

**Village Board Meeting  
Monday, January 4, 2010**

A regular Village Board meeting was held on the above date at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee John Meehan,  
Trustee Bruce Simon

ALSO PRESENT: Virginia Menschner, Village Clerk  
Terry Rice, Village Attorney

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

**Set Dates for February Meetings:**

Mayor LaCorte said the workshop will be held Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board meeting will be the following Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor said we are going to skip ahead a bit on the agenda and start off with the Police Department. Chief Osborn has some presentation and something to talk about. Chief Osborn thanked the Mayor and Board. He said we just had a great presentation. We brought in two DARE Hockey teams, their championship teams, as well as their families and he wanted to thank them for letting them do that. He said those are primarily Village families and he does appreciate them letting them bring them down here and thanks to Gail for all of her assistance. He said that as the Board has been well aware, their department received State Accreditation status last month at a ceremony up in Albany. And tonight they are very honored to have two of the State accreditors from the Department of Criminal Justice Services up in Albany here tonight with us. But before he introduces them, he said he just wanted to thank our contingent of officers who basically made the accreditation process possible. The first one, and he is not here, he is home ill tonight, is Lt. John Bonkoski who oversaw the program for over two years. So Lt. Bonkoski oversaw this program along with Sgt. John DiRoma. Chief Osborn asked Mayor LaCorte to please join him at the podium. Chief Osborn said we have Sgt. John DiRoma and we have the Ramapo Police Department Sgt. Dan Hyman who is here. He was a huge assistance to us during this whole process and he would like the Mayor to present them with certificates. The Mayor said these are presented to Sgt. John DiRoma and Lt. John Bonkoski of the Suffern Police Department as well as Sgt. Dan Hyman of the Ramapo Police Department. It says Village of Suffern Certificate of Recognition presented to the pre-mentioned gentlemen with appreciation of their dedicated work during the Suffern Police Department accreditation process. The Mayor said we would not have been able to do this without them. And he thanked them.

Chief Osborn said that he would like to introduce the two gentlemen from DCJS in Albany. We have Hank Boland and Owen Johnson who made the trip down here in this cold weather just to basically advise the Village of what took place in this process. And he thanked them for joining us. The Chief said we sincerely appreciate it.

Hank Boland thanked Chief Osborn, the members of the Village Board, the Mayor and honored guests and the citizens of Suffern. He said he is the program manager for the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Agency program. He said he is here tonight to award the Suffern Village Police Department with their Certificate of Accreditation. He said that Chief Osborn and his team have done an outstanding job and he thinks it is just noteworthy for him to take a few minutes to tell them just exactly what is involved with the accreditation. He said he will start by telling them that so often we hear, day in and day out, about what goes wrong with law enforcement - mistakes that are made, situations that arise and he is here to tell them what is perfectly good about law enforcement and how the fact that Chief Osborn and his department were very proud and willing to open their book, open themselves to an impartial examination by their peers to see how well they do their job. That basically is the essence of the accreditation program. The New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation program was first created in 1988 by an act of the Legislature. It has since grown to currently over 246 agencies out of 500 that are eligible. Of those 246 agencies that are participating, only 131 have attained the level of accreditation. Suffern being one of them. The accreditation program basically consists of 132 standards. These standards cover every aspect of law enforcement - from training to administration to operations. They look at everything from evidence handling, criminal investigation, traffic enforcement procedures. The Chief was required to select a program manager and as he already mentioned Lt. John Bonkoski was selected to serve as the program manager with the able-bodied assistance of Sgt. DiRoma and he is here to tell them that based upon the findings of the assessment team, they did an outstanding job together with all the members of the department. Once the Lt. and Sgt. had gone to the Chief, they reviewed all their policies and procedures, the Chief was satisfied with the policies and procedures and met their full standard, they then notified their agency, the Division of Criminal Justice Services, and it then became their task to assign three independent experienced law enforcement professionals from across the state to come in and conduct an on-site assessment. As he said, those three assessors looked at every aspect of the department from everything including what their mission statement was, whether they actually had a mission statement posted on their walls and visibly apparent to the public, their evidence rooms to ensure that they handled evidence properly, that they ensured that they handled criminal investigations properly, that they did traffic enforcement, that their training records were up to date. He said he would also have one more thing on the training records. The other requirement for law enforcement accreditation is that every member of the department

must receive a minimum of 21 hours of in-service training every year. That training must include legal updates, use of force, use of deadly force, and weapons training. That is not required of other police departments outside the accreditation program. So once again the Suffern Village, like all the other accredited agencies, rose to achieve that goal. At the end of the three day evaluation the program manager, the team leader, was required to submit a written report as to their findings. And he would like to tell them that that team leader wrote in his final report and he quotes "that the Suffern Police Department has done an outstanding job in their efforts towards accreditation. Each and every member conducted themselves in a truly professional and courteous manner throughout the entire on-site evaluation. It is the team's recommendation that the Suffern Police Department be accredited for a period of five years." He said that recommendation was then turned over to a 17 member council that is appointed by the Governor. It represents not only members of law enforcement from the Chief's and Sheriff's association but also from the Conference of Mayors, the Association of Towns, the Association of Counties. It has members of law enforcement labor organizations. It has a police officer and a deputy sheriff assigned to the council. The council is the only one who can approve the accreditation and he is very happy to tell them that at their December meeting, upon reading the report filed by the team, and after interviewing himself and other members of the program staff, they decided unanimously to vote for the accreditation of the Suffern Police Department and he thinks that it is just right that we acknowledge how much effort they spent to achieve this goal. And thinks they, the members of the Board, the people of Suffern have every right to be extremely proud of their police department. Because they have proven themselves that they are trying to meet the highest standards of professionalism. He said that now, if he may, he would like to present Chief Osborn with the certificate. Mr. Boland said this is a Certificate of Accreditation. Be it hereby known that the Village of Suffern Police Department has met all applicable requirements established by the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council. The Council is therefore proud to award the agency Accreditation Status for the period of December 3, 2009 to December 2, 2014. Signed Denise E. O'Donnell, Commissioner, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, H. Lloyd Perkins, Chairman, Law Enforcement Accreditation Council, and John Dillage, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Criminal Justice Services. He then congratulated the Chief for a job well done.

Mr. Boland said that, if he may take one more minute of their time, unfortunately Lt. Bonkoski is not here tonight to receive his award. However, the Sgt. is and he hopes that he will take this on the Lt.'s behalf. But he would like to tell them that they have an award for the program manager, those program managers, who do outstanding jobs. This award is named the John Kimball O'Neil Award and he would like to just take a second to explain the significance of this. He said that John O'Neil was a member of the DCJS, the Division of Criminal Justice Staff, for over twenty years. For the last ten

years, right up to his sudden and unexpected death just before New Year's Eve of 2005, John worked exclusively on the accreditation program. John went out of his way to do everything he possibly could to assist agencies in their quest to become accredited. And a lot of us in the agency felt that John became synonymous with the word accreditation. He worked so hard and so diligently for it. Once John passed away, the council felt that it was worthwhile and necessary to remember John because of all the work that he had done for accreditation. To remember him in some way. And the way that the council chose to do so was to identify those program managers they felt had done an outstanding job and to name the award given to them the John Kimball O'Neil Award of Achievement. He said he would like to take the opportunity now to present the John Kimball O'Neil Award to Lt. John Bonkoski of the Suffern Village Police Department. He then thanked Mayor and Board for their attention this evening and he said that one more thing that he would also like to point out, as the Chief did point out, in addition to the Sgt. working so hard, but also to Danny Hyman from Ramapo. This is one of the features of the accreditation program. The mutual cooperation between departments - that they work so hard and so diligently to assist each other in achieving the accreditation process and he, just like the Chief, thinks it is noteworthy that we acknowledge that assistance also. He thanked everybody for their time and congratulated the Chief and the department for their outstanding work.

The Mayor said congratulations again to the Suffern Police Department. He said he knows there was a tremendous amount of hard work that went into this over the last several years and it is really a great thing for the Village and all the residents and he knows that we are all very proud of our police department as being the best police department in all of Rockland County.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Dan McInerney said that he had a quick update. He said that last month, they averaged a call a day and they ended the year with 293 calls. He said it is broken down by the following categories - 33 under fire, which is structure, brush and vehicle; 8 were rescue - mostly motor vehicle extrications; 47 hazardous conditions, which are gas leaks or electrical or problems; 50 service calls, which are basically cooking - smoke from cooking; 34 good intent and 91 false alarms. That is the breakdown. He said that on Friday, January 15, the Chiefs will be attending the graduation ceremony at Rockland Community College for Rockland County firefighters. Six of the 58 graduates from Firefighter I are from Suffern. And four of the 22 graduates from Firefighter II are also from Suffern. Firefighter I is 87 hours of basic and intermediate firefighting and 22 hours is the advanced class in addition to that.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT:**

There was no report from the Building Department.

The Mayor said he had a brief presentation that he would like to make. He said a couple of weeks ago he got a call from Suffern resident and friend Chuck Barone, who came up with what he thought was a really good idea. He volunteered, especially because he volunteered due to the fact that it was cold weather, to go throughout the Village looking at all the various holiday displays that people had on their lawns and came up with a number of top ones throughout the Village. And then taking a look at them determined which display was pretty much the best Christmas light display in all of the Village of Suffern. And after looking at many of them, came to the decision that that would be awarded to the Kerner family, Ed and Mary Ellen, at 3 Clinton Place and also Chuck was able to secure a donation, very generously from Ravi Restaurant, of a gift certificate, which hopefully covers some of their electric bill for the month. So the Mayor asked the Kerner family to come up to the podium and he presented them with the award.

**7:45 P.M. -**

**PUBLIC HEARING - CAFFE DOLCE - SPECIAL PERMIT LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:**

The Mayor said we now have two public hearings - the first one is for Caffe Dolce for a special permit concerning live entertainment. Attorney Rice said that pursuant to our zoning law, live entertainment requires a special permit from the Board of Trustees. Caffe Dolce has had a special permit for live entertainment which since has expired. They have asked to amend the special permit to increase the hours. The original permit also provided only for acoustical entertainment and he believes, and the applicant can speak to this if they want, they want more than just acoustical instruments. The matter, as is required, was referred to the Village of Suffern Planning Board. They recommended approval. During the meetings with the Planning Board, the Planning Board's recommendation, he believes the applicant's request as well, that the entertainment be permitted between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. and 11:45 on Friday, 11 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. on Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, although they also requested that if Monday is a holiday they would like to have entertainment to continue until 7:45. The entertainment, according to the applicant's request, would be limited to jazz, blues, contemporary, rock, open mic and DJ's. There were considerable discussions with respect to the fact that there should be some type of decibel limit as a condition of the permit. Because unlike the other establishments in the Village that have live entertainment the live entertainment at Caffe Dolce is and is proposed to be outside so there is an issue as far as noise disturbance. Mr. Vanderbeek has a report that he is going to give to the Board tonight to discuss the issue of decibels and noise considerations measured at the property line and so he thinks that is going to have to be referred to our Planning Consultant. Attorney Rice said that he thinks as a condition of this approval there should be some limitation on the

decibels at the property line and he thinks in addition to this particular condition for this particular application, we discussed amending the zoning law to provide a limit that would be established for all live entertainment throughout the Village that would have a decibel limit at the property line. The Planning Board also suggested that the live entertainment permit, as we have done in many other instances, be limited to a period of six months and subject to immediate suspension by the Board of Trustees and subject to a hearing on any such suspension if the establishment creates a disturbance. He said that also there would be weekly reporting as far as the decibels and hours of operation to the Building Department. It is also subject to review by the Rockland County Department of Planning and he doesn't know if we have had a response back by them yet. He asked the Village Clerk if we had a response back. The Village Clerk said they already approved it.

Attorney Rice said that one other additional thing. He said we also have a memo here from the Building Department with regard to some items that have to be dealt with by the applicant and the Building Department as well as the County Department of Health.

Mark McGuy of Caffe Dolce said that in response to the Building Department's comments was a request to have an underwriter inspect the outdoor electrical work and lighting. He said they do not believe this is required for the speaker wire but the underwriter will let them know. They will have an underwriter come out and take a look at whatever else that they want. He said he hasn't submitted any plans for the permanent tent and heating system. It says here that we are to include a seating plan, the routes of egress. He said that Caffe Dolce is collecting information from the tent manufacturer and trying to arrange some of the funding to support this expenditure. With regard to having walls for live entertainment, Caffe Dolce venue has always considered to be outside and would not attempt to stretch the current code to say that the tent falls under the definition of the zoning law. He said the other item was installing an employees bathroom in compliance with the Health Department. He said that at this time he does have an open building permit and he has not yet installed it as of right now. But as soon as the work is completed, they will get the C.O. and have it inspected for that purpose. He said at this time he hasn't done anything on it yet. And the additional paperwork for the platform outdoor bar he has a small schematic but he wants to just confirm with the Planning Board that this is what they need as far as getting a building permit goes. He said they will have it in by January 31. Mr. McGuy asked if there were any other questions that he could help answer. The Mayor asked the Board if they had any questions.

Attorney Rice said that he thinks the biggest issue that has persisted was the question of noise and off-site noise disturbance. The decibels will deal with that at some point. He asked Mr. McGuy if he could address that issue as to how he is going to deal with

that as well. Mr. McGuy said that as they have spoken in the past first the timing of it, as far as when the time - within what time frame they are talking about. Until 11:45 p.m. So they know that they have whatever the curfew is they will abide by. So they understand exactly what time it can go to. So 11:45 is fine with him. He doesn't have an issue with that. And again it is pertaining to live music, which is outside, so the decibel levels again - last year they had it started getting down pretty good. He said he really had kind of set up the system where they can control the sound so they were able to bring it down to a good level. He said he doesn't think it was too out of control as in maybe previous years where he had a band which was louder and he wasn't able to control the sound. So it was sort of out of his control. So he thinks this past year they got it in a little better. And as far as that goes he thinks they are pretty good. He said he knows that Tom has put down some pretty good parameters as far as the decibel levels go and kind of relating the code to the NYC code where, again, it is not just for his establishment but possibly the next door establishment as well. Even the music coming out as well as the lofts on top of Lafayette Avenue where some of the artists are musicians and they do actually practice live bands and there is live music. This is a code that he thinks would help everybody in the Village to be able to hang something on their hats as far as what they are allowed to do and what is considered a noise pollution.

Attorney Rice asked Mr. McGuy if he could tell them who is on the premises to ensure that the music stops at a particular time and that it is not too loud as well as maybe you can give the Board a little more specifics as far as the type of bands. He said he read what was related but generally the Board wants to have some specifics as far as the types of bands that you are going to have.

Mr. McGuy said as far as types he has gone from rock to jazz to blues and most of it is - none of it being heavy metal or rap - most of it is sort of quasi-acoustical live music. It does have live drums, it does have amplified guitars but more not of the hard rock nature - more of the contemporary like the Allman Brothers who probably the most would be the loudest kind of music that he would have. There are usually five pieces with a keyboard, a drum and guitars. The type of music - he goes from singer songwriter to jazz to some different kinds of things. But acoustically he thinks that it is something that they can control more now because he does have a sound guy that he works with and we can actually mix it so they actually can record it so they can actually get the right levels. Nobody wants to be in a place where you can't talk to each other and you are trying to eat. They are also trying to take orders and they are trying to serve food so they are also trying to minimize the noise in one way where people can enjoy themselves. And since it is not an enclosed club dancing and that sort of thing going on, they want people to be able to eat, talk and also listen to music. So it is not something he wants overpowering at all times. And nine out of ten times he is on the premises if he does have live music. He

said there were a couple of occasions where he wasn't there last year. But in most instances he is on the premises actually. He said he usually works the back door as opposed to the front door because the back door is where everybody gets in for free so he has to be there. Usually the front door - he usually has a guy on the front door. He said he is there nine out of ten times every night they have music anyway because he is usually the guy who has to pay the band anyway. So he is the one they come to see and he is the one taking them off at quarter to twelve.

Attorney Rice said he discussed with Tom briefly before the meeting - he has a report here that relates to the general background on noise control and he thinks that Tom was in agreement that in order for us to really do something both on your application as well as over the longer term as far as amending the zoning law, which certainly will take a number of months, not that your approval will take a number of months but the actual amendment to the zoning law would, that Tom's report and any other matter that has to be studied should be referred to our Planning Consultant and that under those circumstances we should continue this public hearing until the next meeting. The only thing that he would add is that under our local law for escrow reimbursement, it is normally the applicant's responsibility to pay for the review by the Planning Consultant and he doesn't think it would be too expensive so he thinks an escrow of \$500 would be sufficient for this. Mr. McGuy said he would agree to that.

The Mayor asked if there was any other public comment. Trustee Meehan asked Attorney Rice if he understood him to suggest, because we had talked before the meeting, that we adjourn the public hearing to the next meeting? Attorney Rice said yes, continue it. The Mayor said continue it so we can get a determination as to what a proper decibel limit would be. Trustee Meehan said he was also concerned, very frankly, about some of these issues that were sent - the seating plan, the plan for the heating system for the tent. You are going to have people out in the tent in the middle of the winter. He said he thinks it is important to know to have a heating system. Mr. McGuy said that they are not doing that now. Mr. Tom Vanderbeek said that the tent has been removed. It cannot go back up again until plans have been submitted to the Building Department for their review and associated with those plans are heating system, method of egress groups and lighting - emergency lighting. So the canopies are allowed to be used right now but tents which enclose the whole thing have not been permitted for use yet. Attorney Rice said that the Planning Board reviewed Caffè Dolce's site plan application which included a permanent tent. And they approved the site plan application obviously subject to a number of conditions and one of those conditions would be approval by the Building Department. So that is going to have to happen before any type of tent or any other structure goes up in accordance with the approved site plan.

Mr. Vanderbeek asked if he could just give a one minute overview on

this report and then open it up to the public who wants to speak and as Terry mentioned there is a lot to look at so they can adjourn it to the next meeting. He said he looks at different zoning and noise codes in the State of New York and also federally. You have OSHA obviously for worker protection. The State of New York really doesn't have any. The Rockland County Health Department does. It is interesting. Their levels are lot - 60-65 decibels. During your meeting here earlier, in normal conversation, you hit 70 with this meter that they are going to donate. He said the County has a hole in their code in that it allows you to back out the ambient noise. So if he was on the street or on the property line measuring from 100 decibels and the band stops and he measures 60-65 if you just do that simple deduction you are within the code which is not right. In this report he has given them some decibel levels, some background, what normal noise is. For example, background traffic on Lafayette to Orange Avenue could be between 70-85 decibels with the trucks that run by. And you have trains also. And he also has some background in here on overall noise ordinances because we are a transit Village and there are other noises that could be involved in residences. The City of New York, for example, addresses it by new construction in areas that they call little E zones where there are noise sources that the builders couldn't get a read of - that are more noise resistant and makes the residents feel better. He said he has attached the NYC noise code, which is relatively new, and it looks good. It looks real good. They think they are in the forefront of noise regulation and their guide says that through the large number of residential stake holders while New York is the city that never sleeps. He said he has some recommendations in here based on the NYC code and those recommendations mean measuring at 50 off the property line and 70 decibels above. There are some other things that you can look at and you can have John Lange look at it and come back at the next meeting and get some firmer numbers. This is a very preliminary review and you see how much paper is in here. This is something that has not really been addressed well in the State of New York. The city seems to really be on top of it. The Mayor thanked him. Mr. Vanderbeek said for the time being he will give the decibel meter to Charles. He also has one and Mark has one on site. The Mayor said what he thinks would be a good suggestion, and maybe for the Board to entertain, because we are specifically referring this matter to John Lange to look at the decibel limit that should be applied for Caffè Dolce but he thinks that on the Village's behalf we should have him look more generally at establishing a guideline similar to the stuff that Mr. Vanderbeek discussed here so that we have a guideline generally for live entertainment and decibel limits. That way we can possibly put something in our zoning law that we can refer to into the future. The Mayor asked if there was any public comment on this.

A motion to continue the public hearing and refer this to the Planner was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Simon. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**8:00 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT:**

The Mayor said the next public hearing we have is our Community Development Block Grant. He asked Mr. Fred Rella, our grantwriter, to come up. Mr. Rella said that every year there is a grant which is offered by the Rockland County Office of Community Development and it is called the Community Development Block Grant. And this grant is put out to all municipalities and villages within the Rockland County area in which they can, when they have a low to moderate income area, they can apply for funds to do some infrastructure improvement - things such as sidewalks, lighting, drainage, something which would benefit the low to moderate income people within the community. And that developed a term within Rockland County when you talk about low to moderate income. Joe Abate who heads up the Rockland County Office of Community Development says the average family income in Rockland County is over \$100,000 just to give you an idea. Some villages actually do not even have any areas which fall within the low to moderate income area. And it is determined, and really dictated, through the 2000 census data and Mr. Abate then tells us what area to potentially apply for these grant funds. Mr. Rella said that we have a few areas within the Village of Suffern that apply to this - basically the West Ward, the downtown business district area and the area from the Ramapo River down near Boulevard up through Woodland Drive. For the Community Development Block Grant what we have to do is to form a committee within the Village of Suffern called the Community Development Advisory Committee and that committee then in turn makes a recommendation to the Board for the grant they apply for. This year's Community Development Advisory Committee is made up of our Director of DPW, Charles Sawicki, Charlie Rogers, who lives within the Village and is a Village employee, Dorothy McClintock, a long-time Suffern resident, Vince Crapella, who is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and himself, Fred Rella, the grantwriter. He said that he and Charles had gone to a meeting of the Community Development Block Grant over in Spring Valley in early December. He said the Mayor and he also met with the head of the department, Mr. Joe Abate, and he had several subsequent conversations with him. To give you an idea, the funding for this program has been diminishing over the past several years. The grants that were being offered out in prior years in the sums of basically hundreds of thousands of dollars are now tens of thousands of dollars. To give you an idea, just within the past five years, the Village probably received about \$200,000 in Community Development grant money or about \$50,000 per annum. And that's about what most villages get within the Rockland County area. However, this year we are very, very excited. Due to working diligently with and the efforts of Joe Abate, the efforts of the Mayor, Charles Sawicki and the committee, we have an opportunity here to elect a five-year program to potentially receive 1.5 million dollars in CDBG money from the Rockland County Office of Community Development. And it would be for downtown revitalization. It would be for things such as street lighting, streetscape improvement, and also, something that is very exciting,

facade improvement for the businesses in the downtown business district. One might think that the buildings, while they are owned by private citizens and they are not owned by the government, how could they possibly improve private property with federal funds. He said that according to the legislation and according to Joe Abate business districts themselves are considered part of the Village itself and therefore you can make improvements on the facility but you have to get the binding note of the property owners themselves. It is something that is very exciting. So we are going from potentially only getting \$50,000 a year to hundreds of thousands of dollars a year for something that should be very worthwhile and will really help live commerce to the downtown area, he believes, and would really benefit all businesses in the Village of Suffern. This year specifically what they are looking for is for enhanced lighting in the downtown area. We were already awarded some Obama stimulus money in the amount of \$50,000. And what they are going to do with that money is add additional lighting from Orange Avenue to Chestnut Street - the lower end of the downtown. So there would be more lighting from Orange Avenue to Chestnut Street. This year's grant that we are applying for in January would be to finish that lighting project from Chestnut Street all the way up to Washington Avenue. And we would look to start the initial phase of Phase I of the Facade Improvement Program. We probably wouldn't get the money until July of this year. So this is the recommendation of the committee.

Mayor LaCorte asked Mr. Rella what the total for this year would be. Mr. Rella said \$225,000. The Mayor said that was for the remainder of the downtown lighting from Chestnut up to Washington. Mr. Rella said that \$50,000 is from the Obama stimulus for the lower end. And \$75,000 from Chestnut Street up to Washington. The Mayor said and then the balance will be for the facade improvement. Mr. Rella said yes. He said there is also some administrative costs. There is money built into the grant to help offset the cost of the municipality program. One other thing is the Community Development Block Grant program always wants a contribution from the Village to show that they have a real interest and this year they are looking at a contribution of \$25,000 from the Village.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Rella. He said that before opening it up to the Village Board and then to the public for comment, first he would like to thank Fred, Charles and the committee for all the hard work. As Fred said this is really a stepped up effort to move the downtown revitalization program forward. We are looking to get just this year in grant money more than we received in the previous five years combined. There has been a very successful facade improvement program in Haverstraw that Mr. Abate talked about and he just coincidentally recently got, as an alumni of Union College, got a magazine, their alumni magazine, and in that they showed pictures of downtown Schenectady which did a facade improvement program and it is truly amazing. Obviously you need more than just improving the facades but it definitely makes a difference in terms of dressing them up and what is amazing is that we have a lot of

historic buildings that have probably just been painted over too many times and we can strip down the paint and expose the original brick and really make it more attractive. So it is an unbelievable opportunity to move the downtown revitalization program forward. Speaking with Mr. Rosenberg this morning he pointed out that phase II of the revitalization plan provided by Saratoga Associates was to do facade improvements. So it is great that we are moving forward with that. Additionally, at the workshop meeting we held a brief special Board meeting at which we awarded the contract for a little over \$89,000 to All Bright Electric. \$50,000 of that being from the Obama stimulus money that Fred spoke about and the remainder coming from our Village's capital project budget for 20 lights. As soon as the weather is right, we are going to install those 20 lights from Chestnut down to Orange Avenue on Lafayette. So there will be 20 lights that will additionally help to light the downtown. And then as Fred mentioned the balance of those lights are funding - the majority being requested in what he is requesting tonight. And again he would like to thank Fred for a tremendous job. You will be brought up later as we have to talk about your contract. But again he has really put in a tremendous number of hours in just the several short weeks that the Mayor has been in office with Charles and with working to get us a lot more grant money over the next several years. So if there is anybody on the Board who has any questions and then after that we will open it to the public.

Trustee Bruce Simon said he did have a question. He said for the facade improvement - if there is a building owner or owners that, for their own reasons, choose not to participate. He said you have beautiful, beautiful, less so, beautiful, less so. How does that impact us going forward seeking more grant money. Mr. Rella said what impact that would have on the grant is not utilizing the prior year's money or any prior year's funding. If fixing the facade that you did pick does exhaust the funding for the program itself, it won't impact the program itself with the office of Community Development. However, within the Village itself, he guesses, aesthetically it would be an issue. There is no law. You can't force somebody to participate within the program but you think that you are actually probably going to be increasing the value of somebody's property and basically handing them money to do it such that if they wanted to get a loan for their business or for some other purposes the value of their property would be greater than if they did not participate in the program. So he thinks that people will be very interested in participating once they hear about it.

The Mayor asked anyone else on the Board if they had any comment or if anybody from the public wanted to comment.

Jeff Genser of 32 First Street, Suffern, NY said that first of all he would like to commend Mr. Rella on what appears to be an excellent job. He said thank you very much as a resident of the West Ward. He said that one thing he would like to say to the Board as someone who is not up on everything that is happening in the Village but he wasn't even aware that there was some kind of citizen advisory board relating to Community Development Block

Grants. And what he would hope to see in the new administration is more information, more involvement by additional residents. He said he doesn't think there were enough people on this committee, in his humble opinion, to have gathered all different view points in the Village. He said we heard about maybe five or six people on this committee. He said that too many cooks spoil the brew. He has heard that but he thinks it was an inadequate number of people. He said he is going to address lighting. He thinks personally that the Village is very well lit. He said he thinks that we have a very safe Village and he thinks the money might be well-spent on something else. And then to continue to spend another \$75,000 in addition to the \$50,000 that is already Obama stimulus money on that doesn't seem to make sense to him. And then let's talk about facade restoration. There was just some facade - new store fronts put in right here on Lafayette Avenue. The building that has a little wine business, the optometrist, the new rocket slab place. It definitely improved the look of that building. You can't argue with that. But did that in any way improve and enable more people to come to the Village of Suffern. Did that cause anybody else to come here and want to do more business here? He said he questions that. He said he just wanted to bring these issues up front to the public and let them think about it a little bit. He said he thinks that we are sitting on something that can be the beginning of a new Village of Suffern and that is Orange Avenue. And he thinks we need to revisit the entire Orange Avenue program to consider the possibility of expanding it to the original three blocks with the elimination of eminent domain on private homes. To him that is the only place in Suffern that can be redeveloped in a way to begin to upgrade our Village. Something happened here in the early 1900s. We had fires, we lost a lot of infrastructure and for whatever reason buildings were taken down. That is why we don't have a Village like Nyack or Piermont or even Haverstraw. They kept their infrastructure. They have large store fronts and we have tiny little store fronts. He said he thinks we need a drastic look and a possible drastic change because we are confronted with the new tunnel coming in in 2017, lots of commuters and he doesn't think we are prepared for it. The Mayor thanked Mr. Genser on his comments. He said that just on one matter he would like to say just for clarification - the Orange Avenue project presently there is no eminent domain on private homes and he just wanted that to be clear. He asked if there was any other public comment.

Jack Rosenberg of 13 Somerset Drive said that this is a 36 year old program started in 1974 and he can tell them this. In the last six years the amount of money that was received was a pittance compared to the previous three years when a million dollars was received by the Village Board at that time - mostly Federal and State funds and some Parking Authority funds also. He said he heard a figure for facades. What is the exact figure for facades. The Mayor said that for this year, he believes, the facade amount - and he asked Mr. Rella if he wanted to correct him - but it would be 130 for facades or 125 - Mr. Rella said 120. The Mayor said \$120,000 for facades, \$75,000 for lighting and the rest of the money would be for the

administration of the facade program to cover the Village's cost. And that would be in year one. Mr. Rosenberg said and of the facade money, is it all federal. The Mayor said yes - it is HUD money but it is administered through Community Development through the County. Mr. Rosenberg said he thought there was a sum that the Village is contributing. The Mayor said that other amount on top of that. Yes, the Village is contributing 10%. Mr. Rosenberg said that is for facades? The Mayor said 10% across the board. He said he believes it would probably be for a portion of it towards the administration, a portion towards the lights and a portion pro-rata for the facades. Mr. Rosenberg said and the total amount for both programs and the administration is what? The Mayor said it would be \$225,000 this year that we are requesting. Mr. Rosenberg said that there was a program many years ago in another village where they allocated a small sum per building - 5 or 6 thousand dollars which was totally inadequate. And he doesn't know if he mentioned it at a previous Board meeting or not but he thinks that with \$225,000 available including some Village money that you should take \$10,000 and give an award to the best design program that an architect or anybody else qualified who could draw up a rendering of what Suffern would look like if that plan were put into effect. The sum of \$10,000 is minuscule in terms of the million that was achieved some years ago. In three years it is more in comparison to the \$225,000 and he really thinks that if you want to really improve the downtown area you should have somebody come in and show just how you can improve it with a design award. He said he is sure that five architects will jump at the chance to submit renderings so that you could then make an informed decision. It shouldn't be more than a 90 day period of time so it wouldn't take that long. He said that over the years you can go back through the minutes. He has testified many a time that downtown revitalization is ultra important to this Village because in the last six years it came to a grinding halt. Without assessing blame you can't accomplish things without money. But with this sum of \$225,000 you can accomplish things and as you pointed out the facade program is phase II. The lighting program that you are contemplating is in addition to the lighting program that was laid out for Lafayette, Chestnut, etc. and the whole downtown area. And he understands that it is not quite the same lighting that was put up then. That it is intermediate lighting. That it will really enhance the area. A lot of people downtown feel it is necessary. So since you are awarding the bid there is no sense in arguing about it. It is going to be done and it should be done and finished this year. And he urges them to try to accomplish everything within the time period beginning in April and ending in November. Spend the money. Get it all done. And he is sure that it will be important to the future of the downtown area. He really feels that the Board - the recommending Board - did a good job and he can personally tell them as president of the Village of Suffern Community Foundation that Fred Rella is an asset because he does work for them too. Mr. Rosenberg thanked them. The Mayor thanked Mr. Rosenberg for his comments.

The Mayor asked if there were any other public comments.

Kathy D'Ambrosio of 4 Cross Street asked if any of that money could be applied to improving the roads in the town of Suffern. The roads are a disgrace. Not just in Suffern. But everywhere. She said she just bought a new car for the first time and she is scared to death to drive it on the roads. Is there anything you can do - is there any other money? The Mayor said this money specifically is allocated for certain areas. He said that we do each year put money into doing Village roads. He said that we did a pretty large road project - the largest he thinks the Village has done in many, many years, if ever, two years ago and we did some additional roads this past year and we will continue to do roads. He said that Charles goes through the Village, our DPW Director, and tries to assess which roads are in the greatest need to be repaved and we go about doing that. He said he thinks a lot of the roads are good but yes there are some that are in great need of being resurfaced and we are continuing to do it. We will continue and again later on in this meeting we are discussing also renewing the grantwriter's contract and we are going to aggressively seek grants as much as possible. The Obama stimulus plan - most of the money hasn't even been allocated this year. So over the next two or three years is really when there is going to be a lot of money available and we are going to aggressively seek it and use it for whatever means we can. Ms. D'Ambrosio said she would suggest roads. The Mayor thanked her.

Since nobody else spoke, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Haggerty. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

A motion to adopt the recommendation of the Community Development Block Grant Committee was made by Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2010

RESOLVED, that the Village Board accept the recommendation of the Community Development Advisory Committee to seek Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Downtown Revitalization Project.

The CDBG application will state that the 2010 Downtown Revitalization Project cost will be \$225,000. Of this total, \$200,000 will be contributed from the Community Development Block Grant and \$25,000 will be contributed from the Village of Suffern.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee John Meehan  
Trustee Bruce Simon

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

The Mayor thanked everybody again - Mr. Rella, Charles and the committee for all of their hard work and hope we get a positive result. He said it should be in March or April. Mr. Rella said the application has to be in by January 29 and we should know by the end of March. The Mayor said so hopefully by the end of March we will have some good news.

**CULTURE & RECREATION:**

Gail Curtin said that since the last Village Board meeting, they had a LEAD session on Friday, December 11. They had the Stay Fit Senior Orientation sessions. They helped with the DARE toy drive on December 18-21 and she would like to particularly thank Elaine Accocella for being with the police department to make sure that project went over well. And this past week they had a young lady who is completing her Girl Scout Gold project. Some of that project work was done here in the auditorium. The Stay Fit Senior program began today. They had a session this morning and a session this evening and once again she thanks Elaine for bringing with her tonight the numbers and Mrs. Curtin thinks they will be happy to know that they have 55 seniors registered for the program and of those 55, 40 attended today. So she thinks we are off to a good start and she will keep them up to date on that.

Mrs. Curtin said that upcoming in the Recreation Department: once again AARP tax preparation will be taking place at the Leo P. Lydon building. Staff training is taking place every Saturday in January and then the tax preparation every Tuesday beginning February 2 through April 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wyldlife will be at the Community Center on Saturday evening, January 16. LEAD will be at the Community Center on Friday night, January 22. And the Senior Movie Afternoon for this month will be Thursday, January 28. With the Board's permission, the Recreation Board would like to co-sponsor a Spring Fling Adult Dinner Dance with the Suffern Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, March 6. The Recreation Department has made arrangements, and they spoke about this at the workshop, for their next trip to NYC to see the Broadway play "Promises, Promises" on Saturday, April 10. And once the Board gives them the go ahead they will start publicizing for that event.

On behalf of Chief Clarke Osborn and Chief Dan McInerney, co-chairpersons for the 2010 Suffern Day, they would like to propose the date of Saturday, September 25 with a raindate of Sunday, September 26. And finally, three items that she has been working on closely with Mayor LaCorte. Revamping the Village website - not changing it but changing it around a bit. They are very close with the help of Tech Spectrum to being ready to launch the Village messaging system and they are beginning the first issue of Mayor LaCorte's newsletter. The Mayor thanked Mrs. Curtin. He said they need to approve the two items - the Chamber of Commerce Recreation dinner. Mrs. Curtin said if you would just give us the green light

with the dinner dance and the NYC trip. The Mayor said he thinks that should be okay. But they should vote on the trip to NYC to see "Promises, Promises" on Saturday, April 10. A motion approving the trip was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Haggerty. Upon vote, the motion was carried. And then also setting the date for Saturday, September 25 for Suffern Day and Sunday, September 26. Does anyone see any conflicts with that? The Mayor said he is sure Gail did her homework. The Mayor thanked Mrs. Curtin for all those other issues. It is going to be very important to get the Village messaging system up - especially last night because we had some power outages. So if that happens again we can inform people. Ultimately we were going to open the Community Center but the power came on quick enough that there wasn't a need to. But again he would like to thank the Chief and Gail who were both available late last night and ready to do whatever was necessary. Thankfully it came on quickly. Mrs. Curtin thanked the Mayor and said she would also like to thank Elaine because, as he knows, when Mrs. Curtin gets the call, Elaine gets the next one. The Mayor said thank you Elaine.

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY:**

**A) Nationwide Retirement Solutions Resolution:**

Attorney Terry Rice said the only item that he has tonight that requires action by the Board tonight is the amendment to the Deferred Compensation Plan which we have to do in order to comply with the applicable resolutions. And they have a resolution to that effect. A motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the resolution was made by Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

The Mayor said he would now open it up for audience participation. If anybody is interested in public comment, please come up to the microphone and state your name and address for the record. Nobody spoke.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

**A) Requesting Authorization to Reject the One Single Bid Received for the Secondary Digester Cover:**

Charles Sawicki said that he was requesting authorization to reject the one single bid received for the secondary digester cover in the amount of \$789,500 and to rebid this project. Attorney Rice asked when he wanted the return date. Mr. Sawicki said he hasn't finalized that with our consultant. We are going to rework the bid package but he doesn't have a bid date. Attorney Rice asked if he wanted them returnable before the next Board meeting or not. Mr. Sawicki said that he would say chances are not. Attorney Rice said then pick a date before the March meeting. Unless you want to come

back next month. He said we can reject tonight and then you need a specific date at some point to be authorized. Mr. Sawicki said he would rather do that. He really doesn't have a date at this point. The Mayor said for various reasons we have a memo here due to the fact that there was only one bidder and significantly higher than we had budgeted for the project. Almost about 40% higher. And we think we can do better. A motion to reject the bid from Spectraserve was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Simon. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**B) Requesting Authorization to Make Final Payment to Tilcon New York Inc. for Roadway Improvements Phase I Project:**

Mr. Sawicki said that he was requesting authorization to make final payment to Tilcon New York Inc. for the Roadway Improvements Phase I project in the amount of \$138,069.69. This final payment includes Change Order No. 1 which reduces the contract amount by \$41,009.31. A motion authorizing the payment was made by Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee John Meehan  
Trustee Bruce Simon

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

**C) Requesting Authorization to Purchase a De-Icing Slurry Tank and Pump System:**

Mr. Sawicki said he was requesting authorization to purchase a truck mounted de-icing sprayer in the amount of \$7,010.31. This sprayer utilizes a brine liquid solution and is applied to Village roadways prior to any anticipated snowfall. This system greatly reduces the amount of salt the Village would normally use during a snow event. The Mayor said he would like to say on this thank you to Charles and Dan Haglund for all their hard work. He said he thinks that if you have been driving throughout the town roads, you notice tracks before snowstorms. They look like kind of white tracks on the road. That is this system in place which puts out like a salt water solution. The water then evaporates and the salt stays and as Charles said, it greatly reduces how quickly the snow will stick. It melts so it saves us time. It saves accidents. It is something that has become widely used and he believes it will be very useful. So again Charles and Dan really put it together very quickly and hopefully we should be able to have this up and running pretty soon once we approve it. Mr. Sawicki said yes, we may be able to acquire it within the week. The Mayor said that will be great. Trustee Meehan said he was just sort of curious about that. The Mayor had mentioned it to him the other day. Trustee Meehan asked what the timing of this is - you hear that a snowstorm is coming tomorrow. Mr. Sawicki said you could apply it days ahead.

Trustee Meehan said days ahead. He said it seems that Ramapo had it all over the place. Mr. Sawicki said that if you applied it and then it rained, it wouldn't be as effective. The Mayor said it would give us the opportunity to prepare during regular hours. A motion authorizing the purchase from Turbo Technologies in the amount of \$7,010.31 was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Simon.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee John Meehan  
Trustee Bruce Simon

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

**VILLAGE CLERK:**

**A) Approval of Minutes of Regular Village Board Meeting - October 4, 2009:**

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said that the first thing on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the regular Village Board meeting of October 5, 2009. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Haggerty. Upon vote, the motion was carried, with Trustee Simon abstaining.

**B) Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting of October 20, 2009:**

The Village Clerk said this is for the approval of the minutes of the special Board meeting of October 20, 2009. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Haggerty. Upon vote, the motion was carried, with Trustee Simon abstaining.

**C) Request from Ramapo Central School District re: Water Bill:**

Virginia Menschner said we have a request from the Ramapo Central School district for a refund of their penalty on their water bill for \$529.24. The Mayor said that on this matter we had some discussion during the workshop. There is the assertion that they did not receive the bill. There are some opposing views on this. They all had their positions. So he guesses that maybe the best thing is to entertain a motion to waive it and then see how it comes out. He said that his personal opinion is that we have been very strict about these penalties. And everybody has paid them from private citizens to non-profit so he thinks it is something that is in place especially since there is no evidence that it was not delivered to the proper address. He said unless somebody - we don't even have to entertain a motion. He asked if there was a motion to waive it. Trustee Meehan said that he would disagree with the Mayor and he would make a motion to waive it simply because they have

been sending them sewer bills and water bills for decades and they have paid them on time and he thinks it seems like a once in a lifetime situation. So he would like to see us waive that. The Mayor asked him to include the amount. It was \$529.24. The motion was seconded by Trustee Haggerty.

AYES: Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte, Trustee Bruce Simon

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

**D) Resolution - RBC - Special Award Program:**

The Village Clerk said we have a special award program resolution which when we have a change of administration we have to put the new Mayor in. So we need a new resolution and she would like them to adopt it.

A motion adopting the resolution was made by Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**E) Frederick P. Clark Associates Inc. - Agreement 2010:**

Ms. Menschner said that they all received Frederick P. Clark Associates agreement for 2010. The Mayor said that Frederick P. Clark is the Village's planning consultant. They have been with us, he believes, for over a year. He said that typically we do use them for some services, like for example earlier this evening when we talked about the issue regarding Caffè Dolce and the decibel limit. As typically is the case, when reviewing Caffè Dolce's application, the applicant, Caffè Dolce, as the case here, will pay for the fee associated with Frederick P. Clark's review of that issue. We are also going to ask them in that situation to look at putting in a policy with the Village that can be Village-wide so that if that issue comes up again we possibly have something in our zoning law. In that situation, the Village would then assume that cost. In most situations, when stuff comes before the Planning Board, it is the applicant who will put money in escrow and who will pay for the fees. So here it is just really a schedule of fees associated with the use of the firm. So he would like to have a motion to again retain Frederick P. Clark Associates as our planning consultants for the Village for 2010. A motion to retain Frederick P. Clark Associates was made by Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Bruce Simon

NOES: Trustee Andrew Haggerty

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

**F) David Hirsch, 74 E. Maple Avenue - Special Permit Recommendation**

**from Planning Board - Set Public Hearing - February 1, 2010 - 7:45 p.m.:**

The Village Clerk said we have David Hirsch of 74 E. Maple Avenue for a special permit and recommendation from the Planning Board. She said we do have to set a date for the public hearing. Attorney Rice said it is a special permit for home occupation. The Board previously referred this to the Planning Board for their review and recommendation. We have received that from the Planning Board and so, as Virginia said, the next step is to set a public hearing for the February meeting. A motion to set a public hearing for February 1, 2010 at 7:45 p.m. was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Simon. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

The Village Clerk said she had one other thing that was not on the agenda but it was brought up at the workshop and this is from the Suffern Chamber of Commerce and the Suffern Chamber of Commerce is respectfully requesting the following dates for the approval of the Suffern Street Fairs for 2010. Sunday, May 16, Sunday, June 13 and Sunday, September 5. The Mayor said that is the date that it was moved. The Village Clerk said right. They did have October 3 but there was some conflict and they settled on September 5. The Mayor said we talked about this at the workshop and there was a conflict and they changed the date. A motion accepting the dates was made by Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Haggerty. Trustee Meehan said that he didn't notice that it was on the agenda. The Village Clerk said it wasn't. Trustee Meehan said his recollection and maybe Mr. Zordan could help him, but his recollection was that the Chamber of Commerce owes us money for cleanup for, he thinks, 2008. The Mayor said he can touch upon that. He said they are paying us out. They submitted a check about two weeks ago and they are paying it. They asked to send it monthly. Trustee Meehan said okay, no problem. He asked if they will be, as far as these dates are concerned, they will be doing the cleanup. The Mayor said yes. Trustee Meehan said then we won't be charged for the cleanup. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**

Treasurer Tom Zordan said that in December we paid \$621,722 to New York State for the pension for police as well as municipal employees. We received payment from Rockland County for our share of the mortgage tax receipts in the amount of \$60,691. This is approximately \$35,000 less than the previous payment. He said it is \$30,000 less than what was budgeted. The rate charged by the Empire Plan for the medical insurance increases effective January 2010 and we had budgeted for this increase. Of the \$1,232,000 in water and sewer bills from November we have collected \$1,201,911 through December 31, 2009. We sent out \$507,717 worth of solid waste invoices on December 30. And low and behold the residents have started paying them. The budget worksheets were distributed to all department heads today and they were put in their mailboxes. They are to submit their budget requests by January 22, 2010 which is

the first step in our annual budget. He asked if there were any questions. Trustee Meehan asked what was the percentage increase for the Empire Plan. The treasurer said 6.7%. Trustee Meehan said that was lower than the numbers that he has been reading in the papers. And what is the total shortfall for the budget year on the mortgage tax? The treasurer said that right now we are at \$30,000 less. And that is the figure for six months. And we have one more payment. And he is not optimistic.

**MAYOR:**

The Mayor said he has one item on the agenda and an additional item. He said he will first address the item that is on the agenda. He said we have up for renewal Mr. Fred Rella's contract as our grantwriter. The Mayor said that as we discussed earlier in this meeting, he believes that Mr. Rella has done an excellent job not only in previous years but so far in working with him the last month, the Mayor personally really asked for great demands on his time in an effort to really increase our effort to getting more grant money. There was an amazing effort to make sure that the lighting, the money for the lighting, was done by the December 31 deadline and it took a lot of work to do that. Going forward with this façade improvement plan and potentially looking for grant money for other infrastructure improvements that we have an opportunity due to the stimulus money that is available over the next couple of weeks and really, in his belief, whether or not we get our fair share even more of grant money depends upon the effort that we put in. And he believes that if we are going to invest in human capital that one area that we need to do it is grant writing so the proposal that you have before you and the contract, just so that the residents of Suffern know, represents a significant increase in Mr. Rella's fee over previous years and this is due in part to just specifically the amount of time that we are asking him to put in. We are asking him to put in at least twice as much time as he did in previous years because we are just going to really go out and continue as much as possible to get money. So in previous years it was \$20,000 for the year. We are now proposing \$50,000. So it is a \$30,000 increase. He said he believes that just from the short amount of time that we have seen - and again we haven't been awarded it yet - but if we do get the \$250,000 just for this year and the one and half million that we sought over five years - clearly that is a significant increase over previous years due in large part to Mr. Rella's activity. So he is requesting the Board, and he knows it is tough economic times, but he also believes that you need to invest and this is an investment that he truly believes that we will be sitting here six months and a year from now with hundreds of thousands of dollars and more in additional grant money which will be able to take the burden off Suffern taxpayers. So he believes at a cost of an additional \$30,000 that it will be money that is well-spent. Attorney Rice said that is for a term of six months starting February 1. After six months, the Board is in a position, as they talked about at the workshop meeting, to reevaluate the situation and continue it, discontinue it, change

the terms or whatever it desires. The Mayor said the amount is a one-year amount. It is an annualized amount. But at six months we can review the contract. And he doesn't anticipate that happening - based on the work that Mr. Rella has done and really the seeds that we have planted already in the few short weeks - that it is going to be a problem. But if it were only six months, it would only be half the amount. Not the full amount. So the amount would be for a year. He asked if there were any questions from the Board members.

Trustee Meehan said that having written grants himself he thinks that it is not so much how aggressive or how hard you work. To a great extent there are a lot of time circumstances beyond your control. And one of the circumstances beyond our control is that one of our premier grant sources in the last few years was Senator Morahan's member items. Senator Morahan, instead of having two million dollar per annum grant items suddenly found himself, instead of being a majority member and the community chairman of the State Senate, is a minority member and his amount has gone from two million dollars to four hundred thousand. He has been very generous to the Village of Suffern. And Mr. Rella stayed on him. And he thinks that Mr. Rella has done a fine job but he doesn't think that he deserves a 250% increase in his compensation. And he is not going to vote for that this evening. And perhaps he will change his mind over six months. The other thing in grantwriting is that, a lot of times, they are going to be comparing Suffern with other communities. Especially on these infrastructure things - like in the sewer and water departments. And one of the things is that, although we do have some need, we are an affluent Village relatively speaking especially when you are talking about some of the villages upstate where they have areas of unemployment as high as 20 to 25% and other areas of the country. So in those things, regardless of how well we issue our grant or how aggressive we are, we are still sort of behind the eight ball. He said if you want to get a lot of grant money, you are better off being in a situation where you have a very high rate of poverty unlike we do in Suffern. So unfortunately he will be voting no this evening and hopefully maybe six months from now he will be voting yes. But he thinks in these times when he sees a \$30,000 or more shortfall in the mortgage tax, and when he reads in the *Journal News* and the *New York Times* that the state budget is going to be cut severely and we will be getting a lot less money in state aid, this isn't something that he can go along with.

A motion to adopt the contract was made by Trustee Simon, seconded by Mayor LaCorte.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee Bruce Simon

NOES: Trustee John Meehan

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

The Mayor said he had one more item and, again, this was discussed at the workshop regarding payment by the Village using the money in lieu of recreation fund for Suffern Little League baseball. They have lighting that they installed which they have been making payments on. The lighting, once paid off, will be the property of the Village of Suffern. So it is an asset to the Village. The purpose, he believes, of this fund is to use for infrastructure improvements in our recreation and we are getting an asset out of it. On top of it, it will also enable our Little League which supports our youth in the Village and this will take a great amount of pressure off them and enable them to focus resources on other things. Trustee Haggerty said we have two youth programs. We have baseball. And we have football which is kind of being left out. They have to play their games at the football field and it costs them about \$500. So before we go trying to - he thinks it is a good idea if we can split it up between both leagues but not to leave out the football league. The Mayor said that we are not necessarily leaving out. There hasn't been a request specifically from football. Trustee Haggerty said yes there has. The Mayor said for football on the Village? Trustee Haggerty said yes there has. The Mayor said he wasn't aware of that. He said if they want some infrastructure and he believes that the purpose, in his view as just one Board member, is that the purpose of that fund is to invest in infrastructure for recreation. We purchased the Stay Fit Seniors equipment. This is another way to invest in equipment for our field. So again if there is other stuff available he thinks that we should be using that money for recreation. So again he doesn't know what the opinion of other Board members are. Whether we want to move forward on it. The request is in the amount of \$36,294 which we would make this one time installment and then he believes that there is one more installment that the Little League is responsible for.

Trustee Meehan said he is inclined to go along with this. But one of the things that we would point out is that a lot of Little League, unlike, for instance, the DARE hockey, a lot of Little Leaguers come from outside the Village so what we might think of doing and seeing if we could defray some of this cost from some of our neighbors in Montebello and Airmont and Sloatsburg and Hillburn. We have the facility and he knows that we pay for lighting and it would be nice if they would make a contribution because their youngsters use our facilities.

Trustee Simon said that regarding what Mr. Meehan just asked, roughly, what percentage is of Suffern children vs. non-Suffern children in the league? Mr. Joe Brennan said approximately 60% are from Suffern. This is not just the Suffern Little League. It is also football and cheerleading. He said they have come to the Village asking for assistance.

Trustee Meehan said in regard to the construction - it is a trade-off for the construction of batting cages. He asked where those batting cages be located. Mr. Brennan said by the Bocci court.

Trustee Meehan said okay. So it would work for both the little guys and the big guys.

Mayor LaCorte said that again the batting cages and the associated equipment would be the property of the Village of Suffern. So yes, that is the other aspect of it. He guesses maybe it is somewhat easier for us to do it this way. That way they can maintain control over determining how to build the batting cages. Again, we are adding batting cages to our field which is a great asset for the development of our young talent. We need another Rookie of the Year - it has been 23 or 24 years.

A motion to entertain the payment of \$36,294 to Musco Lighting LLC and this would be a one-time payment from money in lieu of recreation. This is money that is set aside by developers for payment in lieu of recreation. When they don't provide recreation they pay the Village and it stays in a separate fund and that money can be used exclusively for recreation and specifically for capital improvements. It can't be used for personnel, for putting on events. It is just used for recreation and for capital improvements associated with recreation. So this is not funded by taxpayers dollars. The motion was moved by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Simon.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee John Meehan  
Trustee Bruce Simon

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Simon. Upon vote, the motion was carried.