



**Village of Suffern
Village Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 6, 2020 7:00 p.m.**

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the regular meeting of the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees was held Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by Teleconference

Present: Edward Markunas, Mayor
 Steven Alpert, Trustee
 Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Trustee
 Charles Barone, Trustee
 Paul Girard, Trustee
 Amy Paffenroth, Village Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Markunas called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

The Workshop Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. is cancelled. A Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees will be Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING STATEMENT BY MAYOR MARKUNAS:

As of today, we have not encountered any violations of Governor Cuomo's Executive Orders regarding large gatherings or the closure of non-essential businesses. Physical and social distancing measures, along with stay at home procedures, have been followed by our residents. Due to this cooperation, we are not aware of any COVID related health emergency cases in our Village. The Village's staff along with our Police Department, Volunteer Fire Fighters, and are Department of Public Works Professionals are working hard to keep our Village safe, clean, and healthy. The Volunteer efforts of Suffern residents has been outstanding. Additional volunteers will be needed to serve in support of friends and neighbors assisting our Village, County, State, and Country in varied ways. As our region begins to experience the full impact of COVID 19, with Community as our Foundation, we will get through this crisis together. I thank all of you who have stepped up to help during these trying times. The Village's volunteer list continues to grow, and opportunities abound for those who can help using the wonderful skills each of us possess. I wish all of you a healthy and safe weekend, and I want you to know that the Village's Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, the Department of Public Works and the Village Staff are working every day for the residents of the Village of Suffern.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

The Department of Public Works Department consists of Water, Wastewater Treatment, and Street and Refuse. As always, but particularly during this health emergency, the Public Works Department and its CSEA employees are essential to the Village of Suffern and the State of New York. Our employees come to work each day and are on the front line of this pandemic in many, but often unnoticed, ways. The Water Department monitors and maintains our water's input resources and water purity throughout our Village. Wastewater Treatment employees maximize the water treatment process so that water released back into our environment continues to be safe for our residents, the States of New York and the residents of New Jersey. Street and Refuse department are seen by our residents daily maintaining our community's infrastructure, keeping our village clean and sanitary, and making sure roads and parks are maintained. The impact that the health emergency has had on our workers must be recognized. We thank the Department of Public Works, under the supervision of Joe Hunt, CSEA President for the vital services that they provide to our residents especially during times of emergency such as the COVID 19 Pandemic.

POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

The coronavirus pandemic is presenting unprecedented challenges for Police Department and our volunteer firefighters. Our first responders have continue to fight to stay healthy while serving our community. The men and women of our Police Department and Volunteer Suffern Fire Department daily serve our residents; and as a Village, we are very proud of them for taking care of our community. The Police Department and the Fire department has worked closely with the Mayor regarding providing first responders with personal protection equipment and to make sure our police cars and fire trucks are sanitary and safe as they service our community during the COVID Emergency. Rest assured that the Police Department Fire Department will continue to respond to all emergencies as normal. We have taken an oath to protect the people within our Village and that has not changed. In order to help prevent the spread of any illness, we ask that when you call 9-1-1 or the Suffern Police Department for an emergency that you alert the dispatcher if anyone is currently ill or recovering from the novel corona virus. Furthermore, the first arriving units on scene will ask questions again to ensure that we limit risk of exposure and spread. We ask that you do not be offended by the questions as we are not trying to be rude, but just attempting to do our job properly. We as a department have taken steps internally to ensure that we provide the best service to you all. With all of us working together we can overcome this virus and help keep our great Village protected. We pray for everyone's good health and look forward to serving your needs now and for the days to come.

PUBLIC HEARING – TO CONSIDER THE 2020-2021 TENTATIVE BUDGET

A Public Hearing to consider the 2020-2021 Tentative Budget scheduled began at 7:10 p.m. A motion to open the public hearing was made by Charles Barone, seconded by Steve Alpert, and passed unanimously by the Board. Follow discussion by the Board, a motion to continue the

public hearing on April 14, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. was made by Paul Girard, seconded by Jo Meegan-Corrigan, and passed unanimously by the Board. Residents were advised that comments submitted to the Treasurer will be read into the Minutes during the continuation of the public hearing on April 14, 2020

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY CONSENT:

A motion to approve the foregoing resolutions (Resolutions 71 through 76) by consent was made by Trustee Charles Barone, seconded by Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan. Mayor Edward Markunas, and Trustees Steven Alpert, Charles Barone, and Jo Meegan-Corrigan voted YES to approve the resolutions. Trustees Paul Girard voted NO to approve the resolutions the consent.

RESOLUTION NO. 71 OF 2020 - ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY TO SUPPORT THEIR NEEDS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rockland county is suffering from a rate of infection higher than most of New York State. In these trying times, it is the duty of the County Executive and the Rockland County Legislature to do all that is within their power to help the residents of the County. Despite social distancing occurring in our communities, the occurrence of the infections continues to increase at an alarming rate, endangering residents and causing the need for additional hospital and medical resources. Local hospitals are expected to exceed their operational capacity in terms of caring for persons infected with COVID-19. The State of New York has advised residents that the State has on hand medical supplies to address this crisis and that the Governor has the legal authority, resources, and power to increase hospital capacity by establishing overflow facilities in the event area hospitals are overwhelmed. Rockland County Community Fieldhouse is listed in County emergency plans as a potential site for hospital services which should now be prepared to be utilized along with any additional site that will bring Rockland County the necessary space, supplies, and personnel in preparation for the time when our local hospitals will be overwhelmed by the amount of County residents that need medical attention. It imperative to reduce the demand of hospital services that law enforcement have the power to enforce orders intended to enhance the County's social distancing efforts. The County's District Attorney, Sheriff, and Police Chiefs believe that they are unable to enforce the Governor's Executive Order, issued pursuant to NYS Executive Law § 29-a, upon the advice of a memorandum containing an analysis of the Governor's powers issued by the NYS District Attorney's Association, which has deprived the County of the law enforcement support needed to address social distancing violations which has resulted in a steady increase in the rate of infections in Rockland County. It is crucial that County Executive, Rockland County Legislature, and Village Board of Trustees, as the elected officials representing the people of Rockland County, join together to secure critical help from the State so Rockland County can obtain necessary support to sustain the health and lives of the County's residents. The Village of Suffern joins together with the Rockland County Executive and the Rockland County Legislature to mandate that, before the local hospital and hospitals in neighboring counties reach capacity to care for the

people infected with COVID 19, the State publicize and enact plans to care for the people of Rockland County. The County Executive, the Rockland County Legislature, and the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees, together, mandate pursuant to NYS Executive Law § 24, the Governor return the power of issuing local emergency orders to Rockland County so that local enforcement may carry out social distancing requirements under the criminal penalty provided in that section of the law. The Village of Suffern joins together with the Rockland County Executive and the Rockland County Legislature to mandate the State begin to take the necessary steps to contain the growing hotspot of COVID-19 infection rates in Rockland County currently centered in the Town of Ramapo where confirmed infection rates exceed 1% of the population using the same procedures that have implemented in other Counties and locations throughout New York State in order to ensure the health and safety of the County, State, and region, including neighboring counties such as Bergen County, New Jersey. The County Executive was authorized to deliver a copy of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, each member of the New York State Legislature representing any part of Rockland County, the New York State Commissioner of Health, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and the County Executive of Bergen County of the State of New Jersey in order to secure necessary resources to ensure the health and safety of the County, State, and region. A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Charles Barone, seconded by Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, and passed unanimously by the Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 72 OF 2020 - AMENDING THE 2019-2020 GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TO POLICE PERSONAL SERVICES

The estimated cost of Police overtime will exceed the original amount of \$300,000 appropriated in the adopted 2019-2020 General Fund Police Department Personal Services budget by \$50,000. Sufficient funds to cover the aforesaid additional estimated amount is available in the General Fund Employee Benefits Police Retirement Account. The Board of Trustees amended the 2019-2020 adopted General Fund budget as follows:

Decrease Appropriations – Employee Benefits Police Retirement \$50,000

Increase Appropriations – Police Personal Services \$50,000

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

RESOLUTION NO. 73 OF 2020 - AMENDING 2019-2020 BUDGET FOR LEGAL SERVICES

The Village Board authorized the Village Treasurer to transfer \$107,000 from the General Fund Contingent Account to the Village Attorney Contractual Expenditures account. A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Charles Barone, seconded by Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, and passed unanimously by the Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 74 OF 2020 - DECLARING CERTAIN COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS

The Village Treasurer has advised the Village Board that the following Village-owned computer equipment is no longer necessary or useful to the Village and should be declared surplus, and the following computer equipment was declared surplus:

<u>Make</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>
Dell	Desktop	Optiplex 755	9JK7GJ1
Dell	Desktop	Dimension 521	12S31D1

The Village Treasurer was authorized and directed to dispose of the foregoing described computer equipment in a manner that is in the best interest of the Village of Suffern. A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Charles Barone, seconded by Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, and passed unanimously by the Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 75 OF 2020 - APPOINTING MICHAEL STEWART AS LABORER EFFECTIVE APRIL 7, 2020

The Mayor appointed Michael Stewart to the vacant position of Laborer in the Refuse Department, effective April 7, 2020, at a pay rate of \$17.99 per hour. A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Charles Barone, seconded by Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, and passed unanimously by the Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 76 OF 2020 - APPOINTING DAVID CLOHOSEY AS LABORER EFFECTIVE APRIL 7, 2020

The Mayor appointed David Clohosey to the vacant position of Laborer in the Refuse Department, effective April 7, 2020, at a pay rate of \$17.99 per hour. A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Charles Barone, seconded by Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, and passed unanimously by the Board.

APPOINTING RICHARD GLICKEL TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE TO THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

RESOLUTION NO. 77 OF 2020 - AUTHORIZING LABOR ATTORNEY RICHARD GLICKEL TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE TO THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The Village desires to retain the services of a Labor Attorney to provide professional legal services to the Village of Suffern during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Attorney Richard Glickel has presented a proposal to provide to provide legal advice and consultation concerning the rights and responsibilities that the Village has as an employer and those of department heads and employees during the COVID 19 Health Emergency. The retainer is an initial 60-day period, renewable for an additional 60-day period, upon approval of the Board of Trustees, along with a minimum retainer to be deposited in the amount of \$10,000 for the initial 60-day period to be paid to Attorney Richard. When monthly bills are rendered, retainer funds from the initial retainer will be utilized to pay for monthly invoices. If the amount of the initial retainer in the

client trust account falls below \$2,500, the Village of Suffern agrees to replenish the funds up to \$5,000 within fourteen (14) days of receipt of our monthly statement. By law, any interest earned on funds in our client trust account will be paid automatically to the New York State IOLTA (“Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts”) program. In the absence of any written objections thereto within 30 days of receipt of a billing statement, charges will be deemed accepted and the statement acknowledges as correct through the period covered by the statement. Any retainer funds not used for legal fees and expenses will be refunded to the Village of Suffern at the conclusion of the authorized services. The introductory billable rate for attorney’s services performed within the scope of this Agreement during the initial 60-day period will be \$255 per hour, with Paralegal services billed at \$125 per hour. In the event that the Village elects to continue to retain Attorney Glickel as labor counsel beyond the initial 60-day period, then attorney services rendered within the scope of this agreement will be billed at \$275 per hour and paralegal services will be billed at the rate of \$150 per hour. Should services within the scope of this Agreement continue beyond the initial 60-day period of the retainer, the fees for those services will be billed monthly and the replenished retainer funds will be used to pay monthly bills for charges as set forth above. The Mayor was authorized to sign the retainer agreement with Labor Attorney Richard Glickel. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Paul Girard, seconded by Jo Meegan-Corrigan. Trustees Alpert, Barone, Girard, and Meegan-Corrigan voted YES to approve the resolution. Mayor Markunas voted NO to approve the resolution since the resolution had not been reviewed by the Village Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.