchester Avenue, West Building, Suite 300, White Plains, New York 10604 (“The Standard”) was the only company that submitted a proposal for life insurance; and

WHEREAS, The Standard currently provides life insurance coverage to the Village; and

WHEREAS, the proposal submitted by The Standard (“Proposal”) provides that the Village’s life insurance rates will remain the same as the current rates for the next three fiscal years, from June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of J.J. Stanis that the Proposal offered by The Standard be accepted by the Village.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern hereby agrees to renew its life insurance coverage for the period of June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2026 with The Standard Life Insurance Company of New York, 333 Westchester Avenue, West Building, Suite 300, White Plains, NY 10604 at the rates of \$0.485 per \$1,000 base annual salary for Basic Life Insurance and \$0.037 per \$1,000 base annual salary for Basic Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D), subject to an agreement approved as to substance and form 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 24, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 053 OF 2023

AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN DENTAL PLAN SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH J.J. STANIS & COMPANY

RESOLVED, that the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign an agreement for Dental Plan services with J.J. Stanis & Company, 377 Oak Street, Suite 406, Garden City, New York 11530 effective June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024 with administrative fees consisting of a monthly banking fee of \$25.00, a monthly dental claims administration fee of \$4.33 per employee, and a monthly Stanis Net Plus/Dentemax PPO network access fee of \$2.15 per employee.

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

Adopted: April 24, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 054 OF 2023

AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN TPA SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PERMA

RESOLVED, that the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign an agreement for Workers Compensation Third Party Administration Services with Public

Employer Risk Management Association, Inc. (“PERMA”), a New York not-for-profit corporation having its principal place of business at 9 Cornell Road, Latham, New York 12110 effective June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024, in a form approved as to substance and content 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 24, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 055 OF 2023
ADOPTING CHANGES TO THE TENTATIVE BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR
ENDING MAY 31, 2024**

WHEREAS, Section 5-508 of Village Law provides that the 2023-2024 budget for fiscal year ending May 31, 2024, must be adopted on or before May 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS the 2023-2024 Tentative Budgets (“Tentative Budgets”) were transmitted by the Mayor to the Village Clerk on March 6, 2023; and

WHEREAS the Tentative Budgets were transmitted by the Village Clerk to the Village Board on March 6, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the Tentative Budgets was held on April 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2023-2024 water rates and the proposed 2023-2024 sewer rates was held on April 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2023, the Office of State Comptroller published Budget Review Report Number B23-6-2, wherein it recommended that the Village Board increase the water rates and sewer rates proposed in the 2023-2024 Tentative Budget; and

WHEREAS, members of the Village Board have considered various amendments to the Tentative Budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Suffern hereby adopts the following amendments to the Tentative Budgets as follows:

General Fund:

Increase Taxable Assessed Valuation	\$453,221
Increase Real Property Taxes	\$41,380
Increase A9060.8 Hospital & Medical Insurance	\$41,380

Water Fund – increase water rates per unit of water consumed:

For consumers within the Village using over 10 units to 70 units, from \$3.92 to \$4.03

For consumers within the Village using over 70 units, from \$5.12 to \$5.26

For consumers outside the Village using over 10 units, from \$5.88 to \$6.05

Sewer Fund – increase sewer rates per unit of water consumed:

For consumers within the Village, from \$13.89 to \$14.23

For consumers outside the Village, from \$17.36 to \$17.79

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

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT
Trustee Alpert	X		
Trustee Meegan-Corrigan	X		

Trustee Denis-Hogue	X		
Trustee Hagen	X		
Mayor Curley	X		

Adopted: April 24, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 056 OF 2023
ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 6 OF 2023 ESTABLISHING SEWER RENTS FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR**

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

WHEREAS a public hearing on a local law establishing the 2023-2024 sewer rates was duly noticed for a public hearing to be held on April 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted on April 3, 2023, on said local law, the public had an opportunity to comment thereon and the public hearing was closed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that Local Law No. 6, establishing sewer rates for the fiscal year 2023-2024 is hereby adopted and the Village Clerk is instructed to file the same with the Secretary of State.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT
Trustee Alpert	X		
Trustee Meegan-Corrigan	X		
Trustee Denis-Hogue	X		
Trustee Hagen	X		
Mayor Curley	X		

Adopted: April 24, 2023

**VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
LOCAL LAW NO. 6 OF 2023
A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING SEWER RENTS FOR THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR**

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

Section 1. Section 220-44 of the Code of the Village of Suffern is hereby amended to provide as follows:

A. The sewer rent shall be established and may be changed by local law following a public hearing thereon. The sewer rate shall be \$14.23 per 100 cubic feet of water consumed for properties located in the Village of Suffern.

B. The minimum sewer rent shall be \$25 per billing period.

C. The Board of Trustees may allow properties located outside the corporate limits of the Village of Suffern to access and utilize the Village sewage system if it is determined that all aspects of the system possess sufficient excess capacity. If it is subsequently determined that any aspect of the system is insufficient, the Village may terminate such outside the Village access upon such notice as the Board of Trustees deems to be reasonable. Such outside users

shall be charged at the rate of \$17.79 per 100 cubic feet of water used as reflected on the bill provided by their water supplier. Such user shall provide copies of such water bills to the Village Clerk within five days of receipt of the same in order for the Village to calculate the applicable sewer rent. If the outside user fails to do so, the Village will render an estimated sewer rent. If such outside user fails to provide such water bill upon demand, the Village may terminate service upon 30 days' written notice. In any event, the minimum bill chargeable to an outside user shall be \$25 per billing period.

Section 2. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

**RESOLUTION NO. 057 OF 2023
ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2023 ESTABLISHING WATER RATES FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR**

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

WHEREAS a public hearing on a local law establishing the 2023-2024 water rates was duly noticed for a public hearing to be held on April 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted on April 3, 2023, on said local law, the public had an opportunity to comment thereon and the public hearing was closed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that Local Law No. 5, establishing water rates for the fiscal year 2023-2024 is hereby adopted and the Village Clerk is instructed to file the same with the Secretary of State.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT
Trustee Alpert	X		
Trustee Meegan-Corrigan	X		
Trustee Denis-Hogue	X		
Trustee Hagen	X		
Mayor Curley	X		

Adopted: April 24, 2023

**VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2023
A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING WATER RATES FOR THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR**

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

Section 1. Section 261-15(A)(1) and (2) of the Code of the Village of Suffern is hereby amended to provide as follows:

Water rates. Water rates will be charged as follows:

For consumers within the Village:

- (a) For the first 10 units or fraction thereof: \$35 minimum charge;

(b) For that portion over 10 units and less than 71 units:
\$4.03 per unit;

(c) For that portion over 70 units: \$5.26 per unit.

(2) For consumers outside the Village limits:

(a) For the first 10 units or fraction thereof: \$60.

(b) For that portion over 10 units: \$6.05 per unit.

Section 2. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

**RESOLUTION NO. 058 OF 2023
ADOPT FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGETS**

WHEREAS, Section 5-508 of Village Law provides that the 2023-2024 budget for fiscal year ending May 31, 2024, must be adopted on or before May 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS the 2023-2024 Tentative Budgets (“Tentative Budgets”) were transmitted by the Mayor to the Village Clerk on April 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS the Tentative Budgets were transmitted by the Village Clerk to the Village Board on April 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the Tentative Budgets was held on April 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2023-2024 water rates and the proposed 2023-2024 sewer rates was held on April 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2023, the Village Board of Trustees adopted a resolution amending the Tentative Budgets.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of the Village of Suffern does hereby adopt the 2023-2024 budgets for the General Fund (including the Curbside Solid Waste District and the Container Solid Waste District), the Water Fund, the Sewer Fund and the Debt Service Fund for fiscal year ending May 31, 2024, as follows:

General Fund:

Appropriations	\$ 16,153,550
Less: Estimated revenues other than real property taxes	<u>(4,022,159)</u>
Real property tax levy	12,131,391
Taxable assessed valuation	<u>133,180,274</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 taxable assessed valuation	<u><u>\$91.09</u></u>

Curbside Solid Waste District:

Appropriations	\$ 1,124,421
Less: Estimated revenues other district service charges	<u>-</u>
Amount to be raised by district service charges	1,124,421
Units to be serviced	<u>1,870</u>
Annual service charge per unit	<u><u>\$602.00</u></u>

Container Solid Waste District:

Amount to be raised by district service charges	\$ 356,661
Units to be serviced	<u>1,723</u>
Annual service charge per unit	<u><u>\$207.00</u></u>

Water Fund:

Appropriations	\$ 2,270,836
Less: Estimated revenues other than water rents	<u>(32,000)</u>
Amount to be raised by metered water sales	<u>\$ 2,238,836</u>
Per unit water rates within Village:	
Minimum charge up to 10 units	\$35.00
For the portion over 10 but less than 71 units	\$4.03
For the portion over 70 units	\$5.26
Per unit water rates outside Village limits:	
Minimum charge up to 10 units	\$60.00
For the portion over 10 units	\$6.05

Sewer Fund:

Appropriations	\$ 2,942,761
Less: Estimated revenues other than sewer rents	<u>(25,500)</u>
Amount to be raised by sewer rents	<u>\$ 2,917,261</u>
Per unit sewer rates within Village:	
Minimum charge	\$25.00
Per unit of water consumed	\$14.23
Per unit sewer rates outside Village limits:	
Minimum charge	\$25.00
Per unit of water consumed	\$17.79

Debt Service Fund:

Appropriations	<u>\$ 1,078,087</u>
Estimated Revenues	<u><u>\$ 1,078,087</u></u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Suffern does hereby adopt the Comprehensive Financial Policies of the Village of Suffern as presented in the 2023-2024 Adopted Budget document.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT
Trustee Alpert	X		
Trustee Meegan-Corrigan	X		
Trustee Denis-Hogue	X		
Trustee Hagen		X	
Mayor Curley	X		

Adopted: April 24, 2023

TRUSTEES

Trustee Hagen said that what he was about to say would probably cost him his re-election in November. Mr. Hagen said that about ten years ago, the Village was in about a \$5 million deficit. It took Mr. Genito and Mr. Markunas five years to dig out of it. The tax increases added up to over 40 percent, which was brought to light by the current Mayor.

Mayor Curley stated that the tax increase was over 47 percent.

Trustee Hagen agreed with 47 percent. He continued to say that in five years, taxes increased 47% to dig out of a hole, which was done before 2015, perhaps 2008, 2009, or 2010. Trustee Hagen claimed that there was always zero percent in the budget until about 2015. Trustee Hagen said that he did not feel that we can keep the Village running with all the services, with the contracts (Police and CSEA), and lawsuits, with zero percent tax increase today. "I'm voting NO for the budget."

Trustee Alpert thanked Mayor Curley, Treasurer Genito, and the rest of the Board for working on a budget with a zero percent increase. Trustee Alpert said that he believed the residents are overtaxed to begin with and with zero percent two years in a row is a phenomenal accomplishment. He thanked everyone involved in getting there.

Deputy Mayor Meegan-Corrigan agreed with Trustee Alpert and stated that she shared his sentiment. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan thanked Trustee Alpert for bringing it up.

MAYOR

Mayor Curley said that the budget process has been open to Trustee Hagen for weeks. He had never made one comment to Mayor Curley about the budget. Mr. Hagen has never made one issue about it and never made one suggestion regarding the budget. The budget process was open to the public; the Board held a public hearing. Mayor Curley stated that he received no e-mails from Mr. Hagen. He received not one single notice of anything being wrong with the budget or last year's budget that was also a zero percent tax increase, for which Trustee Hagen voted for. Mr. Hagen has not pointed out one thing wrong with the budget.

Mayor Curley stated that the Village is in good shape. He also put it on the record, and he advised Mr. Hagen before the meeting that the Mayor and the PBA had settled the Police contract. Mayor Curley stated that it was the lowest contract that the PBA has gotten in many years. The Mayor stated that the members of the PBA recognized that we are a municipality, and they were willing to work with us.

All the Board members, Terry Rice, and Mr. Genito were involved in the negotiations with the Police union; that included Mr. Hagen. The details of the PBA contract will be coming out shortly. Even with all these things going on, we can present a zero percent tax increase. The Mayor reiterated that he does not make decisions without input from Mr. Genito, the Village Treasurer.

The Mayor stated that we as a Board were tired of the residents being taxed. He ran for Mayor because of the high tax increases. This Village Board wants to make the Village a better place so people can stay here, live here, and survive here. The Mayor stated that he was tired of everyone stating that they must move out because of the high taxes. This Board can proudly say that we helped them to stay.

The Mayor stated that the Board proudly worked together. He took the advice of our counsel, treasurer, accountants, and our department heads and all worked cohesively. The communication in this Village is better than it has been in many years. The Mayor believes that the Village is in good shape for next year also. He stated that the budget did not contain any of the new fees that were just adopted.

In addition, the Mayor addressed the issue about a department head that was given a raise in salary that was higher than everyone else's. Support personnel should not have salaries the same or near those of the department head, which was the case with this department head. A department head has much more responsibility than his/her support staff, and this particular department head's salary was increased accordingly, and a vacant support staff salary was lowered, making the action budget neutral.

Mayor Curley stated that his door is always open to Mr. Hagen. Mayor Curley noted that he had spoken with Mr. Hagen several times over the past few weeks, asking if Mr. Hagen had any questions, concerns, or issues with the budget, and that on every occasion, Mr. Hagen replied that he had no questions, concerns, or issues with the budget. Mr. Hagen agreed. The Mayor stated that he does not run this Village, the Village Board runs the Village.

The Mayor noted that this budget is a solid, safe budget that brings hope back to the people. The police now patrol the streets on foot. The Village Board has a great relationship with all departments and the Mayor seeks out the advice and opinions of all. Suffern is now a more enjoyable, nicer, safer, and cleaner Village. The Village Board and all Village employees will continue as a team to keep it that way.

The Mayor thanked the department heads and everyone that worked with him on this budget. He thanked the public for having faith in the Village Board. He said that the Village Board will continue to come through for the public. We have a great line of communication with each other, and we will continue to work together.

Mayor Curley closed by stating how proud he is of Suffern. We have a zero percent tax increase and hope is flowing all over this Village.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 P.M. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Respectfully,

Melissa B. Reimer, CPA
Village Clerk