



**VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, October 20, 2025
5:30 P.M.**

Present: Michael F. Curley, Mayor
Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Deputy Mayor
Angela Hogue, Trustee
Steven Alpert, Trustee
Clarke Osborn, Trustee
Betty Vanderbeek, Village Clerk

Absent: Terry Rice, Village Attorney (Via Phone)

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Curley called the meeting to order at 5:32 P.M. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR

We're having this special meeting tonight because of the major concern we're having with the coyotes in the Village, the concerns of the residents and the concerns of this board. What we're going to do tonight is we're going to explain a little bit about it, about the different agencies and what we are allowed to do and what we're not allowed to do.

I was on the phone with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and I've had some conversations in reference to them on the behavior of the coyotes. I also talked to a Rockland County Animal Agency over the weekend, on Saturday evening.

The DEC doesn't come down here and assist you with these issues. They would authorize an outside agency to help you, which you would have to retain yourself. Which would be called a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator who is actually approved by the DEC itself. The DEC recommends on their websites that you do not relocate these animals. So, I said you offer recommendations not to relocate, but to do so, in that sense, is it illegal? And they explained to me that you need a permit to do it. So that's when it becomes illegal, without the permit.

If an animal is aggressive and sick to the point where – the word is down -- a police department could take action against that if one was down, meaning it wouldn't be moving anymore, going anywhere else, or it was, it showed signs of aggressive action against people at that time. We've had many reports of this to the village.

I decided on Saturday night, because of concern, I actually put a post up on Facebook and I received many pictures, and video. I then shared the video Saturday night with Rockland Wildlife group and the lady with the video verified that the one that I sent her has mange.

Mange is treatable, except for the fact that the DEC will not allow us to hire someone to trap it and then treat it. One of the only ways you can really do it is if you hire someone and then you have houses where the coyote goes to and maybe you use certain foods to feed it. Recently in Saddle River, New Jersey, within the last few weeks, they've had two coyote attacks on people walking their dogs. I have a news report that they found the one dead the next day and they euthanized the other one and they did find out that they had some sort of rabies or some kind of thing. The residents of those neighborhoods were treated, and they addressed it that way.

With time, and overbuilding, and different things, wild animals – and that's what the DEC calls them, wild animals – have their own different ways. What I'm asking the Board is to authorize me to try to deal with, to retain someone actually, a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator who's actually approved by the State of New York.

There are certain drugs, antibiotics/drugs, that actually work, and I, and this Board values animal's lives. But at the same time, I also value human lives. We have Halloween coming up shortly, we're going to have hundreds of kids on these sidewalks and streets. I've received texts from residents about the coyotes actually sitting, stopping them from going into their own – preventing them, partly because of fear – of going into their own homes. That was after I put my post out Saturday. I received that on Sunday. I have reports from another gentleman. He told me they were walking down the street, and it growled at him walking right down the middle of the street.

I just received a lot of this recently, probably over this weekend, I would say. But the coyotes because they're sick and weak, they don't have that desire, the same desire to eat and to be hunters the same way in their natural environment. So, they go to places where food is easier to attain. So, it's very important that we keep our garbage cans covered, keep food out of easy access. What I'd like to try, and I've discussed this with my Board, because they're very caring and animal lovers as I am myself, is we'd like to try to find a way to see if we can feed it, but also, at the same time, make the Police Department fully knowledgeable about what to do when they approach a house.

I've also received reports from residents where they've called the police, and they've asked for help as far as – what the word is called hazing. Hazing is when you see a coyote and you hit pots and pans, or you yell at it, or you scream and they run away. I feel it's better if they have a police officer with them when they do such hazing, because they have a better chance of defending someone if the animal reacts poorly to that hazing.

We all have sympathy for sick animals, but I also have a lot of care for the residents of this community and especially the children. So, we're going to be sitting down with the Chief of Police in a minute as to what we can do to maybe improve our patrols. I've been on the phone with our Police Department over the weekend discussing “please patrol those areas more.” We will assign things as necessary to help protect our community and make people feel safe because the perception is reality and if you don't feel safe, it's not too good.

Now if you do hire a Nuisance Wildlife person, the DEC does not say you're allowed to actually harm it or necessarily euthanize it unless there's some sort of danger. I came to find out that they do have certain permits that you can, based on its behavior. So, I'm going to ask the community to give me all the information they can on what they see, any aggressiveness, and especially as time goes on and something's sick, it could become more threatening. So, there is a permit for lethal removal from the DEC and that's a threat to people, you know, if it was a threat to public safety of people. Again, they recommend doing the hazing and I will send out the information on our email list and put it on Facebook of the, all the recommendations they have. But if you see the animal getting more dangerous, more courageous against people, it's important that you document that and let the Village know, let the Police Department know especially, or even myself. Do not be afraid to call the Police – you are not bothering the Police Department if you have any fear, if you see something wrong, if you see aggressiveness, I beg you to do that for everyone's safety.

As you know, just in Saddle River recently, they attacked people with their dogs walking. So, I'm sorry, but to me, it's an extreme safety matter where I'm actually personally frightened about this, and I don't get frightened about many things – I'm a retired New York City Firefighter, I was in Fort Bragg, the XVIII Airborne Corps – but I can't be everywhere to save everyone. ~~We~~ ~~all in~~ The public needs to work together on this one. I think this is – and again, the First Priority is to save the animal, but that's only after saving the public.

So I'm asking this Board to go ahead – I will be talking with the DEC more and they asked me to document ~~to~~ and give them the information about what's going on. At that point, they will evaluate if they would, if it is necessary of us to have a lethal removal. I just want to have everything in place in case we need to do it. But what I'd like to do, I've actually contacted people that have contacted me on Facebook, asked them to call me, and if we can find a way to – we're not allowed to trap it, we're not allowed to cage it and treat it, I would love if they do it. ~~but~~ New York State does not allow it, and I actually put an objection in to that, because I think in some cases they find it may be improper, but in this case it wouldn't be improper because we're trying to do two things: we're trying to save the animal and at the same time protect the public. And public safety is first in my mind, and I'm sure it's in this whole Board's mind.

So at this point, I want to say hazing again, if the animal is there, and it's in your way, it's recommended by the DEC and even other people I've talked to, you make the noise; you scare it off, so you can go about your business.

Mange is very contagious and that's a problem; your dog can be sick from this. By having this coyote, it can restrict your actions a little bit – you know, walking your dog, being careful with your children, and Halloween is very important to me. So this Board will be talking to our Chief here in a few minutes and will be coming up with an additional plan for more patrols in those neighborhoods, and if anyone sees it, please don't be afraid to alert us. Our priority is to protect the animal, but our highest priority is to protect the public and the children in our community. So I will also, with this Board, we will all be instructing the Chief to make sure all the police officers understand the hazing process so if a resident needs help with it that they can help them with it, because a police officer has more ability and hopefully the knowledge than they will.

So I will be sending out an email outlining some of these things, but I just don't want to sit there, I don't want to do this all by chance, I want to make our odds better. I'm not here to play the lottery with people's lives and people getting injured.

Trustee Alpert wanted to give the number of the Police Department in case anyone does need to call the Police about a sighting and it's 845-357-2300.

MAYOR

People can also call 9-1-1.

I'm asking the Board to authorize the Mayor to contract for the appropriate action to deal with the coyote issue in the Village of Suffern.

RESOLUTION NO. 119 OF 2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO CONTRACT FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION TO DEAL WITH A COYOTE ISSUE IN THE VILLAGE OF SUFERN

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

WHEREAS, residents of the Village have complained regarding the presence of one
or
more coyotes in the Village; and

WHEREAS, it has been verified that a coyote is at large in the Village; and

WHEREAS, should it be that the animal is sick or a threat to residents, appropriate measures must be taken to safeguard the residents of the Village; and

WHEREAS, in such an event, time is of the essence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that should the Mayor deem it appropriate to retain a licensed professional to deal with the issue, the Mayor is authorized to hire such a licensed professional to undertake such measures as the Mayor, in his discretion, deems appropriate, for an amount not to exceed \$8,000.

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

ADOPTED: October 20, 2025

Motion to go into Executive Session in reference to some Police matters, moved by Trustee Hogue and seconded by Trustee Osborn, with all in favor

Motion to come out of Executive Session was moved by Trustee Osborne and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor

Again, I want to make myself clear that we're not allowed to trap it to help it. We could actually talk to the community and have a couple of houses – the rest of the community keeps all their food locked up tight, and the other people keep it where they feed it with antibiotics and drugs to that would help the coyote. We're reach out, we're gonna need the community's help. We also met with the Chief of Police and what we're gonna do is take one of the Detectives – if not, come up with a different solution but right now, that's what we'll do – and he'll be patrolling those neighborhoods, and he can be doing his detective work while he's watching those neighborhoods at the same time, and also have the Lieutenants – we have a Day Lieutenant and a Night Lieutenant – who can also spend time up there patrolling the neighborhoods keeping the

people safe. Also, I was thinking about Halloween, we will have extra patrols on for Halloween with the Police Department – or shall I say extra-extra patrols on – and we will also have ... I'm gonna reach out to the community, I would like to have community leaders at different corners, ready to communicate with the Police in case they do see a coyote or some animal. This is a community effort, we need everyone's help, and we hope we can accomplish that.

We will be re-striping some of the police cars. We feel that they can be seen better with a different look on them, so One, so the community knows, but more so the criminal knows that we're here, and we're fighting crime, and we're a community together fighting crime.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Respectfully,

Betty Vanderbeek, Village Clerk