

Village Board Meeting
Monday, January 5, 2015 - 7:30 P.M.

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

PRESENT: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Robert Morris
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

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

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said this year there was a devastating snowstorm up in Erie County that left that county paralyzed. And calls for help came out for any assistance that could be given to them firematically - police department, emergency services of any kind. And without hesitation our Suffern Fire Department answered that call. And there are some gentlemen here tonight who spent countless hours up there, who put aside their Thanksgiving dinner with their families and went to the call to help others and she thinks that is just a testament to this Village and what we stand for and that we are there for anyone who is in need of our assistance. The Mayor said she wanted to recognize the gentlemen tonight. And she also has to tell the story of two gentlemen in particular. On the way back one of our trucks had a little mishap and two of our firefighters and it was the night before Thanksgiving - or two nights before, correct? Two nights before Thanksgiving and we didn't know how we were going to get them off the Thruway because now they are in the middle of another snowstorm coming down and we don't know how we are going to get them back here and we don't know how we are going to get the truck off the Thruway and our entire team of firefighters that went up stayed with this truck. It was their baby and they weren't leaving it there. They found someone to tow it in and two of those firefighters stayed with that truck knowing that there was the possibility that they would not get home for Thanksgiving dinner with their families. So will those two gentlemen please stand up. The Mayor said to all of you she says thank you. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for being on call twenty four hours a day to ensure the safety of our residents. We really are very fortunate to have all of you.

The Mayor called up Andrew Alvarado, Daniel Gallante, Elkin Escobar, Alex Harper, Andrew Markunas (the Mayor said you will notice that the last name happens to be similar to someone on the Board and she is sure Dad is very proud), Joseph Nyen, Nick St. Jacques, and last but not least, Matt Wilson. The Mayor said Matt served as the officer in charge up there. She said thank you so

much. The Mayor said you certainly have a wonderful, wonderful group of guys that serve this Village well. So thank you for all that you do.

SET DATES FOR FEBRUARY MEETINGS:

The Mayor said the workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board meeting will be Monday, February 2 at 7:30 p.m. The Mayor said she would like to start by wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year. She said she hopes that all your holidays were good ones.

7:30 P.M. - CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING - 3 HOUR PARKING ON LAFAYETTE AVENUE:

The Mayor said we will begin with the continuation of the public hearing for 3 hour parking on Lafayette Avenue. The Mayor said if you would like to speak to please come up to the microphone and state your name and address.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Hagen, seconded by Trustee Markunas. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

There was no motion to adopt the 3 hour parking on Lafayette Avenue so it did not pass.

Trustee Byrne said he had some comment. He said he thinks part of the reason there is no motion tonight is that he would think it not be too bad of an idea to table it rather than simply reject it tonight but finding out during the workshop that the Chamber is not for this that there might be some residents who have indicated support for it and no one came to speak on it at all. He said he will do what the Board wishes to do but he would make a motion to table to consider it at the next meeting. The Mayor asked him what he would like us to do in the meantime to further this. Is there anything in particular? Trustee Byrne said that he thinks there can be perhaps a little more discussion. He would like to speak to some people at the Chamber and see what their objection is to it. And they did not come to speak, he doesn't think, at any of the - the initial hearing or today. Right? He said they weren't here at the prior meeting but you did indicate at the workshop that you understood that they did not favor it. The Mayor said yes. Trustee Byrne said like he said he will go with whatever the Board chooses to do but he just thinks a little more information in terms of that. He is curious to see why the Chamber opposes it. The Mayor said okay. So we could have a motion to continue the public hearing. Trustee Byrne said can we close the public hearing - it looks like we have already done. Or just move to table it. The Mayor said we are going to take new information. Trustee Byrne said he would move to continue the public hearing until the next meeting, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was

carried.

7:50 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - PARKING ON PRAIRIE AVENUE:

Chief Clarke Osborn said that during the workshop he explained very briefly in regards to what this is. It is the parking situation on the southwest corner of Prairie at the intersection with South Street. The issue is it is very difficult to make a turn onto South Street from Prairie. They were looking for a 50 foot no parking here to corner sign on the southwest corner after speaking with residents on southern Prairie Avenue. It is a very short distance. It is actually much safer for the emergency services, particularly a fire truck who would definitely not be able to make that turn with so many trucks that are parked in there during the day.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

VILLAGE OF SUFFERN

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2015

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 254-61 OF THE
CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
PROHIBITING PARKING ALONG A
PORTION OF PRAIRIE AVENUE

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

Section 1. Section 254-61, "Schedule XI: Parking Prohibited at All Times" of the Code of the Village of Suffern is hereby amended by adding after:

[Name of Street]	[Side]	[Location]
Prairie Avenue	Both	From a point 15 feet east of Boulevard to a point 15 feet west thereof

the following:

[Name of Street]	[Side]	[Location]
Prairie Avenue	West	From the intersection of South Street to a point 50 feet north thereof

Section 2. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

A motion to adopt Local Law No. 1 was made by Trustee Markunas, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

8:00 P.M.-PUBLIC HEARING - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

The Mayor said our next hearing is a public hearing for community development. Mr. Fred Rella said good evening to the Board and a happy new year to all of them. He said that every year Rockland County is given so much money through HUD - Housing and Urban Development - and it goes to the office of Rockland County Community Development and then its that organization's group to disseminate that money to varying villages and municipalities on an award basis through an application and the Village of Suffern puts in each and every year for it. And you can either be awarded some monies or you can be denied some monies, or you can be given a portion of what you actually put in for. For the past five years we put in for what is known as the downtown revitalization program for the façade program and we were awarded \$457,000 in which we are still expensing those funds. It will take a couple of years in order to actually complete that program.

Mr. Rella said this year they are going to be deviating off of that program and they are going to be requesting to be putting in sidewalks on Orange Avenue from Oliver Street on downtown to what is referred to as the point which is actually the junction of Orange Avenue and Washington Avenue. The curbs, if you drive along there, are basically almost non-existent. They have eroded away to almost nothing. Also it would be the replacement of the aprons which is the driveway entrances as well as the sidewalk. The cost of this project is approximately \$100,000 which is what they will be requesting from Community Development. Part of the application process is that the Village needs to contribute 10% at a minimum so the total cost of the project would be \$110,000. Once again the grant being \$100,000 and the Village contributing \$10,000. If we get awarded \$50,000, only a portion of it, then we would only have to contribute for example \$5000. So with that sliding scale. So that is basically the program. The Mayor thanked him and asked if anyone would like to speak.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Morris,

seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2015

RESOLVED, that the Village Board accept the recommendation of the Community Development Advisory Committee to seek Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the Orange Avenue Sidewalk Project and authorizes the submission of the 2015 CDBG application. The CDBG application will state that the 2015 Orange Avenue Sidewalk project cost will be \$110,000. Of this total, \$100,000 will be contributed from the Community Development Block Grant and 10% or \$10,000 will be contributed from the Village of Suffern (if lesser amount of CDBG funds are awarded to the Village of Suffern, the Village contribution shall remain constant at no more than 10% of any such CDBG award; i.e. a \$50,000 award will equate to \$5,000 Village of Suffern contribution).

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2015 was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Mayor said the Fire Department had no report.

CULTURE & RECREATION:

Mrs. Cathy Mills said good evening to the Mayor and Village Board and wished them a happy new year. She said they have a few things coming up for the month of January. They have LEAD this Friday night from 8 to 11 at the community center. They have a recreation board meeting on Thursday, January 8 at 7 p.m. in the community room. Mrs. Mills said she wanted to give them a schedule for all of the senior events for the year so that everybody is familiar with them. Senior chair yoga - they will be having every Friday at 10 a.m. in the community center. The time has changed. It was originally 9:30 at the last Friday but now it is every Friday at 10 a.m. They have a new senior nutrition program and they are going to have that on the first Tuesday of every month and that is going to be from 11 to 12 in the community room upstairs. Mrs. Mills said she has some flyers up in the front for anybody who would like to take some. She said the senior stayfit program they have every Monday and that is from 11 to 1 and then 4 to 6. They have changed the hours for stayfit from 4 to 6 from 4 to 7. So now it will be

ending a 6 o'clock on Mondays and then they also have senior stayfit program every Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m. and then 4 to 6 p.m. And then their senior meeting schedule for 2015 at the community center - the times are 12 to 3 on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. This is the Ramapo Seniors meeting at the community center and then on the first and third Wednesday of every month is the Suffern Seniors meeting. So please feel free to attend any of the meetings that you like.

Mrs. Mills said another event that is coming up - on Monday, January 19, Chabad will be having a fundraiser at the community center. It is Martin Luther King Day. Children are out of school that day so it will be a fundraiser. They are going to be having the senior movie on January 29. It is a Thursday. And the movie will be "This is Where I Leave You." This is one of the films that was filmed by Jason Bateman and there are a few scenes from Good Samaritan Hospital up there so if anyone hasn't seen it it is a great movie to see and you see Good Samaritan Hospital in it. And then on Friday, January 30, they have family fun night and that will be at 7 o'clock in the community center. And in the workshop she handed everybody a schedule. Mrs. Mills said these are not set in stone. She was looking for feedback from the Board on any of the dates. They really went by the last couple of years. Very consistent with the dates. There are a few comments that she wanted them to see. Some of the issues are about the pool. When they will be opening this year and a few other items. So if you could look through them and before they start setting up the calendar for the summer calendar for the Village they would like to have that by April to be able to publish before May so they really do - that is when they start getting all the events in. She said she didn't know if they had a chance to look at it yet and if there are any questions that you have to please feel free to reach her.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY:

A) Rosa Biensy:

Attorney Rice said in September, October, November the Board held a public hearing on a taxi license application of Biensy Rosa doing business as Limitless Taxi so the hearing was closed in November. He said he got a sense of essentially what the Board was thinking and he prepared a draft resolution and circulated it to the Board and rather than read the whole thing he will just take a couple of minutes and paraphrase it.

Attorney Rice said the code, by the way, has specific requirements for a taxi application as well as findings that the Board has to make and he will refer to that. During the hearing the applicant represented that she had spoken to the taxi licensees in the Village and that they basically said if you get approval they will go with you and she stated that she didn't have written agreements

with them but they had approved of it. She was also requested to provide the proposed fee structure to the Board of Trustees in writing but that did not occur and the applicant did not appear at the continued public hearing on October 14 or November 10. At the November 10 hearing, Deborah Tapp of Deborah's Taxi stated that the applicant had not contacted her regarding the proposed service and that she didn't believe that there was any need for such a service and she dispatched the taxis herself. Also Jean Floreal of Brother's Taxi stated that the applicant hadn't contacted him and that they wouldn't be interested in any such service. The proposed decision finds that under the definitions in the code the service proposed requires a license under the taxi provisions of the Village code. The decision reiterates that a licensee has to provide specific information as provided in the code. And that the applicant failed to provide that or failed to provide additional information which was requested. The actual application was not completely filled out despite the fact that the Village Clerk had repeatedly asked for that. Under the Village code the Board of Trustees may approve a taxi license only if the Board finds that the applicant is of good moral character, is capable of providing taxi service in a safe and efficient manner and is willing and able to comply with all the requirements and provisions of the chapter. So the proposed decision states that the Board finds that the applicant has not demonstrated that she is an applicant of good moral character, is capable of providing taxi service in a safe and efficient manner and is willing and able to comply with all the other requirements and provisions of the chapter because she represented that she had spoken to all of the three taxi operators in the Village and that they wish to subscribe to her service. The applicant was not able to substantiate that representation and the taxi operators who testified at the hearing denied that the applicant had spoken to them or that they would utilize the service. Hence the Board concludes that the applicant has been disingenuous in this regard and cannot conclude that the applicant is of good moral character. Secondly, by repeatedly driving with a suspended license or registration the applicant has evidenced disregard of the law which is particularly germane to the instant taxi application because the violations dealt with significant motor vehicle transgressions. Hence the Board cannot conclude that the applicant is of good moral character, is capable of providing taxi service in a safe and efficient manner and is willing and able to comply with all of the requirements and provisions of the chapter. Third, by failing to attend the adjourned public hearings and by failing to provide information required by the Village code and further information requested by the Village Board the applicant has evidenced that she is unwilling or unable to comply with all of the requirements and provisions of chapter 248 of the Village code. Wherefore, the Board of Trustees concludes the applicant has not complied with the requirements of chapter 248 of the code of the Village of Suffern and further cannot find that the applicant is of good moral character, is capable of providing taxi

service in a safe and efficient manner and is willing and able to comply with all other requirements and provisions of this chapter. As a result, the application is denied.

A motion denying the application was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Clarke Osborn said he was just going to give the Board some quick numbers on their 2014 statistics to give them an idea of some of the activity. In 2014 they had 322 arrests. They were up about 10% from 2013. Vehicle and traffic summonses were, at this time, 1,734. That could go up a little bit. It takes about a week to go into their system from the state so they are up about 22% from last year. Calls for service were pretty much the same. Actually there were only 50 in all. They came in 6,660, which is a pretty normal number. Parking summonses - they started calculating parking summonses with the parking authority January 25 when they were asked to do so. Since January 25 to this date they have issued 977 parking summonses throughout the Village. They were pretty busy and they did a good job. He said they also had a lot of community work going on. They had their toy drive and he wants to thank all of you - many of you are here - who helped them out. They helped out a ton of families locally this year. They had over 100 volunteers and then they started the shirt drive due to the deaths of the NYPD officers. He said they anticipated selling maybe 500 shirts. He ordered 600. He thought he was going to be buying 100 himself. And they are now over 2000 shirts. They are still coming in. He said they had the state police come in today from Haverstraw, they had the Haverstraw police come in, they had county departments from all over. They had Bergen coming in all day today. So the number keeps going up and their goal is to raise \$20,000 profit and they are pretty close right now to that and he wants to keep going. He said he wants to thank the Mayor, the Board members who helped them out. And he wants to thank every department - Mike, your guys have helped us out, Cathy with the center and really Mike Genito and Charles who has been lugging boxes of shirts back and forth and everybody pretty much participated. This isn't just them. It is a huge community program and he thinks half the Village has these shirts if not more of the Village residents. And he just wanted to thank them. The Mayor thanked him. Chief Osborn said all the proceeds are going to the families of the NYPD officers and he just

appreciated their support on that. Chief Osborn said he had one last thing. They trained two field training officers. Next year in 2016 - excuse him, he should say by the end of this year, he should say, when they hire new officers they are going to have to be riding with a certified field training officer and that is new from the state. He said we have several of them and we just trained two more this past month - Officer Kiernan and Officer Yustein and we are just trying to keep up on that with the new hires. And that is all he has and he does appreciate the support.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Charles Sawicki said the NYS DEC has requested an engineering report identifying engineering solutions to alleviate and correct any potential design deficiencies in the integral clarifier system at the Wastewater Treatment plant. Three professional service proposals were submitted in response to an RFP. Mr. Sawicki requested authorization to accept the lowest cost proposal for this engineering report from Environmental Engineering and Management Associates Inc., Kulpsville, Pennsylvania. The cost of this proposal is \$6,000 and the cost will be charged to the Wastewater Treatment plant capital projects account. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

The Mayor said we will have audience participation. She said to please come to the microphone and state your name and address.

Jane Aronoff of 20 Burlington Avenue said she was here because she understands that someone who was one of the judges that was appointed was not reappointed this year and she just wondered why whoever decided this - when someone does their job and they do a good job and they are there and come out all the time why that person would not be reappointed.

Trustee Byrne said to the Mayor that he thinks at the end of the agenda she has some appointments. The Mayor said she does. Trustee Byrne said he thinks we can discuss it then.

Ms. Aronoff said she just wanted to make her voice heard before she has to leave. So thank you for listening. The Mayor thanked her.

Kristin Stoviki said she was not going to give her address because she doesn't live in Suffern. She said she is actually here to read a letter from Alden Wolfe, the chairman of the Legislature.

To the Suffern Village Board:

I have known Stephanie Adwar for many years. As an attorney I am well acquainted with her as a colleague and have been impressed by her competence, intelligence and sense of ethics, all qualities which have served her well as acting Village Justice. A delay in filling the position of acting Village Justice only serves to create an otherwise unnecessary burden on Justice Buonocore and hampers the administration of justice to Suffern's residents. There is a reason that Justice Buonocore, a Republican, had been named as acting Justice by a Democratic Mayor and confirmed by a largely Democratic Village Board. And that is because public policies supports a justice system that transcends politics. I for one support the reappointment of Stephanie Adwar as acting Village Justice and encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Alden Wolfe

Chairman, Rockland County Legislature

Ms. Stoviki said she would just add as the chair of the Democratic Party that she never came in here kicking and screaming when Justice Buonocore was acting Justice. That was the right thing to do and she asks them tonight don't do the political thing. Do the right thing.

Bob Burbridge said he was the property owner of 11 Dunnery Court in Suffern as he has been for the last thirty years. He said he would like to begin by expressing his sincere appreciation to Mayor Abato, former Deputy Mayor Corrigan, Assemblywoman Jaffee, the Village Board and our emergency response officials for recognizing and being proactive concerning a very serious problem in our Village - namely the flooding of the West Ward during severe storms which can partially - which potentially strands residents, hampers emergency response, create a negative impact on the business district and limits access and use of our athletic facilities. The proposed emergency access road, however, will only resolve one of these problems, that is access for emergency vehicles. Residents will still find themselves stranded in their West Ward homes. Businesses in the Village will continue to suffer and the athletic facilities will remain inaccessible because we are not fixing the real problem. That is the flooding of the Chestnut Street underpass. To the Mayor and the Board and the Department of Public Works he respectfully asks what periodic maintenance does the Village perform and how frequently is that maintenance performed to keep the existing storm drains clear, especially those on Chestnut Street. Additionally, he asks has the Village investigated what improvements can be made to permanently resolve the Chestnut Street flooding problem. Such permanent improvements would address all of

the issues that he has raised resulting from a severe storm. Again, with the results being unimpeded access to the West Ward for emergency response, the ability for residents to enter and exit the West Ward during flooding conditions, minimizing economic impact on the business district and keeping our athletic facilities accessible. And such a permanent solution, in his opinion, would make the proposed emergency access road unnecessary. He said he implores them to dedicate their efforts, the resources of the Village and the grant funds already secured to the proper and permanent solution of this problem. He thanked them. The Mayor thanked him and said that we will be scheduling that meeting sometime in February once we have off and we will have all of that information as well. We are looking into all of that.

Scott Brown said he represents the Village of Suffern CSEA Unit 8369. He said he would like to welcome the new Board members. He said for the past eight years or so the CSEA unit has had a good working relationship with the Village and he is looking forward for this relationship to continue. After the election there were rumors around town that the Village was looking into selling the water department, sewer department and contracting the refuse department and with additional layoffs. Mr. Morris and Mr. Markunas were good enough to come down to the street department garage and address these issues. They assured us at that time these were only rumors and we were thankful to them for taking their time to address this matter. Mr. Brown said he is sure that these are all put to rest. Their intentions are clear that these were only rumors and he just at this time thanks them for their time.

Philip Landau said the last time he was in this room was playing the Stars and Stripes right up on the stage when he was in the sixth grade so he has been around town for a while. He said he has been a landlord here since the early eighties. He owns two properties in town - one at 158 Orange Avenue and one at 48 E. Maltbie. He said he is here to support Stephanie's reappointment as Judge. He said he has known Stephanie for years and he knows her to be a sincere, hard working honest broker. The fact that she is the first female Judge in Suffern is significant and meaningful. He said he knows of no credible suspicion of impropriety or lack of judgment on her part so the Board's failure to vote can only be political, which is a shame. Particularly in light of her actual performance in her capacity as Judge, which has been impeccable. Mr. Landau said he can understand a Republican Board not wanting to support a Democratic appointee. That's politics. But it seems to him to be more advantageous to pick an issue with a clearer field of vision. In this case you have virtually no supporters. 276 to 10 in a recent poll is a pretty clear mandate in support of Stephanie no matter what you want to use as a margin of error. It is unfortunate that she may be collateral damage in what appears to be a petty political maneuver that has no community support. It is equally unfortunate that the operation of the town could be

severely hampered with only one Judge. You can't possibly argue that you are acting in the best interest of the community by not approving her. He said he knows that you are well aware that Suffern was rated not one of but the most stressed town in the state. How do you think it looks to the rest of the state and surrounding community by grandstanding in this matter. He said he can assure them it doesn't look good. He said so he urges them to take a sober look at yourselves and the message you are sending. He said he invites them to rise above this pettiness, approve Stephanie and pick another issue to exercise your disagreement with the administration. Maybe one where you have more than 10 people supporting you and won't grind the town's business to a halt.

Susan Golden said she is also a lifelong resident of the Village of Suffern except for a fifteen year period when she lived in Manhattan. She said she is also an attorney. She said and you are the Village Trustees and the word trustee is there for a reason - the public trust. And you have a fiduciary duty to represent the best interest of this Village and the people who live here, work here and own businesses here. And the people you represent who care about this have overwhelmingly spoken out in favor of Ms. Adwar's reappointment tonight and also at the last Board meeting. No one has come forward publicly and on the record to say that she has handled the cases before her in any manner other than impartially, ethically and within the law. Not reappointing her will cost the Village money in terms of overtime, which will be incurred because Mr. Buonocore will have to sit late for longer calendars and most importantly is a breach of the public trust for what appears to be strictly political motives. She said she thinks it is shameful that this matter has been tabled the last time and she urges them to reconsider and reappoint her tonight.

Jody Shiffer said she has lived here in the Village of Suffern since 1993 and she has two children left who are high school students. However they do not attend Suffern High School. But she still lives in Suffern because she loves the Village so much. She said she is ashamed and embarrassed for those people that sit on this Board that will not reappoint Stephanie Adwar. She said she has known Stephanie since she began living here in 1993. She is hard working, articulate, fair and she looks out for the interests of others - not for the interests of herself. And she needs to be reappointed.

Charles Falciglia of 14 Sagamore Avenue said he had two items to talk about. Back in early November, he believes it was, the day prior to Veterans Day he made a FOIL request to the Village for certain documents pertaining to the Village's purchase of 120 Orange Avenue. He said he didn't push the issue and then of course the holidays have intervened and he let it go. And two months have passed and he has not received any of those documents. The Mayor said she will get them to him. He said part of the problem may have

been that he was very general in the FOIL request so what he has done is that he has written out a more concise list of what he is looking for. The Mayor said she will take care of it. He said he would hope that he could get those in about two weeks. He said he thinks that is a reasonable time frame. The Mayor said definitely. Mr. Falciglia said to Terry if there is anything on there that is going to take some time. Attorney Rice said Virginia has to find the stuff and there is no reason why you can't have whatever she has. Mr. Falciglia said he appreciates that.

Mr. Falciglia said also he has a statement that he will read into the record. He said he has known Stephanie Furgang-Adwar, Stephanie, for quite some time. She is well-respected in her profession and has had no complaints against her that he knows of. She is extremely intelligent and imminently qualified for the position of Village Justice - he means acting Village Justice. In fact, it is a step beneath that intelligence. While a resident of this Village, she has remained apolitical, like Mr. Buonocore, honoring and embracing the spirit of the separation of the judiciary and executive branches of government. For anyone needing legal services, he would recommend her and Mr. Buonocore above any other attorney in Rockland County. Of the seven people renominated for various positions at the Village reorganization meeting last month, he personally would not have reappointed two of them - Stephanie not among them. But he has concrete reasons for those decisions, which he would have articulated to the assembly. Not eyewash that a cop doesn't like her - which is the kind of hyperbole that the public used with contempt and disdain. Having dealt with Dagan LaCorte for two years he can directly testify how an innocuous disagreement between Board members can sometimes accelerate into a full scale riot, evolving into a test of wills punctuated with childish behavior from all involved. He said he would suggest the Board, which answers to us, the public, reconsider her appointment. He would also recommend that the Mayor appoint a Deputy Mayor for the remaining ten months. Quite frankly as a resident and former Trustee he personally could care less who the Deputy Mayor is. Respect and title are earned and cannot be given. He would call upon the person appointed to waive their additional \$500 stipend in a show of good faith and respect to our current financial position. God save the queen.

Judge Alan Simon said he was the town Judge in the Town of Ramapo and the village Judge in the village of Spring Valley, having lived in both areas. In April of 2014 he had the good fortune of being given the additional assignment as the Suffern Village Judge in charge of, he guesses, filling in based upon an unfortunate incident. He said he had the pleasure of serving as our Village Judge until November of 2014. He said he would like to thank us for allowing him to do this and he would like to report to us that he found that all of the people from the Village acted in a professional and fine manner. The police department, as you know,

is certified and became recertified during his tenure here. His experience with the police department showed that they are way above what is the standard and work very hard to achieve a sense of justice for all of the community. And he became very proud of them in working here. He said he also had the opportunity of working with the building department and as you hear many villages have problems in their building department and based upon that their communities are wrought with a lack of inspections and fires and things of that nature. He said he would like to report to us that we have really very talented and dedicated individuals working in our building department. They work very, very hard and they are sensitive to human problems but do not allow the people in this Village to be at risk and they rapidly bring these matters to the court and he had the good fortune of being able to resolve many of them. He said he would also like to thank them for the way we treated him while he was here. We made him feel as part of our family and it was one of the best experiences of his life and he just has to thank them for allowing him to do this. He said he will make no comment in reference to your acting Village Judge because he is a sitting Judge and he is not permitted to make any comment with reference to politics. But he can say that the team that was in place worked very well together to service the Village in a manner in which they deserved to be serviced. Again, thank you very much.

The Mayor said to Judge Simon that she had to tell him that she received such wonderful, wonderful comments and our staff is really missing you. You really just fit in like you have been here forever and you were a great help to this Village and we totally appreciate that.

Jim Giannettino of 2 Memorial Drive said on a different topic. He said in the past he has always asked have we gone out and solicited grants for our wastewater treatment plant. Well during tonight's discussion across the hall he again asked our grant writer if he had put in for any grants for that project and the way that Mr. Giannettino understood his answer was he was never given specific information that he could write a grant on. So Mr. Giannettino said he doesn't understand. The Clearwater Act has been around probably twenty, thirty years. Why aren't we trying to get some of that money. The Mayor asked Mr. Rella if he would like to comment. Mr. Rella said to Mr. Giannettino that first of all he was quite surprised. He thought he was having a conversation with him, not for the entire public, but he guesses he will know that from now on. Mr. Rella said we were talking specifically about the Clearwater Act. He said he didn't put in for any grants specifically with the Clearwater Act but we have done things through Hazard Mitigation grant. We had put in for six different grants this past year which are still up in Albany which range in everything from the water plant to helping with the Chestnut Street flooding which a gentleman came up here and spoke about earlier to

the railroad crossing going from Orange Avenue to the West Ward. So all the issues he is in touch with Charles and they try to address things as quickly and best they can. Mr. Giannettino's comment to him was not about the sewer plant. It was specifically about the Clearwater grant. The Mayor said she should probably let the residents know that today Mr. Rella and she did have a conversation about actually working a little bit more with finding grants for the sewer plant as well as any other capital projects that we are working on in the Village.

Roy Tschudy of 16 Lonergan Drive said he would like to wish the Board and everybody here a happy and healthy new year. Last month he attended the Town of Ramapo's board meeting with the supervisor. In attendance was two of the Trustees, Mr. Markunas and Mr. Hagen and he had requested that some kind of a communication form be established between the town and the Village regarding the quarry site. The supervisor said he would be more than happy and agreed that a meeting should be set up and Mr. Tschudy's questions is has anybody reached out yet - the Mayor said yes - and set up a time and date. The Mayor said no we did not set a firm date. We were waiting until after the holidays into the new year but she spoke with Phil Tisi and they will be setting up that meeting. And she will be there. Mr. Tschudy said that is wonderful. Thank you. Trustee Markunas said he also reached out to the town today and he is awaiting a response. The Mayor said they are working on it. Trustee Markunas said it is definitely in motion. Mr. Tschudy said that is appreciated. He said second of all he is in contact a lot with Mr. Day, Ed Day, the county executive who informed him that the county did receive some funding from the state for municipalities and public works and of sort - he said he is not exactly sure. He said he requested of him information if any of that money could be used for the quarry and the siphoning plan which has been addressed many times over. He said he wasn't sure. For him to get in contact with another individual whom Mr. Tschudy has already stated and has made statements of a negative way that the homeowners of Squires Gate are at fault for buying there. So Mr. Tschudy let him know that he didn't think he would be too interested in pursuing any help for them with that belief. He thanked him for that information and again Mr. Tschudy requested if it would be okay if our Village and the town would contact Mr. Day again for information exchange and he said that would be great. The Mayor said she actually spoke with him at the parade that he attended and again he asked that right after the first of the year that we sit down and have a meeting to go over that and many other issues and she is going to be meeting with Glab also to find some more opportunities for money that have come in through the county executives office. So they are very much willing to sit down with us and help us in any way they can. So that also will be happening in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Tschudy said that is wonderful because there has been a very poor communicative effort between the town, the Village, the county for whatever reasons and again the

taxpayer, the citizen, is the one who ends up being held hostage for whatever is going on in the political process. The Mayor said she has to tell him that the county and the Village of Suffern, since she has been Mayor, we have been very much in communication. Executive Day has been very helpful in any way that he can be and we have been in touch with each other and we are working together. So she can't tell you that there has been any breakdown of communication with the county. Unfortunately, as she has stated on numerous occasions, that we have reached our hand out to the town of Ramapo, we have sent letters, numerous letters, and all that have gone have fell on deaf ears. There is a lot of staff up there that is also having a hard time with the fact that there is not a good communication. She is hoping that this will be the first step. Her door is always open. Her phone is always ready to accept a phone call from the supervisor to work with him. That has been not only the previous Board's but this Board's intention is to have a good working relationship with our town. And she will stand by that. So she is hoping. The Mayor said we will extend our hand. Mr. Tschudy said okay. He said he is sure that Mr. Markunas and Mr. Hagen will also agree that they were very open at that meeting to establishing a good communication and a meeting. In fact the supervisor said he would be glad to even televise it if need be. The Mayor said that she hopes that that happens because we have been told that on so many different occasions and it just never surfaces. Mr. Tschudy said okay. The Mayor said let's go forward. 2015.

Mr. Tschudy said lastly he would like to ask regarding the Donna Hallet Park once again. Has it been addressed about the debris that has been thrown over from the other side of, he believes it is Hillside, onto the river bank which is slowly now getting closer and closer into the water which we all know will help dam up the area. And he is talking about old decks that have been thrown over, trees that are cut down and thrown over, and other debris where they have even dug up their driveways and thrown asphalt over. And the last time he looked Mother Earth doesn't grow asphalt. The Mayor said no. Mr. Tschudy said he would like to have that addressed in some form, some way. He certainly doesn't want to see anybody with a fine. But they should - it should be cleaned up. It is an eyesore. And it also presents a danger. The Mayor said right. What we are working on now is we are going to be preparing a letter that is going to be sent to all the residents that live on that portion of that side of the river to remind them of the Village code. As far as what has come down onto the bank - we are going to have to look into how much of that they are responsible for and find a way - the problem is getting to it. Joe Hunt has tried to think of ways that we can go across but we can't do that because we are not allowed to but we are trying to establish possibly an entranceway of one of the homeowners if in fact they are not responsible and we can't have them clean it up. If there is any way we can get through one of those properties to try to get down there

to try to get some of that stuff out of there. So we are working on it. It is just figuring out the logistics of the whole process. Mr. Tschudy said they should be accountable for it. The Mayor said right. And it is going to be not, she can promise him and she is not going to lie to him, that it is not going to be until the spring. Mr. Tschudy said he understands that. That certainly makes sense. The Mayor said but we are definitely working on a way to get that - Joe has been working really hard on trying to figure out a way to get all of that debris out of there. Mr. Tschudy said okay, thank you very much.

Andrew Halperin of 64 Lonergan Drive said he wanted to thank the Board for giving him a minute to speak to them tonight. He said he is here to tell them that he has been a friend of Stephanie's since they were in high school and he has had the pleasure of knowing her and watching her family. And tonight she got to see his son who was one of the firemen who had gone up to Buffalo. So his younger son had been in the audience earlier tonight and unfortunately he had some homework that he had to take care of and he had to run him home. But when we were discussing what was going on and how the government of our town works the first thing that he was able to remind him of was that all the people whose faces he saw on the flyers that were in their mailbox and the people that knocked on their door all promised them that by electing them they would make our lives somehow better. He said he has no way to explain to him how removing Stephanie from the position she was in in any way, shape or form due to no actions of her own made our Village any better. So all he really wanted to do was to remind you of what you told us that you were going to make lives better here. And if you have some defense for how this decision made anybody's life better that is all he would want to hold them accountable for. If not, he said we will see somebody else the next time around. He thanked them for their time and said you should reconsider this.

Jean Hennelly of 135 Wayne Avenue said she had a question regarding what you need to do to pre-treat the streets - what criteria do you go by because she is very surprised - the Mayor said are you talking about the brine? Mrs. Hennelly said the brine, yes. She hasn't seen any yet this year placed on the roads and tomorrow it is supposed to be a bit slick and later in the week and temperatures aren't supposed to rise. The Mayor asked Charles Sawicki to address it. Mr. Sawicki said we do apply a brine mix to the roadways generally speaking. It is not very effective if we are going to have a rain, sleet type of event. It is most effective when it is very, very cold. We are in the midst of having an equipment issue where we do have a smaller tank available that we do apply brine. It is something that we do on a regular basis. Mr. Sawicki said last year was a little different. It was much colder last year. This year we have had a lot of big swings in temperatures. So like he said it is a lot less effective when it is wet. The Mayor said she thinks Joe is so sick of answering that

question to her because she keeps saying why don't you put the brine down. And he is like because it is going to rain first and it doesn't work if it is going to rain - it washes it away. Mrs. Hennelly said you can see on Wayne Avenue right at the border - the Mayor said they did put the brine down. Mrs. Hennelly said the other day it was very slick and she doesn't know what tomorrow is going to bring.

Mrs. Hennelly said she received her solid waste bill in the mail and once again it has gone up and she just hopes that this next budget that you guys don't try to push off to the residents - pinch your pennies instead of making us pay extra for extra work. She said thank you and have a happy new year.

Debbie Tapp of Oakdale Manor said her first question is what is happening with their taxi medallions. Chief Osborn said with the holidays they haven't done anything yet. The Mayor said we did agree to it. Ms. Tapp said we are still having problems and there are some people who are making a lot of money. That is what she has been told that is going to make a difference. So that is what she is pushing.

She said she had another thing that she wanted to bring up. She said she had something to say tonight but we are really running late so she is going to shut up tonight. And she would like to be put on the agenda for the next meeting because she has been learning about the what is called the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary route. She said our history in this Village is our future and there is money out there to help us rebuild our Village and there are ways to earn money for us which is what it all comes down to. We also have a beautiful Village that has quite a history. Many of you are living in houses that are historic. Washington was here. We need to plan ahead too. The Mayor said she wanted to thank Ms. Tapp for reaching out to Fred Rella. He did tell the Mayor that she did reach out to him and that is great. It is always good to have people who are interested in the history of the Village and it is funny that you are bringing this up. Because she had just met with Fred with regards obviously, and she is sure they all saw the barriers around the building, and we had some issues here with our cornices on the roof of Village Hall and so we have some money that is going to be needed to be spent on Village Hall restoring it. So Fred is out there looking for some money because obviously our building probably falls within the criteria of some of these grants. So any assistance that you can offer us we would be happy to have.

Ms. Tapp said she is learning and history was never her thing. The Mayor said great. It is never too late. Ms. Tapp said so anyway. If we can put her on the agenda she will keep her mouth shut tonight. The Mayor said you can come to the workshop. Ms. Tapp said alright, thank you.

VILLAGE CLERK:

A) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of July 14, 2014:

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said we have minutes to approve. The first one is to approve the minutes of July 14, 2014. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried, with Trustees Morris and Markunas abstaining.

B) Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting of September 3, 2014:

The Village Clerk said we need approval of the minutes of the special Board meeting of September 3, 2014. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried, with Trustees Morris and Markunas abstaining.

C) Set Date for 2015 Walk to Remember:

The Village Clerk said this next one is to set a date for the Walk to Remember. This Walk to Remember is dedicated to the babies who have died during pregnancy or as newborns. This goes on every year. The date is October 4, 2015. A motion approving the Walk was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT:

a) Resolution - Accept Fire Rescue Extrication Tool:

Treasurer Michael Genito said at the March, 2014 meeting the Village Board awarded bids for the fire rescue extrication tool and a walk-around fire rescue truck. The fire rescue extrication tool has arrived. The fire department has received it and determined that it is in new and good condition and we are therefore recommending a Resolution to accept the fire rescue extrication tool.

RESOLUTION NO. 2, 2015

RESOLVED, the Village Board accept the Fire Rescue Extrication Tool for the Suffern Fire Department. \$58,900.

The Resolution was moved by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

B) Resolution - Accept Installment Purchase Contract for Fire Rescue Truck and Equipment:

Treasurer Genito said also at the meeting of February, 2014 the Village Board had adopted a Resolution that would accept the financing for the fire equipment - that is the rescue truck and the extrication tool through an installment purchase contract. As part of the state law requirements we had to go out and bid for that installment purchase contract with various leasing companies. He said we sent a request for sealed proposals to six different firms. We received three back. He said we are recommending 911 Leasing as the award for that RFP. Attorney Rice said they are the lowest complying bidder. Mr. Genito said yes, the lowest complying bidder. Trustee Byrne asked if we had to choose between the various financing options here. Mr. Genito said no, we are recommending the 15 year option. The Mayor said this will be Resolution No. 3. Trustee Byrne asked Mr. Genito if he could give them a little summation as to why the 15 year is better than the others? Mr. Genito said yes, they proposed a 10, 12, 15 year option. And while the interest rate itself, obviously, would be lower with a 10 or 12 year the fire truck itself would last 20 to 25 years and typically if you were going to bond this you would typically bond it for 15 to 20 years. And likewise the annual debt service payments, while the overall payments for the life would be higher, the annual debt service payment would be lower and as you know financially at the moment we are in a more stressful situation than one would want to be. But nonetheless it still provides a benefit over the next 15 years, this fire truck, so it is perfectly appropriate and that is why we are recommending it. Trustee Byrne said then it is about \$80,000 more over time in terms of finance charges. Mr. Genito said that is correct. Trustee Byrne said he didn't want to put words in his mouth. Is it a cash flow concern? Mr. Genito said a cash flow and what they would call an intergenerational equity concern which means that the residents that are living today should be paying for the benefits they are receiving from the assets of the Village today and the residents that are here 15 years from now, when the truck is still here, should as well be paying for part of that truck.

RESOLUTION NO. 3, 2015

RESOLVED, award installment purchase contract for the fire rescue truck and equipment for \$557,084.00.

A motion adopting Resolution No. 3, 2015 was made by Trustee Hagen, seconded by Trustee Byrne.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

C) Resolution - Adopt Fund Balance Policy:

Treasurer Genito said the third item that they have on the agenda for the Finance Treasurer's office is an adoption of a Fund Balance Policy. Mr. Genito said in normal situations you normally don't have to have a Resolution to assist in the compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. But the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which is the standards setting body for accounting and financial reporting for state and local governments has passed a Statement No. 54 which requires that a governing board, such as yourselves, adopt a fund balance policy. Essentially what the policy does is a couple of things. Number one it would specify how you would spend the various categories of money you would have. So you have money that is restricted, for instance, by grants or by debt and then you also have money that is unrestricted such as money you have raised by taxes or fees. Our recommended policy would be that you would reuse your restricted money first and then your unrestricted money after that. For instance if you had something funded by both a grant and some money from your taxes, you would want to use the money from the grant first to pay for as much of the item that you could before having to use the residents money here for taxes. So that is one part of the fund balance policy. The other part is that there is a category that they have created called assignment of fund balance and basically what this is is where the Village Board would want to set aside some money for a purpose for which they could pull that money away later on. For instance, if they wanted to put \$10,000 aside for a particular recreation purpose and later on decided they no longer wanted to do that they could unassign that money. Likewise it is typically recommended that you have one other official that would be able to assign money such as the Village Treasurer for things that are more administrative. Things like encumbrances, purchase orders that you have at the end of the year that you would typically assign. You don't have to bring those to the Board to have it done. Likewise there are other accounting changes that come aboard for the assignment of monies. It is typically a process, more of an administrative nature than it is an intent of the Village Board. So that is what a recommended fund balance policy which is very similar to those adopted by other municipalities.

RESOLUTION NO. 4, 2015

RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees adopt Fund Balance

Policy in accordance with GASB Statement No. 54.

A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

MAYOR:

Mayor Abato said it has been brought to our attention by Village residents questioning the Village's practice of snow plowing and lawn mowing at the American Legion Post here in Suffern. The Mayor said in looking into this complaint, we went back quite far, decades, to see if there was anything that was written, anything that was signed. It was so long ago that we truly can't find anything. But because a resident did complain about it we had to look into it. The Mayor said she received numerous phone calls from the American Legion, very upset, very worried about this as it has been a practice of the Village for many, many years. She said she spoke to our Village Attorney to find a way that we could continue as the American Legion has been a very good neighbor to us and has offered their services and their building to us on many occasions. So we came up with an agreement whereas the American Legion would agree to allow the Village of Suffern to use their building at no charge and also they will agree to serve as an emergency shelter for the Village of Suffern in exchange for the snow plowing and grass mowing, which is not very much, to continue as it has been for many, many, many years. As Virginia said back to Mr. Fagan, the first Mr. Fagan, as Matt said. So she has the agreement and the Board has all had a chance to look it over. Of course it would still have to go, after we agree to it, it would have to go to the American Legion to their board for their approval but this would alleviate any confusion going forward with this service to our veterans. A motion to sign the agreement was made by Trustee Markunas, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said we have received a letter from Anthony & Son

Maintenance Inc. regarding Bon Aire Park specifically with regard to the main entrance of Bon Aire Park and the island, which is a focal point for the entrance of Bon Aire. She said unfortunately although it seems that this portion of Bon Aire, these islands, frequently become overgrown with debris and weeds and so on and so forth, Anthony and Son Maintenance has been a proud business owner and also a maintenance company within the Bon Aire complexes, and he as a gift would like to maintain and clean the debris regularly - keeping it weed free - and to work with the Village to install approved by our DPW Supervisor - approved plantings, approved plantings design there so that he can enhance and beautify this area and he is not looking for any compensation for this. He would simply like to do it as a gift to the Village. So the Mayor said she needs a motion to accept the gift. A motion accepting the gift was made by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Markunas. The Mayor said that will be within the terms of that Anthony and Son Maintenance Inc. will be working with Charles Sawicki for approvals for any plantings or landscaping, etc. Trustee Byrne said to Attorney Rice that we had mentioned in the workshop some concern perhaps about insurance. The Mayor said yes, he will provide a certificate of insurance.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said to Charles that she will give this to him and he can contact Anthony Cafiso and set this up.

The Mayor said she knows that some of the people may be here with regards to the buy-out program in Lonergan Drive. The Mayor said at the workshop the Board has decided that we will be setting up a meeting with the Lonergan Drive residents. We feel it is very important to have them as a vital part of this decision, therefore we would like to hear from them to see what the interest may be of the residents in that area and get some input from them. The Mayor said we will also be reaching out for a little bit more information of concern from the Trustees. The program will be closing at the end of January so time is of the essence. So we will be working very hard over the next couple of weeks to come up with a conclusion of how we will go forward with the buy-out program. So those of you who are here from Lonergan Drive will be hearing from us shortly with regards to a meeting date. The Mayor said she should be saying Squires Gate. We will be setting up that meeting sooner rather than later because we were just informed that the program will be closed at the end of January.

The Mayor said last but not least she has some appointments that she would like to make. Trustee Morris said he is not clear why we are skipping the Trustees. We did ask you to go into executive session. The Mayor said we are going to go into executive session but she is not going to keep - typically when we go into executive session we have finished our business so we don't hold the public here. And then we go into executive session. And then we have other things that we need to go into executive session for - personnel - so we are going to go into executive session.

The Mayor said she forgot the Building Department. She said the Building Department is requesting to go to training. They need to have so many credits of training per year. They are looking to go to a training seminar which would be three full days of classes on Tuesday, April 28 through Thursday, April 30. The cost of the classes will be \$275 per registration - a total of \$1,100. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Trustee Hagen said this is required training that they have to do to keep their - the Mayor said they have to do so many credits. This will fulfill some of those credits. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Edward Markunas, Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said before she makes appointments she did receive two e-mails which are titled to be read at the Board meeting.

Dear Ms. Mayor,

I truly regret that I cannot attend the Board meeting in person. I ask that my remarks be read and entered into record, if possible.

To the Members of the Village Board:

I am writing to endorse Stephanie Adwar as Assistant Village Justice and I suggest that you not delay action on this vote further. Our Village needs a full staff of judicial officers to ensure our court serves the people in a timely fashion. Delaying a vote due to action or inaction or another appointment does not serve our community well. On the subject of Judge Adwar I have served on committees at our Temple with Stephanie and I know her to be a good listener and an interpreter of rules and laws. I have heard her speak to our school board and I know that she keeps the interests of our community in mind at all times. Most importantly, even though we have known each other for years from our children's and spouses interactions I know that no ties of friendship would prevent justice from being done. I believe that Stephanie Adwar

will judge each person who appears in her court room and families with the proper respect and the laws of our Village, town, state and country. She has shown herself knowledgeable in these laws and is the proper choice to our Village. Please do not delay in making the appointment. Thank you.

Howard Greenstein
3 Burlington Avenue
Suffern, New York

The Mayor said she also has another letter which was asked to be read at the meeting.

Dear Mayor Abato,

I am writing this letter in support of the reappointment of Stephanie Furgang-Adwar in the position of Acting Village Justice. Like Stephanie, I have moved to Suffern at the age of 3 and resided here until graduating law school. About ten years ago I moved back to Suffern with my wife. Stephanie and I grew up in the same neighborhood and a couple of blocks apart and we are now neighbors on the same street. Having known Stephanie I can say without reservation that I fully trust in her intelligence, commitment and integrity to perform her duties as Acting Village Justice with distinction. Suffern Village Board failed to confirm her reappointment. In failing to reappoint Stephanie the Board risks overburdening the Village. I am puzzled and disappointed that the Board withheld Stephanie's confirmation. On behalf of myself, my wife Debra I urge the Trustees of the Village Board to confirm the reappointment of Stephanie Furgang-Adwar. Thank you.

Regards,
Spencer Stein
Goldfarb and Fleece
560 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York

The Mayor said on to the appointments.

For the Zoning Board of Appeals, a five year member term - Charles Barone. Trustee Byrne asked if this was a recently occurring vacancy? The Mayor said no. A five year term. The Village Clerk said his term came up. Trustee Byrne said since reorganization? The Village Clerk said yes. There was no motion to confirm so this will be a holdover.

Chairman - one year term - Henry Sussman. There was no confirmation so this will be a holdover.

Alternate - two year term - David Hamilton. There was no confirmation so this will be a holdover.

Planning Board - five year term member - Paul Standbridge. There was no confirmation so this will be a holdover.

Chairman - one year term - Paul Gdanski. There was no confirmation so this will be a holdover.

Board of Ethics - five year term member - Deborah Schoenleber. There was no confirmation so this will be a holdover.

Chairman of the Board of Ethics - one year term - Jonathan Theodore. There was no confirmation so this will be a holdover.

Village Attorney - one year term - Terry Rice. A motion to confirm was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried, with Trustee Morris voting no.

Acting Village Justice - one year term - Stephanie Furgang-Adwar. Trustee Byrne asked to be heard. Trustee Byrne said he came to the meeting tonight knowing in advance what he was going to do. He said he doesn't know how his fellow Board members feel about this. Some might say you should get the appointment because you sat through the meeting from 7:30 until now. That shows stamina. And you need a lot of stamina to work across the hall. He said he knew what he was going to do because he thinks we need to move past this issue with the court. That court has a special place for him because he sat there for sixteen years and he knows a little bit about what goes on across the hall. Trustee Byrne said a lot of people came tonight and supported her and he thinks that is beautiful. He said he thinks that is wonderful. It shows that things that have been read into the minutes and shows about your character. This has never been a personal matter and he can attest for him personally. It was never anything about Judge Adwar's abilities. He has appeared before her and he has always found her to be impeccable, is that the right word? Not the way you dress but that too, he is sure. He said we have all benefitted from what goes on across the hall. We had a tough year in the court and Judge Simon was here and he really, really picked up in what he had to do and jumped in to a court that was suffering. And not because of anything that any one on the staff did of course. They are the most hard-working people - everyone here is hard working so don't take this the wrong way. But the women that work across in the court are extremely hard-working people. You brought your contingent with you tonight and that is good too. Trustee Byrne said he can tell her that he knew what he was going to do in advance but still like to hear what he heard. He said that part of the problem might be that Judge Buonocore didn't have that same contingent. People mentioned about how wonderful he was and that the prior Mayor appointed him. But he also unappointed him if you will. He did not reappoint him and Trustee Byrne is not aware of any explanation that was ever given. He was replaced by somebody - by Judge Adwar. And Trustee Byrne said he wasn't certainly privy to that appointment but he never heard anything against Judge Buonocore. In fact voters of Suffern overwhelmingly elected him in the last election so they saw something in him as well but he didn't have the contingent of

supporters who came to a Board meeting and said this is not fair. But we need to move pass that too. And that is not your fault, obviously. You had nothing to do with that. You accepted an appointment that you were given by the prior Mayor. Trustee Byrne said he doesn't know and he doesn't believe that anyone on the Board at the time, when he was replaced, objected or raised issues or questioned why we are tinkering with the court. But again we have to move past that. This Village has a lot of problems. Most of them are financial. A lot of issues to take care of. And he doesn't want to get mired up in the issue of the appointment of the Acting Judge.

Trustee Byrne said he would also like to say that when he was Judge, sixteen years across the hall, he had a few Acting Judges over the time. And he had one that came to court once a month but then lived out of state essentially the rest of the year. No one objected. No one raised concerns. Trustee Byrne said he didn't have the same contingent you did either to come and object because he essentially had no backup. He had no backup except when he came to court once a month. And that is not right. The court needs to be fully staffed. This is a Mayoral appointment subject to Board approval and he understands that. There are four members of one party. There is one of the other. We can argue. You saw some other appointments that are holdovers. Your position doesn't have that benefit of being a holdover - meaning that they continue in the position even if they are not reappointed. That position doesn't have that benefit and therefore you don't have that benefit.

Trustee Byrne said you have to filter what you hear when people might say or make objections to one person, whether it is you or him when he was Judge. He said sometimes the police, with all due respect to Clarke, thought he was too easy. Defendants thought he was too hard. He said he knew he was doing something right at the end of the day because you are probably doing something right if you are getting everyone a little upset once in a while. So there is judicial discretion and you have the right to run your court as any Judge does and make those decisions for the confines of the law and he is confident that she can do that. He said we have to move past this. We need to make it not appear or be a political issue because we have so many other issues of concern, he moves the appointment of Judge Adwar. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried. The Mayor said welcome back.

The Mayor said last but not least at the last Board meeting she did not appoint a Deputy Mayor. She told you all that she had some considering to do. This has weighed very heavily on her. She had to take a lot of things into consideration. And tonight she is very happy to announce that she has reached a decision and she would like to appoint Frank Hagen as her Deputy Mayor.

Trustee Hagen said he would like to decline. The Mayor said okay. Frank Hagen is declining. Trustee Hagen asked if he could say something. The Mayor said sure. Trustee Hagen said he would like to recommend Ed Markunas. He said he is sure that he can do the job. The Mayor said she is going to have to take some more time to obviously think this over. She did not expect this and she will, again, take this under consideration and advisement.

The Mayor said before you go we are going to need to go into executive session but she really, truly wanted to close this meeting in memory of someone who we lost this week who is nothing more than a gentleman. Has made such an amazing impact on so many children's lives. She said there are just not enough good words for a very, very good man. So tonight she would like to, when appropriate, and she knows that you all will probably leave when we go into executive session, but she will be closing this meeting in memory of Mickey DeSimone, who is just so sorely missed already. He is just such an amazing man. Suffern High School will miss him. He was a phenomenal guidance counselor who gave children so much hope and so much love. An amazing coach. Gave them all the foundations to go out there and know that there is no I in team and he will be sorely missed. So in his honor tonight, in his memory, she will close this meeting when appropriate.

A motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel at 9:41 p.m. was made by Trustee Markunas, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.