

**Village Board Meeting  
Monday, January 13, 2014**

A regular Village Board meeting was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

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

ABSENT: None

The Mayor thanked everybody for coming out tonight. She said that last Monday night we had an icing condition that concerned our Village so they postponed the meeting to this evening. She said she was glad to see everybody. She said she just wanted to give a quick reminder. Next month's meeting, the February 3 meeting, we will be continuing the hearing for Orange Avenue for those of you who are interested in coming back out again. It will be on the website as a reminder. But if there is anybody that doesn't get e-mail or has web access please let them know that we are continuing the public hearing at the next meeting on February 3.

**SET DATES FOR FEBRUARY MEETINGS:**

The Mayor said she would like to set the dates for the February meetings. The workshop will be Wednesday, January 29 at 7:00 p.m. And the Board meeting will be February 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor asked the committee chairman, Bruce Simon, of the holiday decorations. She said he has the recipient of the family who had the best holiday decorations and he would like to present the award at this time.

Mr. Simon thanked the Mayor and the Board and everybody who came out. He said that every year the members of the recycling committee go around a couple of times during the year and they pick out the best decorated house. Whether it is best flower and gardening in the spring, best Halloween decorations or in December it is best holiday decorations. He said that every year we do it and we narrow it down and it gets tougher and tougher every year because people have really upped their game in years and it was not the easiest choice this year. But he is proud to say that we have a certificate here and the winner is here. And the winning house belongs to Lisa and Glen Wilson of East Maltbie Avenue. Mrs. Wilson was presented with a certificate. Mr. Simon said that as great as the house looked and as tough as it was he is especially gratified about this particular award because the Wilson's do a great job all year long on keeping their house and their property looking incredible and they have actually been nominated before and not won, so finally

they have won. And considering the number of years she and her husband has given to the Village in service he can't think of a more deserving family. So once again, thank you very much.

The Mayor said she has another presentation. She said we try four times a year to give out the Andrew C. Haggerty award. Andy was such a vital part of our Board and really believed in giving of yourself and community service and going that extra step to help out your fellow residents - going next door and checking on a neighbor who may need some help. Just genuinely caring for others was what Andy was all about. And this is the Mayor's first time that she got to pick the recipient of this award and it didn't take her long to figure out who she believed set such a fine example of all of those things that Andy believed in. This person constantly goes above and beyond her jobs here in our very busy Village Hall office. She is always making sure that our staff is well taken care of. Making sure that Virginia gets to the doctor. Making sure that the girls don't miss their appointments. Making sure that all those extra little things are done in the front office to make sure that things run smoothly. And she sees Jim, our former Mayor, leaning over and going that must be you Joanne. Because every Mayor that's worked in this Village Hall knows that this woman goes above and beyond in everything she touches and in every one's lives she touches. So Joanne Cioffi, thank you for all you do. You certainly are a fine example of the Andrew C. Haggerty award. The Mayor presented her with a plaque and a gift certificate to Marcello's. She said that she wanted her to go out and enjoy herself and have a nice night out. She said we love you.

**7:30 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Fred Rella said he will sort of set the stage for this public hearing. He said that every year the Rockland County Office of Community Development is given HUD money. And that HUD money is distributed to the varying communities throughout Rockland County on a competitive basis. And the Village of Suffern each and every year does apply for a portion of that money. Last year we received the most money for any one project within Rockland County. We received \$85,000 for our façade program downtown, which is a multi-year program. Basically it is a five to six year program. We have already gone through four years of it. We are looking to apply for a grant again for the fifth year. This has to do with rejuvenating the facades of the buildings downtown. Thus far we have done approximately seven of the buildings. And we are looking to approximately do five or six more this year. The way we decide what to do too is that there is a citizen advisory committee and that is made up of Dorothy McClintock, Charles Sawicki, Ernie Bosco, Charlie Rogers, Jon Paul Molfetta and Heather Ford. And from that committee what they do is that they think about things that can be done in the Village with the application process and once again they are recommending that they do the façade program. That we put

in an application for \$100,000. The Village would have to contribute 10% additional to that - anything that is awarded - so it would be a total of \$110,000. It would be the same amount that we put in for last year and once again we were awarded \$85,000, which is the most of any municipality. Mayor Abato thanked Mr. Rella. She asked if anyone would like to speak.

Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said that she would like to say that Carrine has worked pretty diligently with some of the crazy stuff that has gone on and some of the contractors that we were working with she was great and looking forward to doing a lot more next year as well and let's go for round 3.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Rella said just to that. There is a resolution before the Board. The resolution has to be 100% support of the Board. The Mayor said right. Okay. The Mayor read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 1. 2014

RESOLVED, that the Village Board accept the recommendation of the Community Development Advisory Committee to seek Community Development Block Grant funding for the business district revitalization project and authorizes the submission of the 2014 Community Development Block Grant. The Community Development Block Grant application will state that the 2014 business district revitalization project cost will be \$110,000. Of this total, \$100,000 will be contributed from the Community Development Block Grant and \$10,000 will be contributed from the Village of Suffern.

A motion approving Resolution No. 1, 2014 was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Byrne. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**7:35 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - AUTHORIZING FIRE INSPECTOR TO ENFORCE CERTAIN FIRE SAFETY PARKING REGULATIONS:**

Attorney Rice said the Building Department, the fire inspectors, had asked that they be authorized to enforce the section in the Village Code that prohibits parking in fire zones as well as the provision in the state vehicle and traffic law that prohibits stopping, standing and parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant. Of course, the police and other authorities that can presently enforce it will continue to be able to. But this just adds the fire inspector and the assistant fire inspector for enforcement purposes. Since nobody spoke, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

VILLAGE OF SUFFERN

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 , 2014

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 105  
OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN  
AUTHORIZING THE FIRE INSPECTOR TO ENFORCE  
CERTAIN FIRE SAFETY RELATED PARKING REGULATIONS

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

Section 1. Section 105-3 of the Code of the Village of Suffern is hereby amended to provide:

§ 105.3. Enforcement.

- A. In addition to any other individual, officer or employee authorized to enforce any provision of the Code of the Village of Suffern, every police officer employed by the Village of Suffern is authorized to enforce every provision of the Code of the Village of Suffern.
- B. In addition to any other individual, officer or employee authorized to enforce the following provisions, the Fire Inspector and Assistant Fire Inspectors are authorized to enforce the following provisions: § 254-25.2 and 254-71 (fire zones); Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1202 (b) (stopping, standing, parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant).

Section 2. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Attorney Rice said so there is no confusion, he thinks the best way when you are adopting it, because the number doesn't really apply until it is adopted, and it doesn't really describe it, he thinks the motion should be to adopt a local law amending chapter 105 of the code of the Village of Suffern authorizing the fire inspector to enforce certain fire safety related parking regulations. A motion was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Mayor said our Chief was here but he had to go out to an emergency so he asked the Mayor to bring up his two items.

**A) New Members - Volunteer Hose Company - Johny Cano, Elkin Escobar, Nick St. Jacques and Michael Cahn:**

The Mayor said the first is for new members for the Volunteer Hose Company, Johny Cano, Nick St. Jacques and Michael Cahn and for the Hook and Ladder Elkin Escobar. And that is all pending background checks. A motion approving the new members was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**B) Permission to Hold Blood Drive - Suffern Community Center - Wednesday - February 12 - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.:**

The Mayor said this next item is for permission to hold a blood drive at the Suffern community center on Wednesday, February 12, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**CULTURE AND RECREATION:**

Mrs. Cathy Mills said she had a few updates for the upcoming month. She said we have the Farmer's Market at the community center this Saturday, January 19. They have AARP training in the Leo Lydon building the next couple of Saturdays. They have on Monday, January 20, there will be a fundraiser by the Chabad that was approved by the Village Board and the Mayor and then on Tuesday, January 21, in the community room upstairs there is a public hearing. Mrs. Mills said that one thing that she would like to talk about tonight is that there was a \$100 donation that was given to them for the ice machine that we talked about at the last meeting. She would like approval to accept that \$100 and she will give it to the Village Clerk. Trustee Meehan said he had a question. He said what is the public hearing on? Mrs. Mills said it is for Orange Avenue. The Mayor said no, that is not a public hearing. Trustee Meehan said what is it. The Mayor said one of the residents had asked for a meeting at the community room to discuss that issue. It is not a public hearing. Mrs. Mills said her apologies. The Mayor said it is a meeting. A motion to approve the \$100 donation was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. Trustee Byrne asked if you wanted to attribute the donation to somebody or is it an anonymous donation. Mrs. Mills said it is not an anonymous donation but she doesn't have the information in front of her.

Mrs. Mills said that in front of them she handed out an events listing for the recreation events for 2014. She said with their permission they will go ahead with those dates and we will be able to post them for the public for events for 2014. She said they don't have to give her an answer tonight. She just wanted them to see them and then get feedback for the events coming up.

**GRANT WRITER:**

Mr. Fred Rella said Tree City USA. He said last year we decided that the Village wanted to become a Tree City USA. When you enter into certain municipalities you might see the signs on the roads saying this is a Tree City USA. So last year what we did was put together a proclamation, we put together a Village law about trees and we also developed a Tree Advisory Board. He then compiled the application with the assistance of Bruce Simon, who is also chairman of the Tree Advisory Committee, and Mr. Rella got word that it is a two-step approval process. That the senior forester of our region with the DEC has approved our application and is recommending us to be a Tree City USA and now it just needs one final approval which is pretty much a formality. It will take about thirty days. And so basically we will be one.

Mr. Rella said during December they worked really hard - Charles Sawicki, his assistant Danielle, himself and along with a lot of people in Charles' staff for a NYS Hazard Mitigation grant. He said they put in a total of six grants totaling 1.6 million dollars and just to give them a quick overview of what they were - it was the Orange Avenue to the West Ward railroad crossing project, installation of flood doors at the Wastewater Treatment plant, purchase of a generator at the DPW depot, modify the well water house such that we elevate the wells, electric power supply to the water plant. Right now it is currently underground. We want to make it overhead so you have a second run and to do some mitigation efforts to help prevent or alleviate the athletic field flooding and also that underpass on Chestnut Street and that totals 1.6 million dollars. Also he said he wanted to mention that Charles, Danielle, and Joanne, who received the award tonight, along with Jo Corrigan worked diligently with the Town of Ramapo with their siphoning system for the quarry which is a 5 million dollar project. They asked for a tremendous amount of information, the Town of Ramapo, and we assisted with that application process and hopefully we are going to hear back about where we are in this application process in February. That may not be the final decision making but at least we know where we stand. This has been ongoing now for a couple of months, all these programs, and they continue to need additional information supply. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said also to follow up on the Ramapo - the application - there was given five business days for a tremendous, tremendous amount of work to get done. And what the Village staff did and Charles group was absolutely amazing the amount of paperwork that they went through and figured out and got to Ramapo in a timely fashion. It was really a great effort and we teamed really well with Ramapo. They gave us what we needed. We gave them what they needed. It was truly a wonderful effort together as well as the attorney, who is now handling it. This is one of her first and what a doozy to be the first one that you ever had to file for. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said she had a conversation with Ellen Jaffee yesterday and she

also wrote a letter to Rick Lords, the director of the FEMA grant, and requested that he really consider this five million dollar project for the Town of Ramapo. So there is a lot of support from us and others around us for these things. The Mayor thanked Mr. Rella.

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY:**

**A) Set Public Hearing - Local Law - Lieutenant Retirement Incentive Program:**

Attorney Terry Rice said as they know the Board passed a local law in December, he believes it was, creating the retirement incentive program for police officers to try to get some early retirements which in the long run would save a considerable amount of money. Three police officers accepted those and item (b) under his report, and he is going in reverse order here, in furtherance of that we prepared individual agreements with the three police officers that set forth exactly what benefits they would be entitled to and what obligations they have so that there wouldn't be any confusion going forward and to cut down the chance of any problems cropping up later on. So what he would like is authorization for the Mayor to sign the individual agreements with Officers DiRoma, Sheehan and Alvarez. A motion authorizing the request was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Attorney Rice said that that particular local law that authorized those agreements had particular timeframes involved. The Board was also made aware that Lt. Bonkoski was interested in taking a similar type program so in order to go forward with that, we would have to do a new local law and if the Board wants to do that he would suggest that they set a public hearing for the February meeting. That would require a decision on his part by February 17 and his retirement by November 30. And that would be on the same terms as the prior local law, which would provide one years salary payable to him over two or five years and if you would like to proceed he needs a motion to set a public hearing. A motion to set a public hearing for February 3 at 7:35 p.m. was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Jim Giannettino of 2 Memorial Drive said he just had a question on this last item. Is there a reason why we are holding out until November and not the first fiscal year in June? The Mayor said yes. What we had to do was we had to do his agreement separate from the other officers agreement because he is not in a union and being that we are going to have these three officers in addition to more officers, one which is going out on 207c and one who is actually

retiring, that will be five officers that we are going to have to replace probably by May. So it didn't make sense for the Chief to lose the Lieutenant and all five of those officers at the same time. So what we are doing is giving the Chief a chance to have the Lieutenant there who is knowledgeable with the positions to help him through the process and then he will retire right afterwards. Mr. Giannettino said okay. Mr. Giannettino said also on the flooding issue. He said he doesn't know whether the Board is aware of it but the County of Rockland has submitted in their capital projects budget three million dollars for flooding in the Village of Suffern. So hopefully we will see some of that money if we don't get everything through the Town of Ramapo. The Mayor thanked him.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Clarke Osborn thanked the Mayor and the Board for their support on everything and they appreciate it that very much. He said he just had two quick things. First of all the Board had asked him to take over the enforcement of the parking agents. He said they did so and they hired two additional parking agents at the request of the parking authority and the Board and they will be starting tomorrow morning. The parking authority agents have worked out very well at this point. We have two of them and we will be adding two more tomorrow and it is working out very well on their part - the police department part. And the second and last thing is that they will be focusing on radar and speed details over the next several months. He said they received \$6,300 from the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. They gave us \$6,300 and that is way up from what we got last year. That is used for aggressive driving offenses and on top of our regular enforcement we will be setting special details throughout the Village - primarily Wayne Avenue, Orange Avenue, Washington Avenue and Lafayette Avenue. And that is all he has tonight. The Mayor thanked him.

Trustee Byrne said he had a question that is close to his home. He said that Campbell Avenue is generally patrolled for speed purposes by the Town of Ramapo. Is that correct? The Chief said correct. Trustee Byrne said there has been a speeding problem there frankly since he was a kid. The Chief said he knows. Trustee Byrne said he assumed it was since it is a town road he assumed it was probably the Town of Ramapo. The Chief said it is. He said what we have had is the same thing on Cragmere Road. Cragmere the houses to the right are in the Village when you are going down but the roadway itself is handled by the Town of Ramapo. And he is familiar with the complaints. We get them frequently from people up there. Trustee Byrne said we have had a fatality on the road. And it is an awful situation.

**VILLAGE CLERK:**

**A) Approval of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of October 22,**

**2013:**

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said the only thing she has is the approval of the minutes of the special Board meeting of October 22, 2013. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried, with Trustee Byrne and Trustee Hagen abstaining since they were not on the Board.

**TRUSTEES:**

Trustee Meehan said for the record he is just going to read this briefly: Starting in 2000 the Village contracted with Saratoga Associates to create a development program for the downtown commercial district. The Village became acquainted with Saratoga when the late Mayor Andrew Haggerty and the late Trustee Paul Traub visited the village of Saratoga, New York after attending a NYS Conference of Mayors meeting. Saratoga Associates (SA) came to Suffern and requested the Village Board appoint a committee of citizen volunteers to come up with a plan for Suffern. There were no Board members on that committee. SA met with the citizens committee on several occasions and presented the sidewalk, tree planting, lighting and crosswalk infrastructure to create a new downtown for Suffern. The plan with community participation, although revolutionary, was easily adopted after a public hearing which had little of any objection. It was basically a plan from the ground up as opposed from the top down. The sidewalks and lamps were installed during the spring of 2002 when an unusually heavy rainfall played havoc with the construction. This was constructed under Mayor Glinsky. Mayor's Giannettino and Keegan chose not to continue the program and used community development funds for other purposes. Mayor LaCorte continued the program by installing crosswalks at most intersections and started the façade program, which we approved earlier tonight. Both these programs were funded with CD funds. The façade program is active now and a number of properties have new facades and there are other applicants in the pipeline. The original infrastructure improvements cost a million dollars and were funded with CD funds. A member contribution of \$300,000 from the late, great Senator Thomas Morahan, a good friend of his. He had served in the County Legislature with him for about ten years and \$150,000 from the Suffern Parking Authority. Over the years the Village has worked hard to improve the downtown by seeking outside funds and by using community development funds. The Suffern Chamber of Commerce has also spent thousands of dollars of its money on advertising and professional marketing consultants. Unfortunately, we have many empty and underutilized storefronts in the Village. We have built it but they have not come.

Trustee Meehan said his proposal and he is proposing that the Village Board establish a new downtown committee with the initial mission of finding out why we are unable to attract shoppers to our

downtown. The committee should be composed of one or two Village Trustees, two members of the Suffern Chamber of Commerce, to be designated by the Chamber, one or more downtown business owners not affiliated with the Chamber, and volunteers with hands on experience in the areas of rental real estate, commercial real estate, and market research. For the latter he is suggesting that the Mayor issue a press release calling on residents who can bring expertise to the table. And he is sure that there are a lot of people who we don't know and the Village Board isn't aware of who do have expertise in that area. And he is really counting on that because he doesn't have expertise in marketing research.

Trustee Meehan said he envisions the downtown committee will hire a market research firm who will attempt to survey potential downtown shoppers both within the Village, outside the Village and actually also the northern part of Mahwah, New Jersey and to give us the answer as to why people are not coming to our Village. And he makes the motion to lead that committee.

The Mayor said as they have talked, Trustee Meehan and she have been working on this together since she took office. She said she thinks it is important because we do have so many empty stores in the downtown area. We all keep looking at each other and going but why. Why are we not attracting businesses like Ridgewood is. Why are we not looking like Nyack is. That is constantly the question for the Village of Suffern. We have such a great warm Village with wonderful people but yet we are not getting the people here to bring the businesses in and to get the foot traffic. So she thinks it is important to have a committee as the first step in working towards getting these buildings to bring in some good businesses to attract into the downtown and she thought what better way then to get some input from our residents - why don't you come to the downtown area. What would you like to see down there. She said she is very excited - Ace Hardware is opening up on the 20<sup>th</sup> and she thinks that is going to bring a lot of foot traffic to the downtown area. She said she doesn't know if anyone has actually gone in to see the inside of it but you are all going to be pleasantly surprised and excited to see the different array of items that they are going to carry there. When you think of Ace Hardware you think of a hardware store. Think again. It is absolutely beautiful. Anything the mind can imagine is there and they really took time to identify what we needed in Suffern as people who live and work here to be able to run into their store to get. They really tailored their store towards the needs of Suffern which she thought was really great. So getting probably ten more Ace Hardwares type of thinking into the Village is what we are looking to do. So she will call upon volunteers. She will put out a press release asking for volunteers from our community. She is sure there are many out there who can come up with some good bright ideas for what we could use in the downtown area. Whether you have marketing experience or you are just a mom or you are a professional who needs to drop into

town for something. We want to hear from everyone to try to find - to be able to go out into the marketing world to say hey look, this is what our community wants to see. We would welcome you with open arms. This is something that will grow and flourish here. So thank you Mr. Meehan. She will put that press release out. We will also have Cathy put something on the website and you can speak with Trustee Meehan and he will give you the verbage on it. Exactly what we are looking for. We would like it to include what Jack has mentioned but that doesn't mean that we wouldn't take more or someone who has some kind of different expertise onto the committee. So please get involved. The Mayor said you know that she is all about resident input. She said she is really looking forward to hearing from you. She said she is hoping at some point to put something out to our residents - kind of a questionnaire of what would you like to see in the downtown area. Getting the residents very much involved in bringing the downtown forward.

Trustee Hagen asked if you would invite the property owners to this? The Mayor said the building owners? Trustee Hagen said to the committee - yes. The Mayor said absolutely. Jack has that in the - Trustee Hagen said that is good. The Mayor said they would like building owners, they would like business owners, chamber. She guesses it would just be anyone because everybody should be involved in either shopping or having a business in the downtown, working in the downtown, or whatever it is. They would love to hear some input.

Trustee Byrne said in addition we might want to reach out, and this may be more for when the committee is established - but to reach out to Avon, for example, who has so many employees who maybe aren't traveling downtown for lunch or for whatever else they might be able to. The Mayor said that is a great idea. When they send out the questionnaires they can also include the businesses as well. Trustee Byrne said you also have the Salvation Army which has a lot of people that live on site, obviously, and that might be a good place to get a good bang for your buck. The Mayor said Esther Gitlow. Trustee Byrne said by questioning them you might get some insight too. So just some ideas. And including the - and he knows that Mr. Meehan mentioned businesses - there are property owners that are not business owners so he would like to make sure that they are all included. The Mayor said absolutely.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

##### **A) Personnel:**

Mr. Charles Sawicki requested the Mayor to appoint Mr. Joe Hunt to Motor Equipment Operator 2 and Maintenance Supervisor position

effective January 14 at a rate of pay of \$41.50 per hour. Mr. Sawicki said that Mr. Hunt has been approved by the Rockland County Personnel Department. A motion approving Mr. Hunt was made by Trustee Meehan. The Mayor said that she would like to move this. The Village Treasurer has some questions as to how we are - where we are going to charge this to. Mr. Sawicki said he can give them some input. He said they are down one employee. So they have a surplus in the salary and wage line. And there is very little difference in dollars from this pay rate and what his predecessor was being paid. So he doesn't see that there could possibly be an issue. The Mayor said okay. What we could do tonight is that we will approve subject to approval for funding by the Village Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**B) Application for Payments:**

Mr. Sawicki requested payment authorization for Application of Payment No. 2 for the Hose Company firehouse roof project to Hayden Building Maintenance Corporation in the amount of \$6,803.20. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki requested payment authorization for Application of Payment No. 2 for the general construction portion of the wastewater treatment plant dewatering system upgrade project to Northeast Remsco Corporation. This payment is in the amount of \$545,930. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Hagen, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki requested payment authorization for Application of Payment No. 1 for the electrical portion of the wastewater treatment plant dewatering system upgrade project to Fanshawe, Inc. He said this payment is in the amount of \$54,245. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki requested payment authorization for Application of Payment No. 2 for the roadway improvements phase 5 project to Thomas H. Gannon & Sons Inc. in the amount of \$8,099.68. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki requested payment authorization for Application of Payment No. 1 for the roadway improvements phase 7 project to Tilcon New York Inc. in the amount of \$179,943.95. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki requested payment authorization for Application of Payment No. 1 for the abatement portion of the demolition of residential housing project to Par Environmental Corporation in the amount of \$125,775. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki said he had one additional item that is not on that list. It is part of an Application of Payment request. He said he is requesting authorization for payment to the NYS Commissioner of Labor in the amount of \$22,766.86 subject to final review by Village Attorney Terry Rice. Mr. Sawicki said the Commissioner will utilize these funds to satisfy underpayment of employees. The involved contractor is JNP Construction Inc. of South Hackensack, New Jersey for the water tank project. Mr. Sawicki said this was a project that was done a number of years ago and the contractor apparently was paying all his employees prevailing wage. So we were notified by the state. Terry has been involved in this and has been given direction on how to handle it. We just recently got a request from the state for this dollar amount, which goes directly to the state. The Mayor asked if we still have money left in that fund. Mr. Sawicki said we never paid the contractor anything at all. Attorney Rice said and we have heard, not threatening letters, from their attorney about trying to get the matter wrapped up so we have had a number of notices from the state over the years with varying amounts of the claim and this seems to be the final notice so if he can confirm that this is the final number that the state is looking for then we can make that payment. And he said subsequently we can figure out the balance of the money that is owed the contractor, if any. Mr. Sawicki said there would be. The contract was for \$110,700. Trustee Byrne asked if there would be an offset. Attorney Rice said yes, exactly. Mr. Sawicki said there was one change order that was approved by the Board and his recollection is, he believes, it is \$110,700. But he couldn't be absolutely certain of it. The Mayor said this kind of thing you are going to have to work out with the Village Treasurer before we come here to make sure that we are all on the same page with this. Mr. Sawicki said he just got this today. The Mayor said this is something that you are going to have to talk to Tom about before we can approve it.

**C) Bid Approval:**

Mr. Sawicki requested authorization to accept the low bid for the general construction portion of the wastewater treatment plant digestion system upgrade project. This bid is from Northeast Remsco Corporation Inc. of Farmingdale, New Jersey in the amount of \$1,089,000. The cost of this project will be charged to the WWTP capital projects account. And later tonight Mr. Zordan is going to ask for a resolution, he believes, for additional funding. The Mayor said we have to authorize it first so we will do it all when

Tom brings it up.

Mr. Sawicki said there is the second portion that he will have to wait for as well.

**D) Proposal Approval:**

Mr. Sawicki requested authorization to approve the proposal from O'Brien and Gere for the construction management, start-up and commissioning of the wastewater treatment plant digester system upgrade project. This proposal is not to exceed the amount of \$47,000. The cost of the project will be charged to the WWTP capital projects account. He said there is enough money in there currently to do that. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki said he had one additional item. He was requesting authorization for Mr. Scott Brown and Mr. Joe Hunt to attend the Annual CSEA Peer Trainer Refresher Course to be held in Saratoga Springs, New York. This course will start on Tuesday afternoon, March 25 through Friday, March 28, 2014. This course is provided by the CSEA at no cost to the Village. A motion authorizing the request was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**

Treasurer Tom Zordan said that we paid \$135,934 for our firefighters pension contribution. That is their LOSAP award program. So that is taken care of. He said we made our police retirement contribution of \$715,000 on December 15. The rate charged by the Empire Plan, the medical insurance effective January 1, 2014, and the overall increase was 3.2% and was budgeted for. Mr. Zordan said of the \$1,272,000 in water and sewer billings from November we have collected \$872,115 through December 31, 2013.

He said we sent out our solid waste invoices and he would like to thank our residents because they are already paying them. He said he appreciates that. He said that budget worksheets were distributed to all department heads on Friday, December 13. They were to have their budget requests submitted by January 13, 2014, which is today.

Mr. Zordan said he was requesting approval for a resolution to borrow \$1,100,000 to pay for the digester mixing system for the wastewater treatment plant. He said we do not anticipate borrowing the money during this fiscal year, however we need the approval for financing so that we can give the approval to go ahead with the work.

A motion approving the resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki requested authorization to accept the low bidder for the general construction portion of the wastewater treatment plant digestion system upgrade project. He said this bid is from Northeast Remsco Corporation Inc. of Farmingdale, New Jersey in the amount of \$1,089,000. He said the cost of this project will be charged to the WWTP capital projects account. Mr. Sawicki said there is a second portion to that which, there is a general construction, and then there is an electrical portion of that as well and he needs approval for that as well.

Trustee Meehan asked how many bids we had on that. Mr. Sawicki said it should be in his packet. He believes there were four bids - three bids for the general construction and only one for the electrical.

A motion approving the request for the general construction portion was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki said he was requesting authorization to accept the low bid for the electrical construction portion of the wastewater treatment plant digestion system upgrade project. He said this bid is from HVS, LLC of Garnerville, New York in the amount of \$86,973. The cost of this project will be charged to the WWTP capital project account. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Trustee Byrne said he had one question. He said he knows it has nothing to do with what we just mentioned. It is just another general question. He said he knows that it is very difficult this time of year to keep up with pothole issues but the phone calls that he gets and the comments that he gets he said he is sure there is an ongoing - Mr. Sawicki said we had crews out today. He said as a matter of fact he made a call to the state this morning as well. And they assured him that they are going to be out either today or tomorrow the latest. So we are - and he explained to them that this is extreme and we have some extreme conditions out there and we are going to do everything we can to fill the potholes on the state highway but we are going to need some help. Trustee Byrne said he was just made aware of what was described to him as a rather large one in front of Good Sam by their loading dock entrance and a few on 202 and he is not exactly sure where but he will just pass that along.

The Mayor said that actually Joe Hunt came into her office this morning as well as she met with Charles and they talked about that. She said we had a little emergency situation where they had to be called out last night to fill some of those potholes because people were getting flat tires. So as well as Mr. Sawicki calling the state, she also called the state and they have assured her that they are going to get on this. So with any luck - but in the meantime Mr. Hunt and Mr. Sawicki and she have all agreed that we have to do our part to make sure that our residents are safe until they get to the point where they actually need to pave the roads. That is the long term and we are hoping that that will happen soon.

Treasurer Zordan said we made a long-term bond payment of \$170,000 during December, bringing our total long-term debt down to \$6,040,000. We have no more principal payments scheduled for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Mr. Zordan said we made a payment of \$162,500 on our short-term debt in our sewer fund, bringing our total short-term debt in the sewer fund down to \$375,000. We have no more payments scheduled for the remainder of this fiscal year.

**MAYOR:**

Mayor Abato said she was a little disappointed that Mr. Rosenberg is not here. She said to please tell him that, in his honor, with

a plaque on the benches with his name on it, she is placing two benches in the downtown area that will read "Thank you Jack" on them and they will be placed for him in the downtown. And we will take some pictures and send them. Mr. Giannettino said Lafayette Avenue by the Parking Authority and these are Mr. Rosenberg's, and he is not saying that these are the best spots for them. Mr. Giannettino said Lafayette Avenue by the Parking Authority and Lafayette Avenue by the Capital Bank. And if that is not agreeable, please put the benches back in the gazebo is what he told Mr. Giannettino. The Mayor said she was thinking about the gazebo and she was thinking about the park down at the bottom by the clock. But she will take these other ones into consideration - Mr. Giannettino said you mean point - Mayor Abato said no, point is down there. Mr. Giannettino said he is sorry - Suffern Park. He said that is kind of an out of the way spot. You may wind up with problems down there. The Mayor said we have to talk to the banks because that would be something that they would have to agree to. Trustee Byrne said that suggestion in front of the Parking Authority - there seems to be a lot of space there. Mr. Giannettino said and possibly by the flower box by Capital. The Mayor said we would have to get the bank to approve - Mr. Giannettino said you can ask. The Mayor said we will ask. The Mayor said but they are definitely going in, tell him, and wherever they are we thank him. Mr. Giannettino said he is thrilled, believe him. The Mayor said to please give him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Mayor said the second item that she has is that it is time to renew our planning advisory services for 2014 for Frederick P. Clark Associates, Inc. She said she believes everyone has a copy of their proposal and asked if there were any questions. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan  
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said the last item that she had is that Terry is going to read - we have asked for a resolution to abolish the Suffern Parking Authority. We have found that the Parking Authority is really pretty much duplicating a lot of services that we could provide here at Village Hall and it would save a lot of money to the Village as well as create some revenue if the Village took over the Parking Authority. Clarke would be overseeing the ticket writing portion of the Parking Authority and the financials would be taken care of by Tom and obviously the legalities would be taken over by Terry. She said we have to do a resolution and ask for

legislation for this to happen. And she is going to have Terry read the resolution.

Attorney Rice said to let him just describe very briefly the process. Because the Parking Authority was created by the State Legislature and under the most recent amendment that the Village had asked that its corporate existence continue until 2019 we need legislation abolishing it. And in order to get legislation abolishing it or any type of State legislation, we need to pass a Home Rule request, which we will do subsequently. Before we can even get to that stage what we need to do, and that is what this resolution does, is ask the State Legislature to draw up a bill that will accomplish that and that is basically what this resolution would do. Once there is a bill that is in the proper form and does what we need it to do, we can then pass the Home Rule request and then this Legislature can act on that. So briefly the resolution says:

RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2014

WHEREAS, the Suffern Parking Authority was created in 1974 at the request of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable authorizing legislation, the Parking Authority's corporate existence expires on December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Parking Authority has never incurred any bonded indebtedness and there is no bonded indebtedness outstanding; and

WHEREAS, the functions performed by the Parking Authority do, in certain respects, overlap those performed by the Village of Suffern; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees finds that it would be more economical and cost effective to eliminate the duplication of services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees desires to initiate the process for the abolishment of the Suffern Parking Authority by the State Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby requests that the offices of Senator Carlucci and Assemblywoman Jaffee cause to be prepared the appropriate legislation to abolish the Suffern Parking Authority.

A motion approving the Resolution was made by Trustee Meehan. Trustee Byrne asked if he could ask a question. He asked what if any are there any public hearing requirements required along the path to eventual approval. Attorney Rice said no. Trustee Byrne

asked if there would be a subsequent vote later on. Attorney Rice said yes. What will happen is we will, if you approve this, we will send it to the State Legislature. They will have the bill drafters draft up a bill with Senate and Assembly numbers. We will get the Home Rule request and then we will have to approve the Home Rule requests subsequently. Trustee Byrne said he doesn't have a problem starting that process. He thinks we had mentioned this when we met before that it can be a lengthy process for the Home Rule portion of this. He said he has some information when we met before and the issue of the Parking Authority and the appropriateness of how it functions and how it should or not function. So he would support his first step towards that but he just wants to say that he may have more questions along the way before we take that final vote on the Home Rule but he thinks we should get the process started so he has no objections certainly to that. And there has been discussion on the Board already about this. It is just that he has not spoken to, for example, to Scott Shedler individually about this. And he knows that there has been some representations to him that he is supportive of this - and he doesn't know if he is misspeaking. The Mayor said he is very supportive of this. He has actually started working on the process with Chief Osborn and Chief has already taken over the ticket writing portion because it has gone so significantly to the point that they were kind of losing money and we weren't really getting the tickets written downtown. There was a lot of parking that was not being ticketed that should have been. Since the Chief has taken it over we probably have quadrupled the number of tickets this month then had been written previous. So she thinks it is a matter of they really didn't have any leadership down there. There really is no interest in leadership down there and a lot of things kind of fell by the wayside. So with keeping that in mind, Scott and members of the Board have pretty much all indicated to her that they are very much in favor of the Village taking it over and of course we would keep the part-time jobs. No one would lose their job. We would have the ladies who work in the office - we can put them upstairs. We have an empty office upstairs so they could continue to sell the permits. We wouldn't want anyone losing their jobs down there so we thought it through pretty clearly but of course she totally agrees with Matt as we go through the process she, too, since it is something she has never done before she may have questions.

Trustee Byrne said he just may have more questions. That is his only point. Trustee Hagen said he was glad they waited until he left the Parking Authority.

Mayor Abato said we are going to vote. She asked if we had a first or a second. Trustee Meehan said you have a motion. It was seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan

Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Abato said we had a very nice surprise come to our attention. She said we received a notification today which is very exciting. That is the good news. The bad news is we have to get more information on Friday. But she would like everybody to know our good news.

Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said we have been awarded by Governor Cuomo \$3,000,000 for flood mitigation. This is beyond the realm of excitement and cannot thank everyone who pushed this along for this Village of Suffern. We didn't even know we were in the running for it which makes it even more special and exciting. There is a ton of information that we need to find out. There are a ton of projects that we have out there that we can use this money for all good and we are looking to do the best thing for the Village in flood mitigation and as quickly as possible. It is going to take a little bit. We are not going to be done in two weeks. We have a lot to learn about it. We do have meetings set up already with other villages such as Stony Point which has already gone through this process. From what she is being told from Chris Jensen, the Village of Suffern is way ahead of where Stony Point was when they started. The Mayor said without even knowing that we were getting the money we were doing things. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said this is just an unbelievable gift. It is the most exciting thing. Not that she wasn't thrilled to death to get the money for the Lonergan homes but this is at least happy that no one has lost a home that we had to file for. So this will hopefully prevent anyone else from having this scenario happen. So it is very exciting. She said we will be updating them on everything that we can find out.

The Mayor said because we did not have a moment in the beginning of the meeting she would like to rise and ask for one now. For all those serving overseas defending our freedom. And she said the meeting is adjourned in their honor and memory.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

