

Board of Trustees
Village of Tarrytown
Regular Meeting No. 33
March 21, 2016
8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Fixell presiding; Trustees: Basher, Butler, Hoyt, McGee and McGovern; Village Administrator Blau; Village Treasurer Hart; Village Attorney Silverberg and Village Clerk Booth

ABSENT: Trustee Zollo

The meeting began with the Pledge to the Flag.

REPORTS

Mayor Fixell noted that tonight's meeting is Trustee Basher's last meeting as a member of the Board of Trustees. We will recognize Trustee Basher later in the meeting.

Trustee Hoyt noted the following:

- TNT Baseball and Softball Kickoff Parade will be held on Saturday, April 9th at 1:00 p.m. starting at Neperan Park and ending at Losee Park.
- Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow Day Camp/Tot Camp's registration will begin on Monday, April 4th during regular business hours at the Senior Center/Recreation Office. For more information, please contact the Recreation Office at 631-8347.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Town of Greenburgh Reassessment – Letters were mailed out from Tyler Technologies, the consulting firm performing the reassessment on behalf of the Town of Greenburgh. The cover letter included what is known as a Preliminary Assessment Notification. The assessment value provided in the notice is the preliminary 2016 assessment. If you, as the property owner believe that the preliminary assessment does not accurately reflect the market value as of July 1, 2015, which was the valuation date, you or your representative may contact Tyler Technologies to schedule an informal review. Please note that the informal review meetings are by appointment only. At the meeting, Tyler Technologies will discuss the 2016 market value. Tyler Technologies will not discuss exemptions or taxes at the meeting. If a property owner wants to schedule an appointment, the property owner must call Tyler Technologies now through April 8 at 800-273-8605, between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm. You must have your notice with you when you call because there is information on the notice that you must provide to Tyler Technologies when you are scheduling an appointment. The informal meetings generally take 15 to 20 minutes. Photographs of your property and building as well as recent appraisals are not required; however, such documentation is encouraged if you have it for the informal meeting. It is suggested that you make copies for Tyler Technologies and bring the copies to the informal meeting. Commercial property owners are encouraged to provide income and expense information. If a property owner cannot attend an informal meeting, correspondence may be sent to Tyler Technologies. Tyler Technologies address is included on the notice just received. Correspondence must be postmarked by April 22, 2016.

If you choose to have an informal meeting with Tyler Technologies, a final reassessment notices will be mailed to you for the June 1 tax bills. If you decide not to go through the informal review process, the preliminary assessment will become your final assessment. If a property owner is dissatisfied with the outcome of the informal review process, the assessment can be challenged by filing an appeal with the Greenburgh Board of Assessment Review between the period from June 1 through June 21, 2016.

Community Choice Aggregation – On March 16, the Board of Trustees voted to select a two-year fixed-price contract for renewable energy for the village in a program that was known as the Community Choice Aggregation program and has been renamed the Westchester Smart Power program. What this will mean is as of May 1st, if you use Con Edison for your electricity supply, you will automatically be moved to ConEdison Solution's renewable electricity supply, composed of wind power, hydro-electric and solar. The average homeowner will save approximately \$18 for the year with the renewable energy source. You will be receiving a mailing where you will be able to choose to opt out of this renewable source and choose what is known as a brown source of energy, which is a mix of gas, coal, and other sources which would save you another \$13 a year. You may also decide not to participate in the program and stay with Con Edison or select any ESCo you choose. If you are currently with an ESCo, you cannot move to the Westchester Smart Power program unless you cancel your contract you're your ESCo and you return to Con Edison as your electricity provider. If you choose to do nothing, you will receive the new renewable energy supply.

CONTINUATION OF A PUBLIC HEARING – EMINENT DOMAIN - PORTION OF THE PARKING LOT AT 2 SOUTH BROADWAY

Trustee Butler moved, seconded by Trustee Basher and unanimously carried, that the hearing be re-opened. Approved 6-0

The stenographer's report on the Continuation of a Public Hearing – Eminent Domain – Portion of the Parking Lot at 2 South Broadway will be affixed to the official minutes of this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee Basher, and unanimously carried, that the Meeting adjourn to Executive Session to consult with the Village Attorney regarding potential litigation at 8:37 p.m.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING

Trustee Basher moved, seconded by Trustee Hoyt, and unanimously carried, that the Regular Meeting be reconvened at 8:43 p.m.

Trustee Basher moved, seconded by Trustee Hoyt, and unanimously carried, that the public hearing be closed. Approved 6-0

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ONLY ON AGENDA ITEMS. SPEAKERS SHALL HAVE THREE (3) MINUTES TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mayor Fixell asked if anyone wanted to address the Board on agenda items. No one appeared.

TRAFFIC STUDY AGREEMENT

Trustee Butler moved, seconded by Trustee Basher, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution be approved: Approved: 6-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby authorize and direct the Village Administrator to execute an agreement with VHB

Engineering, Surveying and Landscape Architecture, P.C. to complete a traffic study associated with the Train Station/Waterfront Study.

PLANNING SERVICES – ZONING AMENDMENTS SEQRA

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee Butler, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution be approved: Approved: 6-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby authorize and direct the Village Administrator to execute an agreement with Collaborative Planning Studios to complete the Environment Review (SEQRA) associated with the proposed zoning amendments to the Office Building and Mixed Use Zoning Districts.

ADOPTION OF AN UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT POLICY

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee Basher, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution be approved: Approved: 6-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby adopt an Unlawful Harassment Policy for the Village of Tarrytown. A complete copy of the policy will be affixed to the official minutes of this meeting.

ADOPTION OF AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT POLICY

Trustee Basher moved, seconded by Trustee McGovern, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution be approved: Approved: 6-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby adopt an Equal Employment Policy for the Village of Tarrytown. A complete copy of the policy will be affixed to the official minutes of this meeting.

AMENDMENT TO THE VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee McGee, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution be approved: Approved: 6-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve amendments to Chapter 291. Vehicles and Traffic with respect to Article VI. Permit Parking and Article V. Metered Parking and Article XI and XXVI. Schedules: Off-Street Metered Parking Lots. A complete copy of the amendments to Chapter 291, Vehicle and Traffic Law will be affixed to the official minutes of this meeting.

SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING – HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND LANDMARKS FOR STONE WORK AND GATEHOUSE AT PATRIOTS PARK

Trustee Hoyt moved, seconded by Trustee Basher, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution be approved: Approved: 6-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby schedule a Public Hearing for the regular meeting of April 4, 2016, at 8:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building, One Depot Plaza, Tarrytown, New York, to hear and consider a proposed amendment to the Code of the Village of Tarrytown, Chapter 191 entitled “Historic Districts and Landmarks” for the purpose of designating the stone work and gatehouse at Patriots Park.

APPROVAL OF AUDITED VOUCHERS

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee Butler, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution be approved: Approved: 6-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve Abstract No. 17 of Audited Vouchers to be paid in the following amounts:

General	\$	564,675.14
Water		29,675.87
Sewer Fund		0.00
Capital		39,173.00
Library		17,718.37
Trust & Agency		<u>7,946.67</u>
Total	\$	659,189.05

The Board was polled all voting “aye” with the exception of Trustee McGee who recused herself from Voucher Number 2012254035. Motion carried. 6-0-1

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD. SPEAKERS HAVE FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE YIELDING TO THE NEXT SPEAKER; THEN THREE (3) MINUTES FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Kevin Plunkett, Deputy County Executive, 22 Birch Way, stated that it is his great honor to be here tonight on behalf of Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino and for himself to say thank you to someone who is very special, Trustee Thomas Basher. It’s not often that you have someone who steps up in our local communities to dedicate their time, their resources and all of their knowledge to make our communities the kind of places in Westchester County where we would like to live. Tom follows the legacy of a family who has been committed to Westchester County for over 50 years of service. Tom’s father Bill Basher, his mom, Emily Basher and now Tom Basher who has served as a Tarrytown Trustee for 24 years. It is because of people like Tom that our quality of life and what we expect from our Village officials is so important. Mr. Plunkett stated that he had the privilege of working as the Tarrytown Village Attorney for 5 years and served with Trustee Basher. Tom Basher served with care and concern for the Village and his vast knowledge and good judgment that he brought to the Trustee position without any hysteria whatsoever, which is so impressive. I am very proud to count Tom a very good friend for over half a century. Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett presented a proclamation from the Office of the County Executive from Westchester County and read the proclamation.

“For all of us who live and work in Westchester County, we hold a special sense of pride and admiration for the many accomplishments and contributions of a public servant who has gone beyond his daily responsibilities, devoted himself to improve the quality of life to this and future generations; and

Whereas, Tomas Basher is a devoted public servant who has dedicated his time and passion to the betterment of his community in Tarrytown for many decades following in the footsteps of his parents, Village Trustees William and Emily Basher; and

Whereas, Thomas Basher’s role on the Tarrytown Board of Trustees as both a Trustee and Deputy Mayor has shown great leadership and problem solving skills, bringing positive change to the community. Working tirelessly until his tasks and objectives are complete. Being crucial to many vital initiatives in the Village; and

Whereas, Thomas Basher has played an indispensable role over the years in community organizations, such as the Volunteer Fire Department, the Police Department, the Community Opportunity Center, the Rotary, the Kiwanis Club, the Knights of Columbus and the Tarrytown Dad’s Club; and

Whereas, as his family, friends and colleagues gather around to celebrate his retirement from the Board of Trustees, for his selfless service to Tarrytown and Westchester County, Thomas Basher is truly deserving of our reverence and our appreciation.

Now, therefore, I, Robert P. Astorino, County Executive of Westchester County, do hereby proclaim March 22, 2016 the “Thomas Basher Recognition Day” in Westchester County.

Enjoy my friends and neighbors throughout this County to mark this impressive accomplishment and to commend his dedication and commitment to the Village of Tarrytown and to Westchester County.”

Deputy County Executive Plunkett noted that Tom couldn’t have done this unless he had large support behind him from his family, especially his wife, Ann Marie Basher. Rosemary Plunkett presented Mrs. Basher flowers as a token of appreciation.

Mayor Fixell noted that he has only known Trustee Tom Basher for half as long as Kevin Plunkett. Mayor Fixell served with Trustee Basher on the Tarrytown Board of Trustees for 16 years and has known Tom before that working on local committees and projects. Mayor Fixell noted that he will truly miss Tom Basher and presented the following proclamation:

“WHEREAS, Thomas T. Basher has ably and faithfully served the Village of Tarrytown as a member of the Board of Trustees for 24 years, the longest known tenure in Village history; and

WHEREAS, for the past 11 years, Tom served as Deputy Mayor with distinction and honor; and

WHEREAS, Tom has always demonstrated a remarkable commitment and dedication to this Village and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Tom’s immense contributions of wisdom, knowledge and enthusiasm will never be matched and will be sorely missed by every Tarrytown resident, Village employee and public official, and especially by this Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Drew Fixell, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Village of Tarrytown do hereby declare April 2016, Thomas T. Basher Month in the Village of Tarrytown, New York.”

Mayor Fixell noted that the Village Board wanted to name something after Trustee Basher and decided to re-name the pedestrian bridge that goes between Riverview Avenue and Tappan Landing Road to the “Thomas T. Basher Bridge” and presented Trustee Basher with a model of the Thomas T. Basher Bridge.

Trustee Basher stated that he wanted to start out by remembering his mother and father, Emily and Bill Basher. Between his parents and himself, they have served 43 years on the Tarrytown Board of Trustees. That doesn’t count the time before they were elected to the Village Board where they served on volunteer boards and committees. Altogether, it is way over 50 years between the three of them. He remembers his parents dearly and he is sure that they would be proud of him. The members of the current Village Board and the past Village Boards are only as good as the people who work in the Village. He thanked the residents of Tarrytown who has shown their support for him over the years. He thanked the excellent staff at Village Hall, from the Department Heads to all of the dedicated employees, present and past. He thanked two former employees, Jerry Barbelet and Louis Camilliere who are present at tonight’s meeting. He thanked the employees of the Highway, Sanitation and Water Departments, who make sure the roads are plowed, garbage and recycling picked up and our water is clean, which we should not take for granted. The Public Works employees go out all hours of the night when something needs to be fixed. He thanked the Recreation Department for providing the best programs for the kids and the adults. They take care of all the fields and the parks with a very small staff, as well as running all the recreation programs. He saw pictures on the internet of the Easter Egg Hunt last weekend; there must have been over 400 kids there. They run these programs year-round and do a great job. He thanked the Police Department for keeping all the residents safe day and night. The police put their lives on the line every day. When they respond to a call, they never know the nature of the call. We owe a debt of gratitude to all members of the police department who are out in our community to protect us. He thanked the countless volunteers who work on the various Village boards and committees. The boards make their own decisions and the committees make recommendations to the Board of

Trustees. Because of their great suggestions, it has shaped this Village into what it is today. It has been a great honor to serve on this Village Board with the current members of the Board. He has had his differences with members of the Board in Work Sessions, but the secret to politics is to say your piece, listen to the other members and put your personal feelings aside, compromise and you will come up with the best solution. This Village Board has shown this, more than any other Board of Trustees he has worked with over the years. This current Village Board finds the best solution by compromising in order to accomplish the work of the Village. He thanked all the members of the current Village Board; they do a great job. Trustee Basher has served under 3 Mayors over the 24 years as Trustee. Two are here tonight, Drew Fixell and a very special person in my life, Eileen Pilla. Trustee Basher suggested that somewhere down the road, if the Board ever decide to dedicate or name the Seniors building, he believes it should be dedicated in honor of Nick Morabito. It was Nick's idea, his persistence along with State Legislator Nick Spano who were responsible for obtaining the funding to convert the building to the Senior Center. He also thanked the Volunteer Fire Department. The Village has one of the best Volunteer Fire Departments in the County. These men and women dedicate themselves day and night to protect our property and our loved ones. This Village Board as previous Village Boards has always equipped them with the best possible equipment that they need and deserve. Trustee Basher asked for one thing, somewhere down the line, the fire whistle is an obsolete piece of equipment. You need two forms of notification, pagers and something else. 52 out of the 58 communities in Westchester use County Control as their dispatch and for their notification of a call. If we switch to them, you will still have your pager and they will either text or call your cell phone. More firefighters will be notified quicker. The fire whistle should still be serviced and blown every day at noon to make sure it works. In case everything goes down, you have the fire whistle as a back. He asked that the Fire Department give it serious consideration. Back in 1979, there was a big debate where the new Village Hall should be built. There was a referendum to build it at the old Pierson School on Broadway; it failed. Many years and discussion went on about a new Village Hall. This Village Hall at One Depot Plaza is a tribute to the current Village Board to finally say enough is enough; it's time to make a move. This Village Board really hit a homerun where we now have the Police Department and Village Hall together. This Village Board has accomplished a lot in the last 10 years. Finally, many, many thanks and love to his wife, Ann Marie and his children, Tom Jr., who couldn't make it tonight; he lives up in Ithaca; he is a Lieutenant in the Fire Department and his daughter Meghan and her fiancé Justin who are here tonight. He thanked his wife and children for allowing him to serve the Village and attending many night meetings. He thanked everyone and noted that he will miss everyone.

Katherine McCabe, Miller Avenue, stated that there was another vehicle accident the other day on Miller Avenue. She appreciates the police presence lately in the neighborhood, but once the police are gone, the problems with the vehicles speeding in the neighborhood continue. She asked the Board if someone from the Board could be their champion on this neighborhood safety situation. She would like to see the Board be more committed to this cause beyond reducing the speed limit to 25 mph and adding a stop sign. Mayor Fixell noted that Trustee McGovern will be their champion and will work with her and her neighborhood. Trustee McGovern noted that she will speak to her after the meeting to share some ideas. Trustee McGovern reached out to the Irvington Police Department and acquired information on their "Slow Down Irvington Program." Trustee McGovern also noted that she has approval from the Tarrytown Police Chief and the Village Board to take on a community effort to make people aware of the pedestrian laws and vehicle safety.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Basher moved, seconded by Trustee Hoyt, and unanimously carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Carol A. Booth
Village Clerk