

Board of Trustees
Village of Tarrytown
Regular Meeting No. 12
Via Zoom Video Conferencing
April 20, 2020
8:00 p.m.

PRESENT via Online Zoom Video Conferencing: Mayor Fixell presiding; Trustees: Butler, Hoyt, McGovern, Rinaldi and Zollo; Village Administrator Slingerland; Assistant Village Administrator Ringel; Village Attorney Kathy Zalantis; Village Treasurer Hart and- Village Clerk Booth

ABSENT: Trustee Brown

The meeting began with the Pledge to the Flag.

Members of the Public interested in viewing the meeting should visit <https://www.tarrytowngov.com/home/events/28654> for instructions on how to join & participate.

REPORTS

Mayor Fixell noted the following:

- He gave a big thanks to the Police and Fire Departments, the Department of Public Works and the entire Village staff who have been working around the clock, doing an incredible job and keeping us relatively safe.
- He urged everybody to continue to practice social distancing and to wear facial masks. It has been making a difference with the decline of the infection rate numbers. This is the only way we can stop the spread of the COVID 19 virus. At the RiverWalk Park, the Village is requiring everyone to wear a facial mask/covering and the path has been changed to a one-way route in order to eliminate contact between people. With the absence of a vaccine, social distancing and wearing facial coverings/masks seems to be the only thing that is working right now. Face coverings/masks helps protect everyone because there are a lot of people who have the virus and don't have symptoms or not know they have it.
- The Mayor turned the meeting over to Village Administrator Slingerland to proceed with tonight's agenda.

Trustee Rinaldi noted that the Warner Library will begin Curbside Pick-up of Books and DVD's starting Tuesday, April 21st. Please call the library at 914-631-7734 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday upon request. The Book Drop will also be opened 24/7.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Slingerland reported on the following:

- Coronavirus Update
The Village issued a Reverse 911 message on Friday to let people know that per Governor Cuomo's executive order, everyone must wear a facial covering/mask unless they are under the age of 2 or medically unable to wear one. You don't have to wear the mask at all times, but you should have it with you at all times in case you are at a place where you cannot socially distance 6 feet from others to protect everyone.
- The 2020 Memorial Parade has been cancelled because mass gatherings are not permitted at this time.
- Wednesday, April 22nd, is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Although the Village is not having a gathering to celebrate Earth Day this year, he encouraged people to celebrate Earth Day in their own way like picking up garbage on a pathway or in a park, wearing gloves and observing the social distancing guidelines. We must remember the planet we live on and that we have to continue to take care of it.

- The Village has planned to celebrate Arbor Day in the Village of Tarrytown by planting a tree for Arbor Day on Friday, April 24. The Village will plant a tree in Commuter Lot A and celebrate this via video zoom conferencing.
- There is a new “Sanitation Schedule” widget on the website located on the home page of the Department of Public Works – type in your address for your sanitation schedule, which will include any updates to the sanitation schedule. There is also a Recyclopedia button for information on how to recycle or dispose waste items. Tarrytown is one of 12 municipalities cooperating with Sustainable Westchester to participate in this program. It is now active and live on the Village’s website.

Assemblyman Tom Abinanti noted the following:

- His two staff members in Westchester, Joanne Sold and Alyssa Jacobs are working remotely as well as his staff in Albany who are fielding questions from our constituents on conference calls with members of the Westchester Delegation, the Senate and Assembly and we confer with the Governor staff, who has been very receptive. He noted an analogy in regard to the virus, “just because the parachute has slowed your descent, doesn’t mean you can take it off.” Even though the number of people in hospitals and the number of people who have lost their lives have been reduced, they are still huge numbers. We still have over 500 people a day dying in New York, we still have approximately 17,000 people in the hospital every day, with 2,000 new people going into the hospital. Those are state-wide numbers. In Westchester, there are pockets of areas where numbers are not getting better. He noted that the only way we can stop the spread of this virus is for people to stay safe, stay healthy and stay home. If you have to go out, make sure you wear a facial covering/mask and gloves and keep your distance from others. As the Governor says, we need to test and trace people and we are nowhere near the amount of tests that we need.
- The traditional budget is around \$178 billion. They fought very hard against the cuts the Governor had proposed. This was before COVID-19 had really hit. The budget was passed on April 2, 3, and 4th, which was right after people started sheltering in place. They kept the budget as steady as possible. They were able to put the CHIPS money back in that the Governor had cut out. CHIPS is a program where the state provides some infrastructure/road work money to the local governments. Education monies stayed flat, same as last year. Every year, the Governor authorizes no more than a 2% increase in spending. The problem is that education and Medicaid always cost more than 2% more. So that leaves nothing for the rest of the budget. He does not know what the budget is going to look like after the effects of the economy due to the pandemic. He is proud that he was able to get approximately \$1 million for the New York Medical College for the Center for Disaster Medicine program. This program trains people on how to respond to different disasters, like earthquakes, train wrecks, or pandemics, which is what is going on right now. They authorized an additional \$80 to \$90 billion in addition to the \$178 billion that they normally spend. They are counting on federal money to come through for additional money for education and unemployment insurance. They also added money for Public Health Emergencies, which a lot of these monies are being spent on the COVID-19 virus, short term notes and grants. They have a little money left over in the budget where they were able to purchase a new fire boat for Tarrytown and they would like to work to get some money for another Tarrytown capital project that is needed right now. The Governor has been issuing guidance and guidelines daily to help everyone get adapted to this new world. One of the changes he has executed deals with the Office for People with Development Disabilities (OPWDD) whereby funds can now be transferred from one program to another. If anyone has been having difficulty getting monies they need, please call his office and they will send you the new guidelines from the Governor or go to his Facebook page assemblymanabinanti where all the Governor’s Guidelines can be found including this one. His office is always available for anyone who wants to reach out. His office number is 914-631-1605 or send an email.

Village Administrator Slingerland noted that Assemblyman Abinanti, his office and staff have always been very responsive and we appreciate all the help they have given to Tarrytown.

Assemblyman Abinanti noted that we are in this together, more than ever and that is what his office is there for. It is important to have a good partnership and work together, it is a team effort. He has reached out to Mayor Fixell to make sure that Tarrytown had enough PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for the essential people in Tarrytown.

Village Administrator noted that the Village has been working with the Villages of Sleepy Hollow and Hastings-on-Hudson to coordinate purchases for Personal Protective Equipment and it has been working out.

CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE VILLAGE OF TARRYTOWN'S TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021, TO BE CONTINUED THROUGH TO THE NEXT SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON APRIL 27, 2020, WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27, 2020

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee Zollo and unanimously carried, that the hearing be opened.

Village Administrator noted that the Village is proposing to reduce the overall tax levy increase down to 3.5%. We have asked cuts from all departments, which we are still working on. The goal is that these cuts could potentially total approximately \$900,000 to allow the Village to get down to the 3.5%. In addition, the Village will be appropriating an additional \$300,000 from the Water Fund Balance and an additional \$600,000 from the General Fund Balance. All of this is because we anticipate major impacts on the Village's revenues from reduction of parking meter fees, parking fines and fees and building department fees, approximately 30% reduction of sales tax, reduction of mortgage and hotel tax. We will have further information for the Board at the Budget Work Session on Wednesday, April 22. The proposed Village budget is planned for adoption at the Special Budget Meeting on Monday, April 27.

Ms. Morelli noted the following:

- She asked if the tree the Village is planting on Arbor Day is a male or a female tree. Municipalities tend to plant all male trees and that is why the pollen count is so high, because there are no female trees as receptors.
- She is concerned if the Village has to raise taxes due to the loss of revenue, why do the property owners have to pick up the bill for this. Homeowners are also having a tough time right now, some losing their jobs etc. She asked if when this crisis is over, maybe in June, July or August, will the Village return the levy back to 2%.

Mayor Fixell noted that the 2% tax cap allows the Village to raise the tax levy up to 5%. The Village is cutting back from that and the Village is making enormous cuts to keep it at the 3.5% level.

Ms. Morelli asked after this crisis is over, what if property values go down. Mayor Fixell noted that the Town of Greenburgh does regular home reassessments and assessments will change. She feels that living in Westchester County, we pay the most expensive property taxes and now we can't even write them off on our taxes. She said she was frustrated with the whole situation. Mayor Fixell noted that all Mayors and Board members across the county share her concerns and frustration.

Trustee Zollo moved, seconded by Trustee Hoyt, 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 continue the public hearing to Monday, April 27, 2020, the next special budget meeting of the Board of Trustees.

CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING – ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD REQUIREMENTS

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi and unanimously carried, that the hearing be opened.

There were no speakers.

Trustee Zollo moved, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, 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 continue the public hearing to Monday, May 4, 2020, the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPERTY TAX LEVY CAP LEGISLATION

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi and unanimously carried, that the hearing be opened.

There were no speakers.

Trustee Hoyt 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 close the public hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a resolution will be prepared for the Board not to take action on this hearing on Monday, April 27, 2020, the next special budget meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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

There were no speakers.

AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE – ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER SERVICE FEES

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee Zollo, 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 amend the following annual fees as follows:

- Electric Vehicle Charger Service Fees – \$ 0.30 per kilowatt hour, while the vehicle is charging at the train station.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these fees shall be updated and published by the appropriate departments and Village staff, as part of the Village's Master Fee Schedule.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON APRIL 6, 2020

Trustee Zollo moved, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, 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 the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on April 6, 2020 as submitted by the Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AUDITED VOUCHERS

Trustee McGovern moved, seconded by Trustee Hoyt, 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.19 of Audited Vouchers in the total amount of \$841,219.39 to be paid in the following amounts:

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| General | \$ 463,507.14 |
| Water | \$ 165,773.89 |
| Sewer Fund | \$ 160.86 |
| Capital | \$ 182,924.79 |
| Library | \$ 21,960.21 |
| Trust & Agency | \$ <u>6,892.50</u> |

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| Total | \$ 841,219.39 |
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OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA. SPEAKERS HAVE FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE YIELDING TO THE NEXT SPEAKER; THEN THREE (3) MINUTES FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

There were no speakers.

The Mayor and Board of Trustees urged everyone to stay safe, stay healthy and stay home.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Trustee Hoyt, seconded by Trustee Butler, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:53 p.m. by vote of seven in favor, none opposed.

Carol A. Booth
Village Clerk