



**VILLAGE OF SUFFERN**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Michael F. Curley, Mayor  
Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Deputy Mayor  
Steven Alpert, Trustee  
Clarke Osborn, Trustee  
Angela Denis-Hogue, 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 7:02 P.M. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for all of our serviceman that passed away recently defending our freedoms.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

A Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.  
A Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** To Approve January 8, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes was moved by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

Mr. Rice explained the reason for the public hearing. He stated that general municipal law requires when purchase or service contracts exceed a certain amount of money, they have to be bid on and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. There is an option to this in which bids can be evaluated under the "Best Value Method." One of the biggest sources for purchasing equipment and various other materials is a company called Sourcewell. Sourcewell is actually a division of the State of Minnesota. Municipalities are allowed to purchase through other bids made by other municipal or State entities, if they comply with the New York State bidding statutes. Sourcewell does not award the lowest responsible bidder, but they evaluate bids based on the Best Value Method. They get good prices because they bid nationally. In order to take advantage of the bids from Sourcewell or any other entity, not at the lowest responsible bidder, but also based on analysis of the various factors that constitute "Best Value," the Village needs to adopt a local law. The Village would have the option of lowest responsible bidder or best value. It opens an array of other sources to make purchases from.

**SET PUBLIC HEARING**

**MOTION** – Set a Public Hearing for Monday, March 4, 2023, at 7:03 P.M. to Consider a local law to amend the Village Code by enacting a new Chapter entitled Procurement: Best Value Bid Awards" was moved by Trustee Alpert, seconded by Trustee Osborne, with all in favor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 013 OF 2024  
ACCEPTING MATTHEW CONDON AS A NEW MEMBER IN HOOK & LADDER,  
CO. 1**

**RESOLVED**, the Village Board of Trustees accepts Matthew Condon as a new member in the Hook & Ladder, Co. 1.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 014 OF 2024  
AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF THE PRELIMINARY SUFFERN FIRE  
DEPARTMENT SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2023**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with New York General Municipal Law Section 217, General Requirements of a Service Award Program, Daniel McInerney, Suffern Fire Department LOSAP Administrator, prepared a preliminary report detailing the service award points earned by the members of the Suffern Fire Department for the year 2023.

**NOW, HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees approves the 2023 Suffern Fire Department Service Award Program preliminary report presented by Mr. McInerney; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Suffern Fire Department LOSAP Administrator to conspicuously post a copy of the preliminary report at each Village of Suffern Firehouse for a period of no less than 30-days commencing March 7, 2024, during which time a firefighter could file a written appeal to the service point information contained in the report to the Fire Department.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 015 OF 2024  
ACCEPTING THE RETIREMENT OF DETECTIVE SGT. CRAIG YUSTEIN**

**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 retirement of Detective Sgt. Craig Yustein with thanks for his service to the Village.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

Mayor Curley thanked Detective Sgt. Yustein for his hard work and doing a great job for the Village.

**RESOLUTION NO. 016 OF 2024  
ACCEPTING \$3,750 FROM THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND (STOP DWI) TO BE  
UTILIZED FOR DWI PATROLS**

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

**WHEREAS**, the County of Rockland has offered to the Village the sum of \$3,750 from the STOP DWI program to be utilized for DWI patrols; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village is desirous of accepting such funding for the foregoing purpose.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that the Village accepts \$3,750 from the County of Rockland (STOP DWI) to be utilized for DWI patrols.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

Trustee Alpert wished Detective Sgt. Yustein much luck.

**RESOLUTION NO. 017 OF 2024  
ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF MICHAEL LOUGHLIN**

**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 Michael Loughlin, Laborer, effective January 22, 2024.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 018 OF 2024  
AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF FORMAL BIDS FOR A NEW FORD F350  
REGULAR CAB 4X4 PICKUP TRUCK WITH AN ATTACHED UTILITY BODY**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that the solicitation of formal bids for a new Ford F350 Regular Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck with an attached utility body is hereby authorized, with bids to be returnable on February 15, 2024, at 2:00 P.M.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 019 OF 2024  
AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF FORMAL BIDS FOR A NEW FORD F600  
REGULAR CAB 4X4 DUMP BODY**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that the solicitation of formal bids for a new Ford F600 Regular cab 4x4 Dump Body is hereby authorized, with bids to be returnable on February 15, 2024, at 2:30 P.M.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 020 OF 2024**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF FORMAL BIDS FOR A NEW MASSEY FERGUSON SUB COMPACT TRACTOR WITH SNOW BLOWER, SNOW BLADE, MOWER DECK, CAB HEATER PACKAGE AND REAR WHEEL WEIGHTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that the solicitation of formal bids for a new Massey Ferguson Sub Compact Tractor with snow blower, snow blade, mower deck, cab heater package and rear wheel weights is hereby authorized, with bids to be returnable on February 15, 2024, at 3:00 P.M.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 021 OF 2024**

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN HOSE & HYDRAULICS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A USED 2012 INTERNATIONAL HEAVY-DUTY TRUCK WITH 13,000 MILES, EQUIPPED WITH A SNOWPLOW ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has completed an inventory of Heavy-Duty Trucks, utilized for snow and ice control; and

**WHEREAS**, he has concluded that the current equipment inventory is insufficient for the 2023/2024 winter season; and

**WHEREAS**, he has concluded that the Department of Public Works cannot adequately clear snow and ice from the streets of the Village without additional equipment, particularly an International Heavy-Duty Truck; and

**WHEREAS**, he has located a used 2012 International Heavy-Duty Truck with 13,000 miles that is for sale for \$113,800; and

**WHEREAS**, he has determined that an emergency exists and that without the purchase of the aforementioned International Heavy-Duty Truck, the Department of Public Works will not be able to adequately clear snow and ice from the streets of the Village; and

**WHEREAS**, he has determined that \$113,800 is a fair and reasonable price for the purchase of the aforementioned truck; and

**WHEREAS**, he has investigated the availability of similar equipment, and none is available for immediate purchase except from American Hose & Hydraulics;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that an emergency exists with respect to plowing snow and ice from the Village streets because of the recent finding that insufficient equipment exists for such purpose; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a contract with American Hose & Hydraulics, 700 21st Avenue, Paterson New Jersey 07513 for the purchase of a used 2012 International Heavy-Duty Truck with a snow plow and other components, in accordance with the proposal dated January 10, 2024, subject to approval by the Village Attorney.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

**RESOLUTION NO. 022 OF 2024  
APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR DPW AND WATER VEHICLES**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Suffern’s credit rating with Moody’s Investors Service (Moody’s) is currently Aa3; and

**WHEREAS** Moody’s available fund balance rating for an Aa rated village is between 25% and 35% of revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Public Works has advised the Village Board that a heavy-duty truck with snowplow is needed on an emergency basis to provide for safe travel using Village roads during the 2023-2024 winter season; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Public Works has advised the Village Board that a heavy-duty dump truck and a sub-compact tractor are needed maintenance of streets and sidewalks; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost of the heavy-duty truck with snowplow, the heavy-duty dump truck, and the sub-compact tractor (“DPW Vehicles”) will not exceed \$240,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village’s General Fund available fund balance will remain above 35% of revenues if \$240,000 or less of General Fund available (unassigned) fund balance is appropriated and transferred to the Capital Projects Fund to finance the purchase of the DPW Vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Public Works has advised the Village Board that a heavy-duty pickup truck (“Water Department Vehicle”) is needed for operations and maintenance of the Village’s water system; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost of the Water Department Vehicle will not exceed \$65,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Fund Contingent Account currently has an available balance of \$200,000.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees authorizes the appropriation and transfer of available (unassigned) fund balance in the amount of \$240,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to finance the purchase of the DPW Vehicles; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees authorizes the transfer of \$65,000 from the Water Fund Contingent Account to the Capital Projects Fund to finance the purchase of the Water Department Vehicle; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Project 2024-007 DPW Vehicles is established to account for the revenues and expenditures associated with the purchases of the DPW Vehicles and Water Department Vehicle.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

**GRANTS**

Mr. Fred Rella reminded the Board that they passed a resolution the previous month for a grant from Firehouse Subs to benefit first responders. He worked with the Fire Chief and the Treasurer to apply for multiband radios. These will help with mutual aid situations. Four radios are \$23 thousand. We will find out within two months if we have been chosen to be the recipient of the grant.

For this grant, you must be one of the first 600 applicants to submit. It opens at a certain time, and you must submit quickly. The Village submitted the application within the first two hours, and we were within the first 600 applications.

Trustee Meegan-Corrigan thanked Mr. Rella.

Mr. Rella stated that he is working on other Fire Department grants.

Mr. Rella spoke of two items regarding the Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG), they are working on the 2024 application for paving West Maple Avenue from Ramapo Avenue to Meadow Avenue. Mr. Rella submitted the letter of intent to the County of Rockland, and they will make their determination. Another CDGB project is Ed Fagen Drive (roadway leads down to the Ballfield). That is a \$150 thousand project. We were awarded \$140 thousand from Rockland County, and we will have to contribute \$10 thousand.

The Water Resource Development Act funding request, through Congressman Lawler, a study will be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. The study, not the actual work, will be on the water flooding of Ramapo and Mahwah Rivers.

Mr. Rella is working on a grant for digitizing birth and death records from the year 1896 through 1975. This is the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund grant.

The Board thanked Mr. Rella and the Mayor stated that Congressman Lawler’s office called Mayor Curley regarding the grant. Mayor Curley said that there has been flooding in the Village for many, many years. It is tied in with Mahwah (Franklin Tpke.) and many streets in Suffern. In speaking with Congressman Lawler, there is multi-million-dollar grant in which they do a study and then the work. It is not something that happens quickly, but it has been a major concern for many people for many years.

This flooding issue starts in Haverstraw. When the Ramapo and Mahwah Rivers meet, on the Jersey side, it backs-up and that is what causes all the flooding even into our ballfields and everywhere. The Congressman’s office reached out to the Mayor and then the Mayor reached out to Mr. Rella. Mayor Curley thanked Mr. Rella.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief Kaufer presented the Board resolutions. Mayor Curley and the Board thanked him and the Fire Department. Mayor Curley said that he saw them cutting into the ice on Lake Antrim practicing water rescues. He said it was very impressive. Fire Chief Kaufer explained that they had ice in the lake to practice with.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Loughlin presented the Police Department statistics for the month of January 2024.

### **RECREATION**

Ms. Cathy Mills reported the following:

- **DARE Dance** – Friday, February 9th – 7PM – 9PM – Community Center

Mayor Curley confirmed with Ms. Mills that this is indeed a Village event.

- **Valentines Luncheon for Seniors** – Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> – 12 Noon - 2PM  
Community Center

Mayor Curley confirmed with Ms. Mills that this is also a Village event.

- **Care about the Strays Fundraiser** – Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – 12 Noon – 3PM –  
Community Center

Mayor Curley stated that “Care about the Strays” is a private foundation that is renting the Village facility. That it is not part of the Village.

The Mayor and Board thanked Cathy Mills.

### **Village of Suffern Events for March – October 2024**

March 2 (Saturday) – Scouts Pack 23 – Pinewood Derby – Community Center  
 March 8 (Friday) – DARE Dance – Community Center  
 March 23 (Saturday) – Easter Egg Hunt 11 am (lawn if nice weather – indoors if not)  
 April 4 (Thursday) – Kidz Zone – (Lawn if nice weather – indoors if not)  
 April 5 (Friday) – Movie and Pizza in Center -1pm  
 April 21 (Sunda) Suffern Street Fair – Lafayette Avenue  
 April 27 (Saturday) – Keep Rockland Beautiful & Arbor Day (Rain Date – Sunday, April 28)  
 May 10 (Friday) – Lifeline Screening – Community Center  
 May 27 (Monday) – Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony  
 June 3, 10, 17, 24 (Mondays in June) – Yoga in the Park  
 June 15 (Saturday) – Fishing Derby – Foxwood Pond  
 June 29 (Saturday) – Sept. 2 (Monday) - Pool Open for the season  
 July 1 (Monday) Swim Lessons Begin  
 July 14 (Sunday) -Family Day at the Pool  
 Movies in the Park – Dates, movies TBD  
 Clifford Theater - Practices start July 8, Performances – August 2, 3  
 Summer concerts – Two Fridays in June – (June 7 & 28) & Three Thursdays in July – (July 11, 18, 25) 7pm at the Gazebo  
 August 22 (Thursday) – Senior Picnic – Community Center  
 Sept. 7 (Saturday) – Mayor’s Family Fun Day at the Pool  
 Sept. 11 (Wednesday) – 9-11 Ceremony – 7pm  
 Sept. 15 (Sunday) Suffern Street Fair – Lafayette Avenue  
 Sept. 28 (Saturday) – Suffern Day  
 Oct. 19 (Saturday) – Halloween Window Painting – Village Shops

### **PUBLIC COMMENT (limited to 4 minutes per speaker)**

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

Jim Giannettino, 2 Memorial Drive – he asked what prompted the removal of the signs at the Cucolo Little League field. “What triggered that?”

Mayor Curley answered that the law did.

Mr. Giannettino asked, “What law and when was it passed?”

Mayor Curley told him that it has been in existence for many years. He then said that there was literature about the law and was sure that Mr. Giannettino had seen it.

Mr. Giannettino said that he had not seen it.

Mayor Curley then said that he had given a copy of the law to each of Mr. Giannettino's sons. He told Mr. Giannettino that it was given to Little League and several people.

Mr. Giannettino stated that he was under the impression that Little League was going to be charged for the use of the fields.

Mayor Curley stated that by law, the Village must charge any outside entity to use our facilities.

Mr. Giannettino stated that Little League has been in existence for a very long time. They never paid for the use of the fields. He does not know why, but they never have. No one knew about this law. "Who dug this law up? Someone had to go looking for it. This law has been in existence for over 50 years. Right?"

Mayor Curley stated that Mr. Giannettino did in fact know about the law.

Mr. Giannettino answered that no, I know when it was supposedly done, but he did not know what the law says or why it was being enforced 50 years later.

Mayor Curley stated that they recently became aware of law and the Board has an obligation to follow the law...

Mr. Giannettino interrupted and said, "You can amend the law."

Mayor Curley continued that Little League showed the law to their counsel and their counsel agreed with us.

Again, Mr. Giannettino interrupted and stated that the Village can amend, delete or pass a different law. He said, "You are the governing body of the Village."

Mayor Curley answered that this is not a Village law.

Mr. Rice stated that this is the opinion of the Attorney General and the Comptroller's Office are quite clear. A municipality cannot finance the Little League. A municipality cannot use taxpayer money to aid a private person or private entity. It is very clear that a municipality cannot expend money to finance the operations of a little league program. This goes back to the proposition that it would be using taxpayer money for a private purpose.

Mr. Giannettino asked, "Who found this law and why did it come up?"

Mayor Curley answered that a resident wanted to use the fields last year and he asked Mr. Rice to research who the Village must grant access to the fields. The Mayor stated that he did it to protect us not to hurt us. Everyone must be given the same exact rights as everyone else.

The Village met with Little League last week. Little League gave the paperwork to their attorney, Richard Ellsworth. Mr. Ellsworth agreed with the law.



Mr. Giannettino repeatedly said, “Ok.”

Mayor Curley went on to say that he asked Little League when they need the fields. Another person can come in and say, “I want the field on that day.” Little League has given all the dates that they want to use the fields. The Village is figuring out how to apply charges for the use of those fields.

Mayor Curley explained that Little League is a private organization that pays out about \$10 million, not to their volunteers in Suffern, in salaries and benefits. They also spend money to promote Little League overseas.

As another point, there were about 297 children registered for Suffern Little League. Of that only 120 lived in the Village of Suffern and 177 did not. Ramapo Little League has folded, and Tuxedo Little League has folded. Every bit of burden has been put on the Village of Suffern.

There was a study done by Suffern, in 2018, that showed that the cost of Little League to the Village residents was approximately \$118 thousand a year. That is even when they thought the lights and things were worth so much.

Mr. Giannettino asked, “Is it the worth or the cost?”

Mayor Curley answered that it was the work and the costs together.

Mr. Giannettino said that the “worth” was paid for, every one of those fields (Cucolo, Vilardi, Horton, Crotty), the Suffern Little League paid for those lights.

Mayor Curley stated that he was referring to the costs now – what we know. He stated that to protect Little League, if he were to give the fields for free, he would have to give the fields to everyone for free as well. Whomever came to the Village first would get the fields.

Mayor Curley asked why is it that an 85-year-old woman from Stone Gate who cannot afford her medicine, cannot afford all her bills, he stated that this is his opinion, and she would have to pay for someone from Tuxedo Park? The Mayor stated that he doesn’t agree with that. He believes that Suffern should be taken care of, but not non-residents of the Village.

The signs, by law, he stated, had to be taken off the fencing. Mayor Curley stated, “I don’t hide from any subject. I will say it all.” Signage is not allowed to be placed by a Little League team nor is the Board allowed to lease out the fencing to Little League to advertise on. The Mayor stated that when he spoke to Jim Hart from Little League, he said that the signs were a mess. He wanted to take them down, but he did not have time. The signs were from the A&P (a supermarket that was closed years prior) and things that have not existed in years.

He stated that the Little League is an outside organization. The Mayor said that he played in Little League and that he understands that there are always people watching what he does and what moves he makes. He said that he is making the right move to protect the Board legally, protect the Village legally, protect the taxpayers legally, and protect Little League legally. Everyone may not agree or like it, but unfortunately these are the times we are in and that is what the law says.

Mayor Curley said that he met with the President of Little League, Jim Hart, and another Board member Ben Naylor. Charles Sawicki was present at that meeting, and he is calculating the facility amounts. No one, he stated, is looking to put Little League out of business. The Mayor stated that he does not want to end up with a taxpayer lawsuit and that is what he would end up with.

Under the law, if the Village of Suffern was part of the Little League or ran the Little League, then yes, we could give it money. It is not; it is a separate organization. They are not part of Suffern....

Mr. Giannettino interrupted and said, "You could co-sponsor it."

Mayor Curley said that he asked last year of Little League to meet with him before they started so we could figure out something. They put out their registrations without discussing anything with me. It appears that Little League International does not like it when you team up with municipalities.

Mr. Giannettino interrupted and said, "Mike, I gave you a suggestion two years ago." He said it was about non-residents playing in the league... Mayor Curley asked, "What are you talking about?" Giannettino said that they spoke about the non-resident players. The Mayor stated that he just said the same thing that he said now about the 85-year-old woman. Mr. Giannettino said that the Mayor should go to the other mayors or other entity that have players in this league and solicit contributions to cover your costs.

Giannettino said that when he was President, he received contributions from these other Villages.

Mayor Curley said that he did not know if he did or did not. The Mayor told Mr. Giannettino that the Village was told by people in Little League and Football that they were told by the Mayor of Sloatsburg that it was illegal. "Reading the law," he stated, "they are right...it is illegal."

Giannettino said, "It's illegal if you charge them extra, but if their municipalities donate the funds, you are not charging them." The Mayor started to speak, and he interrupted with, "I think you should speak to your fellow Mayors and Boards. That would solve the problem. He asked if Little League got credit for money spent on lighting, fixing fields, and building Horton Field.

The Mayor told Mr. Giannettino that the Village has paid millions of dollars for Little League. It's about \$120 thousand for 20 years that the Village has paid. Presently, it costs the Village \$150 thousand for Little League. No one is expecting anyone to pay for that. The Village must cover itself legally, so we are not sued.

Mr. Giannettino wanted the Little League to get credit for purchases that they had made over the years. The Mayor said that they are finding a way. The Mayor said that he is negotiating with Little League and has an obligation to them.

The Mayor asked Mr. Giannettino to read the law. Mr. Giannettino said that he believes that it is unfair that they will be charged for something they built.

## Michael Curley

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**From:** Terry Rice  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 10:00 AM  
**To:** Michael Curley

The following are principles municipalities are required to follow by law with respect to outside organizations.

A town may not expend moneys, through its recreation commission, to finance the operations of the Little League Baseball program in the town, or to defray expenses of a basketball tournament sponsored by the C.Y.O. of another municipality, in which teams from the town participate, or to purchase prizes for a bowling league for youths in the town, sponsored by interested individuals. 14 Op.State Compt. 148, 1958.

A town may not expend moneys, through its recreation commission, to finance the operations of the Little League Baseball program in the town, or to defray expenses of the basketball tournament sponsored by the C.Y.O. of another municipality, in which teams from the town participate, or to purchase prizes for a bowling league for youths in the town, sponsored by interested individuals. 14 Op.State Compt. 148, 1958.

A village may not permit a little league to sell and place advertising on the outfield fence of the village ball park, nor may the village lease the fence to the little league for that purpose. Op.State Compt. 78-728.

A village may not sponsor little league baseball, Pop Warner football or Pee Wee hockey. Op.State Compt. 71-115.

A municipality may contribute funds to a Little League Baseball affiliated organization pursuant to an agreement whereby the organization is to run a portion of the municipal recreation program under the supervision and control of the municipality. The program must be a legitimate one instituted for the benefit of a municipality's residents and not a device to channel public money to a private organization. The determination as to whether a League affiliated organization could enter into such an agreement is one best made by the officials of Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

Opns St Comp, 1982 No. 82-225 (N.Y.St.Cptr.), 1982 WL 20324, 1982 WL 20324, at \*1

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Depew is prohibited from donating a sum of money to a Little League organization to help defray its expenses in conducting Little League baseball and football programs.

1968 N.Y. Op. Att'y Gen. No. 54, 1968 WL 162774, at \*1 (N.Y.A.G. Mar. 15, 1968)

Michael Tribunella, 2 Beechwood Road – Regarding the Little League and a lot of families have a problem with this. Mr. Tribunella said that he was a coach and a volunteer. He said that he has devoted many hours and days to this. He was concerned that the Village had not come to a price for the fields and Little League would start soon. He stated that there are ways around the law. He said, “The building is locked, the concession stands, all the stuff that Little League did in Little League Suffern people, volunteers, non-stop. It is a Suffern thing. Something else, our fields are the worst I’ve played in every other town has a better field than we do. It doesn’t smell like a sewer, doesn’t flood all the time, there are no scoreboards anywhere, when we go away – everyone has much better fields. So, it can’t be either if they’re going to pay rent then you need to elevate your game and make it fields worthy of – just like every other town.” He stated that he knows that the Board is trying to protect the “Town” and that there is animosity between the League and the Board. He said, “Or egos or whatever. This needs to stop. We need to go forward. All the stuff that has been said. There is a lot of stuff going out. There are a lot of rumors. We don’t know what is true and what is not...but this needs to stop, and we need to move forward.” He claimed that the children come to Suffern from other places and spend money in Suffern. He told the Board that he did not like the money from the Curley Cup going to the pool furniture. It should have gone back into Little League, because they buy uniforms and a lot of stuff. He mentioned something about changing the name because that was a tribute too. He said, “We need to start focusing on our kids. We pay enough taxes here. We pay...we need to get something out of it besides the basics. Thank you.”

Mayor Curley responded to Mr. Tribunella and said that the Village is moving along with Little League. He stated that we sat down with them. We asked for more information, which Little League just gave today. These were costs that they incurred, and they gave that information to Charles Sawicki. He told Mr. Tribunella that it was a very productive meeting and if he had seen with e-mails after, he would realize that.

Mr. Tribunella interrupted and said, “We need to move forward. No, that’s great.”

The Mayor continued by stating that the tournament came about because the Village met with Little League last year and Mayor Curley said to them, “Being that there are so many from outside of Suffern, is there something you can do for inside Suffern?” Jim Hart had offered the Village money, and the Mayor did not want to take it. Someone in the room, at the time, said, “Why don’t you do a tournament?” They said, “Okay, we will do a tournament for you.” The Mayor said it went back to Little League and some on the board voted against doing a tournament for the Village of Suffern. The Mayor told him that Suffern spends a lot of money on Little League. He did not believe that it is so unreasonable to have a tournament because there are so many people from outside of the Village of Suffern.

Mr. Tribunella interrupted and stated that it was bad optics. The intent might be good, you could be 100% right, but it looks bad.

Mayor Curley answered that he wasn’t worried about that. In his mind, he loves Little League, but he must protect us in many ways. “You say optics? People changed it around, like people, ‘Oh, you stole,’ How did I steal your money? That was a deal we cut. A fair deal we did because I didn’t want to take Little League’s money.” He said that he was attacked.

Mayor Curley asked Mr. Tribunella if he knew that people from Nanuet and Tuxedo Park played in Suffern Little League. Mr. Tribunella agreed and said that they spend money here too. Mayor Curley said that Mr. Tribunella mentioned the Town, but we are a Village. Everyone, he said, has abandoned the Village with Little League. All the costs have hit the Village of Suffern's taxpayers. Mayor Curley said that he needed a solution where he was legally covered and smartly covered and not hurt Little League.

Mr. Tribunella said that he agreed with that and asked if we could move forward. Mayor Curley said that there is no animosity on the Village's part and that the Village is already doing that. The Village and Little League had a great meeting.

Mr. Tribunella said that this was never addressed and the "Rumors are flying everywhere." That is why he was here to speak to the Board. The Mayor said that he understood. Mayor Curley said that he was not sure if anyone had spoken to Jim Hart in the last few days. We had a very good meeting with him and Ben Naylor, the representatives of Little League. We asked for costs, and we must protect Suffern from multiple lawsuits and that is what I will do.

Mayor Curley promised everyone a copy of the law before everyone left. He said that you cannot always make everyone happy. He is trying to work around it.

Mr. Tribunella said that it is mostly Suffern kids. He suggested setting a price, but also making a better product, because the product is not good. The fields are not good. As soon as it rains there are problems.

Mayor Curley said there were problems before he was mayor. There were fights between Little League and the CSEA Union in Suffern. He said that he had the CSEA and Little League sit, and the union made a concession that after 2:30 p.m. Little League can work on the fields themselves.

Mayor Curley said that Peter Crotty told him that the signs on the fields used to get \$400 to create the sign and then \$250 per year. He said that no one has been keeping track of it or collecting the signs for years.

Mr. Tribunella said, "As long as we move forward, I appreciate it."

Mayor Curley again stated that he is protecting Little League, the Village, but if people want to have battles in their minds, there is nothing he can do.

Mr. Tribunella said, "No, we are trying to protect the kids and the kids to have something. That is our number one concern. Thank you."

Mayor Curley stated that he is protecting the kids.

Trustee Osborn thanked Mr. Tribunella.

Jared Rudnick, 8 Washington Circle – started to speak before he came to the podium. He said that he believes that under Village law, the mayor cannot negotiate, it is a right given to the Village Board as a whole.

Mayor Curley answered and said that the Board votes for it as a whole, but he can deal directly with Little League.

Mr. Rudnick interrupted and said, “No, sir, I believe they would have to appoint a committee.”

Terry Rice answered, “No, that is not correct.”

Mr. Rudnick said, “I will respectfully disagree.”

Mr. Rice answered, “Well, I been doing this for a few years. I can tell you the Mayor has...”

Mr. Rudnick interrupted and said, “I learned how to read many years ago.”

Mr. Rice said that was good, but as a matter of law the mayor is the executive officer, and he has the ability to negotiate, and the Board is the one that approves any agreement he enters into.

Mr. Rudnick said, “If you say so.” He wanted to know if the trustees had anything to say on the matter.

Trustee Osborn answered that the Mayor is correct, and we must protect the Village. No one is looking to hurt Little League and he has heard the rumors from a certain little group. The rumors, he stated that, are starting from within. Jim Hart and Ben Naylor had a great meeting, and we are all working it out.

Mr. Rudnick said, “Clarke, if you say you are going to protect the kids in Little League, I don’t even have a kid playing, but I am still on the Board because I love the sport and I love the kids. If you say you are going to protect the kids, I trust you.”

Trustee Osborn thanked Mr. Rudnick. He told Mr. Rudnick that there is legality, and we are trying to protect us. The Mayor has been keeping us informed, but we will all vote when the time comes.

Therese Delalla, 13 Stockbridge Avenue - agreed that she trusts Trustee Osborn. Wanted to know the name of the law and why it was ignored for 50 years.

Mayor Curley responded that there are other people that want to use the Village’s fields.

Ms. Delalla asked who it was that wanted to use the fields. Mayor Curley answered that it was newer residents. She asked if they are willing to pay for the fields. The Mayor answered that they will have to pay for the fields. She then said that if you gave it to Little League for free, you would have to give it to these people for free. The Mayor said that this is what we must do.

She asked if the law came up because of the other group having interest in the fields. The Mayor said that it was probably the Village had to research what our rights were not to give any of our

facilities away. For instance, he said, we had the Dare Dance - which is a Village event or the Valentine's Day Senior Dance also a Village event. Since these are run by the Village, we can put money into them. The Stray Cat event is not run by the Village and therefore Village money cannot go into the event. They must pay us, because we cannot give "a gift of taxpayer funds."

Ms. Delalla was worried about the increase in fees for Little League. The Mayor assured Ms. Delalla that he was doing everything he could to protect Little League and keep the fees manageable.

Ms. Delalla told Mayor Curley that she has supported him as mayor and sang his praises. She said that she believes that Mayor Curley has the best intentions for Suffern. She said that he is showing it in some ways and not in others. Mayor Curley said that his focus is the Village and he said that it is a different issue that people are not used to.

Mayor Curley told Ms. Delalla that he was coming out of a meeting at 12 noon one day and he had e-mails, faxes, and phone messages regarding a crossing guard being posted outside Connor School. He did not know where this came from, but supposedly a parent was concerned – something happened with their child almost getting hit by a car. He found out that people were being told to "Call the Mayor." He said that he had to make a choice about posting a crossing guard at Connor School. Suffern only has one official school like this.

He thought that he would get the school district to pay the Village for the crossing guard, he would implement it. If he put a crossing guard at this school, how many other private schools (no matter the size) in Suffern would want crossing guards? He said that he could have been stuck with 50-100 crossing guards that the Village taxpayers were paying for. He said that it sounds like an easy choice to make, but it is not an easy choice.

He choose against the crossing guard. He stood there himself and watched the traffic. He installed a stop sign, changed the traffic law to not allow left turns, and painted lines on the road. This is the same thing. We are making a decision that is not a popular decision, but it is the right decision for the Village of Suffern.

He explained how he tried to raise the money last year and how he was "berated" for doing the tournament. The Mayor is trying to cover the Village from giving away the assets of the Village. He explained that he must be very careful.

Ms. Delalla asked the Mayor about him saying about the 85-year-old woman paying for Suffern Little League...the Mayor interrupted her and said that he never said paying for Suffern Little League, but he actually said, "paying for someone who lives in Tuxedo Park." Every other Town in Rockland County has Little League. Here it is the Village of Suffern that is running Little League. The Village is not the Town.

Ms. Delalla said that she would like to abandon Suffern. She is fighting the School Board closing a school. She is now fighting for Suffern Little League. She said that it will drive people out of Suffern. Mayor Curley said that he is doing it so that people are NOT driven out. He is doing it to protect Suffern. Ms. Delalla was under the false impression that her fees were going to go up from Little League and the Mayor was explaining that to her. She asked how will Little League come up with money if they don't raise fees. The Mayor said that he did not look at their

books. She also said that Little League is a part of Suffern, but they are not. They just play in Suffern. The Mayor explained that if Little League was a part of Suffern Recreation, then the Village would not have to charge anything. Ms. Delalla asked, "What would have to be done in order for them to be considered a part of Suffern?" Mr. Rice stated that it was one of the opinions. Mr. Rice read one of the Comptroller's opinions, "A municipality may contribute funds to a Little League baseball affiliated organization pursuant to an agreement whereby the organization is to run a portion of the municipal recreation program under the supervision and control of the municipality. The program must be a legitimate one instituted for the benefit of a municipality's residents and not a device to channel public money to a private organization. Determination as to whether a league affiliate organization could enter into an agreement as one best made by the officials of Little League Baseball Incorporated."

Ms. Delalla asked for that to be explained in layman's terms. Mayor Curley explained that if Little League was part of the Village Recreation program, then the Village could give money. We could give the fields without any payment. Little League is not a part of the Recreation program. There would have to be an agreement between Little League and the Village. The Mayor was waiting for Little League to do that, but Little League went ahead and put up their charges on their website without being in partnership with the Village. Mayor Curley said that everyone said, "Find an out!" He said that he found an out, but Little League went their own way. The Village had meetings and we will give out the law.

Ms. Delalla said that she is happy to pay Village taxes for Senior events. She was happy to pay School taxes before she had children. Mayor Curley said, right but those taxes were for people who lived in the Village or the school district in which you lived. Those taxes should not be paid for people who live in Tuxedo Park. Ms. Delalla asked, "then why do we let people from Tuxedo Park or Nanuet play in Suffern Little League?" Mayor Curley said that those are Little League's rules. Not SUFFERN Little League, but Little League. Little League is a separate organization, nothing to do with Suffern. It is their rules and they let people from Nanuet and Tuxedo in. Mayor Curley said that more than 60% of the kids from Suffern Little League are not from the Village of Suffern.

Trustee Alpert added, "What were the numbers again, Mayor? I think it would be good to repeat them."

Ms. Delalla said that yes, it would be nice to know them.

Mayor Curley said, "There were 297 kids in Suffern Little League. About 120 were from the Village of Suffern; 177 were from outside the Village of Suffern. One or two from Nanuet, Chestnut Ridge, Sloatsburg...

Someone was shouting from the audience....

Trustee Alpert added, "Why should Suffern residents be subsidizing people who live in other communities? ....the majority of the people playing in Suffern Little League are not even from the Village of Suffern. The Mayor is trying to protect the residents so that we're not paying taxes for services going to other people."



Ms. Delalla started to compare school taxes with Village taxes. The Mayor explained that the Athletic Director of the School District called him. If you don't have 85% of the children playing that are members of the school district, then you cannot use the fields. Mayor Curley said that he is not looking to do that. He just wanted to protect Suffern, Little League and they have an obligation about what they legally must do. People must recognize that the Village of Suffern has taken on the complete burden because everyone else has abandoned Little League.

Little League had approached the Village of Sloatsburg for money. The Sloatsburg mayor said that it was illegal for them to give money. He was right. It is illegal; it is a separate organization. The Mayor said that we cannot tell Little League to charge someone from Nanuet more. We have zero say over Little League.

Mayor Curley read more of the law into the record.

Ms. Delalla said that she doesn't believe that Little League makes any money.

The Mayor said that he did not know Little Leagues financial position. He told Ms. Delalla that the only place that does not charge for field use is Suffern. Sloatsburg, Ramapo, Orangetown, Stony Point, everyone charges.

Ms. Delalla thanked the Board for listening.

Trustee Osborn said that he is sure that Mayor Curley will work it out and the Board has confidence in him.

Joe Delalla, 13 Stockbridge Avenue - said that he would have different expectations now that they would be paying for the fields. Will there still be a drainage issue? Will you supply new equipment for the snack shop, or will they have to chip in again for that?

Mayor Curley said that these are things that we still have to discuss with Little League.

Trustee Meegan-Corrigan asked Mayor Curley to ask Little League to update this group as to where we are so far, because they are not in the loop. The Mayor agreed and spoke to the group. Mayor Curley said that he was not sure if Little League updated them. The meetings were very productive.

Sara Horn, 23 Yorkshire Drive – asked what it would take to have Little League be part of Suffern Recreation. Mayor Curley said that all they had to do was sit down and talk to us. There are also legal questions involved. They probably need to get Little League International to approve. The Mayor said that he doesn't know if it stops you from being in tournaments, he did not know enough about it. The Village was not against it, but there would need to be a contract.

Ms. Horn lives at 23 Yorkshire Drive and has called the DPW regarding 19 Yorkshire Drive. They have severe drainage problems. She would like to know what is being done to that house. The property has a huge amount of runoff. It causes a huge ice dam in front of her and her neighbor's house. She said that the neighbors at 19 can control what happens. They say that they can turn it on or off. There must be a law or something in the code to help. Charles Sawicki will address this.

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

Charles Sawicki – addressed Ms. Horn’s concern. He physically went to 19 Yorkshire Drive with the Building Inspector. Received a phone complaint from 23 Yorkshire Drive and a letter from 21 Yorkshire Drive. They knocked on their door with no response, initially. Since he was with the Building Inspector, they are allowed on the property. They looked around and then went to 21. No one at 21 Yorkshire was home.

There seems to be a lot of ground water in that area. There is an underground spring. The gentleman from 19 came to the door. We walked the property. He has a sump pump in his basement. They had an issue a couple of years ago where they cited him with the same problem. He did address certain issues. He doubled the size of the sump pit in his basement. He did some other piping modifications. The Village took a “wait and see” approach since he did make some improvements. Obviously, that continues to be problems and concerns of the neighbors. Most recently, he directed the sump pump further up into his yard. Mr. Sawicki said that they discussed various options and come springtime, he will explore putting in a dry well. 19 is higher than 21 and 21 is higher than 23. You will have some amount of sheet flow that is going to come down during a rain event. He will need to address the sump water because it cannot affect the neighbors.

Ms. Horn was shouting from the audience.

Trustee Alpert asked if 19 Yorkshire Drive can he drain into the sanitary sewer or the catch basin?

No.

Trustee Alpert asked if 19 Yorkshire Drive can he drain into a slop sink?

No. We have a flooding problem here in Suffern.

Mayor Curley said that if the owner of 19 Yorkshire is working with you, great. If not, work with Terry. There must be something legally in the code that we can force him to do.

## **TRUSTEES**

Trustee Alpert wished Detective Sgt. Craig Yustein the best of luck in his retirement. He questioned the Maplewood Blvd. guardrail and the trees. Sometime next month.

Woman from audience talking to the Mayor. Mayor answering.

Trustee Alpert asked when the guardrail is going to be fixed on Maplewood Blvd. Mayor Curley said that we went out for bid, and it will be reinforced better than before. The Village received the funds from the insurance company to replace the trees as well. We will do more patrols and maybe people will slow down.

Trustee Alpert asked if a speed detector could be placed there. Mayor Curley asked the Chief to place one there. Chief Loughlin said that he would.

### **MAYOR**

Mayor Curley told everyone to get ready for the Valentine's Day Dance on February 14<sup>th</sup>. He pointed out that it is Black History Month and thanked the African Americans who gave so much to this Country and our community to make it a better place to live.

**MOTION** – To approve Not Just Battery Saturday for March 9, 2024, Located at Village Hall, from 10 A.M. until 1 P.M. was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Curley announced that there will be further resolutions passed and votes could be cast after the executive session.

### **MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR A PERSONNEL AND LITIGATION MATTERS**

A motion to enter executive session at 8:22 P.M., for personnel matters was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

A motion to close the executive session at 9:23P.M. was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Chief Loughlin was called to the podium:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 023 OF 2024 AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF CRAIG YUSTEIN TO THE POSITION OF POLICE OFFICER PART TIME**

**RESOLVED**, Mayor Michael F. Curley and the Board of Trustees hereby appoints Craig Yustein, to the position of Police Officer Part Time, at a rate of \$32.00 per hour.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

### **RESOLUTION NO. 024 OF 2024 AUTHORIZING THE NOMINATION OF MATTHEW CZEREPAK TO THE POSITION OF POLICE OFFICER PART-TIME**

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees hereby nominates Matthew Czerepak to the position of Police Officer Part-Time, pending final certification of qualifications by Rockland County Personnel.

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

**Adopted:** February 5, 2024

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 P.M. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Respectfully,

Melissa B. Reimer, CPA  
Village Clerk