

**Village Board Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2008**

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 Andrew Haggerty, Trustee Dagan LaCorte
Trustee Patricia Abato, Trustee John Meehan

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

ABSENT: None

Set Dates for April Meetings:

The workshop will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and the regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor said we are going to go a little bit out of our agenda tonight and we are going to put our Police Department on first because our Chief has some awards to give out to some of our sports people.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Clarke Osborn thanked the Mayor and Board and thanked them for changing the agenda and putting him on. He said that prior to bringing up our special recognition awards, he said he would like to go through a couple of things on the agenda.

A) Adoption of 2008 Suffern Emergency Operations Plan:

Chief Osborn said that the first thing that he would ask that the Board adopt is our 2008 Village of Suffern Emergency Operations Plan. He said that every year at this time he asks the Board to basically vote on renewing the plan. He said we have used it for the last two years and it is a very good plan and the only thing that does change in it is sometimes the names and the telephone numbers. He said that he provided a copy to Virginia and he is sure she will get them copies if they don't have them already. A motion to approve the 2008 Suffern Emergency Operations Plan was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Abato. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

B) Approve Auxiliary Police Officer - Alan Newman:

Chief Osborn said that we spoke last month and the last couple of months about auxiliary police officers. Auxiliaries are volunteers. They are not paid. He said he believes every police department in

Rockland County has an auxiliary force. He said we are the only ones without one and he feels it is something we should have. He said the auxiliaries will be used primarily for special events, for details, parades, to direct traffic, to go out on patrol with officers in a two-officer car on Gate Night, Halloween and for other special events. So he is going to ask that the Board approve the two officers that we are looking to put on tonight. The first one will be auxiliary officer Alan Newman, pending a background check which is currently going on at this time. A motion approving Alan Newman was made by Trustee LaCorte, 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

C) Approve Auxiliary Police Officer - Bruce Haynes:

Chief Osborn said the next auxiliary police officer will be Bruce Haynes and he is asking that the Board approve him as well pending a background investigation. A motion approving Bruce Hayes 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

The Mayor welcomed the two gentlemen. Chief Osborn said they are both long-time Village residents and he congratulated them.

D) Update:

Chief Osborn said that very quickly, they are having their DARE snow tubing trip if the weather holds up a little bit the next couple of days. On Wednesday and Thursday night they have about 150 students, fifth graders, going snow tubing at Campgaw in Mahwah. In February, they issued 310 vehicle and traffic summonses and they made 39 arrests.

E) Approve Chief Clarke Osborn to Attend FBI's Mid-Atlantic Law Enforcement Executive Course - June 8th-June 13th, Princeton, NJ:

Chief Osborn said he would also ask the Board to approve that he be allowed to attend the FBI's Mid-Atlantic Law Enforcement Executive Course in Princeton, NJ from June 8th to June 13th, pending acceptance. He said he spoke to the FBI who coordinates this

course, and just to give the Board background on the course, it is a course that is geared for Chief's in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania of departments of under 50 officers and it is basically run by the FBI. So obviously we fit into that criteria. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

At this point, Chief Osborn said that he would like to call up all of our DARE volunteers, the one's that are here for our DARE hockey awards, up front and line up. Chief Osborn said that in February, 1998, the Suffern Police Department DARE Street Hockey League was formed. He said that this league was originally for DARE students in grades 5 and 6 and in the first year, they had 70 players. Games at that time were played at the Suffern Community Center on Saturdays during the winter months with the coordination of Gail Curtin and the Suffern Recreation Department. For the next few years, their league began to grow and it was expanded to include students in grades 7 and 8. As time went on to accommodate the growing number of players, they raised the money and constructed our own DARE Street Hockey rink on Yorkshire Drive here in the Village of Suffern. This was done with the assistance of several Village residents and several Village businesses, particularly with the help of the Suffern DPW, Haglund Paving, Anchor Fence and several other local businesses. Through once again the student demand, we expanded the league to its current operating levels which includes players from grades 3 through 10 in four different divisions. This would not have been possible without the assistance of the numerous residents who serve as coaches, referees, officials, as well as a host of other duties. He said we are currently the only DARE Hockey League within New York State, and for the last ten years, we have provided hundreds upon hundreds, and he can probably even say over thousands at this point, of local students with a very rewarding experience. He said that he would like to now present certificates, along with Mayor Keegan, Certificates of Appreciation, to all of these gentlemen who are standing in the front here who have so selfishly donated their time, their talents. They have done everything for this league from start to finish, whether it is assorting equipment, coaching, reffing, helping out at awards dinners and everything in between. He said he wanted to thank them.

Chief Osborn and Mayor Keegan then presented Certificates of Appreciation to Michael Blau, Barry Weinstein, Seth Singer, Steve Rosen, Adam Feltfogel, Scott Berman, George Epstein, Bill Oliveto, and Bill Montauero.

Chief Osborn thanked the Mayor and Board for their help and these gentlemen and he wants to thank all of them for their assistance. This league would not be existence for ten years if it wasn't for them.

PRESENTATION BY CONSULTING ENGINEER DENNIS LINDSAY RE: STORMWATER DISCHARGE:

Dennis Lindsay said that there is a requirement that we file an annual report and he will just go through some of the brief history for the public. Discharges to the United States waters are regulated under the Clean Water Act and that is administered by the EPA and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. He said that as part of that, the Phase II Stormwater Regulations were enacted a number of years ago, but in 2003, there was a new permit that was issued by the NYS Department of Environmental Conversation which involved the Village of Suffern. That was for the Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4) communities. Those are communities that by the density of their population were put into a certain area and certain category and are required to comply with a general permit. Your sewer treatment plant has a SPDES permit - a State Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit but that is a specific permit to that plant. And it is tailored to that specific stream that receives water from the Ramapo River and it is designed for that particular plant. For stormwater in New York State, they have adopted a general permit. And the general permit goes throughout the state and all the MS4 communities but to receive coverage under that permit, you need to comply with certain requirements. The Village sent in a Notice of Intent to comply with those in 2003 and for the past five years has been completing the tasks required in that permit so that they can continue to have coverage. It has been a five year plan but it is ongoing even after that. The good news for the Village is that the Village has complied with what they are supposed to comply with. There is an annual report that we are required to file every year which is here and it has been at the Village Hall. That describes all the matters that have been complied with by the Village. We have an ongoing program every year, however, the Village was very advanced in this and adopted its Stormwater Management laws for illicit discharge detection and elimination as well as stormwater pollution control a number of years back. It has been implementing those requirements for the contractors that have been constructing things here with your Planning Board under reviews of applications and other matters. So the matters that the Village has completed this past year are matters of public education. The Village has a contract under the Rockland County Consortium with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell Cooperative Extension provides a number of seminars, they provide training, they also provide pamphlets and they have a website and they meet some of the requirements of the Village's obligation. And those obligations that we need - we have an obligation for public education and outreach and public involvement and participation. And those requirements were met by your contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

As far as the illicit discharge detection elimination, you had complied with that previously. We have it mapped now and your DPW will be doing inspections of the outfalls to make sure that they are in compliance. As far as the construction sites, stormwater runoff control and the post-construction stormwater management, that is an obligation that is carried forward by your Planning Board and is continuing to be carried forward and also inspections. And the last one is good housekeeping requirements and that is being maintained by your Department of Public Works in terms of street cleaning and a number of other things. As far as salt storage, for example, you store your salt under a covered enclosure and he recently attended a seminar as did your DPW Superintendent as well as your Water Treatment Plant operator to learn a little bit more about salt water or salt intrusion into our water supplies. All of those things have been adopted and have been included in your draft report. And as soon as we complete this and we receive any comments from the public that you might receive at the meeting, then they would incorporate those in their annual report and file them with the DEC.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief John Dawson said that there were no new membership applications this month and their fire call totals year to date are at 50.

7:45 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - PROHIBITING PARKING ALONG A PORTION OF MILFORD LANE:

The Mayor said we will go right to the public hearing which is prohibiting parking along a portion of Milford Lane. Attorney Terry Rice said the hearing is on a proposed local law that would amend the vehicle and traffic code in the Village code. It provides for no parking on the south side of Milford Lane from the intersection of Bon Aire Circle to a point 135 feet to the west.

Chief Clarke Osborn said that Milford Lane, the area that he is asking for restricted parking, is a bit of a hazard when you come out of a certain parking lot on Milford Lane. He has gotten several complaints on it. The residents that are coming out of that lot, and there are several of them, it basically is Milford Lane and Oxford Court that come out of that parking lot. When they come out of that lot and make a left, due to the cars parking on the right, they cannot see vehicular traffic coming down, coming westbound. When they get out and they have to make a right, due to the people parking too close to the driveway, they have to swing out to the other lane. It is not a big area. He thinks it is 132 feet - it is not a huge area and there are only a couple of cars usually parked there - but he has spoken to condo presidents and management up there as well as several residents, just running it by them, and they are all in agreement at this point that it was a safety hazard. So he felt he wanted to bring it to the Board. It is pretty much a safety factor and that is the only reason that he brought it to them.

The Mayor said that basically it was requested by a lot of the residents up there. Chief Osborn said correct. The residents were fine with it. And if they did have a problem, no one said anything to him because he spoke to several of them up there.

Since no one spoke, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

VILLAGE OF SUFFERN

LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2008

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 254-61 OF THE
CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
PROHIBITING PARKING ALONG A
PORTION OF MILFORD LANE**

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

Section 1. Section 256-61, "Schedule XI: Parking Prohibited at All Times," of the Code of the Village of Suffern is hereby amended by adding after:

[Name of Street]	[Side]	[Location]
Milford Lane	North	Bon Aire Circle to Sylvan Way

the following:

[Name of Street]	[Side]	[Location]
Milford Lane	South	From the Intersection of Bon Aire Circle To a Point 135 Feet West

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

A motion adopting Local Law No. 2, 2008 was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said that since we are running a little late here, we are going to go right into a public informational hearing regarding United Water to purchase water. The Mayor said he would like to read off a statement before we start.

The Mayor said that many of the people are here tonight to discuss United Water's offer to purchase water from the Village of Suffern. The Mayor said that let him start by informing those of you who aren't already aware, the Village has declined the offer and has no plans to re-enter negotiations with United Water. He said that as Mayor, it is his responsibility to entertain any offers which are brought to his attention. This was especially the case with United Water's offer due to the fact that our Water Department has been in deficit for the past three administrations. He said we looked at the offer in an open fashion, addressing it in numerous newspaper articles both during the summer and recently as well as several Village Board meetings this year and last. In fact, tonight marks the second public informational meeting we have had on this issue. While each Board member had their own opinions regarding the sale, we came to the conclusion based on number one, the public response they all received opposing the sale, number two, the length of the proposed agreement being too long, in his opinion, and three, the fact that the dollars proposed would not be sufficient to get us out of the deficit. The offer did not make sense. Another issue, which some of the people may want to address, is the current state of the Water Department's budget. The Water Department has been in deficit for the past eight consecutive years. This was something which was disclosed to the public by this administration in all discussions regarding the sale of water. In fact, the only reason that they were even considering the sale was to get out of the deficit. So any belief that he or the Board was hiding this deficit is just not true. Moreover, the Sewer Department, as well as the Village General Fund, are both in surplus. As a result, we delivered the lowest Village tax increase this past year in almost thirty years. In their first year of office, the 2006-2007 fiscal year, they raised water rates at the suggestion of our Treasurer in an effort to balance the water fund. However, our effort failed as the consumption of water estimated came in far below what was anticipated based on water consumption in previous years. This was all reported to our auditors and to the State. During the 2007-2008 budget year, the fiscal year we are currently in, and set to complete in June, we again raised rates and are currently poised to end this fiscal year with a balanced budget in the water fund for the first time in eight years. However, the deficit remains. We are presently finishing up plans to pay off the deficit which has accrued over the previous eight years as part of our 2008-2009 budget. Our Treasurer will discuss the specifics of the plan which will eliminate the deficit over a five-year period and includes rate increases for all users. He said they are strongly considering steeper increases for the largest of users, none of which are residential or small businesses.

The Mayor said that if anybody would like to come up and comment, this public informational hearing is open, and, as always, if you

do come up, state your name and address for the record.

Michael Curley of 84 Orange Avenue said that as we all know, the Village has discussed this at workshops, at regular meetings and there was also a meeting recently that Chris St. Lawrence had called in the town. And at that meeting, Mr. Curley said he went against what Mr. St. Lawrence thought and he still goes against it now. He said he thinks the Village of Suffern has an asset that they retain worth millions of dollars. He said he feels safe in saying it is in excess of \$20 million. When someone has an asset in life, they have a right to use that asset. And he thinks if Suffern can take some of their water, they use approximately a million and a half gallons a day. We have the ability to use up to five million gallons a day. If we could take a million gallons of that for three months out of the year and help the people of Suffern (1) with their bills and (2) with money for infrastructure to keep it strong for years to come, he thinks that is, he feels strongly that that is the way to go. There is nothing wrong with helping your neighbor if he needs water. At the same time, Suffern, the residents of Suffern, the businesses of Suffern can benefit from it. In that deal with United Water, we also had, if he is not mistaken, we also had a pull switch if it got to a dangerous level. Suffern is not going to get hurt in this deal. We are not taking this asset and shipping it out to some country for some great windfall. You are giving it to local other people to help them just as everyone needs water. It is not just our water. Just because we can make a few dollars for ourselves. We always talk about helping the young families in the community. Well, they are the ones that have a tougher time here. Because they are the ones that have two, three, four, five kids at a higher use, using more water. So he thinks that at some point this should be reconsidered. Suffern needs to act proactive, not reactive. We have that chance right here. You can do a study. You can ask the Treasurer what he thinks this is worth - this whole sewer and water department. Years back someone wanted to buy our sewer department, if he is not mistaken, for millions of dollars. We didn't sell it. The Town of Ramapo uses their assets every time they have a chance. And the Village of Suffern has that same right. He said that he doesn't want to put - he understands it can be a hot topic, but he thinks with the people that he talked to, he thinks the people of Suffern would go for this and he would be willing to go out there and attempt to do a referendum and let the people decide. It might take months to do that, but this situation isn't going away today. It's not going away tomorrow. We use less water. That is one of the problems and then expenses go up also. So we use less water and that means we have more water there that we haven't used. So why shouldn't we let a neighbor use it and at the same time help everyone in Suffern.

Mr. Curley said that at this way, if we don't, we are going to get a rate increase. We could get 5%, 10%, as much as 11% right now. At these economic times, people losing jobs, it is tough on them. He said he just thinks - make an open mind. He thinks this issue, even if they close the doors today, it can be opened again. And he would be willing to, and he would be comfortable if he can do a

referendum, he is going to go ahead and attempt to get it on the ballot. He said he has to go and get so many signatures and get people to do it. But he does it only with a clear understanding that it would not hurt Suffern. It would help our infrastructure for years to come down the line. He is not saying that \$200,000 is the right number. And he is not saying that we can't go to United Water. He said he feels comfortable telling them to go for less than five years. Because they do need it and our neighbors need it. And he doesn't care what religion, race or creed they are. Everyone has a right to water.

Nat Oberman of the Town of Ramapo said that he would like to just apologize for the Supervisor not being here tonight because he has a workshop session and Mr. Oberman came to represent him. One, the Supervisor commends the Mayor and the Village Board for your decision not to sell Suffern water to United Water. That is a very, very, very strong support of what you are doing. Mr. Oberman said that on Friday, the Supervisor and he met with the Village Treasurer who gave them a very informative review of his financial plan. He said he would like to thank Mr. Zordan for his cooperation and congeniality in going over all of the figures. This meeting provided them with a background to investigate the options of implementing an add long charge on your tax bill which would favor the taxpayers because that would be deductible once it went on the bill and the water usage would continue to be billed and they can work on the different rate levels that that would necessitate. And that would help the taxpayer. Also, the Supervisor stands ready to work with the Mayor and the Village Board to assist in the capital funding of the infrastructure improvements to your sewer plant. That is something that they have spoken about in the past and they will continue to talk and they would like to pursue that plan as we go along. The Supervisor has appointed Mr. Oberman as acting Director of Finance. Mr. Oberman said he personally looks forward to working with the Mayor and members of the Board. Along with the Supervisor, he would welcome the opportunity to meet with them and discuss any major concerns. If there are any questions, he would be willing to answer them now. If not, he would like to be able to make an appointment sometime this week to go ahead with some of the other things we have in common. The Mayor said he would be glad to sit down with him. Mr. Oberman thanked him and said he would be in touch.

Alfred D'Ambrosio of 4 Cross Street said that he was at the last meeting last week and it was interesting. A lot of people said things that were something for us to think about. He said he would commend the Board for considering definitely not to compromise our water selling it in any way. But a point of observation. We have noted in the past that there were shortages of water - New York City gets our water to some extent. They have complained in the past that the huge structures - there are three or four or them - tunnels, one of them for sure is broken - has never been repaired and the water is always lost. That is part of our water. And we are talking about the future now. Not wanting it to be given to another company maybe for some value. Whether it is worth it or not is not

important. It is our water. When you don't have control of it, you are under someone else's thumb. Your kids, you, all of us. But if you want to recognize that our Mayor said all right, the taxes may go up a little bit and we will try to proportionate it correctly, that is acceptable. Whether we get it or industry gets it, hopefully industry more, fine. But that we should lose our water, unequivocally no. Let us keep our water and then we have a control of our destiny. Money can't pay for that. When you have lost your control, you're in charge.

Jim Giannettino of 2 Memorial Drive said that he is against the sale of water to United Water for numerous reasons. One of the most important is that we all know that they are going to build Tuxedo Reserve up above. We don't know if they are going to hit our vein and take some of our water out of our well system. That is number one. Number two is that he thinks that the price that they offered us was an insult because they were going to turn around and sell it, he is sure, for two or three times what they were going to pay for it. Now on some of the figures that he heard, he respectfully had to disagree. In 2005 fiscal year, the Water Department may have run a deficit in the operating budget but there was still money in that fund - about \$16,000 or \$17,000 - at the end of that fiscal year. In fiscal year 2006, they started to run into a deficit - somewhere around \$190,000. He said he is doing this by memory. He doesn't have the numbers in front of him but they are pretty close. Mr. Giannettino said that in 2006 or 2007, under his administration, they instituted the higher usage fees to try to build up a little more reserve into that fund. Unfortunately, usage continued to drop. But the sewer fund had an extremely large balance - somewhere around \$350 million at the time. He said he started to lower the sewer fee knowing that we would have to raise the water fee. Now, unfortunately, your administration took office on December 1, 2005. There was a \$190,000 deficit. He said they obviously didn't address it in 2006's budget. Then the following year there was at least another \$200,000 operating deficit in the water fund. And you obviously didn't address that sufficiently. Now this year, we are up to a \$631,000 deficit and, unfortunately, we are going to have to pay the piper now. You cannot leave it to build and build and build to over a half a million dollars without pain coming at the end of the road. And the pain is going to come. He said our sewer fund, which had about a \$350 million surplus at the time - well, they went out and bought a sewer pumping machine, which obviously you felt we needed - during his time in office we use to borrow it from Mahwah - and that cost us \$218,000 out of our sewer fund balance. So that is not there anymore to offset water rates. He said he knows at the last meeting that Tom addressed some of the things that you have done. You applied a \$73,000 surplus in the water fund from projects during his administration to lower the debt and you also pulled \$100,000 project out of the operating budget for this year for the wall in the water plant, which has been steadily moving. The Mayor said that has been steadily moving for the last five years. Mr. Giannettino said that is what he said, exactly. Mr. Giannettino said he doesn't deny his part in any of this. What he is questioning is why it took them three years to

address this deficit. The Mayor said he has only been in two years, so maybe he ought to go back to school. Mr. Giannettino said no, you are on your third budget. Trustee LaCorte said that we are actually . . . Mr. Giannettino said excuse him, but he was speaking to the Mayor. Can he answer his own questions? The Mayor said that if Trustee LaCorte would like to address you, he thinks it is his prerogative. Trustee LaCorte said that we are on currently we are on our second budget. You were Mayor of the Village. The fiscal year runs through June. Mr. Giannettino said he knows exactly. Trustee LaCorte said to let him finish. He said you are talking about years. He said he wrote down what you went through. Mr. Giannettino said go ahead. Trustee LaCorte said you said that 2005, 2006. Mr. Giannettino said that is correct. Trustee LaCorte said that budget was passed by your board. Mr. Giannettino said absolutely. Trustee LaCorte said there was a deficit that year. Mr. Giannettino said absolutely. Trustee LaCorte said we passed the budget in 2006-2007. That is the first year they were in. The budget they passed. He said they raised water rates, usage went down, and they still had a deficit. The year they are currently in, their second budget - 2007-2008 - is currently going to operate in the black. Mr. Giannettino said that remains to be seen when you read your water meters in May. Trustee LaCorte said that based on the information they have now, as of now, their projections show that they should be in the black. Mr. Giannettino said unfortunately his projections were incorrect in the last year of his administration and yours have been in the first budget of your administration. What he is saying is to forget the projections. We have to deal with the deficit that we know we have, which is somewhere probably around 450 now after the adjustments you made at the last meeting. The Mayor said we have a plan to address that. Mr. Giannettino said that plans are great but the idea is why did you wait until this year instead of a little larger increase in the water rate last year. The Mayor said that was just explained to him. Mr. Giannettino said it wasn't explained to him. The Mayor said yes it was. Mr. Giannettino said it wasn't explained by you. The Mayor said we are just cleaning up the garbage from the administration before us. Mr. Giannettino said that only lasts for so long. You are on your second administration, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Giannettino said when he got into this office in 2003, he inherited \$500,000 - the Mayor said if you don't mind because you are yelling into the microphone. Mr. Giannettino said he knows the Mayor doesn't mind, but Mr. Giannettino minds. He said the Mayor likes to blame people. The Mayor said this is his meeting, it is his meeting. If he asks him not to yell into the mike, he is asking him to not yell into the mike. Mr. Giannettino said you learned something from Mr. St. Lawrence. It's your meeting. Mr. Giannettino said but you didn't show up at Mr. St. Lawrence's meeting, did you. The Mayor said was that his meeting. It was Mr. St. Lawrence's meeting on Suffern's water, wasn't it? If it was his meeting, he would have been here and he is here tonight. The Mayor thanked Mr. Giannettino for his kind words. He then asked him if he wanted a hug.

Adam DeStefano of 19 Prairie Avenue said that he had a couple of

things that he wanted to talk about. First of all, with the deficit in the water department - is there a plan in action to take care of the deficit because it is almost, it is over a half million. The Mayor said as you were told, we are going to raise the rates 11% plus three the first year to 14 point something and then 3% for the next four years. That should take us out of deficit. It may even be less. We may come out of the deficit quicker if we raise the rates for large volume users. And we believe that in five years, the deficit will be gone, and whatever rates are raised, we will be much, much less than United Water's rates.

Mr. DeStefano said that he does agree that the offer that United Water offered us was a complete insult. They definitely could have offered us much more and we probably would have gone along with it if they offered us more. The thing that you have to look at is, and he would like to bring up what Mike Curley said, our tanks can hold 5 million gallons per day. The most Suffern has ever used is less than 2 million. Which means unless our town grows by double the population, there should be absolutely no way we should use up those tanks. And there was a plan in the event of a water drought that we would cut off water to United Water. That was part of the contract. Does he think that we should have gone with the amount that was offered? Absolutely not. It would have been a complete waste of energy for our Board and our town to go to. We would have probably at most made a \$50,000 profit a year, which over 5 years still leaves us with over \$300,000 debt. If United Water were to come back and offer an actual figure which is worth our time to look at, we should look at it. Someone came up earlier and said it is not right to sell the water because that is our water. It is our water but is it right to raise taxes on people who are already burdened enough by the taxes? Mr. DeStefano said the thing is that if they are willing to offer a good enough offer and not take away a lot of our water - if they take away a million gallons, that leaves us with two million gallons and he highly doubts that Suffern is going to use double the amount within a year or two of water because as you can tell, we haven't really been growing that much as a town. We pretty much peaked out in growing. And if United Water offers a good deal for us, he says that we should look into it.

Joe Myers, the County Legislator, who lives in the Village of Airmont at 8 Post Lane South said he wasn't going to say anything but his heart just stopped when the previous speaker said that he doesn't think that we are growing as a town since he has spent the last five years of his career telling people that the over-development in the Town of Ramapo is out of control. Mr. Myers said that first he would like to say that the Board, from his perspective, from what he can see, acted appropriately throughout in the decision of United Water. From what he mentioned at the meeting that Mr. St. Lawrence held, he knows you have to consider all offers that come your way. That is part of government. And he hopes that people do appreciate that. He said that you obviously came to the correct decision not to sell the water. Supervisor St. Lawrence has been fighting United Water for several years. He

feels, and many of them feel, that United Water has not been a good corporate citizen in taking measures that would provide low cost water to the County of Rockland. The County of Rockland has the highest water rates in the State of New York and United Water's solution is to build a desalination plant that would convert Hudson water for drinking purposes and our rates would go sky high. And he thinks that what Supervisor St. Lawrence felt, and of course he doesn't speak for him, but from his impression of what he felt is that he doesn't want United Water to get any help from any of the communities in the Town of Ramapo. Mr. Myers said he agrees with that as a proposition. Because he thinks that United Water is under strict guidelines from the Public Service Commission to find additional sources of water or pay certain penalties. And he, for one, does not want United Water to have any easy outs to get a source of cheap water to provide. And he also feels that the more we make water available to United Water, the more it will increase the likelihood of additional development in the Town of Ramapo, which is something that he is opposed to. Because the County of Rockland right now has only 200,000 gallons in excess of what they need each year to support the residents of the County of Rockland which is not very much at all. And answers need to be done. They include conservation but they should not include easy answers for United Water.

Laura Plessner of 8 Terrace Avenue in Suffern said she was just curious. She said that we really haven't heard much about the - she doesn't want to hear the details but just the overview of the plan that you worked out with the Treasurer. She said she is curious about what Chris St. Lawrence had mentioned about forming a tax district with the water rates. For instance, like large corporations that use a lot of water. Are they paying a flat rate. Or are they proportionately paying more. The Mayor said that at this time, everybody is paying the same rate in the Village of Suffern. Ms. Plessner said then why are you offering to give us all an equal percentage increase. She thinks the large users, the corporations and the large users should be paying more. The Mayor said that is our plan. Trustee Abato said that is part of the plan. Ms. Plessner asked if we could hear a little more about the plan. That would make her feel better. The Mayor said that our plan was large volume users that we would probably charge them a higher rate. We are talking about it now. But our overall five year plan is to raise rates around 14% this year. Ms. Plessner said by May? The Mayor said 11 plus 3. Ms. Plessner asked if that was a flat rate increase. Is that a flat rate for all households and corporations across the board. The Mayor said that would be for residential. Trustee Abato said and small business. The Mayor said right, and small businesses under a certain volume of water. He said we haven't decided what volume yet. Ms. Plessner said and the large users. The Mayor said and then 3% a year for the next four years after that and he believes we would come out of this. He said when we say large volume users, we are really talking about Salvation Army, Good Samaritan Hospital, Avon, Novartis, Gitlow. Large users of water. Maybe over 300 units a day, something like that, which your average household or even small business would not

use. Ms. Plessner said the proposed percentages that you just spoke of are in addition to a larger tax for these large users. The Mayor said no. That would be before we decide to raise the rates for volume users. Ms. Plessner said she thinks you should definitely raise the rates for volume users. The Mayor said and that is why he said if we were to raise the rates for large volume users, we don't want to kill them either, but that would allow us to keep the rates for the residents even lower. So right now our basic plan is the 14, 3, 3, 3, 3 before we even go into the large volume users.

Trustee LaCorte said there is a certain flat rate which is \$30 for the first 10 units. He said that there are 750 gallons in a unit. We bill twice a year. He said that 7500 gallons in six months the total usage would be \$30. But most people use over that. So then the next level, the proposed rate as of now, going forward without increasing additionally the above users would be on units 11-70 \$2.54 a unit. So it is \$2.54 for every 750 gallons you use. And then the proposal above that would be over 70 units, you would pay \$2.92 per unit. So it is kind of a graduated system where as you use more that marginal unit of use is more expensive.

Ms. Plessner asked if that would apply to individual homeowners as well as these corporations. Trustee LaCorte said yes, but he doesn't think there is anybody in the Village who is using over 70, that many units, who is not a large commercial user. He said he thinks 70 units would be like 57,000 gallons every six months. And that would be a very, very large swimming pool twice a year. So the people aren't doing that. So the people who are using that much water are not your typical residents or small business. So we don't also want to hit small businesses with a higher rate automatically who may just have a sink and a toilet in their shop. So this focuses on the volume of use and presumably large units like the hospital, who is sitting right here in front of us. Ms. Plessner said she just had to raise that point. She said she also agrees with Joe Myers and Chris St. Lawrence. She doesn't think we should sell a precious resource as water.

The Mayor asked the Treasurer, Tom Zordan, to come up and explain the plan basically in depth. The Mayor said he thinks he was pretty close to it.

Treasurer Tom Zordan said this is a serious issue and yes, a deficit has accumulated over a number of years. And we have been addressing it every year. It might not seem like it. But yes, we have addressed it. We didn't just raise rates the last three years because we weren't looking at it. We did. But unfortunately, or fortunately, for the people who believe we should be saving our water, we have conserved water. Years ago, when the budget was done, they used 700,000 units of water per year. Well that's not how much water we are using. And he has realized this and he has lowered our estimated water usage so that we can not come up short on the estimate and have the right rate in place and we will make a right budget. Every year we budget it. Our expenses come in right as we budget them. But unfortunately there has always been a short

fall in the estimated water usage, thereby causing an annual deficit. And that was the problem. So now we have sat down. We spent a lot of time on this. We are still working on it. Because as people come up they have concerns. The people say it is not fair if you hit the residential. The commercial people say it is not fair if you hit us. We have to weigh pros and cons and make it as fair as possible as we can. And believe him, he understands it very well. He said he does have a heart. And he does have to pay his water bill, too, just like everybody else. He lives here. So whatever we do affects himself and affects all the people on the Board and affects all the people in this room. So it is not something that we can come to a snap decision about. And like he said, we have been working on this for a couple of months now to try to put together the least painful thing that we can come up with. And like he said, this is our plan today. But if the Board says we should go a little differently, then we will. But this is what we have and this plan, as it stands, should work and get us out of our deficit.

Mr. Zordan said that what we have already done is that we had several capital projects that were completed. One was five years ago and the other two, he believes, were three years ago. They were completed and they came in under budget. So what we did was that we are refunding the money back to the water fund because the water fund paid for these projects. And that totaled \$73,000. So we are taking that money back in and that is being directly applied to the deficit. Then the next thing that we had was we said that we have to repair the water department - the wall in the water department. We got an estimate and it is \$100,000. So we put that into the current budget. And because of this deficit situation, we said look, we were going to get it done in the spring - let's do it in the summer. So we pushed the project to next year. So we eliminated that cost in the current year, but it has been accounted for in our rates. So, like he said, our expenses always come in line so that should provide another cost savings of \$100,000 which will be applied directly to our deficit thereby reducing our deficit in the current year by \$173,000. That was step number 1. Then we said going forward, how can we pick up the remaining \$450,000. The least painful that we can do. So what he said was let's charge the people 3% and that equates to \$50,000 for all of our water customers over the course of a year and what we are going to do is that whatever the rate is this year and whatever the rate would have to be in the succeeding years, there would always be a 3% increment in there to cover this \$50,000. So over the course of the next five years, we will generate \$250,000 which will be applied directly to the deficit and that will bring our deficit with that \$250,000 and the \$173,000, we will be down to approximately another \$250,000 - or something like that. And lastly, what we have said, in years gone by we have borrowed money to build our infrastructure in the water department or repair wells that have had contamination or have gone dry, to build pump stations, so in the past we have borrowed money so as part of our water fund, we have to repay that money. That is called debt service. So each year our debt service, as we repay it, if we don't borrow more money, it goes down. So what he said was

since that debt service is billed into the rate right now, when the debt service goes down in each succeeding year, instead of reducing the amount the ratepayer pays, we will maintain that amount of money in the rate and apply that directly to debt service. So in next year's budget the net debt service is going to go down \$36,000 so we are going to keep that money within the rate that we built up and apply that \$36,000 directly to debt service. So in next year's budget, we are going to apply \$36,000 of debt reduction funds and \$50,000 that we have allocated as a 3% increase, so thereby we will have \$83,000 directly set aside for debt deficit reduction. And that is how our plan works over the next five years. And there are other things that are going to occur that will increase consumption to some degree, like the Cross Street condominium complex, the Gitlow Towers, the 80 unit building that is coming online, the increase in the hospital buildings having more tenants in there and hopefully getting up to 100% and they will be using more water for that building. So there will be additional things and we haven't included these in as potential deficit reduction. It is going to be extra gravy, so to speak. So that is the plan. Mr. Zordan said he can give anyone who is interested a copy of it and he can talk about it at any time. You can call him up at 357-2600. He said that if people call him, he is very easy to talk to. If you want to stop in and ask, no problem. After the meeting, if you have questions or if you don't feel that you want to question me in front of all the people, he will talk to you. It is not a problem. And that is what they have come up with and he is always up to other ideas and solutions. Like he said, he lives here too and he has to pay the piper himself.

Bruce Simon of 31 Utopian Avenue thanked the Mayor and the Village Board. He said that like a lot of the people here, he applauds them for turning down the offer. He doesn't think selling a valuable resource like water is not a good choice. He said he wants to address something kind of going forward a little bit. He said he knows Tom's plan seems sound and he has every faith that it is going to work out and you said hopefully even in less than the five years we will have solved this deficit. He said he hopes that as you move forward on this process that you are thinking past that point, because if we are back here three years later talking about another half million or quarter million dollars, all we have done is put off the pain. And he doesn't think anybody here, God willing, we are all still here in five or six years, he doesn't think that anybody here wants to come back and have this discussion again. And he is sure they don't want to listen to it again either. So that is something that moving forward you all keep in account. He also wants to say that the people who were not at the meeting last week, he wants to commend the members of the Board and our Treasurer who, in a hostile situation, maintained their cool and who represented the Village very well and he thinks they deserve a round of applause.

Randy Ortiz of 11 Fairview Place said he agrees with what the gentleman just said. He said that certainly we don't want to be back here and moving forward after the four or five years we should

plan for this in the future. He said he also wanted to say that from what he gathered, our water bills in general are a lot less than United Water and the rest of the County pays. He said he doesn't hear anybody talking about that. He said if it is going to go up 3%, 5%, he still thinks that everybody has a lot to be grateful for that for how many years we have been getting service out of the Suffern Water Department it is still a lot cheaper than if you weren't in the Village of Suffern.

Tara Egan of 23 Meadow Avenue said that she is happy to be a part of this process. She said she did attend Christopher St. Lawrence's meeting and she attended because it is the first direct communication that she received from her local government. And that is why she actively participated. She said she knows there was some discussion in that discussion about why people pre-empted this discussion but frankly she didn't know there was an issue. She said she is part of a digital movement and millennial generation that gets most of her information on line. She probably for the first time looked at the Suffern government website and did see that there was public notification and she appreciates that. She said her point is that she too like many people here oppose the sale of our water. She said she thinks it was eloquently said last week that this is truly a resource that you can't put a price on it. She said she thinks we have to pay it forward to our kids, our grandkids, and other folks that are going to be a part of this community for a long time. So she appreciates their decision in making that. She said she knows there are a lot of things that come across their desks and she appreciates the public forum as well. She thinks it is a very important part of our government process so she thanks them. She said she would also like to thank the Treasurer for giving that great explanation in knowing what the budget deficit finally is and she thinks that beyond the sale of the water and even the water increase, she would like to see if we can explore other ideas. She said she thinks there are some things that the Town of Ramapo presented in that meeting that we should hear. She doesn't necessarily see if we need to align to but there might be some other creative ways to really solve or resolve this problem beyond a rate increase. And although some of us can afford or can't afford to do that, ultimately she thinks it is about being smart about making this decision collectively. She thanked the Mayor and Board for this forum and thanked a lot of familiar faces who showed up here to support this as well.

The Mayor said to please keep in mind. He knows that everybody is saying great, for not doing it. He said we are not proposing anything with United Water at this time. The deal is off. We are not even looking at it. He said he just wants to reassure everybody.

Al D'Ambrosio of 4 Cross Street said that just an observation that he thinks we all know by now that we are probably going into a recession which means we have to take care of our resources and our monies to prevent ourselves from spending in one area and then suddenly not having the money for the other.

Doug Lawrence of 10 Washington Circle said that he has been in Suffern since about 1997 and has owned the property there on 10 Washington Circle since about 1999. He said that you might know that 10 Washington Circle sits right on the Mahwah River, right above the river there, and he gets a unique perspective on Suffern because he runs somewhere between 3 and 6 miles, but he runs somewhere between 3 and 6 miles through it every morning. And every morning the snow isn't flying, he gets on his bike and rides down by Veterans Park and rides along the Mahwah River. He said that now, twice in the last ten years, he has seen that river go dry. He said that breaks his heart because as he told them last year at the swimming pool, he is a catch and release fisherman and he has taken large mouth bass, and croppy and trout out of the Mahwah and he took the most beautiful small mouth bass that you have ever seen in your life out of the Ramapo. And he put him back. So last week in the discussion the point was made that these are Village assets and that the Village is free to use its assets for the purpose it needs including converting those assets to cash to use for cash purposes and he appreciates that analysis because that is a straight economic analysis that he can understand and deal with. But here is the problem. If we take the resource and we convert it to cash, we will always find good reason to spend the cash and ten years from now, both the cash and the resource will be gone. He said you have said that you are not going to sell and he trusts them and he takes them to their word for it. The only thing he would ask is that if the point ever comes up again, he would like to get a letter in his mail saying that we are going to consider this at a city council meeting on such and such date so he can come back and make the same arguments to them.

Trustee Abato said that she just wanted to say that she thinks that is a really great idea when it comes to such important issues as our resources and important decisions like this that she is so glad to see so many people come out to defend their resources tonight and the sale of them. And she would like to ask the Mayor that we absolutely, 100%, and she hopes it will never come up again, but if it does come up again, we have to look at everything that is presented to us, we have that responsibility, but she too would like to ask the Mayor that we, by mail, as people don't have computers in their homes and some people don't get the newspaper, that we do get a letter to each one of the Suffern homes to let them know about our meeting.

Michael Curley said that he appreciates the gentleman's comments but where he disagrees with him is that if you go and look at the Ramapo River right now, you will see that it is probably overflowing versus being dry. So your comment doesn't apply, number one. Number two, this sale was always set up to cover Suffern that if we get to that point, the shut off switch goes down and we make that choice. So if the water wasn't there or even was close where it was kind of not there, he wouldn't be talking here today. He said it is an asset. And it is an economic thought. Because it is economics when people have to pay their bill and they can't afford it. And he looks at that from that perspective. And if he thought,

and he has not heard one person yet at the town meeting or at this meeting, say that we cannot do it. We don't have the ability and we don't have the resource that replenishes itself. If you told him that we were starting out with ten gallons and we only had a gallon a day for the next ten days - you are not. That asset keeps replenishing itself. And no one has ever told him that it doesn't. He said that they heard, and not to insult anyone, but you heard Chris St. Lawrence talk about bringing all the sludge, all the sludge from other counties into Ramapo. Mr. Curley said that he doesn't want Ramapo to be known as the sludge capital of the state or the world. There are other topics there that you had to listen to also about trucks driving on the road with sludge. Driving on the roads with your children that you drive on also. There were more issues there than just this water. But he stands - if someone had come up one - not one person told him that we are going to have a problem with our water. We are not going to have enough. Our asset is going to go dry. No one has said it at that meeting or this meeting. And until he hears those words he stands by it and he will do a referendum.

Someone said something from the audience - could not be heard. Mr. Curley responded that if those wells got contaminated then Suffern would probably have to go to United Water for help to get water.

Trustee Haggerty said that he thinks that Laura Plessner made an excellent point that it is a resource and we are blessed with it but there are no guarantees that it is going to last forever. Far from it. As a matter of fact, on February 14, there was an article in *The Journal News* about two of the largest reservoirs, man-made reservoirs, would go dry by 2021. Water could be drained from two of the nation's largest man-made reservoirs within 13 years. Some of them are even predicting that it could be sooner than that. He said that he knows that we have been told and we have information from our engineers that we don't have to worry about our water. But he thinks we do. He said that he is not sure that it is going to last forever. And he was opposed to selling the water right from the beginning as was Mrs. Abato for just that reason. In the event that there was a problem of a breakdown somewhere and people throughout the county needed some water help, he is sure that we would look into it again. But not to give it to somebody else so they can build more houses, more huge buildings, because he thinks someday that we are going to be glad that we didn't.

The Mayor said that we are going to close this public informational hearing right now. He said that we are going too long on this thing. He said that basically it is a dead issue. We are not even considering United Water. We got some good points both ways and we appreciate the comments with this and it seems that most of the consensus in this room tonight was against any kind of water deal. The Mayor said we are here to listen to you and that is why we had this open meeting tonight.

Sophia Salis of Center Street said that she has been a resident of Suffern for the last year. And a point of pride to see so many

passionate and interested neighbors. She said she thanks the Board for the decision. She said she thinks it is the right decision. She said her question is that towards the end of last year we found that one of our four wells was contaminated by sodium chloride and she was wondering what the Village is doing to track the possible spread of the contamination. She said that she knows around that time she was also trying to read into what *The Journal News* was saying that the Village of Suffern was looking for new sources for water.

The Mayor said that he would explain that. He said that one of our wells does have a fairly high content of chloride in it. And a high enough content that you wouldn't even notice it if you drank it but the Department of Health has advised us not to use that well unless we blend that water with another well. So we can open that well and blend it with fresher water and we are hoping that that goes away. As far as that one well contaminating the others, he is told by our engineers that each well is its own well. In other words, if you had a bunch of wells going down the street, if your neighbor's well had a problem most likely two houses away, you wouldn't have the same problem. Again, this is what he is told by our engineers. They are the experts. So, there is no real way to get salt out of water other than blending it or putting in a mini-desalination plant which would be millions of dollars. And we have no plans of anything of that nature. We are hoping that well clears up and we are still researching why this happened. We believe that particular well is under the two Thruway ramps and right near 17 and believe that it is probably because those ramps have been oversalted over the years because they are ramps and ramps freeze quicker than regular ground. And we have had meetings with the Thruway and the Department of Health and many of our officials in the county on that. We are still having meetings. And right now nobody is owning up to where the salt came from. We do know that the Thruway has agreed to cut their salt in putting it down on our roads. They are not, supposedly, and this is what they are telling us, they are not putting as much chloride down on the roads in the winter and we in Suffern are doing the same thing. Of course, we want everybody to be safe but we are not going to over chlorinate the roads because this is what goes into the river and in turn the river is where our wells feed off. We don't believe that anything we do in this Village would contaminate our wells because any kind of run-off would go into the Ramapo River in Mahwah and go downstream and Mahwah may have a problem. He doesn't know. Our problem, we believe again, is coming from north of us. And there is a 16 mile stretch between here and Harriman that the Ramapo River runs along and for years, and years and years of salting those roads during the winter, that water runs into the Ramapo which again feeds our wells and we believe that is why one of the wells has the problem. But of all the wells in that field, there are 12 or 13 wells, ours, Ramapo's and United Water's, we only have one well that has a problem so that is why we are all scratching our heads. But we can use the well if we blend it with cleaner water. The Mayor said that right now we don't need to because we can put out 5 million gallons a day and we are using 1.5. He said he hopes that answers the

question. And Sophia is on RCR radio every morning with Steve and he hopes everyone tunes in in the mornings. And we are glad to have her here this evening.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

The Mayor said there is nobody here from the Building Department and there is no report.

He said that we have Good Samaritan Hospital's request for a temporary Certificate of Occupancy. Attorney Rice said that as you know, you have renewed this a number of times. He said he didn't know if the Board had any questions, but Mr. Quinn, who is the attorney for the hospital, is here in case you have any questions for him. The Mayor said we would just like to know their progress. He said he knows we talked about as soon as the macadam plants are open, you are going to start working on that as well as, he thinks, the sidewalk. And we would like to see those entrances out on 59 worked on as soon as possible. Get that traffic off of Campbell Avenue.

Brian Quinn of Montalbano, Condon and Frank, 67 N. Main Street, New City, New York said that they are acting as the attorneys for Good Samaritan. Also Tom Vanderbeek here who is the engineer of Greater Hudson Valley, Suffern, and also we have Joe Cassidy from the hospital as well. Mr. Quinn said that as he understands it, he spoke to Mr. Vanderbeek this afternoon. The permit has already been approved on the local level. It has now been transferred, the application, up to Poughkeepsie. They are just waiting for the permit to be released. Mr. Cassidy has lined up the contractors. They want to get to work as soon as that permit is released. They anticipate that the asphalt plants will be opening up at the end of this month, beginning of April and they want to get to work right away on it and proceed.

Trustee Abato said that she had two questions. She said that we had a July 1 - which would run into the deadline that they agreed to of July 1, she believes. Mr. Quinn said he reviewed the minutes from the September meeting and he believes it was agreed that the outside date was July 1, 2009 in the resolution. Trustee Abato said she believes it was 08. Attorney Rice said he was thought it was 08 also. Trustee Abato said she was sure it was 08. Mr. Vanderbeek said that while Mr. Quinn is looking at that, they anticipate that the permit will be issued from Poughkeepsie within a couple of weeks, at the same time that the plants are getting ready to open. They anticipate that both the entrances and the sidewalk from the bus stop up to Campbell will be done by July of which ever year. Trustee Abato said okay, she just wanted to make sure of that. And the other thing, and she guesses it would be directed towards Mr. Cassidy. She said she put a call into his office and they had spoken and she thought they had ironed out the problems that we had with the firemen's physicals and she knows that that is continuing. So she is just hoping that we can work a little bit closer together with our Chief and with Virginia to get that ironed out. The

firemen are telling us that they don't want to come there anymore because they are being given such a rough time. Trustee Abato asked if we ironed that out. She said if we can make the process just a little smoother for them because they are volunteers, obviously, and they give so much of their time already and then they go up there and she doesn't want to see them getting hung up. She said that if we can get his assurance that we are going to have that worked out, she would appreciate that.

Mr. Quinn said he is reading from the minutes of the September meeting that were provided to them, that were faxed to them by the Village, and if he can just kind of jump into that one issue because it came at the tail end. He said he wasn't present at that meeting. Mr. Montalbano of his office was. But can we instead say it is no later than July 1. Attorney Rice said that frankly choosing a particular date is better. Trustee Abato asked if that was agreeable. Trustee LaCorte said that July 1, 2009. Trustee Abato said no later than that for one year from the Certificate of Occupancy or whichever is earlier. Trustee Abato said she thought it was 08. She said she doesn't remember it and so does everyone else's recollection. Mr. Quinn said he would be happy to provide this again. He wasn't present. Trustee Abato said she doesn't think it is going to be an issue now because you are telling her that it is going to be done by July anyway, or at least started by July. Mr. Vanderbeek said that is correct. And it will be from the northern part of it and he believes this will apply to the continuation of the sidewalk down Hillside. Trustee Abato said that's fine as long as we know that it is not going to be an issue. She said she doesn't think we need to go back and look through and listen or whatever. She said she thinks we are okay. Mr. Quinn said this is related to the sidewalk issue. Trustee Abato said correct.

Trustee LaCorte said that one other item. In their letter to us, we talked about the other issue that we had to deal with which was the hospital zone. And in their letter they suggested that we got proposals for the hospital zone and you are going to work with a planner. So we would like also, he guesses upon conditioned upon this, and he guesses - Terry, we got two proposals with a planner to work with them in terms of coming up with a hospital zone - and it would be to deposit and he presumes \$5000 in an escrow account so that we can engage a planner and start working on the hospital zone. Mr. Quinn asked if the Village had decided who they wanted to retain. Attorney Rice said yes, we got a proposal from John Lange from Frederick P. Clarke Associates. Attorney Rice said that Mr. Geneslaw, who is our normal planner, is extremely busy so while he does the regular Planning Board items for special projects such as this, the Village is going to be using Mr. Lange for this. So, he thinks, number one we need a motion setting the escrow for review and formulation of the hospital district zone amendment at \$5000 and the second resolution authorizing Frederick P. Clarke Associates and John Lange in particular to work on that proposal. Trustee LaCorte said the proposal has already been submitted to the Village. Attorney Rice said that it was a typical proposal on an hourly basis depending on the work. Trustee Abato said but not to

exceed \$5000. Attorney Rice said that they will refurbish. If it goes over \$5000, then the hospital will be required to refurbish the escrow account.

A motion that an escrow of \$5000 be deposited was made by Trustee LaCorte, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Attorney Rice said then you want a separate motion to enter into an agreement with John Lange. He said that this is an agreement that he provided so that if you do have other projects that you assign to him, this agreement will cover that as well but you make a decision on an individual project by project basis. A motion to enter an agreement was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

A motion to extend temporary Certificate of Occupancy for a period of 90 days subject to the same conditions and restrictions as the first and subsequent extensions was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Quinn said that check should be made to the Village of Suffern, correct. Attorney Rice said yes.

Somebody from the audience asked about speaking. Attorney Rice said this was not a public hearing item. Trustee Abato said this is a continuation of an existing certificate. She said that at the public participation portion, he could come up.

The Mayor asked if we could have a motion for the Fire Inspector to attend a two day course on fire inspection at the Rockland County Fire Training Center at a cost of \$200 on May 7-8, 2008. 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

CULTURE & RECREATION:

A) Update:

Mrs. Gail Curtin said since the last Village Board meeting, two DARE dances were held - one on Friday, February 15 and one on Friday, March 7. And as the Chief and she just mentioned, this past Friday was a record number of students in the Community Center. So she said thanks to the Police Department, that continues to be a very successful program. Also, as the Board knows, we have been encouraged to work more closely with the merchants downtown and in that regard the staff members - Elaine and Lou actually from the Recreation office - were present at the Community Center on February 21 with our 2nd through 5th graders when a gentleman from Pet Guy Central visited the center with lots of their little friends. It was very well received by the children and Elaine and Lou got through it okay. So that was a great thing. The Senior Movie Afternoon was held on February 28. Upcoming this weekend, we have the Egg Hunt and Breakfast with the Bunny - again that is Saturday, March 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and that is a rain or shine event - hopefully it is outside at Avon Park Gazebo. Either way, the breakfast is inside at the Community Center.

With the Board's permission, the Recreation Board has sponsored an entertainment for Wednesday, March 19, Suffern Senior Citizen Club meeting and that entertainment will be presented by the Music Makers. The Seniors will also have their next movie afternoon on Thursday, March 27. Mrs. Curtin said she would like to ask the Board to remove the LEAD date from the update that she gave them at the workshop.

(At this point to the end of the tape, there is nothing on it but a loud buzz.)

Mrs. Curtin said that she was in the process of receiving applications for the 2008 lifeguard staff. She also thanked the Rockland County Clerk's office for holding another passport application night at Suffern Village Hall.

On April 5, there will be an Eagle Court of Honor which the Mayor and she will attend. Eagle Scout Jameson Parker painted 290 Maltese Crosses throughout the Village.

On April 19, Keep Rockland Beautiful will hold a clean up in the Village. May 20 will be the annual blood drive sponsored by the Lions Club. And also on page 18 of the Rockland magazine, there are two items mentioned about Suffern - one is the egg hunt and the other is the Pearl Harbor Survivors article.

The Mayor said that Eagle Scout Jameson Parker painted 290 Maltese Crosses throughout the Village which designates where a fire hydrant is.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Supervisor Dan Haglund said that Chestnut Street will be closed March 18 through March 21 while reconstruction of the railroad tracks takes place. He said that letters have been sent out to the

police, fire department, schools, ambulance corps and the Rockland County bus company letting them know about the closure.

Mr. Haglund said road construction is ongoing. WJL is working on Stockbridge Avenue, then to Burlington, to Chelsea and then to Yorkshire. He apologized for the inconvenience. Letters have been sent out to all residents.

Mr. Haglund said he has been in contact with Riddick Associates regarding the crosswalks. He has also called NYSDOT to find out how far Carl Rossi got with the project. He is waiting to hear back from them. The crosswalks will be stamped concrete. Dennis Lindsay of Riddick Engineers gave a proposal on how much the fee will be.

The doors at the Community Center will be replaced on Wednesday or Thursday. As residents have noticed, Lewis Tree Service has been taking down trees throughout the Village.

And, finally, Mr. Haglund is requesting the Mayor to appoint Stephen Ruther to permanent Title of Assistant Operator, Grade IIB in the Water Plant. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

(The following minutes are from the tape, which is a new one and now working.)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Mayor said that anybody who would like to speak can come up now. He asked that they please state their name and address for the record.

Dave Columbia of 17 Lexington Avenue said that the reason he was here was actually Good Samaritan Hospital. He said he listens to the Board every month. Every meeting that you have, he actually listens a lot of times. He said he is in the building business. He said he knows they had a temporary C.O. given to them under the conditions that they needed to do the work - the sidewalks and everything else. And when he was listening last week, he heard there was going to be a revamp of the Village of Suffern. That we were going to spend money to revamp it. And his main concern is that the first thing that you see coming into Suffern is Good Samaritan Hospital and he knows that the Building Department wasn't here. He said that he knows when you have a temporary C.O. you need to reinstate a permit every year - year after year after year. So he thinks that maybe Good Samaritan mis-spoke that you okayed that it would be the year 2009, which is an impossibility because they would have to reissue a permit. Trustee Abato said that maybe he misunderstood her. That was for the sidewalk completion that we were talking about. Mr. Columbia said in 2009. Trustee Abato said that it is going to be done in 2008. She doesn't know why he had 2009. Mr. Columbia said he was just trying to help them out. Trustee Abato said she appreciates that. She thinks that was an

error. But what we were talking about is that she agrees with him that it is the first thing that you see when you come into Suffern and one of the things that she had. Mr. Columbia said that if you have a temporary C.O. on a permit, you have to renew it every year and they would know that. Trustee Abato said it is not the permit. She said it has to be 90 days. We are only issuing 90 days at a time. But they only have that long to complete the sidewalks. Mr. Columbia said his concern was the sidewalks. Because he sees already that the bus stop was already taken out once and there are a lot of people that work at Good Sam that do have to take the bus and there is nothing to protect them. But not only that, he is tired of looking at the barriers, he is tired of looking at the dead trees and it has nothing to do with sidewalks. Trustee Abato said the Board agrees with that and that is why they were so persistent about putting a date on when they have to start those sidewalks. It wasn't just when you get to it. We wanted a specific date so that was completed. So they have now just assured us that it will be July.

Mr. Columbia said that the other concern he has, and like he said, he watches every week. He said he was very annoyed last week. He said he knows the Mayor - the ex-Mayor here - the Mayor here he doesn't really know well. The other Mayor is his neighbor. And he said that what really upset him is that an adult can take of an adult. But a child can't take care of a child. He said we are worried about the water for the future. But other people who watch this on tv - he does. He happened to be watching with his granddaughter. And he said that Trustee Abato wasn't at the meeting and he felt bad. There is no reason for any of us ever to bring our children into a conversation when we are adults. We are adults that represent the community - you're on television. You're a Mayor, he's an ex-Mayor. He said he was appalled that that young man over there had to speak up for himself for a job in the summer that he earned. And he was appalled that the other Mayor's son wasn't here to represent himself as a police officer in Suffern which he understands he does a very good job. And that is the only reason why he is here. He is a quiet guy. He minds his own business. But when it comes to the children and what took place here last month is absolutely appalling. And when Mr. Curley went to speak, he has his right to speak, this is a public hearing. We may not agree with each other. It is what it is. Let the man speak. Let him be heard. And he personally, don't interrupt anyone when they are up here. The Mayor said we didn't stop anyone. Mr. Columbia said but you did sir. You did tonight. You did it to the other Mayor. You had your little tift. He had his little tift. Mr. Columbia said he is absolutely tired of watching but he is going to watch it. But he is tired of the little tifts here and here between both of you. You're an adult. And he knows he is an adult. He met him a couple of times. Ignore him. We have the right to come up here and speak. His old man buddy Jack isn't here. Is he okay? He's not sick or anything. Trustee Abato said he was here. Mr. Columbia said he didn't see him tonight. He said let them speak. But that's why you were hired. Let us speak. If you don't like what we have to say - unfortunately the ex-Mayor - ignore him. The Mayor said we let

everybody speak. Mr. Columbia said he understands that. But you shouldn't interrupt with the sarcasm - like go fishing, you have a nice lake. He said we don't need that. And to Trustee Abato, he apologizes to what some people had to say last week. It's appalling. These are your children. God Bless your children and God Bless everybody else's children.

VILLAGE CLERK:

A) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting - February 11, 2008:

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said she would like approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting of February 11, 2008. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee LaCorte, seconded by Trustee Haggerty. Upon vote, the motion was carried with Trustee Meehan and Trustee Abato abstaining.

B) Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting - February 21, 2008:

A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

C & D) Special Permit - Cara Rosenbloom - Artist Loft #3, Sandra Messunger - Artist Loft # 1 & 2:

The Village Clerk said we have three requests for permits. This is on the artists district downtown. And each year they have to come back and request for the permit again. John Loniewski was supposed to check on it and come back with a favorable report. Attorney Rice asked if we had the report. The Village Clerk said he said they were okay. Trustee LaCorte asked if these were renewals. Trustee Abato said yes, they are renewals and we have had no problems in the past with them. A motion renewing the special permits subject to the same restrictions and conditions as the original permit and also subject to receiving a letter from the Code Enforcement Officer that they are in compliance was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

E) Set Date for Budget Public Hearing - April 7, 2008 - 8:00 p.m.

A motion to set the date for the budget public hearing on April 7, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

F) Return of Bids for Surplus Vehicles:

Virginia Menschner said that we advertised for bids for our surplus equipment and they came in as: 1999 Blazer - \$2788.99 by Liberty Motors; 1998 Station Wagon - Terry Dunnigan for \$1,120; the 1988 Trailer Mounted Sewer Cleaning Machine - \$3505 by Mr. Septic LLC; and the 1990 GMC 2500 Pick Up Truck - \$601.99 to Liberty Motors. A motion accepting the bids was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by

Trustee LaCorte.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Village Clerk said we have one other thing. Mr. Haglund brought up the request for Riddick to do our crosswalks for \$8600. A motion authorizing Riddick Engineering to do our crosswalks was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee LaCorte.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

TREASURER:

Treasurer Tom Zordan said that as he said at the workshop, he didn't have a report this month. He was a little busy on the budget and some other things. But he did give everyone a copy of the budget as it stands at the workshop. So the Mayor and he had gone over the budget a bit today and they plan on meeting with Department Heads this week. If the Board has any comments or any questions, just give him a call and let him know and as soon as they are done meeting with the Department Heads, he will give them a revised budget.

Trustee Haggerty said he had one thing. He said he would like to commend Colleen, one of our dispatcher's, for taking it upon herself to come in to help out on the blackout to help answer the phones, which was needed, and he thinks it was very good and terrific.

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

