

Board of Trustees  
Village of Tarrytown  
Regular Meeting No. 9  
One Depot Plaza  
Tarrytown NY 10591  
April 1, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT in person: Mayor Brown presiding; Trustees: McGovern, Mitchell and Rinaldi. Village Administrator Slingerland; Assistant Administrator Fasman; Village Treasurer Morales; Village Attorney Zalantis and Village Clerk Gilligan.

The meeting started with the Pledge to the Flag.

The meeting started with a moment of silence in honor of Blaine Taft a 38 year employee of Tarrytown's DPW who recently passed away. He never missed a day of work and helped many people throughout the village.

#### BOARD MISCELLANEOUS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Deputy Mayor McGovern reported that the Easter Egg Hunt this past weekend was a huge success. Thank you to Sleepy Hollow who partnered with us for this event, and thank you to the DPW, Police, and Parks and Recreation Departments for all of your help making this event successful. Camp registration will open on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and there is a discount if you register by the end of the month. Our swimming pool will be opening on May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Fishing Derby will be held at the lakes on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Men's Basketball League will be starting up again. Additionally the Youth Leadership Police Academy for youths between 10 and 13. There is no cost to the participants. More information about these programs can be found on the Village's website.

Trustee Mitchell reported that the Warner Library will be live streaming the solar eclipse between 1:00 and 4:30 pm on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Rinaldi noted that Rockefeller Estate is hosting a solar eclipse event and is expecting a large crowd. Be prepared for parking issues and traffic delays.

Mayor Brown reported that at the last meeting she attended the Board was asked to look into the rent increases at Asbury Terrace. The Board has spent a lot of time talking to experts from other levels of government and getting advice from people who have experience in this area. We have also spoken to the owner of Asbury Terrace which is Mountco to get a better understanding of what the situation is and how many people this rent increase affects. We were able to arrange a meeting between Mountco, CPMC, Village representatives and residents of Asbury Terrace to speak to individuals about their case and work with them to the best of their ability.

Administrator Slingerland then read an email that was sent to the residents of Asbury Terrace from the Village letting them know that a meeting is taking place on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Tarrytown Senior Center. Anyone from Asbury Terrace who has concerns about their rent should attend this meeting as representatives from Mountco will be there to discuss their individual situations.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Slingerland reported that the biggest thing the Village is working on right now is the budget. Also, paving will be taking place in the following areas between April 9<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup>: Cortlandt Street, Franklin Courts, Grove Street, Main Street, West Franklin, White Street, and Windle Park. When paving begins, we will send out an email blast as well as a reverse 911 call.

#### PRESENTATION: ANNUAL REPORT BY TEAC

Dean Gallea and Rachel co-chairs of TEAC gave a presentation on what was accomplished last year and some goals for the upcoming year. TEAC was established in Tarrytown in 1974 and is fueled by a multitude of environmentally minded dedicated volunteers. Some of their 2023 accomplishments were:

- obtaining their Climate-Smart and Clean Energy Certifications
- conducting a Greenhouse Gas Survey

- hosting various Earth Month activities
- receiving Volunteer New York's Going Green Award
- Hosting the Hudson Valley Ramble Event Kayak to Nyack

Some of their 2024 Areas of Focus and Ongoing Efforts are:

- Carbon Emissions reduction
- Community Garden at John Paulding School
- Sustainable Landscaping
- Sustainable Development
- Repair Café

TEAC meets on the second Monday of the month and works with local environmental organizations. They also publish a monthly newsletter with articles and events of interest to residents. TEAC's presentation can be found attached to these minutes.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE VILLAGE'S TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

The Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget FY 24-25 is continued and open for public comment, with the adoption of the Budget scheduled to take place on April 15, 2024.

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi and unanimously carried, the public hearing was opened.

Village Administrator Slingerland reported that the budget presentation took place at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. To recap the village proposed a 2.86% property tax increase, and the village's total proposed budget for 2024-2025 is \$40,468,237.00. This is a carefully put together budget by the department heads with the Boards input, and we think it will serve the needs of the community over the next year.

The hearing was opened up for public comment and there were no speakers either in person or via zoom.

On a motion made by Mayor Brown and seconded by Deputy Mayor McGovern, the public hearing was continued to April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ONLY ON ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA, OTHER THAN PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS. SPEAKERS SHALL HAVE THREE (3) MINUTES EACH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dean Gallea wished to acknowledge that the League of Women Voters was instrumental in proposing the packaging reduction and infrastructure act and he thanks the league of Women Voters and the Board of Trustees for putting it on tonight's agenda. He hopes it passes.

Dave Weyburn from Tarrytown and who is involved with a larger group that are trying to advocate for increased school safety. Madeline Praino who taught in our district for 30 years has been making consistent attempts to raise the issue of school safety zones since 2019. In November the Board of Education adopted a resolution for a school safety zone and now they need Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow to follow suit. Mr. Weyburn then read a statement from Ms. Praino which noted that traffic has increased on Route 9 as new residential buildings have gone up and she has witnessed the decrease in public safety first hand. We are all saddened by the two recent pedestrian deaths, but there has been little or no change in front of our school districts largest campus. When she was a kindergarten teacher at John Paulding she began to witness an increased struggle for student pedestrians to cross Route 9. Everyone she has corresponded with over the past few years cares deeply about the safety of our local children. Please have the courage to take the step to keep our children safe. Please vote to declare the proposed area a reduced school speed zone area.

Camilla Calhoun from Grove Street urges the Board to pass the resolution on the packaging and recycling infrastructure act. This bill could cut packaging waste in half within 12 years, and lower the number of toxic chemicals at the same time. This will also save the village money and chemical exposure. This bill is co-sponsored by more than half of the legislature, and only needs to be brought to the floor by Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie in

order to pass. Several local municipalities as well as six counties in New York have already passed this resolution, and there have been over 200 organizations that have signed a memorandum in support of this bill. She hopes that Tarrytown passes this resolution as it is not only a question of litter and waste, but our health as well.

SUPPORT FOR THE NEW YORK ASSEMBLY AND SENATE TO PASS A STRONG PACKAGING REDUCTION AND RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (A.5322-A/S.4246-A) AND EXPAND THE STATE'S BOTTLE BILL (A.6353/S.237-B)

On a motion made by Trustee Mitchell, and seconded by Deputy Mayor McGovern, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

WHEREAS, packaging makes up approximately 40 percent of the waste in New York State, and

WHEREAS, managing packaging waste costs New York taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, some packaging is not recyclable and reusable and refillable packaging systems are not readily available, and

WHEREAS, plastic causes serious pollution including litter and it uses toxic chemicals, and

WHEREAS, companies that produce packaging should help bear the costs of packaging waste, not just taxpayers and

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, as drafted in the New York Assembly A.5322-A and the New York Senate S.4246-A, would reduce waste, increase recycling rates, create jobs, reduce toxicity in products, provide millions of dollars in savings for local governments and taxpayers, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act should work in tandem with and supplement New York State's Returnable Container Act, and

WHEREAS, New York's Returnable Container Act should be modernized to reflect an expanded market of beverages, and the deposit on beverage containers should be increased to 10 cents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Tarrytown urges the New York State Legislature to approve and recommends Governor Kathy Hochul sign into law a strong and effective Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, in the form of bills A5322-A/S4246-A, and an expanded and modernized Bottle Bill A.6353/S.237-B, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tarrytown Village Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, the New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assemblywoman Mary Jane Shimsky.

RESOLUTION URGING INCLUSION OF THE LOCAL JOURNALISM SUSTAINABILITY ACT IN THE NEW YORK STATE BUDGET

On a motion made by Trustee Rinaldi, and seconded by Trustee Mitchell the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

WHEREAS, a free and independent press plays a vital role in combatting the growing threats of authoritarianism, misinformation, and disinformation; and

WHEREAS, reaffirming freedom of the press should be a priority for our nation's local, state, and federal leaders as they strive to promote democracy, transparency, human rights, and good governance; and

WHEREAS, from 2022 to 2023, 11% of weekly newspapers in New York State have suspended publication, highlighting the urgent need to support and sustain local journalism outlets; and

WHEREAS, New York State has lost half of its journalists since 2005; and

WHEREAS, local news outlets serve to keep citizens informed of the work of their local governments through reporting, legal notices, and community calendars; and

WHEREAS, small municipalities have limited resources to create additional lines of communication for residents to fill the void left when a local press ceases to publish; and

WHEREAS, academic studies in the political economy space show that geographic areas with reduced local media coverage have less informed voters and lower voter turnout rates; and

WHEREAS, through community calendars and coverage, local news outlets engage the community and attract volunteers to support the demands on municipal staff; and

WHEREAS, the Local Journalism Sustainability Act (S.625B/A2958C) sponsored by Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Assemblymember Carrie Woerner provides a vital mechanism to support local journalism by offering tax credits to local news outlets for the employment of local news journalists.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown who resolve as follows:

- We urge Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to include provisions in the state budget to support local journalism in Tarrytown and across New York State, specifically through the inclusion of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act.
- We recognize the critical role of local journalism in fostering an informed and engaged citizenry, promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance.
- We call upon the Governor and state legislature to prioritize the passage of the Local Journalism Sustainability Act to ensure the continued availability of reliable and comprehensive local news coverage for our community.
- We emphasize the importance of local news outlets in keeping citizens informed about the work of their local governments, promoting civic engagement, and facilitating community involvement.
- We direct the Village Clerk Gilligan to transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Hochul and members of the New York State Legislature representing the Village of Tarrytown urging their support and action in including the Local Journalism Sustainability Act in the state budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

#### RESOLUTION TO REQUEST SCHOOL SPEED ZONE

On a motion made by Trustee Mitchell, and seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

WHEREAS, the Sleepy Hollow High School, Sleepy Hollow Middle School and the John Paulding School serving pre-school and kindergarten students are three schools who provide educational services to the residents of the Village of Tarrytown located on Broadway/Rt.9, a state highway managed by the New York State Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, a robust population of students from Tarrytown walk to school and cross Broadway/Rt. 9 on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS there is currently only one school zone on Broadway in Tarrytown where the speed limit is 20 MPH for 300 ft. in front of the Washington Irving School; and

WHEREAS, Section 212.4 of New York Code, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) 17B states that a school speed limit may be established on a highway at a “school with one or more grades under grade 12 and where some of the students walk or bicycle to or from school; or the school and related facilities (e.g. classrooms, cafeteria, gymnasium, playground, athletic fields, parking lots, etc.) are separated by a highway and require the students to cross the highway on foot to access the facilities;” and

WHEREAS, while the speed limit on Broadway from Leroy Avenue to the border with Sleepy Hollow was reduced from 30MPH to 25 MPH in June 2023, the Board of Trustees nevertheless finds it advisable to request that the Department of Transportation set a school zone limit of 20 MPH from Cobb Lane to the Tarrytown border with Sleepy Hollow and as much further along Broadway as the NYS DOT may allow because highway safety research demonstrates that lower speed limits reduce injury and death in the case of traffic accidents, which is especially important to protect the lives and safety of our children and the families who walk them to and from school along and across Broadway.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown requests that the New York State Department of Transportation take the necessary steps to establish a school zone speed limit of 20 MPH along Broadway/Rt. 9 from Cobb Lane to the Tarrytown border with Sleepy Hollow or as much further along Broadway that the State will allow in order to protect the safety of children, families, and residents using school facilities at Sleepy Hollow High School, Sleepy Hollow Middle School and the John Paulding School.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to representatives with the Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assemblywoman Mary Jane Shinsky, representatives from the NYS DOT, County Executive George Latimer, the Village of Sleepy Hollow and the UFSD of the Tarrytowns,

RESOLUTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND REBID THE WARNER LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM CEILING AND PIPE INSULATION PROJECT

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, and seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

WHEREAS, due to logistical issues that occurred during the bid process for the Warner Library Children's Room Ceiling and Pipe Insulation Replacement Project, the bidders did not receive Addendum 1 that was prepared for bidders to consider, so that they could submit a comprehensive total bid that included the additional work covered under Addendum 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown hereby rejects all bids and the Board authorizes the project to be re-bid, with the Addendum 1 work to be included as part of the bidding materials so that the project may be re-issued for all interested contractors to consider and bid on.

RESOLUTION MAKING A COMMITMENT TO REPLACE THE TARRYTOWN PUMP STATION

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, and seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

WHEREAS, the Village of Tarrytown Public Water Supply went through its annual sanitary survey with the Westchester County Health Department, and we are informed by the County Health Department that there are continuing issues that must be addressed through major capital projects; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Tarrytown Public Water Supply has been requested to make improvements to the Tarrytown pump station that would best be achieved by being included in the overall replacement of the Tarrytown Water Supply Water Pump Station, since the facility has been determined to be approaching the end of its useful life, and exhibiting a need to be upgraded, rehabilitated and/or replaced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown hereby commit to moving forward with developing a plan to replace the Tarrytown Water Pump Station, either individually or jointly with the Village of Sleepy Hollow, through the pursuit of retaining engineering design services, working to prepare plans and specifications for a new plant, and working to bid out a project to replace the pump station on a defined basis within the capital program of the Village of Tarrytown Public Water Supply, funded through Tarrytown Water Fund, or the future issuance of debt, and/or any other appropriations or grants that may become available for this capital facility project.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EARTH MONTH LAKES CLEAN-UP ON APRIL 21

On a motion made by Trustee Mitchell, and seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

WHEREAS the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council (TEAC) is coordinating a Village-wide clean-up on April 21 in honor of Earth Month; and

WHEREAS the Hackley Lakekeepers will be volunteering to clean up around the Tarrytown Upper and Lower Lakes that day including along the trails; and

WHEREAS trash, litter and debris have also accumulated in the lakes themselves and cannot easily be collected except by boat; and

WHEREAS a group of local kayakers has volunteered to clean up trash from the Upper and Lower Lakes on April 21st in coordination with TEAC;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby waive the annual kayak permit fee for one day on April 21st in recognition of the volunteer effort to clean the lakes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the prohibition of kayak use on the Upper Lake is hereby waived for one day only on April 21<sup>st</sup>, only for the participants in this cleanup effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that volunteer participants in the Lakes clean-up will be required to sign a liability waiver and to wear a life preserver during the lakes clean-up and are directed not to harass the wildlife in the area, especially the nesting swans on the small island in the center of the lake.

#### NON-RESIDENT TENNIS COURT FEE

On a motion made by Trustee Rinaldi, and seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

WHEREAS the tennis courts at the Tarrytown waterfront have become very popular, particularly as they have been opened to use for Pickleball; and

WHEREAS it is this Board's and the Recreation Department's goal to ensure that the tennis courts remain available for use by Tarrytown residents and taxpayers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby add a new fee to the Master Fee Schedule to charge non-residents an annual \$100 fee for use of the Tarrytown tennis courts to be paid through the Court Reserve software system for tennis court reservations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Recreation is authorized to take the necessary and appropriate steps to apply the new fee for use of the tennis courts.

#### RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE STREET CLOSURES FOR THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

On a motion made by Trustee Mitchell, and seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

BE IT RESOLVED that permission is hereby granted to the Central Veteran Committee of the Tarrytowns to hold their annual Memorial Day Parade and services on Monday, May 27, 2024 beginning at 10 a.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Administrator together with the Police Chief are authorized to take the necessary actions to close sections of Main Street and Broadway from Main Street to Patriots Park for a period prior to and during the parade to ensure safe proceedings.

#### SCHEDULING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2024, TO AUTHORIZE THE APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS TO THE TARRYTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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On a motion made by Trustee Rinaldi, and seconded by Deputy Mayor McGovern, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

Mayor Brown noted that she received an email from Mayor Rossillo of Dobbs Ferry thanking the Tarrytown Fire Department for their mutual aid assistance during a fire event. Deputy Mayor McGovern thanked outgoing Chief Sean Scogna Jr. for his service this past year.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby schedule a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held on Friday, April 5th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., in Tarrytown Village Hall, in the main meeting room, in order to vote on the appointment of the new chiefs and officers of the Tarrytown Fire Department

APPOINTMENT TWO TEMPORARY LABORERS FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Mitchell, and seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown hereby authorizes the appointment of Nicholas Cinquemani and Anthony Socorro as 40-hour per week Laborers in the Parks Department to perform landscaping maintenance along the RiverWalk and other parks in the Village, as well as other related duties, from April 9, 2024 through November 1, 2024, at an hourly wage of \$20.00 per hour.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

On a motion made by Trustee Rinaldi, and seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown hereby approves the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. 2024 as submitted by the Village Clerk

APPROVAL OF THE ACTION ITEM MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 WORK SESSION

On a motion made by Trustee Mitchell, and seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown hereby approves the minutes of the Board of Trustees Work Session held on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. 2024 as submitted by the Village Administrator and the Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AUDITED VOUCHERS

On a motion made by Trustee Rinaldi, and seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the following resolution was unanimously approved. Approved: 4-0

Roll Call: Trustee Mitchell; Yes, Trustee Rinaldi; Yes, Deputy Mayor McGovern; Yes, Mayor Brown; Yes.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve Abstract No.19 of Audited Vouchers in the total amount of \$312,576.64 as presented by the Village Treasurer, to be paid in the following amounts:

General	\$	169,198.69
Water	\$	62,127.21
Sewer Fund	\$	976.40
Capital	\$	62,489.10
Library	\$	10,109.71
Trust & Agency	\$	7,675.53
<u>CM (Special Fund)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$	312,576.64

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA. SPEAKERS HAVE THREE (3) MINUTES BEFORE YIELDING TO THE NEXT SPEAKER

Mayor Brown read the following statement prior to the public comments:

As Mayor, it's my job to make sure our public meetings are conducted with respect, decorum, and fairness. The safety of our residents, Village Officials, and staff is my top priority which is why it was I must address the inappropriate behavior and discriminatory comments at our meetings.

I also want to stress the importance of following the guidelines for participating in our meetings. This includes sticking to the three-minute time limit at the podium for each speaker. It includes addressing the entire dais and not individual trustees. And it includes refraining from commenting or shouting from one's seat. Everyone needs to have an equal chance to speak while keeping the meeting running smoothly.

Let me be clear: comments that no longer try to convey an idea or message to the Board of Trustees, but are instead aimed at attacking, intimidating, and shutting down others, have no place in our community and will not be tolerated. Not only do they go against basic principles of decency and respect, they attack the rights, dignity, and reputations of others. Such behavior is beneath this forum.

Failure to comply with these rules or engaging in disruptive behavior at meetings hampers the Board's ability to conduct vital Village business. It is disrespectful not only to Board members but also to the residents who depend on effective Village management.

Any questions or concerns raised during the meeting will be taken seriously and addressed, either by email or at the next meeting. We will make sure everyone's voice is heard and that all concerns are properly handled.

We need to work together to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all our residents.

Thank you to the residents who uphold high standards of behavior. Together, we can embody the values of diversity, respect, and understanding that define Tarrytown.

Lynn Goodman who is the co-chair of the Greenburgh Human Rights Committee and is also a village resident wished to address the comments that were made at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting where a speaker during the public comment section publicly taunted and baited a board member because he is gay. She was embarrassed by the meanness displayed, for herself and for the village. When a person engages in a public display of gay bashing and gets away with it, it sends a message is okay in Tarrytown. She hopes this is not what Tarrytown stands for. She has found this to be a loving village. John Stiloski found this to be a laudable purpose to urge the Board to help the residents of Asbury Terrace who are facing possible eviction because of huge rent increases. While he is passionate about helping these residents, he crossed the line to abusive and went too far by gay baiting Trustee Rinaldi calling him honey and cutie pie. His comments could be called illegal fighting words. This type of speech is not protected by the first amendment and should not be tolerated at a public board meeting. In addition a caller that evening, Peter Bartolacci echoed Mr. Stiloski's sentiments stating "if you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen". That means it is okay to publically taunt and embarrass people in this room. This room must be a safe space. No official deserves to be insulted or demeaned. There is a distinction between expressing views about public matters and hurling insults at a person in government. Trustees, please stand up to bullies, place limits on speech, shut the mic off, and stop the meeting. Residents, please treat everybody with respect including public officials.

Audrey Thomas stated that she found a memo from October 26, 2021 in which John Madeo an Asbury Terrace representative stating that the Mayor and Village Board have worked with Mountco to ensure that all units at Asbury Terrace remain affordable for at least 30 years. Can we assure\* that Sadie McKeown represents both of these agencies. Mr. Madeo seems confused as to how Section 8 works. Paperwork has to be filled out, and there are income thresholds which are quite low. He's wrong when he says everyone pays 30%. An increase in rent by 70 to 82 % is not justified. If you raised property taxes 70 to 82% you would no longer be sitting there. We are asking for someone to help us and get these owners do the right thing and give us a reasonable increase. Ms. Thomas does not want to be homeless and does not want to move. Leaving her home should be her choice. Sadie McKeown said this

is a cash cow building and now she sees they are funding other buildings. Please help. Mayor Brown noted that the building owner has made a commitment to look at everyone's income and whether or not you are eligible for section 8 they will honor the 30 % income threshold. A letter from Mountco will be going out this week explaining everything in much clearer terms. In addition we will be having a meeting next week at the Senior Center with officials from the village and Mountco for the residents of Asbury Terrace. Occupancy specialists will go over your case with you. If you do not get any relief from that, please let us know and maybe we can find other avenues.

Madelyn Viruet from Asbury Terrace is disappointed and dismayed at the information we have retained on how the deal for Asbury Terrace went down. We learned the board knew about the sale and it has become clear that we are cash cows for Mountco to continue to use market rent tenants to build and fund other developments in this town. John Madeo is requesting a rent increase over 70 % in six months. We would be willing to perhaps pay a 10% increase each year until he gets up to market rent. Keep in mind they are asking for our gross income, which is not what we come home with. We have to feed our families, pay car loans, insurance, child care clothing etc. How far do you think we can stretch our net income check? This increase will severely impact our lives. Ms. Viruet called Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's office a few weeks ago and has not received a response. It makes us angry that elected officials who constantly reach out to us asking for our votes and you forget who put you there after you get elected. It appears that middle class are not only fighting Washington with these ultra magna mega politician who only care to enrich their pockets and make the rich richer but also the Democrats who supposedly fight for the middle class. It makes her lose all hope for her local and federal government. We are experiencing unjust in many ways. She would rather have you hurt her with the truth instead of comforting her with their lies. Maybe we should become independents and run against you or volunteer for a board. Residents of Asbury Terrace would be more than happy to assist. Mayor Brown responded by stating that the village was informed about the sale but we had no say about the sale and it was approved by the Attorney General's office. Attorney Zalantis further clarified that the sale was approved by the AG's office and the Supreme Court.

Haydee McCarthy stated that everyone here is upset with the lack of information, but also the lack of transparency and how hard it was to get the Board to admit they knew about the sale. Why are there volunteers on Boards that are orchestrating sales such as Sadie McKeown, and why don't they have to disclose financial records because they are under the guise of being a volunteer. Ms. McCarthy hopes she is not one of the experts that was consulted. How is this person still orchestrating these deals and sales that affects all of these people? These people in this room are basically the sacrificial lambs for all of the other projects taking place in town. There is no oversight, and no one wants to question that there could be an appearance of misappropriation. Mayor Brown replied that Sadie is no longer a member of TMHA, and the Affordable Housing Committee has zero decision making power. Ms. McCarthy then noted that the AHC does propose items to the Board that they can approve which affect the ability of some people to either afford or not afford their homes. In a private capacity she works as a vendor who works for the state and has the ability to orchestrate the deal of River Plaza. How do we know she is not benefitting financially or privately? Trustee Rinaldi stated that Sadie does not have any decision making power and she does not work for the state. Ms. McCarthy stated she didn't say she was a state official, but she's working for the state in some capacity. She is also disagreeing with the fact that the Board didn't know the building got sold when it did. She's been asking questions that she has yet to get an answer to. Attorney Zalantis noted that the documentation about the sale has been on the Village's website since 2021. The sale was approved by the Attorney General's office and by the court. The Village had no authority over the sale between two private corporations. Ms. McCarthy asked how you can have someone such as Sadie who is a volunteer conducting business for the village. Attorney Zalantis replied that she doesn't. Administrator Slingerland then read the following for the record: Financial disclosures for village officers, employees and elected officials. Each Village officer, as defined in New York State Village Law § 3-301, each managerial employee and each Village officer, as defined in this chapter, or employee who serves on a board, council or committee or in an appointed capacity that has decisionmaking authority independent of the Board of Trustees shall file with the Village Clerk an annual statement of financial disclosure containing the information and appearing in the form as promulgated from time to time by the Ethics Board and kept on file with the Village Clerk. Such statement shall be filed on or before the 15th day of May with respect to the preceding calendar year. Any elected or appointed officer or managerial employee who commences employment or takes office after May 15 of any year shall file such statement within 30 calendar days after commencing employment or taking office.

John Stiloski from Wildey Street wished to get to the truth. In 2019 Rich Slingerland stated the building wasn't for sale. Mr. Slingerland replied that he stated "we have no information about the sale". Mr.

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Stiloski responded that in 2019 Mr. Slingerland knew the building was for sale and he didn't do anything. The sale of the building was not supposed to be to a private corporation and it was supposed to be for low income housing, not affordable. This building was sold in the middle of the night to a for profit corporation. You all knew the plan in 2019. Mr. Slingerland told him the DEA investigated this. Administrator Slingerland then told Mr. Stiloski to stop lying. Mayor Brown then stopped the meeting at approximately 7:29 pm for a recess.

The meeting resumed around 7:34 pm.

Reverend Upson from the Foster Memorial Zion Church stated that they were not notified about the sale. Someone from both churches was supposed to be on the Board of Trustees for those buildings and he wasn't notified nor was Reverend Williams notified. Mayor Brown replied that if you have issues with the process and sale of the building you should bring it up with the people who approved the sale which was not the Board of Trustees. We can point you in the direction of the people who can answer your questions. Reverend Upson said he wasn't bringing anything to the BPT specifically, but a lot of our members live in these buildings and that's where his interest lies and he cares about all people and doesn't want to see anyone lose their home.

Tina Bellino stated that she watched the meeting where Mr. Rinaldi said it was the first time he heard about the Asbury Terrace rent increases and she was quite surprised as several people spoke about this during a meeting last year. In fact, they were chastised for speaking against the housing expert and her sale of assets from a not for profit to a for profit entity. The Mayor then used the following meeting to state how wonderful Sadie is, and how lucky Tarrytown is to have her in charge of their affordable housing. We were vilified for speaking the truth. It doesn't take an expert to realize that rents were going to increase beyond what the tenants could afford. When the sale was brought up in 2019 Rich said it wasn't true. Rather than look into it, an opportunity was lost that could have stopped the sale. She finds it odd that Rich wasn't aware when Becky was the liaison to the building, Karen was on the Affordable Housing and Sadie was leading the deal. The decision to sell the building at a \$4.5 million dollar surplus was lauded by this Board. When she spoke last year about what occurred in the 1960's in White Plains, and she feared the same would happen to residents of Franklin Courts no one on this Board seemed the least bit concerned. Now, your housing expert will certainly fund the destruction of Franklin Courts making room for looming towers and displace more low income residents. It's ironic that the people elected to protect village residents are either ineffective or complicit with their purging of our town. Do you want to deny the plans that are in place by Mr. Balter? Residents were manipulated against their own best interests by believing that if they voted for you would protect them when in fact it created their housing insecurity. Ms. Bellino concluded by noting that the 30 percent offer can be pulled by Mountco at any time.

John Stiloski asked to use some of the remainder of the time he had left prior to the recess to have a moment of silence in honor of Police Officer Jonathan Diller who was murdered in New York City recently because of woke laws and bail reform. After the moment of silence, Mr. Stiloski then thanked Tarrytown Police Officer Garro for being at the meeting this evening. Mr. Stiloski concluded by asking for another moment of silence for the BOT to contemplate and pray for the people that are going to be evicted because you failed to protect them. Mayor Brown stated that Mr. Stiloski is making a mockery of these meetings.

David Cova from Asbury Terrace asked the BOT what their understanding is on what is happening to them. Mayor Brown replied that they were given information about rent increases that are understandably stressful. Mr. Cova then asked is they thought it was reasonable. Mayor Brown replied that she thought it would be difficult for people to absorb. Mr. Cova asked the Board if they could furnish a list of the people they contacted regarding their situation. Mayor Brown replied that they would provide them with a list of names this week. Mr. Cova continued by stating that Section 8 no longer exists and he wants to know what Board understands as far as the 30 percent income threshold. Mayor Brown replied that Mountco will be able to provide that information. Mr. Cova continued by stating that they cannot even go to their offices and that the woman that answers the phone is very rude. When you called around about our situation, what were you told? What does the Board understand about what the tenants need to do to be getting the 30 percent? Mayor Brown responded that you need to provide your income documentation and they will work out what their income is and will work out a rent that is no more than 30 percent of your income up to the market rate. Attorney Zalantis noted that the village has no oversight in regards to the building, and has no authority. The village has set up a special meeting for the residents and Mountco on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cova asked if the meeting would be televised? Deputy Mayor McGovern stated it could be on zoom. Mr. Cova thought that it would be a

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good idea so that people see what is being asked of us. Section 8 is done and all of this sounds very sketch.

Sharon asked if the meeting would be recorded. Deputy Mayor McGovern said it could be. Sharon then asked what the Board meant when they talked about a wish fund. Mayor Brown replied that it is money being held by the Housing Action Council for housing good works in Tarrytown. If there are good ideas on how that money might help people with affordable housing in the village it could be brought to the council.

Robert Bonvento stated that in February of 2023 the Tarrytown Parks Department leveled and cleared the eastern portion of Neperan Park. When he asked what the work was for, he was told it was for a dog park. In the Village Administrators report at the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting he stated a survey has gone out village wide about dog parks and we hope to have the results back for the next work session. Mr. Bonvento looked at the next three work session agendas and there was no discussion regarding the dog park survey. Mr. Bonvento received a letter from the village on March 8<sup>th</sup> which contained a survey regarding our parks. How can the Administrators Report at the March 4<sup>th</sup> BOT Meeting state that there is an interest in a dog park in Neperan Park? An email sent to the mayor prompted a response and a walk through with the mayor. When asked, the mayor didn't have a position on the dog park one way or another, but she did name a trustee who was spearheading the creation of a dog park in Neperan Park. The Village Board needs to rethink a dog park in the Neperan Park. At present, the lack of transparency on this issue needs correction and further discussion.

Antonio from Hamilton Place is concerned about the dog park. His wife likes to walk and is afraid of dogs. A lot of times people let their dogs off leash to run around and they don't care. We are very uncomfortable with this. Mayor Brown replied that a dog park comes out of the need to keep dogs out of the lower part of Neperan Park, and they have been asking for a dog park on the upper portion so they can have a contained area to allow their dogs off leash without infringing upon the comfort of others.

Jason Eaton from Neperan Road who grew up in Tarrytown with dogs and understands the importance of dog socialization. He also understands the importance of Neperan Park. It's a beautiful open space that is used ubiquitously by everyone for various purposes. He understands a need for a dog space in town but he doesn't think that putting it in an upper space versus a lower space is suitable. The sound, the smell, everything from these dogs will dominate this wonderful space. He has lived there long enough to see what happens in this space and this will change its purpose instantly. There was not an option in the survey on whether the town should have a dog run, and he thinks there is wonderful opportunity in other spaces for dogs to have. He has no doubt that with some effort another space could be found. He thinks that the \$50,000 grant should go towards drainage in the park, or more safety for children. He has seen several dogs die in that area and it is a terrible idea for both the park and the dogs. Mr. Eaton concluded by stating as someone who has lived in the area for a long time he really encourages the Board to find another place for everyone's dogs.

John Osterman from Grove Street who grew up in Tarrytown has been involved in Neperan Park quite a bit and had even started a group called Friends of Neperan Park. Mr. Osterman feels that putting a dog park there is not a good idea. He has spoken with neighbors, some who have dogs and some who don't and they all feel that having a dog park in the undeveloped area of Neperan Park will not prevent people from unleashing their dogs in the developed area of the park. What will happen is there will be more dogs in the park. People will enter through the main entrance and hang out in the middle of the park and won't sequester themselves up the hill. People from far away utilize Neperan Park, and you'll have people with dogs up at the dog run as well as unleashed dogs in the park. Additionally, parking on Grove Street is already tough, and this will also create more parking difficulties on Grove Street than already exist. If you're thinking of allowing parking along Neperan near the curve, that is too dangerous, and if you think you're going to create another parking area you're going to ruin the character of the area. There is work that has already taken place in that part of the park, and let's see what opportunities manifest for that area for the character and culture that is already developed in that park. The wooded part of the park is an important part of this sort of inner urban green oasis that exists. If you stick a fenced dog park there, you are going to be deleteriously effecting the atmosphere and neighborhood culture that's already developed there. When there were public meetings over the Tappan Zee Bridge and rezoning downtown you would get comments from non-neighborhood people saying things like oh you should create parking because it's hardly used or comments like it's only a dog park. If you put a fenced dog run there, you are going to be stamping a stamp on all of Neperan Park saying it's just a dog park and losing opportunities such as a river view corridor or an important habitat for animals and one of the better views of the historic district. Those lost opportunities will be a terrible loss for Tarrytown.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm on a motion by Mayor Brown, and seconded by Trustee Rinaldi with all voting aye.

Approved: 4-0

Kristine Gilligan  
Village Clerk