

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

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

PRESENT: Mayor John B. Keegan  
Trustee Dagan LaCorte, Trustee Andrew Haggerty  
Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Patricia Abato

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

ABSENT: None

**SET DATES FOR MARCH MEETINGS:**

The Mayor said the dates for the March meeting workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. and the Village Board meeting will be Monday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

There was no report.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT:**

Building Inspector John Layne said that he was here to generally give a report as to the key items that are developing in the Building Department. He said that as you can see on the agenda, there are two items that you will be dealing with. One is the Good Sam temporary C.O. which counsel and the engineers have been working on to get that agreement in place. And there was a request by both the Code Enforcer and the Fire Inspector to attend the three-day seminar in Pomona, which is typically given by the Department of State Codes Division for free but now with the cost-cutting measure taking place in Albany, this course is for a fee now, which is \$300 per person. So the request is in for the Code Enforcer and Fire Inspector to attend that. He said that he will be attending as well under the officers of a neighboring village. A motion authorizing the Code Enforcer and Fire Inspector to attend the seminar from May 5-7, 2009 at a cost of \$300 each was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Abato.

AYES: Mayor John B. Keegan  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Patricia Abato

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Layne said that in general, we have a few major projects that he will touch on this evening. Good Samaritan Hospital, of course, has the new building which was developed on the east side of the property. The C.O. is being worked on. There are some issues having to do with the uncompleted sidewalk near the library end of the property and these things are being worked out between counsel and the Village engineer and as late as this afternoon, we did receive some other reports from the engineer, Dennis Rocks. Attorney Rice asked if they have the numbers worked out between the hospital and Dennis Rocks or is he still confirming the numbers. Mr. Layne said they are still confirming the numbers. The number that came in was up in the \$175,000 range but the Village engineer has asked that that be itemized so that it can be broken down along the course of the project in case it has to be. Attorney Rice said that we are at the point now, if he may, that obviously because of the weather the hospital is not in a position to put the sidewalk and the retaining wall in for some number of months here. So while we get finalization on the numbers for the amount of bond that they will post in order to get a permanent certificate of occupancy they are again asking to have an extension maximum of 90 days of the temporary certificate of occupancy. Mr. Layne said that is certainly their pleasure in the Building Department as long as it meets with the Village Board's approval.

Trustee Abato asked if they were working on the numbers and if we are going forward. Mr. Layne said there is an exchange of information on a daily basis. Attorney Rice said that would be 90 days until when - when does the last one run out. Mr. Layne said he is not perfectly sure. Attorney Rice said 90 days from January 26 which is when the last one ran out. A motion to grant a temporary C.O. for 90 days from January 26 was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Layne said that he was moving to the next item. The Gitlow Tower, the new building being built out on Route 59 on Lafayette Avenue - he said the Village is in receipt of the extension of the building permit and those monies have been received so now it is current and they are going to be asking us to come in on Thursday to do a final walk-through and possible final approval of the building and the site rules will have to get some kind of provisional due to the weather - paving and landscaping and he believes a fence of some type. The engineer is working on that. Attorney Rice asked if we had a number yet. Mr. Layne said we don't have a number on that but the folks that are constructing the tower are working on their figure and he expected it today and he is sure we will be getting it before Thursday. Attorney Rice said that the only problem at this point is that in order for them to get a temporary c.o. at this point it has to be approved by the Board of Trustees and without an amount he doesn't know how they can do that. Mr. Layne said he did make that clear to them last week that tonight was a critical time and as of 4:00 today, there was no correspondence.

Trustee LaCorte asked what was going on with the rock wall. They

were told that once they did the building they were going to fix that wall. Mr. Layne said that is his understanding. That it is going to be part of the site improvement - weather related and things like that having to do with the entrance and landscaping and top coat of paving. Attorney Rice said they will have a number for fixing or replacing the wall. Mr. Layne said they are supposed to break out, just like Good Sam, the numbers for each category of improvements that are still undone. Because what they did say to the Planning Board at one point was that rather than repair the wall he thinks their intention is to replace it because it really wasn't a structural bearing wall so that has to be taken into consideration for any type of bond they might have to post. Mr. Layne said okay, he will make note of that. But Dennis Rocks will have the final say.

Trustee Meehan said that on that question. He had spoken to John Loniewski and it was his understanding that the question of the wall in front there - a real eyesore and it has been for several months - was before the Village court and that it really didn't have anything to do with the new 80 units up there and it was also his understanding that it was waiting for approval from our Village engineer that the folks at Esther Gitlow had a plan. That it had to be approved. He said he didn't want to put Mr. Layne on the spot since John is not here. But he thinks that is a separate item. Mr. Layne said that is true. That is a separate entity but they are kind of going in tandem at this point in time. Trustee Meehan said that usually there is a weather problem as far as fixing this thing because the concrete wouldn't cure in this type of weather. Mr. Layne said he doesn't believe that it is a weather condition that prevents them from at least making that wall safe for the time being. And then depending on how they want to reconstruct this wall it may or not be a weather related problem.

Attorney Rice said the intention expressed by Esther Gitlow to the Planning Board was that they didn't want to do the wall work until after the construction was completed because they were fearful that some construction equipment or construction activity might damage the wall again and, in addition, instead of just repairing that one section as he mentioned, it is his understanding that it is their intention to repair the whole wall. He said that they have said on a number of occasions that they were waiting on the Village engineer rather Dennis Lindsay. And he doesn't know if that is accurate. Trustee Meehan said he thought it was Dennis Rocks. Attorney Rice said that in either event, he doesn't know if that was accurate. Because at one point they were only going to do the repairs and really he doesn't think needed the input from any of the engineers but then it grew to a larger project because they were going to replace the whole wall supposedly.

Mr. Layne said he suspects we will be talking with this group tomorrow and he will bring these points up. And then the Mountain View (Tall Oaks as we know it) is moving along very well. They are doing exterior work. Roofing is all done. They are starting to build all brand new decks. There is interior work going on.

Kitchens and bathrooms all new and they are moving along so he senses that in a month or so they will be outside as long as the winter ends soon. By mid to late March he suspects they will be working on the grounds as well. Meridian is also moving along and we are in the process of dealing with their extension as well. They are now up for an extension. So we are trying to negotiate what portion of the job is still to be done and how to keep that building permit active until they are done. The lower floors are coming around to completion and the upper floors are in their late phases but not near completion.

EconoBody, the bus facility down near the ballfield, tomorrow the demolition bids. There will be a site walk-through tomorrow for bidders and the people from Con Ed (O & R, the same entity) and they are going to be down there to do a walk-through and release bid packages for demolition. And we have stressed that they must get this done especially before Little League season starts where there are children and families down there. We would like that building to be leveled by that point of time. And we have set a time frame for that to happen.

Code Enforcement - snow and ice issues. Code Enforcement has issued between 60 and 70 warnings having to do with sidewalks and ice and snow issues. We are on top of that. Fire inspections are ongoing. And we are in the process of scheduling a safety meeting for our department and our budget numbers have been submitted to the Treasurer.

#### **CULTURE & RECREATION:**

Gail Curtin said that the Recreation Department sponsored a very successful movie night on Friday, January 9. On Friday, January 23, they had a session of the LEAD program and she would like to thank Mr. Meehan for joining them that evening. LEAD will be at the Community Center again this Friday night, February 6. She said they have been in direct contact with Chief Osborn because this week's function is going to be somewhat different and they have the co-sponsorship of three different clubs from the High School - students who perhaps were not familiar with - so even more so, they are relying on Clarke to help them out at that event. And then they will be in there again on Friday, February 27.

Mrs. Curtin said the next DARE Dance is Friday, February 13. Letters have been sent to those staff members from 2008 pool staff inviting them to return this year and they have received about 3/4 of them back already. The free tax service sponsored by AARP at the Leo P. Lydon community building will begin tomorrow, Tuesday, February 3 and will be held every Tuesday, up to and including April 14. The Fire Department has begun a Tuesday night basketball program at the community center and they are in the process of scheduling a recreational night for fifth and sixth graders. The Recreation Department is going to work with the Suffern Rotary. She said it was discussed at the workshop - to have a breakfast at the community center on Sunday, March 15. It is a fundraiser sponsored

by the Rotary with all monies coming back to the Village for the purpose of an illuminated bulletin board - the second one that the Village will have.

Due to the success of the last family movie night, they are asking that they schedule another one for Friday, March 20, and they are co-sponsoring with the Chamber of Commerce a dinner-dance on Saturday, March 28. Details will follow and she hopes that everyone will join them at that. The flooring at the community center is in need of being replaced. Lou Ciaccio, from their staff, and herself have been working over the course of probably a year, to the best of their ability, bringing people in and getting suggestions as to what would be best to replace that floor. She said that they have now met with the Village engineer, Dennis Lindsay, and he is being requested to prepare the specs so that they are in the proper order to be put out to bid.

Mrs. Curtin said that tomorrow they have a second company coming into the auditorium to give them a price on a screen and projector so that when you do such programs as the Pearl Harbor Commemoration and your meetings, perhaps, you will be able to use power point in this room.

Mrs. Curtin said she would like to ask permission to set the following dates for 2009: Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 4; Fishing Derby, Saturday, June 13; Pool Opening, Saturday, June 27; Pool Registration, the week of June 15; Concerts, Thursday, June 25, Thursday, July 9, Thursday, July 16, Thursday, July 23, Monday, August 3, Thursday, August 13. She said that they would like to have a pool party for the children on Monday, June 29 and Tuesday, July 21. They would like to schedule family day at the pool for Sunday, July 12, with a raindate of Sunday, July 19. The pool will close for the season on Monday, September 7. And the final date, and she believes that Virginia gave them each a short memo late today, with input from the chairpeople of the past Suffern Days, Dan McInerney and Clarke Osborn, and in consultation with Mayor Keegan, they would like to set the date for Suffern Day this year for Saturday, September 16, and unlike what they have done in other years, but due to conflict on the calendar and holidays, they would like to schedule the raindate for Saturday, October 3. A motion authorizing the request was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Haggerty. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

She said that their department is also in the process of setting up their next safety meeting and they too have submitted their budget to the Treasurer's office.

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Terry Rice said the first two items on the report, at the workshop meeting, they talked about the recommendation from the planner and the local law for changing the money in lieu of parking as well as the scenic overlay district. The Planning Board has recommended in favor of both of those and they are awaiting the

County Planning Department review. So at this time if you want to move forward on those, you can set a public hearing for the March meeting. Attorney Rice said that a report from the Rockland County Department of Planning may or may not be back by that thirty days. If it is not back at the hearing, you would have to continue the public hearing and vote on it at the following meeting - the parking recommendations and the scenic overlay. A motion to set a public hearing for March 2 at 7:50 p.m. for the parking recommendations and at 8:15 p.m. for the scenic overlay provisions was made by Trustee LaCorte, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. Attorney Rice said he will ask Mr. Lange, the planner, to be here that night so that he can explain the reports and purposes behind the local laws, if that is what the Board wants.

Attorney Rice said he had an additional item. Virginia pointed out to him that the local law that the Board passed last month with respect to parking on Washington Circle and apparently there is a typo in it, so that it says "no parking on both sides from the intersection of Lafayette Avenue to a point 60' to the east" where it should be Washington Avenue, not Lafayette Avenue. So that needs to be corrected. So we need to set a public hearing in order to make that correction. A motion to set a public hearing at 8:30 p.m. to correct the local law was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Abato. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Clarke Osborn said that he just had a couple of informational items. Nothing to vote on tonight. He said that in January, they had 27 arrests, and also in January he sent officer Mike Sanford to instruct a development course at the academy for two weeks. He will be joining Officer Rick Marsh and eventually Officer Mike Fennessy, who is on our SWAT Team in the County, as a firearms instructor. He said we like to train our own officers as well as send them to the academy for our firearms instruction.

Chief Osborn said he wanted to give a quick update on the auxiliary police. He said that we implemented them last year and we used them 14 different times - primarily in the spring and summer and early fall. And it worked out great. They did a great job and he just wanted to let them know that they are very pleased and he appreciates the Board implementing the auxiliary police. It worked out great.

Last week, they received a grant for a license plate reader. He said he had put in that grant and he actually contacted the state and spoke to them about it. What that will enable his officers to do is that it is a unit that goes in the vehicle and we can drive the vehicle or park it, wherever you are, and face it towards traffic and it will instantaneously pick up every single plate that goes by and runs a check on it. So it is going to work out very well on 59, 202, and also it is going to be very good to go through the lots such as Bon Aire, Stonegate and the Knolls - the

developments - because it will basically tell us if people that own that vehicle are wanted, cars are stolen, or if near a school zone there are sex offenders that are registered near a school zone. So it is going to be a great tool. It is \$20,000 and we got it for free. So that was a great tool. And he has some officers who are very excited to get out there and use this. He said we are going to locate probably a lot of vehicles that shouldn't be in certain areas. So it is going to be a good thing for them.

DARE Hockey is in full swing. They have three different divisions. They are planning about 12 or 14 teams of Suffern players. So they are going to have a huge, big season this year. He said that he has Officer Jim Giannettino in all four schools this year - our DARE officer. At the end of February, they will be taking a snow-tubing trip. He said he will get them the dates on that. They rent out Campgaw Mountain for the kids and they are working on their Shea Stadium trip, which will probably be the end of April, and he just got information today from the State which was sent to him from New York State from the e-justice website on crime statistics. And it is pretty pleasing to us. It showed that for the last four years - 05, 06, 07 and 08 - our crime rate has dropped drastically here in the Village of Suffern. Meanwhile, the County, this particular year, Rockland County, went up 11%. We knocked ours down 8 1/2%. So that is the fourth year in a row that we have knocked it specifically down and he credits it to the officers out on the street to that and what they are doing and working with the community and getting the information that we are getting. And that is all he has and he will be here for the remainder of the meeting if they need anything. And they are doing a good job out there.

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

The Mayor said he doesn't see our DPW supervisor here. He said he is probably gearing up for the snow that we are supposed to get later tonight.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Karen Wilson of 13 Washington Circle said that she doesn't usually speak in public, so forgive her if she is a little nervous, but she feels really strongly about this situation that is going on in her neighborhood. And she would like to read a statement if she could. She said that she lives on 13 Washington Circle and her name is Karen Wilson. She said they all bought houses on Washington Circle knowing that they were surrounded by industry. Avon, Tilcon, the Thruway, a firehouse, Knights of Columbus, Conserve, and now a large condominium complex. She said that all of this was bearable because they were able to carve out their own little island in a sea of concrete. Their own little residential neighborhood. We all took care of their property. Her husband and she took care of the island in the circle, planting flowers, putting down grass seed, and mowing the lawn. Now, however, their quiet neighborhood is being invaded daily. It is being used as an overflow parking lot by Conserve and Daskal employees. Why is this business not required to

provide parking for its employees as every other business in Suffern is. She said that she understands that they may have outgrown their business, or outgrown their lot, but that is their problem. They are making it our problem - in their little neighborhood. If these vehicles belonged to commuters and they all left in the morning to get on a train instead of walking across the street, they would be ticketed and made to park in the municipal lot. But nothing is being done because they are just walking across the street. And she doesn't think it is right. What is the difference between these guys and commuters? Nothing, as far as she can see. They are both gone all day. These cars and trucks are in front of their houses for 8, 10, 12 and in one case, over 14 hours. That was the day of the first major snowstorm and the plow had to go around these cars repeatedly. Mind you, no one in Washington Circle, no resident, was parked on the street that day because they all knew it was going to snow and they know that they can't park there. The only cars that were parked on the street during the snowstorm were employees of Conserve and Daskal. These men get there at six o'clock in the morning and sometimes there are five cars, sometimes there are seven. One time there was a high of 11 vehicles - all non-residents. Commuters, employees. Nobody who lived there. 11 cars. They park on both sides of the street. It got so bad that they were parking on both sides of the street all the way up to Washington Avenue that a law had to be enacted so that they could actually get emergency vehicles into their street if, God forbid, something happened and they needed a fire truck or an ambulance. They wouldn't be able to get in there. Because it was so narrow. Thank goodness a new law was enacted. And now we don't have to worry about that. But, they come in at six o'clock in the morning. They walk across the street. They get their Conserve trucks, they drive their Conserve trucks into their neighborhood, they load and unload items, passengers, six o'clock in the morning. And then they come back whenever they get done with work. They come back with their Conserve trucks, they drop off people, they change their clothes in the middle of their street. It is getting - it is just ridiculous. This is affecting their quality of life. Their quality of life is being affected and they are not getting the services that they, as taxpayers, should be receiving. Recyclable buckets have not been picked up because the garbage truck couldn't see them because of the Conserve employees cars parked all over the street. Leaves are being left behind. Streets don't get plowed correctly because of these vehicles. Fire trucks would still have a hard time negotiating their street what with all these cars and the snow making the street even more narrow. She said she has tried leaving notes on the vehicles of these men asking them to please park where they work and not where we live. But these attempts at civility have been met with total arrogance and outright inconsiderateness. She said she has written to the Mayor repeatedly and have notified the Village Code Enforcers to see if we can come up with a solution. Asking them nicely just does not seem to work. As homeowners, they are the ones who live here, pay taxes here, and vote here. They do all of these things in the Village - not these employees of Conserve and not the employees of Daskal. She said they came here tonight to ask the Board to help them to find a

solution that they can all work with. Hopefully, the residents won't have to sacrifice their quality of life because a business has outgrown a property. And one more point that she would like to make. Last Wednesday, when it snowed, there was not one Conserve or Daskal vehicle on their street. It seems that they were told that if they park there in the snow, that they would get a ticket. She said that she asks them. If they can find room for them to park on their property on a snow day, why can't they find that room every day.

The Mayor said that he wanted to reply to that. He said that he knows that she has written letters as well as several people on her street. And he has been in touch with Mr. Brennan. Mr. Brennan states that some of his employees may park on Washington Circle, however, he cannot control where they park on public streets. If they are to be ticketed, go ahead and ticket them. The Mayor said they tried the solution, and he knows they requested thirty feet in, and they went beyond that and made the law sixty feet in. He said he has spoken to Mr. Rice and he thinks maybe the answer may be to do commuter parking - no parking between 7 and 9 a.m. And then at least between 7 and 9 they are going to have to find someplace else to park. If not, the only answer is to not allow any parking on the street. As the Village Attorney has stated in the past, we can't discriminate in parking. He said that he knows that some states, as he told them at one time, Connecticut, he thinks, they have laws where you can have a residential sticker on your car and you can park there and other people can't. And he doesn't think we can do that. He said he approached Knights of Columbus to try to get parking in there for some of those cars. A deal was being made, he understands, between the Knights of Columbus and Mr. Brennan and Daskal. He said he doesn't know what happened with that.

Trustee Abato said that she would like to ask just a quick question. She said that she thinks that she is a little confused. She asked if it was just cars of the workers that are parked there. Not Conserve trucks. Mrs. Wilson said not Conserve trucks. Trustee Abato said it is just their employees that are parking. Mrs. Wilson said just the cars and trucks of the employees. Trustee Abato asked if Mr. Brennan, at least, could put a memo out to his employees asking them not to park there. The Mayor said he has. Trustee Abato said and they still continue to park there. The Mayor said he cannot control where they park. Trustee Abato said that is unacceptable. She thinks that he can at least answer for that. His employees are parking there and they work for them and they are writing obscenities on notes. And that, in itself, is something not right. The Mayor said that Mr. Brennan said go ahead and ticket them if you have to. Mrs. Wilson said that their attempts at civility and trying to appeal to their - hey, you are parking in front of our houses, we live there, you guys are just abusing the privilege, and they could care less.

Attorney Rice said that the Code Enforcement Officer, he knows, has been working on it. Last week he spoke to the people or left correspondence with them advising them not to park there. That it

was against the law. Attorney Rice said he thinks that was the day, and he thinks it was a coincidence that it was the day that it snowed, because the next day, after he spoke to them, apparently, they didn't park there but they were back again the next day. Mrs. Wilson said the next day. Attorney Rice said that Mr. Loniewski, the Code Enforcement Officer, who actually has the authority under our code to issue parking tickets to the individuals was going to issue parking tickets and Attorney Rice recommended that since that is ordinarily something that the Code Enforcement officer does, that the Building Department speak to the police chief as far as communicating with the people parking there that it is illegal and/or giving them tickets and maybe the Chief can tell us what happened with respect to that.

Chief Osborn said that he wasn't aware of it. There is a law on the books about one hour parking. He said he will try to come up with a solution.

Trustee Abato asked Mrs. Wilson what the consensus of, and obviously she has done a lot of work on this and is very involved in it and she is sure that all the residents that came out today are kind of working with her, what is the consensus of what they feel is a good - obviously these people are not going to work with us. We can stand on our head and spit nickels and they are not going to work with us. Mrs. Wilson said that obviously we can't get any cooperation. We have tried appealing to them in every way possible. Trustee Abato said that for us to put something into work that would alleviate the problem and bring back quality of life. She said that she definitely agrees that this is not a good thing that you have to live with your garbage not being picked up and all of the traffic. Mrs. Wilson said the leaves. Trustee Abato said that she loves it over there. She said that she has to be honest with her that that is one of her favorite spots. Mrs. Wilson said it is like a little oasis. Trustee Abato asked what would be something that the residents kind of were thinking that we could do that would be acceptable to the residents not to take away from them, like the Chief said, parking on their own street. Mrs. Wilson said exactly. Then they could have a quality of life but still keep them out of the neighborhood. They were discussing that today and she thinks that a solution that they could all live with would be maybe - the 7 to 9 parking wouldn't work. She said she thinks and she would not put it past them that at 9 o'clock they would en masse get in their cars and drive over there. Because that is just the kind of people they are obviously from having to try to deal with them. They are not very cooperative. Attorney Rice said it doesn't necessarily have to be 7 to 9. That is the number that over the years has been utilized because that is the time where anyone that is commuting to the city is probably going to be parking. Any other two hour period or any other period - of course the residents can't park there during those hours as well. Mrs. Wilson said that they talked about it and she thinks her fellow neighbors would agree with her. They were talking about something like no parking, 10 to 2, Monday through Friday. Attorney Rice said then you understand that nobody can park there during those hours. Mrs.

Wilson said she understands that. Trustee Abato said that she is at work and most people are at work anyway. Mrs. Wilson said yes, most people are at work. So this way they can't just come and abandon their cars.

The Mayor said that he thinks we should set a public hearing for the next meeting. If we have to change the law, we will do that. Mrs. Wilson asked if that would be feasible - 10 to 2 Monday through Friday. Is that something that could be done. Attorney Rice said yes. Trustee Abato said that they have to live there so if it is something that the residents feel is something that is going to work and bring back quality of life, then she would definitely do it. Attorney Rice said why don't we do that at 8:30 instead of the other technical amendment he was proposing. Trustee Abato said she will move that, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Chris Baisley of 7 Washington Circle said that he knows this problem is different and why he is thinking this hourly thing is a different suggestion. He said he doesn't know. He said he works different hours. He works hours from 11 sometimes in the morning to 9 o'clock at night. He said he knows he has family that comes to his home to help him out in different hours a couple of afternoons. So he doesn't know how - what the solution would be. He said that literally, not even a ½ mile, 1/4 mile away, is a parking, a commuter lot. He said he doesn't understand how there is a way that we can't figure out how to make them park in the commuter lot. Because technically that is what they are doing. As well as they do have vacant parking lots all around the surrounding area. He doesn't understand why there is not something we can figure out how that can work out as well. The Mayor said that to answer that - he said we have businesses and to give him an example, we have one on Chestnut Street and every two hours everybody comes out and moves their car to a different spot so the chalk mark is different. Instead of a block away is the B lot. Why people do that, he doesn't know. Mr. Baisley said he doesn't know if there is a solution but he is just expressing his frustration as well. He said he can't come home during the day at lunch time and park in front of his house. He has to sometimes park in the Avon parking lot behind his house because there are people behind his house in the autobody shop. He said he cannot come home for lunch. Trustee Abato asked him if he could park in front of his house now with all these cars there. Mr. Baisley said that is what he is saying. He can't come home during the day. Trustee Abato said that she thought he was opposed to us doing the 10 to 3. Mr. Baisley said well here is the reason that he is. How does he know if he comes home that he is not going to get a ticket if he is home for lunch time. Trustee Abato asked him if he had a driveway. Mr. Baisley said no. She asked if he had a neighbor next door that has a driveway. The Mayor said that we are going to have a public hearing at the next meeting on this and we will figure something out with it, hopefully.

Trustee Abato asked Attorney Rice a question. She said if we did, and this is going to sound ridiculous and she doesn't know if it is

something that could be done, but if they are a resident on that street and we had no parking from 10 to 3 and they had a resident sticker. Attorney Rice said it is not legal. Trustee Abato said we can't do it. Attorney Rice said the whole scenario with vehicle and traffic in New York is controlled by the State Vehicle and Traffic Law and municipalities can only do what the State Legislature says they can do. Trustee Abato said it either is or it's not.

Anthony Alfieri of 5 Washington Circle said that he just wanted to say that he echos everything that Karen said. His situation may be a little unique. He said he lives at 5 Washington Circle and he has called many times and Chief Osborn has been very helpful. But before those no parking signs were put up, it wasn't as bad for him as it is now. They used to park starting at the beginning of the street. And the parking would stop maybe a little in front of his house. Now those signs are up and take a guess where they are starting to park. Right in front of his home. He said he doesn't know the solution but he does know, and he thinks that maybe they could help him understand better, a little education here, but wasn't it at one time Conserve, before they occupied that building, required to put together some parking design or something. The Mayor said not for personal cars. For trucks. The Mayor said the problem is that it is a public street and it is happening, not only on their street, but it is happening all over. He said if Mr. Alfieri went up to the top of Yorkshire Drive and you come out on Cragmere Road, you see all the cars near the Ramapo Nursing Home. They are not required to have parking for all of them. So you park out on the street. And there really is nothing you can do about it. Trustee Abato asked if it was a problem if his business does not have adequate parking for all of his employees that that is a problem. She said for her we are having all these people spend all this money in the Village for a parking spot to buy them and now this business has more employees than he does parking spots and nothing is being done about it. The Mayor said we are talking about 12 cars of which he thinks Mr. Brennan says about 4 are his people. The Mayor said he doesn't know. This is what he tells him. But the businesses in town. He said he will give an example. We have restaurants with 15 or 20 people working there and they don't provide parking for their employees. So he doesn't think there is a law that says that you have to provide parking for your employees. Attorney Rice said that he would like to mention two things. Number one, when an applicant comes in for any use to the Planning Board and applies for site plan approval because it is a new use for that piece of property, they have to satisfy the parking requirements under the zoning law and they have to have an approved site plan. One of those items for this type of use probably would be providing sufficient parking for their employees. But often happens with different types of companies, and this is not a landscaping company, but that is what comes to mind, as businesses grow, they outgrow the site and the business owner is faced with a choice - either they need to find a new location or they are going to run into just the types of problems that we are hearing about tonight with violating the law because they don't have sufficient parking. So the answer is that once that use is

approved, we can't go back and take another bite and say sorry, you've grown too much, you have to leave. The law just doesn't allow for that. But secondly, there is some history with this property and he said he knows he was involved in litigation with it years ago and the only thing he can say is that we can go back and check the files as to whether or not the way they are presently conducting the business is in accordance with whatever approvals and stipulations previously occurred because it is not perhaps that would give us the ability for them to move some things around and free up some space on their property so they could park there. We can do that as well.

Mr. Alfieri said that what he is hearing at least you mentioned that we were going to have another meeting on this. The Mayor said yes, we have the public meeting already set for next month. Mr. Alfieri said that was good to hear. He said he thinks that is a good start. He said he doesn't think we are going to solve this here, we are not going to solve this tonight. But he thinks it is a good start that we bring this awareness to your attention. Trustee Abato said she had one more question for Terry. She said so there is nothing we can do to the business owner to make him provide more parking. Attorney Rice said no. If the business has grown, the business has grown. At some point some of these people have to make a choice as to whether or not the location is sufficient for their operation. Trustee Abato said the location, obviously, is more than sufficient. Attorney Rice said apparently not. It may have grown so much. Trustee Abato said they don't work there. They work out of there, correct? Attorney Rice said right. Trustee Abato said maybe that is something for the future that we need to look at with businesses. The Mayor is saying four cars. These people are saying, she doesn't know, how many cars. Attorney Rice said that regardless of whose cars it is by addressing the hours that people can park there it can be anybody. The Mayor said that as we said before, we tried to solve an issue and it made it worse. Now they are parking over 60 feet in. Before they were on the corner. So sometimes you make laws to make things better and it gets worse. And he knows that Mr. Flynn owns a couple of homes on the corner towards the end and we discussed it and now he is having a problem with his people parking because of the law. So we are kind of hurting the people who live there, this law, rather than everybody. Trustee Abato said she thinks the Mayor is right. We have to weigh the good and the bad. What is better. To have your garbage picked up, to have quality of life, or to be able to park at lunch time. She said she is just trying to look at the big picture. She said that she hopes they will bring their neighbors out to the public hearing.

Doug Lawrence of 10 Washington Circle said he has owned that property since September 9, 1999. He said in ten years he has seen a lot of things happen in the Village and on the circle. He said the circle is basically a pretty quiet, residential area. With a couple of exceptions, most of the properties are homeowner-occupied properties and a number of the homeowners have invested substantial amounts of money in home improvements on their

properties including him. And this problem started to occur maybe 12 to 18 months ago. Initially it was only a truck or two. Now he can tell them that if they would like to drive by on the weekend to see the residents park, and he would invite the entire Village Board to do this, drive by on a weekday and on a weekend, they look like a quiet residential neighborhood full of home-owned properties. And on a weekday, they look like Brooklyn in Rockland County. This is having a negative effect on homeowners values. He said he is slow to complain. As you all know, times are hard and people need work. And he is willing to cut the people who are working in these facilities some accommodation because they need to have a place to park and he himself, when he was attending the University of Minnesota, used to park in a neighborhood that was about 2 miles from campus and hike to campus because it was free. So he understands the fact that people need parking. And he understands that if they can have free parking, they want free parking. But the parking situation has adversely affected their quality of life and if they don't have some regulations, it is going to affect the quality, the value of Washington Circle and it is going to have a negative effect on the Village. He said we simply have to do something and nothing is going to work but regulation. No be niceness is going to help. He has had some conversations with people. As he understands, the proposal with the Knights is not going to fly. And he happens to be coming home - he said he is out earlier in the mornings these days walking and running. He said he happened to be coming home the other day when John Loniewski was out there taking down license numbers and what not. And he would ask the Board to get a report from John as to what the situation looked like. It looks abominable. He said he also doesn't think selective enforcement by John is going to do any good. We are in fact going to have to come up with a parking plan. We are going to have to put up some signs that say no parking either at this side of the street or no parking during certain hours. The residents may have to make some concessions in what we do. But we have to regulate. The Mayor said that we are having a public hearing next month on this issue and we will come to an agreement.

Dave Gutierrez of 23 Meadow Avenue said that something has been weighing heavy on his mind today. This whole week citizens and local government have been talking a ton about local infrastructure technology - all kinds of different things. And it kind of hit him the other night in bed that there are so many issues happening right now and he understood the other day that our Mayor is part-time. He asked if currently the Mayor position in Suffern is a part-time position. The Mayor said a part-time position. Mr. Gutierrez asked if that was 20 hours. The Mayor said yes, at least. Mr. Gutierrez said that in lieu of new infrastructure coming - a one-seat ride, Orange Avenue, Quarry, new technologies for social networking in Suffern, Obama grant monies to get and businesses working other jobs to keep their businesses, he feels that it's time that maybe we adopt a new idea where our Mayor is actually a full-time position and he thinks primarily because it is less about the amount of time you spend, because he is sure there is probably

a lot more time spent than 20 hours, but he thinks it is important now that the citizens have the ability to have that kind of accountability of a full-time Mayor so he was wondering what would be the process. The Mayor said it would have to be done on a referendum. Attorney Rice said it would have to be approved by the voters. Mr. Gutierrez said his next question is about Trustees. He said that they are just as important when you put this group together. What do Trustees get paid and how much time are they required to put in. The Mayor said they get paid \$10,000 each a year and the Deputy Mayor gets \$10,500 and they are required to work part-time. Mr. Gutierrez said that he is just bringing it up for community dialogue. He said we are getting to the point where the concept of a part-time Mayor now just doesn't seem like a possibility with all that is happening inside of our community and the way things are changing. Mr. Gutierrez said the other thing he wanted to mention is that there are a lot of businesses that require waivers now for the parking - the whole parking situation needing so many parking spaces per business thing has been resolved. He said what is the process in which for businesses to waive this whole parking rule. Attorney Rice said that the planner took a look at the issue. He said the zoning law has been consistent over the years saying that if you can't supply the parking in the downtown business district that you can pay money in lieu of parking in an amount to be determined by the Board of Trustees. So for many years the Board of Trustees, to encourage business, was saying that in each individual instance they would set the amount at \$0. So the Planning Board was certainly never happy with that because they were looking at it more from a planning viewpoint. A number of years ago, three or four years ago, they did a downtown comprehensive master plan and at that point in time it was recommended and the Board of Trustees again started charging a per parking space fee for this deficiency. Now again this Board of Trustees determined that they weren't happy with that because they felt that that wasn't going to help revitalize the downtown business district. As a result, the planner that we are using for consulting work, John Lange, did a study which is available in the clerk's office and basically, and he doesn't want to not characterize it accurately, but just basically the suggestion was that we eliminate the money in lieu of parking except for new substantial construction and certain uses that were heavy parking generators. So that has been put on for a public hearing at the next Village Board meeting.

Mr. Gutierrez said the last thing is that he was watching the news and New York City is about to have an educational kind of school district crash. Apparently, they are going to lose a million five in budget and there is going to be a real issue with having kids in school in New York City and he was wondering if maybe the Village would invest into pulling an ad on the *New York Times* or some New York periodical. He said that he thinks that one thing we do have here is plenty of schools that are great and he thinks that what we also have is a lot of houses for sale. It is possible that since we have this one-seat ride coming, we already have a train basically into mid-town, it might be a good opportunity to drive real estate

business here because we have the schools and we are not that far from New York City. And his last question is how does he start the process about looking into this whole Mayor working full-time thing. And he brings it up now because he knows we are in a mayoral race and he would rather do it now than after the next elected Mayor. Attorney Rice said he knows how it can be started by the Board of Trustees. They can adopt a local law and it would be subject to mandatory referendum. He suspects and he doesn't know it for a fact because he hasn't had occasion to look at it but he suspects that it probably can be initiated by the filing of a petition in a particular form but he would need to check that because that is only his supposition. Mr. Gutierrez said he does believe proportional pay should go with that. Trustee Abato said the Board of Elections would probably have something on that. Attorney Rice said no, no, it is in the Village law. Trustee Abato said oh, it is in the Village law. Attorney Rice said it is a specific provision in the Village law on how it is done.

Trustee Meehan said on that question. He said that this is Mr. Gutierrez's opinion and his opinion as Deputy Mayor and as an eleven-year member of the Board is that the idea of a full-time Mayor is a solution in search of a problem. It is not really something we need. We pay our Mayor \$30,000. And he was actually active in trying to get it from \$25,000 to \$30,000. And if you rally to pay someone full-time then you would probably have that person do nothing else. Then you are probably talking about close to six figures. The Mayor of Spring Valley makes over that. The fact of the matter is that the Mayor has supervisory responsibilities over the Police Chief and over a number of others and it has worked out quite well. We have had Mayors who have worked 60 hours a week and we have had Mayors who have worked 25 or 30 hours a week. And he hasn't heard any complaints from our current Mayor. He thinks he is doing a wonderful job. And so what he would say is that if you are leading this army, look behind and see if there is anyone marching behind you. Trustee Meehan said he could be wrong but he doesn't know if there would be a public wellspring for a full-time Mayor. He said he may be wrong. He said get him a petition with 400-500 people that said they are willing to double the Mayor's salary or whatever it takes to have a full-time Mayor and then you won't have to - then he will be willing to make a motion to put a referendum on a ballot. But his only experience here as Deputy Mayor to Mayor Keegan and to two previous Mayors is that we don't need a full-time Mayor. And that is a matter of opinion and that is how he feels.

Trustee LaCorte said that he tends to agree with Jack. He said that he thinks, in general, it becomes a danger when elected officials - being an elected official is the means by which you support your family. He said he thinks it becomes dangerous. He said he thinks one thing about this job is that, for someone who actually is currently running for Mayor, is that he thinks that when somebody does it full-time and that is their means, then if they are no longer the Mayor or they are no longer in any elected office then they have to find something else to do. And that puts a different

priority on the position. One thing that you can say about this. You can never say for the amount of money and he is not poo-pooing \$30,000 but if that is something which somebody is going to be able to support a family and that becomes a danger because then this is your job. If you don't have a job, you can't afford to support your family. So he thinks by doing that you tend to get career politicians and that often is a criticism in general of elected officials that they become career politicians where keeping their job is more important than doing their job. So that again is his opinion of it. Maybe you limit the amount of people who can do it. And we have often gotten retired people who have another source of income - a pension or something. That has been the last couple of Mayors. We have in the past had Mayor's who own their own businesses in the Village so they are here. They own a separate business but they have the flexibility. And that is just his opinion of it and he feels pretty strongly about it. Mr. Gutierrez said he appreciated everyone's opinion.

The Mayor said that somebody approached him on it and in lieu of that where somebody would be afraid that somebody would go for the job just to make double the salary or whatever it is. Somebody had the suggestion that you do it in three tiers. The first term you make \$30,000, and if you get elected again, you get another \$20,000 and if you get elected a third time, you make the top pay. Then somebody is not in it for the paycheck. Now in Spring Valley the Mayor makes \$102,000. There are nine guys running and he is not saying that they are all running for the paycheck. This Village is a full-service Village and the only Village in Rockland County that has all of its own services. He said that he has been approached by several people, including Mr. Rosenberg who brought it up at the podium once before. He said he is not going to say anything about it but it has been brought up.

Mr. Gutierrez said he appreciates all the insight but he disagrees with all of them. He said that he trusts the voters especially with new way specific dialogue that we will vote for the person where that won't be a problem.

Trustee Haggerty said that he had a question for Jack. An increase in the Mayor's salary. How is that going to help our parking problem. Are you planning on making him a Parking Authority guy. The Mayor said he isn't planning on anything. Trustee Haggerty said he was talking to Mr. Meehan. Trustee Meehan said that he is not in favor of it. He said he thinks it is a solution in search of a problem and he doesn't think we have a problem. Trustee Haggerty said that if we have a police department then that should take care of that problem. Trustee Meehan said that he also trusts the voters especially when he gets reelected with 70% of the vote.

Jack H. Rosenberg of 13 Somerset Drive said that there are very interesting observations from the people on Washington Circle. And one of the speakers he happens to know because he did a marvelous job on a corporation - a not-for-profit corporation - of which Mr. Meehan and he are knowledgeable because they are both on it. And he

was also very generous after he left. And he is the kind of person that any municipality would do well to have in their service. Mr. Lawrence is a wonderful example of what a citizen should be like. Insofar as the question of full-time Mayor and four-year terms, Mr. Rosenberg said he believes that he can state without hesitation and without rebuttal that he knows more about those two subjects because he was intimately involved in the effort - the successful effort to establish both. It was quite an effort. Sometimes they were able to get a petition up and sometimes they weren't. But he can tell them that most of the elected officials do not, do not, at least in some villages, do not want to see a vote by the electorate. And he has always felt that if you are going to change the term or the salary by making it full-time, it should be by vote of the citizenry especially in those villages which seem to be one party villages. If you look carefully, Spring Valley hasn't had a Republican Mayor - elected official - since 1968. And Suffern has only seen one administration of Republicans since 1989. So you really have villages which seem to be one-party towns by and large and if you try to have a real election, it has to come down to a primary because the chances of a minority party winning are very, very slight especially when the number of registered voters favor one party over the other party.

But he came here to speak to them about something else. He said that we seem to have a slight economic and financial crisis in this country. And he is saying this as a joke. And he knows that a lot of governments are hurting very, very badly and there is efforts being made to cut down on various programs and various expenditures because the problem is real and it is getting worse, not better, and it may continue for as long as the four years that our present president will be in office, guaranteed. And he is saying to them that there is one program, just one program, that he calls their attention to. And that is the LEAD program. He said that a not-for-profit corporation was established when George Parness was Mayor and he left office December 1, 1997 so you have an idea how long the Suffern Community Foundation has been in business. And the very first program that was undertaken by the Village of Suffern Community Foundation was the LEAD program. And over, he would say at least eleven or twelve years, our corporation has been instrumental in providing close to \$40,000 to the Village so that they can hold Friday night dances. And LEAD means Life Exists Against Drugs. He said so it is an anti-drug program. And it is a wonderful program. Mr. Rosenberg said the Village started out giving this corporation \$3000 per year and it has been cut down to \$2000. And he can tell the Board that if you look carefully at the amount of money that they have given back to the Village, it is a helluva lot more than \$2000 a year. For instance, they just supplied two new doors for the Lydon House which is owned by the Village. It costs the corporation \$2700. They only paid half. And when the pool passes are given out each year in 34 seconds, 40% of the \$5000 cost came from the Village of Suffern Community Foundation. But reality being what it is, he did receive a letter as president of the Village of Suffern Foundation from Dennis Fleming, the long-time head of the Youth Bureau, in which he

pointed out there is a danger. Mr. Rosenberg said that he knows recently we received a check. He said that Virginia can verify it. This will cover the program for the year 2009. But in the next three months, the County Legislature is going to be pressured to eliminate a lot of programs because of the financial crisis and if for any reason that money is not forthcoming from the Youth Bureau, he would hope that the line item for the Village of Suffern office of Culture and Recreation be increased by \$3000 which they have supplied for a dozen years or so to the Culture and Recreation Department because it is a program that should not be eliminated. It has worked. It has proved effective. And it should not be eliminated. He said that he can tell them that working - and he has been on this board since its inception because when George Parness and Virginia and Gail, who were the incorporators, prepared a set of by-laws, they insisted that the Village Clerk and the Director of Culture and Recreation had to be on the Board and two Trustees had to be on the board. He said that he and Mr. Traub volunteered and they were the board members until they changed the by-laws and cut it down to one Trustee. And Jack Meehan is now that person. So basically, he is saying to them that this is a Village function, the corporation raises the money, it does a lot of wonderful things for the Village, and it supplies far more money, far more money to the Village than the Village gives to them.

Mr. Rosenberg said that at one time they had a problem where they couldn't continue with their two mainstays - one being computers and printers for the children of the Connor School who unfortunately have to have school lunches. And obviously they don't give school lunches to people who have money. They only give it to children who need to have school lunches paid for by the government. And they supply those children with a computer and a printer at no cost to them and they have been doing it for over a dozen years. And they also have a taxi program for our seniors where we defray the first \$6 or \$7 of a taxi ride to a doctor. And he can tell them that they did secure a grant a few years ago from Senator Morahan. Senator Morahan got them a \$5000 grant and they applied half of the money to the computer program. And half of the money to the taxi program. They just learned from the state that they can no longer use the \$5000 for two programs. They can only use it for one program. Which means that they will have to come up with the expense from their other funds to fund the taxi program - no, the computer program, which is about \$1000 a year. So he is saying that it makes things difficult when you have something where you could utilize it for two programs and now they are saying no, you can only use the \$5000 for one program. And if you have anything left over, you must return it. So they don't know what to do but obviously they have to follow the rules and they will. So he calls to the Board's attention one other thing. You have two County Legislators and you should go to them and say to them that we want you to work for the benefit of the children in the high school, the seniors, who benefit from this LEAD program. Make sure that the County doesn't eliminate the less than \$3000. The Mayor said that he thinks that everybody on the Board here believes that the LEAD program is a really important thing and worth saving.

Trustee Haggerty said to Mr. Rosenberg one thing. He would like to remind him why that Board that you are talking about came into being. Because we were advised at that time by our grantwriters that told us that if we had this program in fact enacted that we would be able to get money that we would not otherwise be entitled to. The program itself, to his knowledge, hasn't gotten any money. It has always been somebody giving it to the Village through this program. So that it does help the Village. That is the intention of it. So that we would be able to get monies that we would not be otherwise entitled to. He said he wanted to let the people in the audience know why that came about and what keeps it going.

Howard Greenstein of 3 Burlington Avenue said that he was speaking tonight in support of the e-mail and video proposal that he believes Mr. LaCorte is going to talk about later on. He said he was told about the proposal by his neighbor, Mr. Gutierrez, and the other folks that were involved in presenting it because he is an internet and social media consultant and expert. He has been in the internet industry since 1994. He is a former Microsoft executive and he took a look through it and he wanted to come out in support of the concept of having the Village having the police and other agencies be able to e-mail the citizens of the Village in relation to community programs that are coming up, in relation to emergencies that may arise, in relation to new services that may exist for members of the Village. To give kudos to the Ramapo Central district. They have just initiated a program where they are sending home the notices that the students would normally bring home on paper via e-mail now and he is excited about it because it is not only saving the school district money, but it is saving him time because he is only looking at the ones that are relevant to him as opposed to his kids coming home with duplicate notices and backpacks full of paper. It now comes to him through his e-mail and it is very easy to read and deal with. He said that he knows that his own business has grown through the ability to use e-mail and he has found new clients by sending out e-mails and this has nothing to do with him because he doesn't make any money on this. He is just stating that it is a useful thing. He went and he looked at the pugh center for internet. It is a non-profit in Washington, D.C. that keeps track of the number of people that use the internet and how they use it and he noticed that over the last four years that they have been keeping statistics that the number of internet users has gone up in every age category including, he notices most importantly, the 70 to 75 year olds have now adopted internet. It used to be 25% in 2005 and now more than 45% of people over the age of 75 are utilizing internet for at least e-mail. So he thinks it is relevant. It is relevant to almost all citizens of the Village and he thinks it is very important. There is also a proposal to videotape the meetings and he wants to note that the meeting is being videotaped and he did watch some of the footage from some of the Rockland TV website that the gentleman in the back has set up and he finds it useful. And we are living in an age of you tube. Our president is putting his addresses on you tube. Our congressmen and senators are putting their information on you tube and he is finding more and more public meetings and public transparency

happening all around the country in this manner and he thinks it is really relevant and important to support that kind of openness in government by making available the things that you all are doing in support of our Village and the good work that you are doing and making it available that we, who don't always get home at night, because we are working in the city or we have other commitments with the kids. He said he volunteers with the cub scouts, etc. and he can see what is going on even if he can't personally attend. So he wanted to come in support of that.

Michael Curley of 84 Orange Avenue said that he just wanted to point out. In reference to the new economic plan coming out with the government, he said he thinks that we all have to get together and find a way to see what we can do to get, what he would call, the Village of Suffern's share. For years, Suffern has had a major flooding problem, a major waterway flooding problem, and for years this Board has been alerted to it. So now we are getting a brand new day where they are coming out with an unprecedented amount of money from the federal government. He said the way he looks at it is that we in Suffern have also been part of that federal government and part of that tax program. So these areas such as Squires Gate, Memorial Drive, Lonergan Drive, Temple Lane, by the pool, everywhere in the Village, we have been experiencing big damage for years. And it is not just that those people in the Village have experienced it. Other people, whether in Bon Aire, whether in Stonegate, or any street you have experienced it. Because the more the Village has to spend to help those people, the more it was that you were helping those people also and less that you could get. His thought here is that as a Village Board, and he heard Jack say that it is a one-party system in Suffern for the most part, and whether it is or whether it isn't, there are people whether they are Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Conservatives or whatever else they might want to think they are. They all can be helped right now. So he is going to ask this Village Board to find a way to set up a committee, a commission, to go to our Senators, to go to our Legislators, to go to any people we can to get money to finally fix those problems that exist. He said he cannot do it alone. He is willing to help. And he is sure there are many people out there willing to help. And he is sure they all want the same thing. This is not a political fight amongst ourselves. This is a political fight we can all team up and do together. And he is willing to get on a board, a commission, and he is sure many people are. They say that it has to be a shovel-ready project. How come it is not a shovel-ready project. We have known about this for twenty-something, thirty, forty years. It should be a shovel-ready project. The Corps of Engineers has done major studies. They have done major projects. They come up with even cost analysis. So now let's just get the shovel and dig it and do it. But at least, even if, the only thing you can't get in life is the thing you don't try to get in life. So he asks that we all get together and try.

Trustee Abato said that she has a couple of comments. She said that Andy Haggerty, especially, and herself have been keeping up with

the Squires Gate and Army Corps of Engineers. The unfortunate part of that whole process was that as quickly as we got to the top of the list is as quickly as we got to the bottom of the list because of all the disasters around the world that took precedent over what they feel an insignificant little Suffern flooding. What they didn't realize is that Andy Haggerty and she didn't feel the same way and they kept hounding and kept on the Army Corps of Engineers. She said the good news for right now is, and she said Ellen Jaffee has been really great in keeping up, although she is not right here in Suffern, she has been keeping up with her resources with the Army Corps of Engineers on the process and Joe Myers as well and they have reported to Trustee Abato and she knows that Andy speaks to Ellen and to the Army Corps of Engineers directly himself. And what they are finding out now is some good news is that they have come back to the top of the list again. So in the very near future we are going to be getting some very great information and probably a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers to get the municipalities - the Town of Ramapo and all of Mahwah and all the participants in this project on board financially because that is where our next step is. So the process is actually going to take another step. And although, and she is going to be honest with them because she is a very up-front person, it is a baby step, it is still a step forward which is something we haven't done for quite some time. And she certainly would invite Mr. Curley to partake in that meeting and to work with them. She said she will give him all the information and the people that we keep in touch with. The more people that call them the better it is. If there is anyone else that wants to participate in that, she will encourage them and she will give them all of her contact information. She said that she is sure Andy would be happy to share his information. The Mayor said that he would like some of that information, too, since he is the one down at Village Hall all month. Trustee Abato said that he has all the information. The Mayor said that it appears that she has her own agenda. Trustee Abato said there is no agenda. Trustee LaCorte said that the Mayor hasn't returned phone calls. He said that the Mayor is attacking Trish here who is bringing information, yes. The Mayor said that he is not going to turn this into a political thing. Trustee LaCorte said you are the one who just attacked Trish. The Mayor said he didn't attack anybody. Trustee Abato said that the fact of the matter is that the Mayor and her did discuss and they actually talked about a meeting but we postponed it because we were waiting for this next step to be fruitful. So there has not been contact, herself, she has not had contact. And if the Mayor has any additional information she is sure that everyone here is interested. The Mayor said that Gerry Levitus is the guy that runs Squires Gate down there - the association. The Mayor said he had a meeting with him last week briefly. He called the Mayor and he said that he has been in contact with the Army Corps of Engineers and he is not going to go into it in depth tonight but there would be \$300,000 for each - Mahwah and Suffern to come up - for the design. The Mayor said he has also been contacted by Legislator Alden Wolfe, who the Mayor called last week and was setting up a meeting with him and Gerry. And it is a start. Trustee Abato said that is great. The Mayor said

that up until now we all know that flood mitigation has been the biggest thing on everybody's lips that talked about the quarry. And whether the quarry remains the way it is, whether the quarry is built, whether the quarry goes back to St. Lawrence, flood mitigation is still number one up there. And if flood mitigation is done there, that is the answer to the Squires Gate flooding. So before we go out and spend \$300,000 on a design, which we had 20 designs since 1978 on this project, he thinks we ought to see if flood mitigation in the quarry works. Trustee Abato said that this just goes back - she wishes she would have known that the Mayor had that contact too - we should have been working together - but the only thing that she does is keep in touch with the Army Corps of Engineers herself and Ellen does call every now and again to give her anything that she has. She passes it along to her because she knows that she has been keeping a list. Mr. Curley said he is happy that he has spurned conversation now because he hasn't heard anything about this for months in the meetings. So he is glad that he brought up a point that he feels is important to the Village. And his point is that he thinks we all need to work together. Trustee Abato said absolutely. Mr. Curley said because those households are filled with Democrats, Republicans, Conservatives, Independents and whatever else. And he thinks they are on the wrong path. He doesn't pretend to know everything. But he knows enough about watching the Federal government to know that if we don't get Chuck Schumer involved, we are wasting our time in this Village. Joe Myers isn't going to pull it off, and God Bless, he will try, and Ellen Jaffee isn't going to pull it off, and God Bless, she will try, and nor is Trish Abato alone. It is only as a team effort. Way above his abilities. And he admits that. But his abilities do assist him in one thing. That he knows the path. He said he is not saying that he can accomplish the mission but with everyone's help, with everyone's courage and with everyone's daring ability, it can happen. Because as he said before, the only thing that cannot happen is the thing we don't try and right now we haven't tried it. Listening to this Board right now, we haven't tried it. We have to go a different route. And he will help. And he is sure many people will help.

Trustee Meehan said that he had a brief remark. He said he was at the swearing in of our Congressman Eliot Engle and he is serving his 21<sup>st</sup> year in the House of Representatives. He serves on the Commerce Committee and that is the committee that does appropriations for the Army Corps of Engineers. So let's not leave him out of the loop. He thinks they are right when you talk about our Senator but our Congressman is in a very good position to help us on that and we really want to keep him in the loop.

**VILLAGE CLERK:**

**A) Approval of Minutes of Special Public Hearing Meeting - January 14, 2009:**

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said the first thing on the agenda that she has is the special public hearing that we held on January

14, 2009. She said that she knows it was quite a big package so she has no idea whether they all read it or not. She asked if they were willing to accept it. She said it was the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**B) Request - Chamber of Commerce Street Fairs - June 14, 2009 and October 4, 2009 - Festival - September 5-7, 2009:**

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said that the Chamber of Commerce is requesting Street Fair dates. The first one will be June 14 and the second one will be October 4. They are also requesting September 5-7 to have a festival, which is supposed to be quite interesting. The Mayor said they all got a packet on that too. And he knows he reviewed his. Trustee Haggerty said that he saw one thing about this festival that they are talking about. They want Mrs. Curtin to handle it for them apparently. The Village Clerk said that right now all they want are the dates. Trustee Haggerty said that is what he got under their information. He thinks that she has already got too much work. The Mayor said they don't want her to handle it. They want her to handle an aspect of it. The Village Clerk said the Community Center. Mrs. Curtin said that she too received it at the workshop the other evening and if she read it correctly, she thinks her part is two-fold. She said that she thinks she is being asked to work with the younger children to try to get them to entertain and she thinks the second part, she thinks if she read it, is to have the Community Center available for one of the programs for the seniors. She said she thinks that is it. She said that if they approve this tonight, she thinks that she wrote all of them a memo after she read it, if they approve it tonight she would like the opportunity to sit down with the chair and she has some very few minor comments to go over with her. The Mayor asked if everyone reviewed it. Trustee Meehan said it is one good looking festival. Trustee Abato said that she really thinks it will benefit the downtown. The Mayor said that he thinks it is something that the Village needed. He thinks it will be a good thing. It is a two day event. And if it works out, it should be pretty exciting. A motion to approve the dates was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Attorney Rice said that just before they vote, just so everybody is clear, there is a lot of information in that proposal and the only thing we are approving tonight is the dates - just for the record. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**C) Authorization for Dennis Lindsay, P.E., of Riddick Associates to Act as Village Representative for the Industrial Pretreatment Program:**

The Village Clerk said this next item is for authorization for Dennis Lindsay of Riddick Associates to act as our Village representative for the Industrial Pretreatment Program. A motion authorizing the request was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Haggerty.

AYES: Mayor John B. Keegan  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Patricia Abato

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**D) Riddick Associates, P.C. - 2009 Engineering Services:**

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said we also have Riddick Associates engineering service fees for the year. A motion approving the 2009 services was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor John B. Keegan  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Patricia Abato

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**E) New Rock Bar & Grill - Set Public Hearing for Entertainment Permit:**

The Village Clerk said that we have New Rock Bar and Grill which we have to set a public hearing. She said that at the last meeting, we sent this to the Planning Board. She said that she does have a recommendation from them but she is going to hold it until the public hearing. Trustee Abato said shouldn't we do that before we are ready to set a public hearing. The Village Clerk said yes. Are you ready to set a public hearing for the next meeting. Trustee Abato said shouldn't we see the recommendation. The Village Clerk said she didn't get it. She said that Terry asked her to hold off until she gives them the whole package. Attorney Rice said all you are doing is setting the public hearing. Trustee Meehan said we will have everything before the public hearing. A motion to set the public hearing for Monday, March 2 at 8:40 p.m. was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Abato. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**

**A) Certiorari - Harding Avenue Associates, LLC - \$12,775.71:**

Treasurer Tom Zordan said the first item he has is that he is asking for approval to pay a certiorari to Harding Avenue Associates, LLC in the amount of \$12,775.71. A motion authorizing the payment was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Haggerty.

AYES: Mayor John B. Keegan  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee Dagan LaCorte

Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Patricia Abato

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Zordan said that we paid \$205,000 of bond debt. This was our final bond payment for the fiscal year ending 5/31/09. Our outstanding bond debt is \$5,410,000, of which \$660,000 is scheduled to be paid during the next fiscal year beginning June 1, 2009. He said we have started the budget process as a couple of our department heads have eluded to. And things are moving along in a timely fashion. He said he will have for the Board a preliminary budget before the next Board meeting for them to review. Trustee LaCorte asked the Treasurer to make sure that they get the full worksheets back for the preliminary line item budget for all departments. Mr. Zordan said yes.

Mr. Zordan said that of the solid waste invoices that were sent out, which totaled \$520,485, we have collected \$371,000 through January 31. We are just slightly ahead of last year's pace. He said that he is requesting a budget amendment to increase the police overtime by \$3,387.41 and increase police service revenue by the same amount. This is due to police overtime for the sewer project that we will be reimbursed for. Trustee Abato said that she wasn't at the workshop, unfortunately this date had gotten changed because of the snow and she had to work. But her question is, and she doesn't fully understand. We are going to amend this and we are going to be reimbursed. But by your memo you are telling her that that reimbursement is going to go back into the general fund. Mr. Zordan said that is correct. Trustee Abato said okay. When we are reimbursed for overtime and we are going over on our budget, because her understanding is that Clarke is getting close to or going to be going over on his overtime budget, why then is the money not used that we are reimbursed that we have spent on that so that it is not going over on the budget so that we're not showing that the police department went over. Because he really hasn't gone over. He has used overtime for monies that he has received. So he still actually has overtime left in his regular budget.

Mr. Zordan said that what happens is that he has a budget. And during the course of the budgeting process, the police chief figures out how much overtime he is going to need during the year. And there are obviously police on vacation or out sick or he has a special detail that he needs overtime for. He gives his best estimate. Trustee Abato said right, she understands all that. Mr. Zordan said so what happens is during that process he says he is going to have a program, for instance Rockland DWI program, where he is going to have overtime. And we say okay. And he puts that in his budget. And we know that we are being reimbursed. So that becomes a revenue how you pay for that program. So that is all encompassed. Trustee Abato said she is talking about overtime - unforeseen overtime that comes up out of his budget. Why don't we pay that overtime out of the general fund if we know we are getting

reimbursed to the general fund. Why is he paying it out of his budget. Mr. Zordan said that we are increasing his budget to pay that overtime by the funds that we are going to receive. He said remember, all money comes into the general fund. So you have to recognize revenue. All money is spent. So you have to recognize it where it is spent. Trustee Abato said that she understands that. But the word she got was that the police department was going over on the overtime, that they were going over their budget. Trustee Zordan said that is why he is asking - Trustee Abato said but they are not really going over on budget. We have money that we received for that overtime. Mr. Zordan said that by law he has to put - if he works overtime, he has to put it on the overtime line. Trustee Abato said right, but he is actually not going over that. We have the money to cover the overtime. Mr. Zordan said exactly. And that is why we are increasing the amount of the budget. We are making it go from 90 to 93. Trustee Abato asked how much money is left that we were reimbursed for him if he goes over. Treasurer Zordan said that what he is being reimbursed for is exactly dollar for dollar what he spent on that detail.

Chief Osborn spoke from the audience and could not be heard. He said that he has gotten \$18,000 from the County and State. Trustee Abato said that the point is that it was not in your budget because you didn't know about it and now that money - you are being penalized for that money. That is what she is saying. That makes absolutely no sense. Trustee Abato said that if he needs people for overtime. Treasurer Zordan said the problem is. Trustee Abato said that she understands what the problem is and he needs people for overtime and you are telling him he has no money left in his overtime budget. But he does. Because he spent his own money on these special projects that we got reimbursed for. Treasurer Zordan said that within his overtime budget, when he gives the Treasurer the budget at the beginning of the year, he is supposed to tell him all things that he knows about. And the Rockland DUI program we do it every year. And the Step program we do it every year. So these are things he knows he is going to spend \$5000 here, \$5000 there. And he includes it in the total. Trustee Abato said she understands that. But the point is - Mr. Zordan said he includes that in the total. Trustee Abato said okay, it wasn't in the budget and he did get reimbursed for it. So how does that work. Treasurer Zordan said it was in the budget. Trustee Abato said that for this year it was not in the budget but we were reimbursed for it. So where is that money. Mr. Zordan said that every year, it has always been done this way. When Clarke became the police chief, maybe it wasn't explained to him that you have to. It has never been a problem. Trustee Abato said because he never went over on the overtime. The Mayor said why don't we work this out. Trustee Abato said no, she has one more question. So if it happened last year, she asked Chief Osborn if he put it in the budget for last year. Chief Osborn said no. Trustee Abato said it was reimbursed as well. Chief Osborn said yes. Trustee Abato said that we knew that so why didn't we make sure that we told him "Clarke, you need to put it in your budget." Treasurer Zordan said every year he asks him how much he needs for overtime. He doesn't ask him how much is for sick, how much is for

vacation, how much is for this and that. Trustee Abato said this is apples and oranges. His overtime is his overtime. This overtime is overtime we are reimbursed for. We are talking about two different things as far as she is concerned. His overtime that he knows he is going to need for street fairs and for all the other things that go in the Village every year, he gives you a number. But the things that he is going to be reimbursed for, he should not have to put that into his budget. Treasurer Zordan said it has to be in the budget somewhere. Trustee Abato said then why doesn't the money go back into his budget. Treasurer Zordan said his budget is funded by the general fund - put into the general funds line item for police items. The Mayor asked Mr. Zordan if he, Trish and Clarke could meet. Trustee Abato said it is not absurd. She said it is her question and she would like to know what the answer is. The Mayor said he is not going to have an argument between department heads and Trustee here tonight. Trustee Abato said she is not arguing. She asked Mr. Zordan if they could meet one day during the week and they will try to work it out. Mr. Zordan said whenever she would like. He is here every day. Trustee Abato said she just wants to understand.

Mr. Zordan asked if he could get an approval to increase his budget. A motion increasing the police overtime was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

AYES: Mayor John B. Keegan  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Patricia Abato

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Zordan said he is requesting a budget transfer to move \$25,000 from the Safety Inspection salary line item to the professional and consulting line item. This is to cover the cost of the temporary building inspector. That salary line item was for the building inspector that was on the payroll who hasn't been able to come back so we need to cover the cost that we have been paying. Trustee LaCorte asked him to explain this again. He said we hired a temporary building inspector to fill in for the building inspector. The building inspector is not being paid. So he wants to use his salary. Trustee LaCorte said okay. He is not being paid. He was part-time. A motion authorizing the transfer was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Abato.

AYES: Mayor John B. Keegan  
Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Patricia Abato

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**MAYOR:**

The Mayor said that we have a special meeting this Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. and he hopes that everyone has been notified. This is to meet with John O'Reilly to talk about the PBA contract as we were supposed to do at the workshop but John had an unfortunate incident, a tree fell on his house. On March 26 at 10:00 a.m., and hopefully Mr. O'Reilly will be able to make that date, the CSEA wants to sit down for the first time and talk about their contract. The sewer project is going, he won't say smooth, especially the lady whose car had sank in the mud over near Memorial - near the municipal pool on Memorial Drive - the night of the gas leak at the other end of town. But we are having a few glitches but overall they are on schedule and hopefully they will be done with that project in the spring. The Mayor said he rode by today the firehouse and they are supposed to put the fence back up that they removed and there is a section laying on the ground so he has to contact Bob Apple tomorrow to see if they can put that back up.

The Mayor said he had one more thing. He said that back when the Orange Avenue project started with Ginsburg as a prospective builder, our Village Attorney had his hands full with motions and depositions regarding the Shabbos House litigation. Thus, Mr. Ryan Karben was selected as outside counsel. Ginsburg also agreed to pay outside counsel fees. Ginsburg left the project many months ago and since then this Village has paid over \$25,000 in outside counsel fees to Mr. Ryan Karben. Our Village Attorney has advised the Mayor that he now has the time and is fully capable of assuming Mr. Karben's duties regarding the Orange Avenue project and since we are already paying him, he sees no need for duplication of services. Therefore, the Mayor said he is making a motion to terminate the services of Mr. Ryan Karben, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

Trustee Abato said that she had a question. She said that first of all, she would think that the Board should have had some kind of discussion on this at a special meeting. She said that she is totally blind sided. She has not had the opportunity to speak with Terry on what his feelings are, where we are, that he is comfortable with all of the knowledge of where we are in the project, what needs to go forward. The Mayor said that Mr. Haggerty has made two previous motions and nobody questioned his motion so why are you questioning. Trustee Haggerty said nobody seconded it either. Trustee Abato said nobody seconded it either. She said that she thinks they should have the opportunity to have some discussion with Terry on what the plan is to go forward on this. Where we are on the project. The Mayor said he has a motion on the floor so she has to decide. Trustee Abato said that she can have discussion. She said that she thinks that it's smart - she is not saying if it is right or wrong to discontinue Mr. Karben's services, obviously if we can save some money it is in the best interest of the Village and that is something we should talk about. But she does feel that the Board should have the opportunity to sit with Terry and discuss where we are in the project and how we are going to go forward and

what he feels his role is going to be and how he is going to expedite the project since it is something that we have invested a lot of money in and we certainly don't want to drop ball on it and lose a big investment. So all she is saying is that she feels that we should not vote on this tonight and we should have discussion and we should discuss where we are. She said that she thinks blindly to just fire someone without having all the information is very irresponsible on our part. So she would like to move to table it.

Trustee LaCorte said that he has a question. He asked the Mayor if he has asked Terry if he has any experience in urban renewal. The Mayor said he asked him if he could handle it and he said yes. Trustee LaCorte said did you ask him if he had any experience in urban renewal. The Mayor said yes he did. Trustee LaCorte asked Attorney Rice if he had any experience in urban renewal. Attorney Rice said that he never handled an urban renewal project in New York. Trustee LaCorte said that he is an attorney and he just wants to understand here that we are clear. He said that urban renewal law, is he correct, is a very specific and statutorily based on obviously using potentially the powers of eminent domain and is something where you are not practicing general law. Is he correct that it is a very specific area of law? Attorney Rice said it is specifically controlled by the statute. Trustee LaCorte said that he had another question. He asked what is the status of the Orange Avenue project. What is the next step. The Mayor said according to Trustee LaCorte we are waiting for builders to come. Trustee LaCorte said what is the next step. We have to put out specs, the point is. The Mayor said he has a motion on the floor. Trustee LaCorte said he understands. The Mayor said he is not here to answer his questions. Vote yes or vote no. Trustee LaCorte said excuse me, I am talking. The Mayor said he has a motion on the floor. Trustee LaCorte said we can have discussion on a motion. The Mayor said he is not going to turn this thing into a fiasco. Trustee LaCorte said he is not. The Mayor said vote yes or no. Trustee LaCorte said that if we are having a discussion about a project and you said, you said according to me, if he is working on a project shouldn't it make sense, unless we are engaging in political theater here, to have a discussion on the status of the project if our attorney has experience in this type of project, in this type of law, where the project is and where we are going. He said he would think that to come up as the Mayor of the Village with your Trustees, as Trish has said, and to bring something up which is not on the agenda, he has an item, which he is talking about which is on the agenda. This is not on the agenda that we have never discussed about it. The Mayor said that Mr. Haggerty has made motions that were never on the agenda and you never made comments on it. Trustee LaCorte said we didn't vote on it. Trustee LaCorte said that you are the Mayor of the Village. We are deciding to do something and we should have a discussion. The Mayor said that he has a motion on the floor and he is going to keep the motion going and vote the way you like. It is as simple as that. He approached Mr. Rice and asked him if he could do this job that we paid Mr. Karben \$26,000 already, and some of his bills are

questionable, as you know, and we can't continue to pay his monthly fees.

Trustee Meehan said that unlike most of the rest of the Board, he served for twelve years on the County Legislature and after being there six months you sort of had to be an expert on Roberts Rules of Order and if there is a motion on the floor, a motion to second can be made and then seconded. And if it is seconded, no further discussion. But you have to dispose of, and even though he is in favor of this motion and he is going to speak on the motion, too, but if there is a motion to table, you should entertain a second to the motion to table and if it is seconded, then it would take precedent and it would have to be voted on before the motion. So he is just making that as a point of order. He said he is in favor of the motion but he also just wants to be fair here. The Mayor said that in other words, his motion is no good. Trustee Abato said not yet. Trustee Meehan said it may very well be. If the motion to table fails. A motion to table this was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte. Trustee Abato said now it has to go to a vote. Trustee Meehan said there is no discussion on a motion to table. That is another thing about Roberts Rules of Order.

AYES: Trustee Andrew Haggerty, Trustee Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Patricia Abato

NOES: Mayor John B. Keegan, Trustee John Meehan

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said the vote is three to two and it will be tabled. Trustee Meehan said to the next meeting.

Trustee Abato asked if we could have a special meeting so that the Board could meet so that Terry could discuss where we are and how we feel about what is going on. The Mayor asked if they wanted to do it the same night as the PBA meeting. Trustee Abato said if that works for everybody. That is one less night that we have to go out. She asked if that was okay with everybody else. The Mayor said the meeting is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday. Trustee Abato asked if it was okay with everybody else and if we could put that on the agenda. Trustee Meehan said that Attorney Rice is going to be there anyway. Trustee Abato asked if we could put that on the agenda. The Village Clerk said on the Wednesday agenda? Trustee Abato said on the Wednesday agenda. The Village Clerk said that is between you people. Trustee Abato said that if we need to go into executive session, then we could motion at that time. The Village Clerk asked if they wanted all this on the tape. Trustee LaCorte said yes, everything should be on the tape. The Village Clerk said then we can't get the person talking from the audience on the tape. Trustee Abato said the PBA contract is going to be in executive session, correct? And then the Orange Avenue project will be open to the public. The Village Clerk said then you are making it a special meeting and you have to have minutes. The Mayor said yes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A) Trustee Dagan LaCorte - E-Mail and Video Communication Proposal:**

Trustee LaCorte said there is an item that was on the agenda that was discussed at the workshop regarding an open government initiative as Mr. Greenstein discussed during the public portion - public participation at this meeting. There are two parts. One is regarding e-mail communication that the Village can communicate with the community and provide notification and also people can sign up on the website to receive e-mail communication. Similar to an initiative the new government, the Obama administration, has done where if you go on whitehouse.gov, they ask you your e-mail. It is a preferred way of people communicating. The second portion of it is to videotape. And he just wants to make clear. He said that Elaine presently videotapes the Village Board meetings. She would continue to do that. In addition to that we would have the workshop, the Village workshop, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board all filmed. They would then be put on the website so that people could view them. The way presently it works with the Village Board meetings, the tape goes to cable tv. So as more and more people are getting FIOS, they don't have Cablevision and they can't get access to the Village Board meetings. In addition, this would have a library that people could go back and see past Village Board meetings, past workshops, past Zoning and Planning Board. We had some discussion about this at the workshop and people said, well, if people want to see what is going on they can come to the Village Board meeting. People may not have the opportunity to do that. Plus what is important is if something happens and then later there is some discussion and there is an article about it, this way people can go back and then look on line. So often more interest may occur after the meeting about an issue if something happened at the meeting. So we have a proposal here and he would like to discuss the video first. That would be that we have a proposal for one year for \$10,800, which would include the filming of Village workshops, Planning Board, Zoning Board and then another two hours a month of discretionary filming. That would include the price of filming it, using a digital camera, editing it, uploading it onto the website, in addition, transcribing it according to the agendas of the meeting. So, for example, if the meeting is 2 ½ hours long and somebody is just interested in something that was discussed, particularly, for example, if there is a discussion on Orange Avenue, they could click on that item on the website and then it would upload right to that portion of the video. So again you have the video to have the video there plus specifically look at what you want and this would happen for all Boards and Zoning and Planning Board meetings, which would have open form. So again, in addition, tonight we got another proposal from Tech Spectrum in which their price was \$7200 a year. The first one is from Socialchord. The difference there is that that would not include the cost - it is a bit cheaper but that would not include the cost of filming plus we would have to pay somebody to film it, plus there is no discretionary hours in their proposal so in terms if we want to cover some other Village event, that is not there. In

addition, we would have to buy a digital camera to do that. So on the first, he would like to separate these out, and he would like to make a motion to the adoption of this. He believes it is very important to have open government. He said he knows that we all talk about it but often it is lip service but what better way to do it to ensure that every meeting that this Village Board - workshop, Planning Board, Zoning Board - are available to the public and that they are on our own website with a record of them.

Trustee Abato said that she would like to make a comment about that. She thinks it is an investment of taxpayers money for something that they are going to benefit greatly for. And she thinks it is about time that the money spent on the residents in keeping them informed in our Village in what is going on. We are in a recession and that is the bottom line. People need two jobs. People can't come to Village Board meetings. It is sad but it is a real thing. The elderly can't come out in the winter. There is no reason because you can't get to a Board meeting that you shouldn't be informed. She said she thinks it is a wonderful opportunity for our government and residents to come together, to work together, to be informed, to get involved. She thinks that it is going to greatly benefit the Village and, as she said, she thinks it is taxpayers money that they are spending on themselves and she thinks it is a wonderful asset to the Village.

The Mayor said that he would like to make a comment on this as well. He said that we all know that we are in a fiscal crunch here and everybody has talked about saving money. We are in a recession. We are talking about spending \$10,000 a year. He said he asked the question at the workshop if anybody checked with our current IT people, Tech Spectrum, and everybody put up their shoulders. So today, Mr. Zordan, our Treasurer, was in touch with them and wanted to find out since we are paying them \$30,000 a year, and by the way, this company was brought to our attention by Dagan and Trish eight months ago. Trustee Abato said no, it was brought by her. The Mayor said by Trish, excuse him, eight months ago. The fact is that if we are already paying them, why are we not finding out if they can, in fact, do the same thing. Trustee Abato said that she actually did and they told her that they could not provide the videoing services. The Mayor said when did they tell her that. Trustee Abato said she spoke to them and they could only provide services to put it on to the website. The Mayor said that they also said that Elaine makes \$15 an hour and she is already videoing and this camera right here goes on tv and it can go on youtube and whatever so there is no reason why we couldn't have an employee in this Village for two hours in a Zoning Board meeting or a Planning Board meeting to film the meeting. The Mayor said that Tom, and again we pay him a lot of money to be the treasurer of this Village, and we trust him with our money, and here is a guy today that advised him that we are wasting our money as this thing is written. Could it be revamped maybe? The Mayor said he doesn't know. But he would like Tom to come up and make a comment as he did to the Mayor today that as far as the e-mail goes. Trustee Abato said we are not talking about the e-mail. Just the video. The Mayor

said right, the video, and as far as the video goes. He said he has been told by Tech Spectrum that they can do it. The Mayor said that before we go and vote on a big issue like this that we just found about three days ago, or Thursday, or Wednesday, he said he thinks we need to sit down with Tech Spectrum and find out what they can do. And then if we find out. Trustee Abato said this is a proposal. The Mayor said that isn't a proposal. Trustee Abato said what is this. The Mayor said it is an estimate. Trustee LaCorte said \$600 per month. The Mayor said and what is the \$10,000. Trustee LaCorte said it is the same thing. \$600 a month is \$7200. It is a one year proposal on the video. The other is \$10,800 for twelve months. Tech Spectrum proposed \$7200 a year. The Mayor said so it is still cheaper by \$3000. Trustee LaCorte said that is without filming. So it is \$15 an hour - the Mayor said for four hours a month. Trustee LaCorte said it is more than four hours because it is three meetings then another two hours of, let's say discretionary, like Village events - parades, whatever we want to do. The Mayor said we have our own video camera. Trustee LaCorte said that the ability - what you are saying to put stuff on the website. The Mayor said he totally agrees with the concept of it. Trustee LaCorte said the prices are pretty much the same. The Mayor said that Tech Spectrum is not here tonight. He said that he would rather hear from them and find out if they can do a lot of this at a cost that we are already paying. Trustee LaCorte said they put a proposal that you handed us. The Mayor said if Trustee LaCorte wanted to ram this down their throats tonight then go ahead. Trustee LaCorte said that we had a discussion on this at the workshop.

Trustee Meehan asked if there were going to be two separate votes - one for e-mail and one for video. Trustee LaCorte said yes. Trustee Meehan said and we are considering the video first. Trustee LaCorte said yes. Trustee Meehan said that he would like to address that. He said fast factoid. Suffern Village State aid in 2008 was \$1,073,027 and in 2009 it is \$1,012,024 - a loss of \$60,000. He asked if they thought we would lose more than \$60,000 this year. He said he thought we would lose more than \$100,000 or \$200,000. So he is really not in the mood to spend a lot of money. He said we are talking about videotaping Zoning Board of Appeals meetings. He said he doesn't know how many Zoning Board of Appeals people have been to. He said he has been to a view and, in fact, he was an applicant in the Zoning Board of Appeals. Because he had to go a foot over - to put an addition on his house - to put an addition on his house he had to go a foot over his sideline. And who was concerned about that except possibly his neighbor Charlie. And he talked to Charlie and asked him what he thought. And he say ah, it's okay. And then he and Carol went to the Zoning Board of Appeals and had letters sent out to people within 500 feet. And nobody came. Now the Zoning Board of Appeals - they spent about 15 minutes there because they reviewed his pictures and they reviewed the plot line, the Building Inspector came to the house and they did their job. And watching that procedure is a lot like watching paint dry. Now, he is also going to tell them that if we are going to spend \$200 a night or \$100 a night to have someone to do these procedures - now the other thing, Zoning Board of Appeals has hearings. And all these hearings

they notify by mail all the people within 500 feet. Now, if you live on Burlington Drive like his neighbor and he lives on, are you really going to care about the maintenance and use of a shed, decks for a pool, and privacy walls on 8 W. Maple Avenue. He said he doesn't think so. He thinks the person on 10 W. Maple Avenue will be interested. He thinks the person on 6 W. Maple Avenue will be interested and they will get a letter. But he doesn't think we should be spending \$100 for someone to film this. And/or that we have maintenance use of a special shed; construction and use of a new driveway. And someone is going to film this and this is going to be a public service and this is going to be in the public interest and we are going to be down \$100,000? He said he would like to see this item tabled. And he is interested in the e-mail but he is not hearing from here to there on the e-mail and he would like to move to table this item just as the other item was tabled. He said he received this Wednesday night or Thursday night and, frankly, he has been very busy with taxes and getting ready for tax season since he is a volunteer tax preparer and he didn't get a chance to review all these things. But that part, filming Zoning Board of Appeals, sounded absurd to him and if you look at the Planning Board agendas - Ninan Capital Corporation sign approval. That is what most of these things are - sign application, sign application, sign application. Now they are very important because we want all our signs to be uniform and go according to law. And what they do is very important. But it is not of very much interest to anybody but the Planning Board. And so videotaping that as a regular process doesn't make any sense. He said that we had a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting here and the audience - all the chairs here were practically filled, or half of them and he was here. It was when the Shabbos House came in, established a house, started business and never came to the Zoning Board for approval. And then there was a hearing on that and at that hearing, and speaking of Mr. Karben we heard from him and he was in favor of the Shabbos House, and a lot of people got up, including the neighbors, and said that these folks had broken the law, which they had, and that the Zoning Board of Appeals should not approve their project. That is the type of meeting that should be on the internet and should be viewed. And he would like a proposal that covers that type of thing. And another thing. Planning Board where we had this hearing last July on Orange Avenue - that is another type of item that he would like to see on the internet so that people could refer to it. But maintenance of a shed? Are you kidding?

Trustee LaCorte said that he was willing to have further discussion on this. Trustee Abato said not to second this because then there is no discussion. He said that all we are trying to do is to discuss and he thinks to say that some of the most important meetings in this Village are Zoning Board and are Planning Board items that go on. And as Trustee Meehan said that the most attended meetings that we have ever had have been Planning and Zoning Board. So to be completely blunt with him, people care more about what goes on in their own back yard and it's not sitting there and to look in and go, well, it's painting a fence. It's about putting all the meetings and all meetings in which decisions that impact the

lives of our residents to maintain a public record on that. Trustee Meehan said we have a public record. We hire a court reporter to be there. Trustee LaCorte said to have a public record on videotape and as he said to him at the meeting, one, and again e-mail one we can have further discussion because there are more things being looked into but there are municipalities and he gave them examples that he has seen - and he knows that the City of Naples, where they have their Planning Board on videotape and they have them available. There are channels for that. So all they are trying to do is to have real open government and to sit there and to mock open government by saying, oh, it's painting a fence, is just ridiculous. If we have a discussion about if its economical or versus the two proposals, that is one thing. But to sit here and say that oh, open government isn't important and to mock it. From someone who is "a political scientist" is somewhat hypocritical because it may not be important to you but it's important to a lot of people and the biggest decisions that we are making in this Village - the quarry, Orange Avenue, Memorial Drive - all of these, the biggest issues - the Shabbos House - the biggest issues we face are before the Planning Board and the Zoning Board. The house on E. Maple grew a great deal of attention. When you had the three houses subdivided - and that is why he proposed the overlay district in Buena Vista. That was before the Zoning Board. So that is where the stuff comes up and it is not only important at the moment but important to have a record on videotape that people can go back to and say, okay, I understood what happened here. Was there a fair and open hearing. What was discussed. And again, as he said, we are looking at this the wrong way in that we are looking at it and saying what is going on. It is not necessarily looking at it as it happens. But it is in looking at it in the past to see what happened and to look back and say, well, what happened there. Who is accountable. There was a decision made and it went awry.

Trustee Abato said she would like to say something. She said that obviously we are not agreeing and there is information that was brought here tonight that we didn't have ahead of time and we still have only had it for a short amount of time. Jack has been busy and he couldn't review it. So she thinks it is fair - and she doesn't want this thing to get voted down because she thinks open government is so important and feels like if we put this to a vote tonight, it is going to go down and she really doesn't want that to happen. And she thinks that Dave does a great job and she thinks that he has given a lot of his time freely to them and she really feels like he could do a great job and she has seen his work and she thinks his heart is in open government and she thinks that is important to us. So let her say this. She will second Jack's motion to table it and - Trustee LaCorte said he will withdraw his motion - and she would like to be able to discuss this and she would absolutely want to find a way to have open government in Suffern. The Mayor said we have open government. Trustee Abato said to have these things filmed and be able to have them on the website for people who can't make it to the meetings and if she knows Dave Gutierrez and if she knows Tech Spectrum and they are going to sit down with us, and especially Dave, is going to find a way that this

is going to happen for us. And it is going to be affordable to us. So she will second the motion to table. Trustee LaCorte said that he withdrew his motion anyway.

Trustee Meehan said that he was trying to make a point and maybe he tried to be a little humorous. He said he really has a long, long record. When he was elected to the Rockland County Legislature Budget and Finance Committee, and that used to meet in executive session, and that was like the first thing when the Democrats took over that they did away with and he has a marvelous record on open government. What he is saying is that cost is important. We have to look at the cost benefit analysis here and if we have Zoning Board of Appeals meetings where there is important public interest, then he would like to see them taped. And the same for the Planning Board. And we know in advance. When he walked down to that Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on the Shabbos House, he knew that he better get there early because there was going to be literally scores of people there and there were. And he thinks that we can tell from items - when items are placed on the Planning Board - or there is going to be significant public interest, but just to routinely. Trustee Abato said that is what we should discuss. Trustee Meehan said that is what he is getting at. Trustee LaCorte said he doesn't think elected officials should decide what is and what isn't the case. He said we can discuss this. Trustee Meehan said that is fine.

Trustee LaCorte said that on the e-mail issue, if there is any further discussion, he knows that the Parking Authority just implemented some sort of e-mail system so he thinks that we are trying to have more investigation to what is the most economical to the Village. But again, in total, we are talking roughly about \$10,000. He is not saying that \$10,000 isn't a lot of money, but this is a way of not only - and we have to look at these things beyond what they are and what they have proven to be when implemented in successful government. Is there ways to reach out to people and get them more involved. And that we could get people to come to meetings. Find out what is going on. And get more people involved in our Planning Board and our Zoning Board and more involved in the Village. Because look, the Mayor knows, we all know, it is often difficult to find people to serve on these Boards. So it is just a way of bringing the community in and having open government and we are not inventing anything but it was very successful and if you look at the current administration, who is tackling the largest budget deficit ever and an economic crisis, they are spending money on this. Go to the White House website and see video on the website asking for e-mail addresses on the website. And so that is all we want to talk about. It is just something we can have a discussion. And we will continue it. That is fine.

Trustee Haggerty said that he had thoughts on this program when it was introduced the other night. He said that if people want to get to Planning Board meetings, they will get to Planning Board meetings. If they see a Planning Board meeting after the fact on

the television, what good is that going to do anybody except excite the people who saw that. They should have been at the meeting if they wanted to be. But he is opposed. Trustee LaCorte said there is no motion.

**B) Posting of Agenda on Website:**

The Mayor asked if there was anything else. Trustee Abato said yes, posting the agendas on the website and she thinks that it is very important that we post the agendas on the website. She said that the only thing that she would suggest is that when we put them on that it does say that at the time it was posted, that was the agenda and that it is subject to change obviously for various reasons. Trustee Meehan asked if we were putting Planning Board and Zoning Board agendas on. Trustee LaCorte said yes, he would make a motion that Planning Board, Zoning Board, Village workshops and Village Board agendas be posted on the website as soon as practicable, seconded by Trustee Abato. Upon vote, the motion was carried. Trustee Abato asked Trustee LaCorte to repeat that please for Gail. Trustee Abato said all agendas. Trustee LaCorte said Village Board, Village workshop, Planning Board, Zoning Board be posted on the website when practicable. Mrs. Curtin asked a question. The Village Clerk would be the Village one, Joanne would have to give you the Planning Board and Lynne would have to give you the Zoning Board. Trustee LaCorte said that we will work it out. He said to remember that they are prepared as documents already. Trustee LaCorte said the Village workshop, if you can get it done a little earlier, it would be helpful. But the Zoning Board and the Planning Board, typically, there is more of a lead time. Trustee Abato said that is why she was asking for that subject to change clause in it because it is feasible that Virginia could get it done two or three days before and then it could change. Trustee LaCorte said that one reason why he decided to bring this up is that if you remember, the original Orange Avenue hearing that we had in July, we had a lot of people here and people were upset because they didn't feel that they got notice. He said that we mailed out legal notice but some people didn't feel that they knew about it. So this way if the stuff is on the website, they see the agendas and if we work out some sort of e-mail solution, and someone says, hey, I want to be on the e-mail list from the Village Clerk's office regarding all Board meetings, whatever they are, then they will get notice. So it is just a way for people to feel that they know what is going on. The Mayor said it is an additional way. Because if somebody doesn't have a computer, they can't go on and find out about the agenda. Trustee LaCorte said you still have to provide legal notice. Trustee Abato said yes, you do.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m. was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

