

Board of Trustees
Village of Tarrytown
Regular Meeting No. 9
One Depot Plaza
Tarrytown NY 10591
April 4, 2022
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT in person: Mayor Brown presiding; Trustees: Hoyt, Kim, McGovern, Rinaldi Mitchell and Phillips-Staley; Village Administrator Slingerland; Village Attorney Zalantis; Village Treasurer Hart; Village Clerk Gilligan and Deputy Village Clerk Fasman

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 P.M.

The meeting began with the Pledge to the Flag.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silence in honor of Detective Jose Ojito, a 25 year veteran of the Tarrytown Police Department who passed away unexpectedly last week. Mayor Brown stated that Detective Ojito was not only a Tarrytown Police Officer, but a Volunteer Fireman in the Village of Sleepy Hollow. The flags in the Village have been flying at half-mast in his honor. Our condolences go out to the Police Department, Fire Department, and the Ojito family.

BOARD MISCELLANEOUS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Deputy Mayor McGovern reported that the Easter Egg Hunt is this Saturday at Pierson Park with three different times for three different age groups. Please remember to bring a basket and arrive on time. In addition, the Community Opportunity Center under the auspices of Westcott will be having an Easter party this Saturday April 9th at 2:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. The Community Opportunity Center will also be hosting a Say Yes to the Dress event on April 28th. This event is for anyone who is in need of a free prom dress. A full range of dresses will be available. Please do not forget to check the Village website for information regarding camp, the fitness center, and pool registration. Trustee Rinaldi noted that the pool is a great place for families to go and is a great value as well.

Trustee Phillips-Staley gave a shout out to the Rivertown Dance Academy who had an exceptional performance with their students last weekend at the Tarrytown Music Hall. It was a beautiful use of the Music Hall and a great community event. Trustee Phillips-Staley reminded everyone that COVID booster shots are available to anyone 50 years of age and up, and encourages everyone to get boosted. While we are currently in a lull perhaps we might not be for long. Boosters are available in many locations including our local drug stores.

Trustee Kim reported that the Transportation and Mobility Council received a report from Administrator Slingerland for the intersection at McKeel and Sunnyside Ave. as well as a request to look at the crossing at Neperan near Grove. The council will review the report and make its recommendations in about a month. Trustee Kim additionally reported that there was a lemonade stand to raise funds for the Ukraine in his neighborhood recently. Since there was a devastating fire in Sleepy Hollow, half of the proceeds will go to helping the families of the fire, and the other half going to benefit the UNHCR. The entire neighborhood pitched in and over \$1500.00 was raised in just a few hours.

Trustee Hoyt reported that on behalf of Police Chief John Barbelet and the entire Tarrytown Police Department, they would like to thank everyone for their show of support for Detective Jose Ojito who passed away last week.

Mayor Brown reported that if anyone is interested in being a Lifeguard at our pool to please apply. Lifeguards are needed, and it's a great summer job.

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Administrator Slingerland reported that a Honda dealer requested authorization to put up a banner. In addition, there is an amendment to an agenda item due to the discussion that took place during the Executive Session that was held earlier this evening.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Administrator Slingerland reported that the Village received a violation notice regarding the Village’s water supply. The formal letter that each resident and business received followed state and county structure which we are required to follow. While the letter can be confusing, please note that the water is safe to drink, cook with and bathe with. Certain things happened with the treatment of the water that created byproducts called trihalomethanes, and if elevated over a period of time say 20 or 30 years, can contribute to a heightened risk of cancer over a prolonged exposure. We recommend that people flush their taps for a minute or two before drinking. Once flushed, the water is much less likely to have these chemicals. The village might receive a few more violation notices as it’s based upon a four quarter running average. Because less water is used in the winter months, the levels of these byproducts can increase. It’s important to note that the two places that had the high levels of containments in the violation was Tarry Hill and Village Hall.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING ON THE VILLAGE OF TARRYTOWN’S TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
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

Administrator Slingerland reported that based upon the requests from organizations that the Village supports, the following changes to the Tentative Budget are proposed.

- NOTE:** Since the release of the Tentative Budget on March 21, 2022, the following changes to the Tentative Budget are proposed:
- A.4010.450 Increase contribution to Neighborhood House from \$6800 to \$8000
+\$1200
 - A.7550.450 Increase contribution to Historic Society from \$3188 to \$5,000
+\$1812
 - L.7410.151 Increase in wages for part-time Library employees
+\$15,000
 - L.1990.450 Increase in contingency account for the Library
+\$5,000
 - L.9030.800 Increase in Social Security for Library employees
+\$1,147

TOTAL: +\$24,159

	Increase in General Fund
Appropriations: \$8,417	
	Increase in Library Fund
Appropriations: \$21,147	
	Increase in Library Fund Balance
Appropriation: \$11,000	

The above changes result in the following changes to the overall budget:

- New Tax Levy: \$18,937,076 (+\$8,417)
- New Tax Levy percentage increase: 2.96%
- New Tax Rate: \$8.2809 per \$1,000 in assessed value

Deputy Mayor McGovern moved to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, with all voting “aye”

Dolf Beil from White Plains spoke about the General Fund Capital Budget, and noted that the four biggest items account for 43% of the entire General Capital Budget. He questioned whether spending two million dollars for dredging of the river for the Fireboat is worth the expense. Mr. Beil also spoke about the Tarrytown Boat Club Lease, the Village’s Comprehensive Plan and the LWRP. Mr. Beil’s entire presentation is attached at the end of these minutes.

Trustee Hoyt stated that he has seen firsthand how necessary it is to do the dredging. The Fireboat is not just used in Tarrytown, but also goes on mutual aid calls from Croton all the way to Yonkers. Every member of the Fireboat that he has ever spoken to says that the dredging is a necessity.

Mayor Brown noted that the plan Mr. Beil presented is a three year plan. The dredging has been a topic for a long time, and we keep pushing it down the road because we are looking for alternatives and grants. As for the LWRP, Mayor Brown stated that we keep kicking that down the road as well. It will take a lot of time, effort, and money for zoning. We did not consider funding that this year. Maybe we should have, and it’s possible we still have time to do that. Thank you for bringing this to the floor.

There were no other Public Speakers.

Mayor Brown asked Administrator Slingerland if we had funds to apply towards zoning issues. Administrator Slingerland responded that we do not, but there are funds in the Capital Plan that is the Board wants to appropriate from the Capital Fund, it will not affect the tax rate.

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Phillips-Staley, and unanimously carried, the Public Hearing was closed. Approved: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown hereby closes the Public Hearing, with the adoption of the Budget scheduled for Monday April 18, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 97 OF THE TARRYTOWN CODE, ENTITLED BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TO ADD A NEW PROVISION ADOPTING THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT APPLICATION.

A motion to open the Public Hearing was made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Kim and unanimously carried. Approved 7-0

Dean Gallea the Co-Chair of TEAC stated that he is happy this came up this evening. This eases the permitting process when obtaining a permit to put solar on your home. This is also an important step in making progress towards the required New York State seventy percent solarization and the Climate Leadership Protection Act. By codifying it and putting it in our law, we can submit it to the state and receive credit towards our Climate Smart Communities certification process. Mr. Gallea continued by announcing that TEAC is posting and sponsoring a number of activities over the next few weeks. This Saturday there will be a nature walk at Peabody Park, and TEAC is also getting the Community Garden ready to open. If you are interested in getting space at the Community Garden, there is a sign up form on their website which is tarrytownenviro.org. The fee is \$25.00 and your application would need to be approved. On Saturday the 16th there is a Village Wide Clean up at Pierson Park, and on Sunday, a clothing swap will be taking place at the Hastings Flea.

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, and unanimously approved, the Public Hearing was closed. Approved: 7-0

On a motion made by Trustee Kim, seconded by Trustee Phillips-Staley, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

WHEREAS the Village Board desires to streamline the application process for small-scale photovoltaic system installations under 25 kW in size by adopting the New York State Unified Solar Permit application form and implementing the new procedures; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held for the proposed action on April 4, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a notice of public hearing was published in the Journal News on March 25, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown is the only agency which has approval authority over the Proposed Action and is therefore the Lead Agency for the Proposed Action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

In accordance with Article 8 of the State Environmental Conservation Law and 6NYCRR Part 617, including without limitations the criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.7(c) and based upon review of the Proposed Action, the Village Board of Trustees hereby determines that the Proposed Action will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and hereby adopts a Negative Declaration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve an amendment to the Village Code of the Village of Tarrytown, Chapter 97, entitled "Building Construction" to add a new provision adopting the New York State Unified Solar Permit Application which reads as follows:

§ 97-11. New York State Unified Solar Permit

- A. Notwithstanding the procedures specified in this Chapter, the Village of Tarrytown hereby adopts the New York State Unified Solar Permit for the processing and approval of eligible small-scale photovoltaic systems (25 kilowatts or less).
- B. The Building Inspector is empowered to accept the New York State Unified Solar Permit for small-scale photovoltaic systems (less than 25 kilowatts), along with fees as may be established for the filing thereof, and to issue building permits upon satisfactory review and approval of same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby adopt Local Law No. 4 of 2022.

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

Nathan Grou from Martling Ave. is concerned about the recent changes in his neighborhood. When Southern Cross purchased the Hitachi property, he has witnessed several changes over the years especially in regards to traffic. Mr. Grou feels there is a lack of respect and courtesy for the neighborhood. The noise, increase in traffic and garbage have all had a negative impact in the neighborhood. There is a marked increase in vehicular traffic, garbage all over the street, and the noise level is louder than ever. There is even a lack of animal life due to all of the new activity. Mr. Grou continued by stating that the speed of the drivers is a huge concern, with only one sign on Martling Ave. stating the speed limit, yet there are six speed signs on Prospect with one being an electric sign. He feels the area has gotten quite dangerous, and is asking for assistance.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Grou for his comments. She did acknowledge that the property is being used for what it is zoned for but asked Administrator Slingerland if the hours of operation were being adhered to. Administrator Slingerland responded that there have been numerous communications between our Building Department, Police Department and the

Management Company and they have received several notices of violation, and in some cases summonses to implement corrective action. If there are more complaints, the Village will follow up and see if there are further restrictions that need to be implemented. Trustee Hoyt stated he would talk to our Police Chief about the speed signs and see if something can be done. Trustee Hoyt also noted that Trustee Kim is on the Transportation Council is will bring it to their attention as well. There was additional discussion among the Board and Administrator Slingerland in regards to the existing lease, speaking to Southern Cross and Con Edison and the Village Code regarding noise.

RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON A DRAFT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE VILLAGE CODE TO INCREASE THE VETERAN'S PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION LEVELS IN LINE WITH THE TOWN OF GREENBURGH LEVELS.

On a motion made by Trustee Hoyt, seconded by Deputy Mayor McGovern, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown hereby schedule a public hearing to be held at the Regular Village Board Meeting on Monday, April 18, 2022, to consider a draft proposed local law to amend the Village Code to increase the Veteran's Property Tax Exemption levels in line with the recently increased Town of Greenburgh levels.

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

On a motion made by Trustee Hoyt, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi and unanimously carried, that the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

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 30, 2022 beginning at 9 a.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Administrator together with the Police Chief may take 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.

ARBOR DAY RESOLUTION

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Phillips-Staley, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

WHEREAS, in 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, April 2022 is the 150th Anniversary of Arbor Day and the 50th Anniversary of the Arbor Day Foundation, and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are renewable resources giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Tarrytown has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 40 years and the Village desires to continue its tree-planting ways.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby proclaim Friday, April 29, 2022 as “ARBOR DAY” in the Village of Tarrytown, and urges all citizens to support efforts to care for trees and woodlands in the Village and to support the Village’s forestry program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees urges all citizens in the Village to plant trees to improve the community and to promote the well-being of present and future generations.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE HUDSON RIVER KAYAK OUTFITTERS LICENSE AGREEMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Kim, seconded by Trustee Mitchell, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

WHEREAS, Hudson River Kayak Outfitters, LLC has been offering kayak rental opportunities at Tarrytown Lakes since 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Village continues to support the enjoyment of the Village’s natural recreational areas by residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS Hudson River Kayak Outfitters will offer Tarrytown residents a 10% discount when they obtain an address-dependent resident code from the Recreation Department Front Desk;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby authorize and direct the Village Administrator to execute the renewal license agreement with Hudson River Kayak Outfitters, LLC d/b/a Hudson River Recreation, Croton-on-Hudson, New York, based on the renewal proposal submitted, with the following proposed License Fee increases :

2022	\$2,100
2023	\$2,250
2024	\$2,400
2025	\$2,550
2026	\$2,700

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract period shall be for two 2-year terms, and a third 1-year term.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH WESTCHESTER POWER

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Mitchell, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

WHEREAS, the Village of Tarrytown has participated in the Sustainable Westchester Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program since its inception in 2018 to aggregate consumers located within the Village and to negotiate competitive rates for the supply of electricity for such consumers; and

WHEREAS, the current Electric Service Agreement for the Sustainable Westchester CCA Program will terminate on June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a five-month contract extension will allow Sustainable Westchester to enhance its approach to energy procurement to increase supply options and competition while avoiding going out to bid on the next two-year contract at the height of an unstable energy market; and

WHEREAS a five-month contract extension cannot remain at the 2020 procurement price because current energy prices are significantly higher than they were two years ago;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown authorizes the Village Administrator to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Sustainable Westchester, committing the Village to execute the 2022 Extension Electric Service Agreement commencing on the first meter read date on or after July 1, 2022 and ending on the first meter read date after November 30, 2022 as long as the Extension Agreement meets the following conditions:

- i. the Competitive Supplier is deemed qualified for the duration of the 2022 Extension ESA by the Qualifications Review, and
- ii. such Competitive Supplier's offer is deemed by Sustainable Westchester to be a Compliant Offer which means the price must be inclusive of fees owed to Sustainable Westchester and be less than 12.50 cents/kwh for residential accounts and 12.50 cents/kwh for small commercial accounts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before May 31, 2022, the Village Administrator is authorized to execute the 2022 Extension Electric Service Agreement with Sustainable Westchester and the Competitive Supplier as long as all conditions outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding have been met.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE RENEWAL OF THE COMP ALLIANCE INSURANCE MEMBER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Hoyt, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby authorize and direct the Village Administrator to execute a two-year Member Participation agreement with the New York State Municipal Workers' Compensation Alliance covering Workers Compensation Insurance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annual premium for the Worker's Compensation Coverage of all employees and volunteers will be \$600,998 or \$1,201,996 for two years from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

On a motion made by Trustee Rinaldi, seconded by Trustee Kim, with Trustee Hoyt abstaining, the following resolution was approved. Approved: 6-1-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve the following Fire Department membership changes recommended at the March 15, 2022 Board of Fire Wardens meeting. Member: Scott A. Klami has been approved for active membership at Washington Engine-Tower Ladder 78.

APPOINTMENT OF ANTOINETTE MORALES

On a motion made by Trustee Rinaldi, seconded by Deputy Mayor McGovern, and unanimously carried, that the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown hereby appoints Antoinette Morales of Mount Kisco, New York, to the position of Village Treasurer, at an annual salary of \$148,000, to fill the unexpired portion of the term that

shall expire in December of 2022, and with a starting date of Monday, April 25, 2022, subject to the provisions of Civil Service and other applicable local and State laws.

Mayor Brown thanked James Hart for his many years of service to the Village. Treasurer Hart will be retiring on April 23, 2022. He will be missed and we wish him all the best.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO PART TIME AVAILABILITY EMPLOYEES FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Kim, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby appoint Joseph Clewell and Nick Rama as Part Time Availability Laborers in the Parks Department to perform landscaping maintenance on the RiverWalk and other parks in the Village, as well as in downtown tree wells, from mid- April through mid-November, at an hourly wage of \$19.25 per hour effective Monday, April 11, 2022 and shall be subject to all applicable civil service rules and regulations.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY COUNCIL

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Kim, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby appoint Ryan Lucia and Rick Reimundez to the Transportation and Mobility Council for a term to expire in December of 2022.

SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Mitchell, with Trustee Hoyt abstaining, the following resolution was approved. Approved: 6-1-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby schedule a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees on Friday, April 8, 2022 at 8:30 am to confirm the actions to nominate and elect Chiefs taken at the Fire Department Elections.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2022

On a motion made by Trustee Hoyt, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on March, 21, 2022 as submitted by the Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF THE ACTION ITEM MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF MARCH 30, 2022

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Mitchell, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve the action-item minutes of the Board of Trustees Work Session Meeting held on March 30, 2022 as submitted by the Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AUDITED VOUCHERS

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Mitchell, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was approved. Approved: 7-0

Roll Call: Trustee Hoyt, Yes; Trustee Kim, Yes; Trustee Mitchell, Yes; Trustee Rinaldi, Yes; Trustee Phillips-Staley, 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. 18 of Audited Vouchers in the total amount of \$323,361.49 as presented by the Village Treasurer, to be paid in the following amounts:

General	\$ 205,984.66
Water	\$ 9,077.54
Sewer Fund	\$ 2,755.52
Capital	\$ 94,733.96
Library	\$ 8,459.46
Trust & Agency	\$ 2,350.35
Total	\$ 323,361.49

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

Miguel Valle from Sleepy Hollow who stated that he has been a Volunteer Firefighter for 45 years. He also grew up in the Village and is a family member of Detective Ojito who passed away last week. Mr. Valle drove by today and saw that the monument that was made in Detective Ojitos honor was gone. It didn't state Blue Lives Matter and he's very upset that it has been taken down. Detective Ojito worked for the Village for 25 years, and was just buried on Friday. He asked if someone could please explain why the memorial was taken down. Mayor Brown replied that the two flags were put on Village property without any requests or authority. There have been other displays put on Village property in the past which were well meaning too, but they were also taken down. The memorial in question was up since last Wednesday and our flags have been lowered to half-mast since. At some point the flags have to be raised and the displays taken down. Mr. Valle asked why the memorial was taken down but the flags not raised. Mayor Brown replied that the flags should have been raised today. The decision was to leave them at half-mast until Monday. Everyone is just trying to do the right thing. Mr. Valle replied that he feels that is was horrible the memorial was taken down so soon as Detective Ojito worked very hard for the Village. Is that the thanks he gets? Mayor Brown replied that the flags were lowered at half-mast which is the highest honor a government can give to an individual, almost every member of the Board attended his services and mourned with the family, and there are flowers that were placed at the Police Monument. Mayor Brown concluded that she is truly sorry if he feels any disrespect because the signs had to come down at some point and the flags need to be raised. No disrespect was meant, it was just a decision that was made. Trustee Phillips-Staley commented that the Board cares very deeply Mr.Valle's relative, and about the Police. Enforcing Village Code and Village practices has nothing to do with how deeply we care. He was clearly a friend to everyone and the entire Board is devastated by his loss. Trustee Phillips-Staley understands there are other tensions out there regarding signs and whether they should be up or down. She deeply regrets that those things cloud what is most important, which is how important he was. Mr. Valle said what is most upsetting is that it just disappeared. No one was notified it was coming down. Trustee Phillips-Staley hopes that the one thing that isn't lost is how much Detective Ojito mattered.

Patrick Derivan from Tarrytown wished to state that he is also very upset, and he feels it was very insensitive that the signs were taken down. Firehouses put mourning banners up for thirty days when a member passes, this was taken down in a few days. Why was it taken down? When he went to the police Department to file a complaint of stolen property, he was referred to Administrator Slingerland. Mayor Brown responded that the memorial appeared on Village property with no one knowing who put it up. Mr. Derivan confirmed they put it up. Mayor Brown stated a discussion needs to be had about policies regarding Village vehicles and buildings, but this was not the time. The monument appeared on Village property and in the Village's parking lot. No one knew it was coming. We allowed it to stay because we didn't want to have an issue prior to Detective Ojito's burial. Mayor Brown was not aware of the thirty days, but she believes that the purple bunting is still over the doorway. That is an official mourning flag for a police officer and the Police Department can keep that up as long as they see fit. What we are talking about is something individuals took upon themselves to put on Village property without permission to do so. It should have come down

immediately, but it was left in honor of Detective Ojito. Mayor Brown stated she is sorry that they feel that's the only way we can honor Detective Ojito. The entire Board respects him, the Fire Department and the Police Department., and we show it in many ways. A flag should not be all and the end all of our support. It's not. Mr. Derivan replied that everyone was shocked and saddened by his passing. We felt that it was a fitting place to hang a sign and flag since that is where he worked. He was a Village employee who lived here his whole life who did everything for everyone. The insensitively to sneak around and take a sign down. Why not call the Fire Department? Trustee Phillips-Staley suggested that to avoid this in the future let's talk before things go up. We can learn from the experience moving forward. Mr. Derivan asked where his property was. Administrator Slingerland responded that it is in possession of the Village, and can be claimed at an appropriate time.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Hoyt and seconded by Trustee Phillips-Staley, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm by a vote of seven in favor, none opposed.

Kristine Gilligan
Village Clerk