

**Special Village Board Meeting
Monday, March 21, 2011**

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

PRESENT: Mayor Dagan LaCorte
Trustee Bruce Simon, Trustee Patricia Abato
Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan

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

ABSENT: None

Mayor LaCorte welcomed everybody to the 2011/2012 budget hearing. This is our public hearing prior to the adoption of our 2011/2012 budget. As we instituted last year, we changed the procedure a bit to enable the public to have a more substantial roll in the process. The Mayor said we posted online several months ago a timeline which set forth the steps involved in the passing of the budget from the initial stage of worksheets going to the various department heads to a review of the budget by the Mayor with the department heads, and then presented to the Village Board of Trustees in a period of time which they had the opportunity to meet with the department heads themselves to have input in the budgeting process and then at that point the budget was posted online and we have the hearing now, - it has been online for several weeks - so we can hear input from the public and then those comments can be reflected in the budget in which we will have a final adoption or a final vote on April 4.

The Mayor said he wanted to give a shout out to his three close personal friends - Ryan, Carey and Matt - three of Suffern High School's finest students who will be attending next year St. John's, Oneonta and R.C.C. The Mayor wished them all the best. And he is honored to have them here tonight to show their interest completely voluntarily and not based on the requirement for class to be here and spend a Monday evening learning about what goes on in the Village of Suffern. The Mayor thanked them and said he looked forward to continuing their conversation on how government functions in today's day and age.

The Mayor said that prior to the budget hearing, we have several brief items on the agenda so he believes it would be worthwhile to go through those first and then to open it up to the public for comments on the budget.

Authorization to Advertise for Concession Stand - Bids to Be Returned April 1, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.:

The Mayor said first is authorization to advertise for the concession stand. As everybody knows by now, thanks to Gail and the recreation department and the Board for supporting the idea to open the pool early this year. We will be opening the pool Memorial Day

weekend. The pool will be open for weekends only until towards the end of June at which point we will go to our regular schedule. But essentially we are getting a full month extra out of the pool. Also, Memorial Day weekend we are having a movie on the ballfields outdoors so we are calling it a little staycation. So you can come, stay in town, use the pool, go to a movie and really have a great time here in the Village of Suffern. So in order to get that going what we need to do is get the bid on the concession stand out a bit early this year since the pool will be opening up. A motion authorizing advertising for bids for the concession stand was made by Trustee Simon, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. The Mayor said bids to be returned April 1, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

A) Requesting Authorization to Purchase a New Primary Sludge Recycle Pump for the WWTP:

Mr. Charles Sawicki said he was requesting authorization to purchase a new primary sludge recycle pump for the WWTP (WEMCO Model C Pump) from the low bidder, Dave Heiner Associates, Inc. of Parsippany, New Jersey, in the amount of \$19,500. These are budgeted funds. Mr. Sawicki said this was publicly bid and he is the low bidder. A motion authorizing the purchase was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte
Trustee Bruce Simon, Trustee Patricia Abato
Trustee Jo-Meegan Corrigan, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

B) Resolution No. 6, 2011 - Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000:

Mr. Sawicki said that Rockland County has developed a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan to identify hazards that threaten the county and ways to reduce future damages associated with these hazards.

VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
RESOLUTION NO. 6, 2011

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 200) (P.L. 106-390) provides an opportunity for States, Tribes, and local governments to take a new and revitalized approach to mitigation planning; and

WHEREAS, DMA 2000 amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Act) by repealing the previous Mitigation Planning section and emphasizes the need for State, Tribal, and local entities to closely coordinate mitigation planning and implementation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Suffern, in partnership with the County of Rockland and with the assistance of U.R.S. Corporation, has gathered information and prepared the Rockland County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Rockland County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Suffern has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input in the Plan and action in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Suffern has reviewed the Plan and affirms that section pertaining to the Village will be updated no less than every five years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Suffern adopts the Rockland County Multi-Jurisdictional hazard Mitigation Plan as this jurisdiction's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to executive the actions in the Plan.

A motion approving Resolution No. 6, 2011 was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Simon. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

The Mayor said he has one item on his agenda. The Mayor said everybody got this in their packet today. There is a lawsuit which is an administrative proceeding going on against Orange and Rockland opposing their rate increase. There is an attorney, Mr. Dan Duthie, who is representing various municipalities in this lawsuit. He contacted the Village and spoke to Terry Rice about us joining the lawsuit. The cost to the Village, in terms of attorney's fees, would not exceed \$1500.

Attorney Rice said that he spoke to him today. There are quite a few municipalities involved in it and at this point he thinks from the materials you have he lists quite a few of them - Chester, Goshen, Haverstraw, Highland Falls, Monroe, Tuxedo, Warwick, Waywayanda, villages of Chester, Florida, Haverstraw, Highland Falls, Monroe, Warwick, West Haverstraw, also the cities of Middletown and Port Jervis. And the Town of Ramapo has separately intervened in the administrative proceeding. It is a proceeding before the Public Service Commission contesting Orange and Rockland's request for a rate increase. And speaking to him, it is more than just a consideration of the public at large who are going to be affected by the rate increase. But it is the municipalities as well. Of course, the Village, like all municipalities, is a big user of utilities and the rate increase that O & R is seeking, in addition to a residential increase of 23.4%, commercial increase is sought for 19.5%, large commercial and industrial 18.8% and what also affects you very much is street lighting which is seeking an increase of 38.8%. So it has the potential of affecting the Village of Suffern in particular in addition to the rate payers generally. The administration proceeding has been going on. They have offered testimony in opposition to the application. They have a meeting

tomorrow with the staff of the Public Service Commission and they are putting in additional briefs and testimony subsequently. There are a lot of municipalities involved. They have a whole structure with the rates and so forth but Attorney Rice said he believes that the \$1500, which is a relatively small amount, certainly will be expended by the time the matter is concluded because it is a very involved technical matter as you can see from the scope of services and the type of services they will provide with respect to the application. A motion to retain Daniel P. Duthie to represent the Village of Suffern, along with other municipalities in the municipal consortium opposing Orange and Rockland's rate increase with the amount of attorney's fees and expenses not to exceed \$1500 was made by Trustee Bruce Simon, seconded by Trustee Patricia Abato.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte
Trustee Bruce Simon, Trustee Patricia Abato
Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Trustee John Meehan who said he was really interested to hear the list, the roster, for the villages because he provides consulting services to about five or seven of those who got it right and he certainly votes yes.

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Trustee Simon said that we have been, as we have talked about repeatedly, we have been talking about putting these meetings online forever. It seems that even longer than he has been coming here that people have been talking about putting the video online for folks that can't come here or folks who don't have Cablevision to be able to see them. We bought some equipment. We have been testing it for the past two weeks. We believe we have come up with a solution, so effective with the April Village Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings they will be, as well as being on Cablevision, they will be posted online probably within a day or two of each meeting and the video will be there for the people to watch at their own leisure, at their own pace. You don't have to be home on a Monday night to watch it on Cablevision. That is not a knock to our friends at Cablevision. He doesn't want anybody to take that the wrong way. But this way anytime you want to watch the meeting if you can't come it will be there for you. The Mayor said he wanted to thank Bruce for all his hard work in getting this done. We had hoped to get it up tonight but that is fine. It will be the April meeting and that is a great thing. For example, Ryan, Terry and Matt were saying to him earlier that being forced to only watch it on Cablevision kind of limits it and if you are on the go or somewhere else. This way wherever you are. If you are on vacation, if you are overseas, you can just log on to www.suffernvillage.com to watch the meeting. Come April we are ready to go.

Trustee Meehan said the question he had was he had gotten an e-mail and you might have been familiar with that. His only question is that he thinks it is proper from this meeting and our Board meeting to have Elaine here. But it would seem to him that at the ZBA and

Planning Board meetings will Elaine be at those meetings? How is that going to work. Trustee Meehan said he really doesn't see any need - it would seem to him - excuse me, when you are finished he said he would speak. The Mayor said go ahead. Trustee Meehan said he remained silent while he was speaking and he just wanted the same courtesy. Anyway, there had been previous proposals - paying someone to videotape these meetings. Trustee Meehan said he thinks it is proper for us to do that for the Board meetings that we have and he thinks also when there is an important Planning Board meeting when there is an important Zoning Board of Appeals meeting that it should be - that we should have Elaine or one of our other Village employees film that meeting. But for the other meetings, for the most part, it is, although it is a good idea, it is a duplication of service. He said he thinks it is great to have a camera there and he thinks these cameras are pretty easy to operate and he thinks that the clerks that are assigned to the Planning Board and Zoning Board should be able to operate those so that we don't - Trustee Meehan said his objection to this when it was brought up a year or so ago was paying someone quite a bit of money for duplication - which amounts to a duplication of services and frankly, though the Planning Board may have interest to a wide variety of people in the Village, the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings are very, very narrow interest. Usually a Zoning Board of Appeals motion will involve someone like putting a porch, like he did, putting an extension on the house. And you have to notify anyone within 500 feet. But it would really only affect the guy next door. So there is not a lot of broad community interest. So he would be for this but he doesn't want to see a great deal of money spent on it. He said he doesn't think we have to spend any more than we have now. That are his comments.

Trustee Simon asked Trustee Meehan if he would allow him to address that. Trustee Meehan said sure. Trustee Simon said he is not sure where the duplication of services comes from. He said he can tell him that right now the plan is not to incur any other expense. That for those for the Planning and Zoning Board meetings, the camera is going to be turned on at the beginning of the meeting and turned off at the end of the meeting. We are not going to have somebody manning the camera. One other option under consideration, and nothing has been finalized yet, is that we reach out to our friends at Suffern High School, to the folks in the A.V. squad, maybe a young man or a young woman looking to get a little practical experience or a little possible credit towards completing their work, and maybe they wouldn't mind doing it. Because we have been talking about maybe two or three hours a month. We are not talking about long nights or long hours or anything like that. But in terms of extra expense or duplication of services - none that he can see. And as a matter of fact when the Mayor and he and some other folks started going through this, they were looking at a potential thousand to several thousand dollar expense incurred in kind of ramping this up. The system that we have in place now was roughly \$160. So he kind of feels confident that we have kept the cost down, that we kept the money down. We have done everything that we could short of inviting everybody in the Village to come here and sit here and being here full-time to make this accessible to them at the lowest possible

point.

Trustee Meehan said okay. From what Trustee Simon is describing, Trustee Meehan is 100% for it. And when he says duplication of services the services duplicating is that we have a clerk recording the minutes of the meeting and then we also have it - that's a duplication. But he thinks it is a great idea from what he is describing. What was described to him before was a little bit of a boondoggle. What Trustee Simon is describing to him now is something that he 100% supports. Trustee Simon said there is one other thing that he wants to address. When you were talking before about the need to record these meetings or the need to have them online. He said he can't speak for anybody else on this Board or anybody in this auditorium except to say that he doesn't think it is up to him to decide what's important or what's not. It is all important otherwise we wouldn't be here. That is why he thinks all of these meetings ought to be online. Trustee Meehan said the fact of the matter is that all these meetings are public records. And he thinks it is great if we can put them online for a reasonable price and if the reasonable price is like zero then why not do it. He said he doesn't think there is a tremendous amount of interest in the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings. He said he can tell him that he was at a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting here when there were 200 people and in that instance he doesn't want Lynne doing the camera. He wants a special person to do that. And sometimes the Planning Board will attract a cast of thousands. But for the most part Zoning Board of Appeals meetings are like watching paint dry very frankly. They are very important to the person. They are very important to the neighborhood. But to the general public no. Trustee Simon said he is sure Mrs. Corrigan feels very proud having been the former chair of the ZBA. That watching her meetings is like watching paint dry. Trustee Meehan said before she became chairman it was. Trustee Corrigan said of course.

The Mayor said thank you. He said we are moving forward on that and he thinks it is a positive. Also in addition, just so everybody knows, since this administration came on board, they have instituted a messaging system so now people can go on suffernvillage.com and sign up for important messages via e-mail and/or text. In addition, you are able to pay your taxes online. We are looking into paying your water and sewer bills online. And now all the agendas are online, all the minutes are online. Now we will have video of all the meetings. So we really have ramped up our efforts to expand our presence on the web and he thinks it is a very good thing.

7:00 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - 2011-2012 BUDGET:

The Mayor said that if anybody had any questions to please come up to the podium and they can address the Board. Most of the department heads are here as well as our treasurer.

Mel Berkowitz of 52 Milford Lane said he wasn't sure, since it is his first meeting for the budget, that it was handled this way. He said he guesses he had a feeling living in other communities that the treasurer went over a few things that were quite important. To

him, salaries are important and perhaps pensions are important. The workers who work here, obviously, it is important what they do and obviously what we do is just come to a conclusion. It's all said and done. So obviously looking at this he was just trying to think of questions as we were talking about it. He said he doesn't know if it is all said and done except the fact that when you all vote on it then it is all said and done. So you guys sitting there from the school system you say how did this all happen. All of a sudden they work on it over a month or two, which is good, that is what they are supposed to do and then all of a sudden we vote on it. And there are about 50 pages here. Mr. Berkowitz said so we really don't know how its worked. He thought they were going to go through some of the pages. However, if we are not going to do that, let him just bring up a couple of issues that he thinks are important.

Mayor LaCorte said that unfortunately he doesn't know if he just walked into the room but that kind of, unfortunately to a certain degree, is a mischaracterization of what goes on. The budget - we really made an effort to open up the process to the community. We had a budget timeline, which has been posted which exactly sets forth every single step involved in the budget along with the dates at which that happened. The Mayor said he actually gave a little description of the timeline several minutes ago. In addition, the budget has been posted online. We are not voting on the budget tonight. Tonight is just the public hearing. What he will do is after the public comment, he will touch upon the budget. It represents a 2.3% increase in the general fund budget; 2.2% in the water fund and 2.02% in the sewer fund. But again, he wants to give opportunity for people to comment, answer the questions. Typically we have a number of people here. So they ask questions and we answer them. But after we give the public an opportunity, then we are going to talk about it a little bit ourselves up here if there are any questions, there is also an opportunity here. The Mayor said it is a very open process. We changed it. We actually use to vote on the budget the night of the public hearing. And to him it didn't make sense because you ask the public to come and comment. They make comments and even if they had great ideas, we would vote that same night. Because by law we are required to adopt the budget by a certain date. So what we have done is that we have moved the process up so that we can have this hearing and still have over several weeks by which we can still make adjustments to the budget. So realistically we are giving the public more input because their input can actually be reflected in the budget where as before it wasn't possible.

Treasurer Tom Zordan said the budget was posted online several weeks ago.

Mr. Berkowitz said that obviously this is all not a done deal. We might want to speak to people as we read things and hear things and obviously it is important to you guys and you are doing it correctly and we can ask questions all during it until you finalize everything. So a couple of questions that came up. There was an article in the paper and as he and someone else looks at the articles then you start thinking of questions. Some of it is after

the budget that is proposed or after the online. For instance, just a question or two or a comment. He said he knows that Mayor LaCorte said that a lot of money or some money would be coming from raising money from the Esther Gitlow expansion and 24 housing units on Route 202. Just briefly, since it is only a short statement, he would have to think that there are extra methods that we don't know about that would get extra money from Gitlow towers that are unknown to us. He would assume obviously that when they are building there are a lot of plans out there and they have to get everything okayed so maybe there is money involved with that. Just as someone puts up a sign in the Village of Suffern they have to hire somebody to do the sign work, etc., etc., So just a question. How will you obtain money on an ongoing basis from Gitlow? The Mayor said that (1) right now they are before the planning board so presumably they will be in a position where they will receive approval within the next several months. At that point they will come to the Village and they will apply for a building permit. Our building permits are typically 1% of the construction costs. So to be conservative, we budgeted \$80,000 to their building permit. Their building permit should be well over \$100,000. So right away that is money that will be budgeted. In addition, prior, this is not for this but going forward, Esther Gitlow is a tax exempt entity so they don't pay any taxes. They do pay water fees and they do pay sewer fees. So that is what we will get. That is not in this budget because again the main source of revenue will be in the building permit. Probably in next year's budget we will include money, once it's built, for sewer and water. On an ongoing basis, for the first time, since they do use a significant amount of our services, we were able to negotiate a life and safety fee which is a yearly payment per unit which will amount to a yearly payment to the Village of over \$30,000 a year. Mr. Berkowitz asked how much? The Mayor said over \$30,000 a year that we will get from them. In addition, they have a one time only money in lieu of recreation fee. The Mayor said he believes last time we negotiated \$3000 a unit. So that will be several hundred thousand dollars that will come. That is not in the budget. What is in the budget is the building permit. Mr. Berkowitz said okay, that makes sense. He said those are the clarifications that we really don't know. We might not know about it until we ask the question. He said that in the budget itself he recognizes almost everybody in the Village got a raise. Is he correct? Is there something that he is missing here? The Mayor said that actually everybody in the Village got a - mostly everybody got a raise except for the Village Board of Trustees and the Mayor. Mr. Berkowitz said he noticed that. How come? Just out of curiosity. The Mayor said how come? Mr. Berkowitz said yes. The Mayor said that overwhelmingly 90% of the employees in the Village or 95% are participants in union agreements - the PBA, which is the police union, the CSEA which covers our department of public works and most of the employees in Village hall in addition to our part-timers and the dispatcher's union. Outside of that, our department heads are not subject to the union and the only other people are our part-time police officers. The police raise, contractual raise, and the CSEA raise, which was 3%. The raises that were given to our department heads were lower than everybody else where we could make a decision in the proposed rates for them - 2 1/2%. So we believe that is fair - giving an increase

for the cost of living and we believe it was appropriate and not excessive.

Mr. Berkowitz said he had another question. Will all housing that is being developed downtown be subject to recreation fees or is there any - like you just mentioned one fee of course - Gitlow Towers will pay a one-time fee. So now all housing, all of the housing that we have been talking about and we read about that even hasn't been confirmed yet - will everybody be subject, continued subject to those type fees? Recreation fee? The Mayor said yes - the law states \$5000 a unit. On larger projects we have negotiated with developers based on if they provide recreation from some form or another. Mr. Berkowitz said that one of the promises made only ten minutes ago, and he realizes it is a matter of saving money but it was brought up so just bring it up again. And it was discussed. And several of you said it's all important, it is very important, to have people at meetings and it is very important for people to attend the meetings and he just attended, and he is talking about zoning and planning. He attended a meeting the other night and it happened to be a planning board meeting. And he was surprised that only - he doesn't know how many on the committee - but there were four people at the planning board meeting. And you are not allowed to ask questions which makes it correct and so here we are going to film people. So we are finally going to get to people who don't attend these meetings who are members of these committees so we should all know, and he guesses there is no secret that they all get paid. So he has a feeling that perhaps they shouldn't get paid if they don't attend the meetings. Yes, there are circumstances - someone is ill, someone has a family emergency but if there are ten or twelve meetings a year and they miss several, he thinks it ought to be discussed when they shouldn't get paid for these meetings even though it is not a lot of money. And that brings him to the next question. He actually asked one of the members who were sitting there because he - they were talking about a sign for somebody - and the person at the planning board meeting didn't even know where the sign was going to go, didn't know the address, didn't know the people involved. Mr. Berkowitz said that he thinks if you are on a planning or zoning committee, and this probably has not a lot to do with budgeting, but they should really in interest to the Village and themselves and the person who is asking for a sign go out to the community and see where the sign is going to be so they can vote properly when the time comes. That being said, once again he goes back to the question that why are we going to continue paying people who are either away on vacation or continue to be sick but obviously that is a problem and that is a separate issue. So he hopes at one time the Board could address these issues. Again it is not a lot of money. So the person said to him you know what, it is no big deal. And Mr. Berkowitz said he will find out who he is and he will ask him in person again out loud if it's no big deal, we all pay taxes, including him, that he shouldn't be on the board.

Al D'Ambrosio of 4 Cross Street said that he had two questions. He said he noticed on page A18 you have for fiscal year ending, etc., etc., general fund, street maintenance \$746,130.00. He said he is curious - will that be taking care of all the potholes all around

us that we constantly go over. Two, will that also take care of Cross Street, where he happens to live, which is an obscenity because you have a beautiful Mormon castle on one side and the basic people who have been there before that castle was built with their nice little cottages and houses on a street that is just torn up, has never been correctly paved and is still needing this help. He said he would like to have this addressed if that money is going to be used for that.

The Mayor said that we will look into it. He said we try to do our best to pave a number of roads each year based on the condition of the roads. And we will see. Unfortunately, funds are limited and we want to keep our budget under control and we are going to continue to pave roads each year and we try to do them again based on the condition of the road. So he will look into Cross Street and we will assess its condition and compare it to other roads and see where it falls. The Mayor said he promises him that we will do that.

Mr. D'Ambrosio said it just doesn't make sense when you consider that you have your fire department right on the corner there - they have to use the same road. And you have tons of cars that are dp'd. The correct definition is double parked who shouldn't be there. And yet neither street that is clear for these situations should have a high priority. This has been gone over in the past. So in a sense we are rehashing things. You have a fire department right there who has to use that street too. That is why he thinks - it is not something that if and when we can. It is a priority.

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

The Mayor said the budget public hearing is closed. The next step will be again if the public wants to further have input they can e-mail him or e-mail the treasurer. They can come in. They can make comments in writing. They can call up. Pick up copies of the budget. Again, we want to hear what everyone has to say but from his part he believes that this budget represents a pretty good effort on the part of the Village Board of Trustees and all of our department heads and the treasurer. We were faced with significant increases in our pension. The bill which we received from the state for our pension was up nearly 40%. The Mayor said he believes in itself that would have required an increase of about 4 or 5% alone to the general fund, to the budget. We are only seeking a 2.3% increase. In addition, increases in health care, other things and that's because we looked to increase revenue and we also have looked to create efficiencies through not hiring people through attrition, moving people around where possible, where we had duplication of services so that we could save money. In the sewer department, for example, a doubling of our debt service due to the fact that we are undergoing a major overhaul - three million dollar overhaul of the sewer plant. However, we were able to keep that increase in the wastewater treatment facility to 2%. That is due to the fact that we saved a lot of money in terms of shifting personnel around. We are bringing in for the first time ever a 4A top notch operator, the highest level operator. Where as before we were paying \$50,000 a

year for someone to work 8 hours a month. We now for only about 60 or 70% more than that we are able to have somebody here forty hours a week. So that is going to save us a significant amount of money. Also in changing personnel, and again he has to give a lot of credit to Charles Sawicki, superintendent of public works, in terms of not only the physical plant of the sewer plant but personnel wise by bringing in fresh people, getting a fresh perspective. We were spending a significant amount of money on sludge removal due to the fact that our digester cover was leaking and out of service so an employee came in. Charles and he identified a simple solution, a simple fix to the problem that had reduced our sludge removal costs from tens of thousands of dollars a year to zero. So again, we are looking at these things seriously, intelligently and we have been able to save money. In addition, our water plant - the budget there - our increase is a little over 2%. There we have some increase in customers. Efficiencies created there as well as the fact that we are paying off over \$120,000 a year in our long-term deficit, which he believes we are in our third year of that. Two more years after this year and we will be out of deficit and we will be able to pay off a significant amount of money to operate the plant and only increase the rate by 2%. We are kind of proud of it. So again, we can always do better but he thinks that in today's day and age with some increases that were mandated by the state that are outside of our control to have an increase that represents less than the increases put upon us he thinks shows that we really are taking things seriously and recognize that we are in tough economic times and that all Village of Suffern residents are facing a crushing burden and that we don't want to add to that but we want to be able to help them while still maintaining the level of service that the Village residents are accustomed to.

Trustee Meehan asked if we could have some discussion. He said he just wanted to bring up a couple of points. One is, and this was actually the last sentence in *The Journal News* story on the budget and in the revenue portion here. It says sales of equipment \$313,000. Now as soon as he got this budget he glanced through that and he spotted that number like that because this is probably the 40th or 50th budget he has looked at and the fact of the matter is it is a real misnomer. We are not selling equipment. And he doesn't know - maybe the Mayor or Tom could give us some background on that because basically what we are doing, he thinks, is we will be selling real property - the selling of improved real property. Not too well improved but real property and not equipment at all. There is nothing wrong with that specifically but he thinks that when he and Tom had a discussion of it he thinks that he said you had to find a number to put on it and he guesses the code didn't include any real property. If either Tom or the Mayor could address this \$313,000 he thinks it would help the public to understand this. Trustee Meehan said he is an experienced public official and when he looked at it it took him a while sitting down with Tom to really understand that \$313,000 and he thinks it would be in the public interest to explain it.

Mayor LaCorte said that as Trustee Meehan said we are looking to sell a piece of property that the Village owns. 120 Orange Avenue.

If you're concern again is how it is specified - the name of it in the budget - then again that's what we are here to talk about. You have had several weeks to go over the budget and is always here - Trustee Meehan said he spoke to Tom about it - and you could take the opportunity to shoot him an e-mail and say here are my suggestions. The Mayor said he didn't get any of that until this morning. But again we are still at a process where we have a number of weeks before the budget is finalized. We can call it sale of real property, right Tom? Is there any reason why we can't? Treasurer Tom Zordan said that on the detailed budget, he had to put this amount in. He didn't have an account called real property sales or whatever. So the budget that Trustee Meehan has and the Board has the detailed budget line item that said equipment. But on this budget here it says sale of property. If you want me to add the word real property to that, he can do that. It is not a problem. There was no intent to make people think we are selling our trucks or something and that is just a word. He can change it. It is not a problem. Trustee Meehan said please don't take it - you seem very edgy about this. The fact of the matter is it is a perfectly legitimate thing to do. We have the property. We actually purchased the property sort of on behalf of the Parking Authority because they can't purchase property and now we are going to be selling it back allegedly assuming to the developer. But he thought it would be helpful to the public - there are hopefully people who are going to tune in online or tune in on television and they should know what this \$313,000 is about. And there is also, he will point out, the projection of receiving \$175,000 from the sewer district. And he thinks that we all agreed that you are talking about \$488,000 for those two and he would point out that both of those, unlike some of the very good savings that have been made, and one of the savings was taking Virginia and retiring her. The Mayor said excuse him - he can't - Trustee Meehan said it was in the newspaper. The Mayor said he understands. Treasurer Zordan said we didn't retire her. The Mayor said that somebody has chosen to retire. The Village Clerk said let's drop it. Trustee Meehan said okay. It is a public meeting. He thought it was an excellent - the Village Clerk said to drop it. Trustee Meehan said okay, he will drop it. But the thing that he points out is that it is \$488,000. That is not \$488,000 that is going to be here next year or the year after. That is \$488,000 that is only going to be here for the 11-12 budget and if it wasn't here we would be talking about maybe a much more normal type of increase - one similar to the one we had last year which means more like 5 or 6 or 7%. Treasurer Zordan said the \$175,000 was in this year's budget not next year's budget. Trustee Meehan said okay, we still haven't received it yet though. Attorney Rice said it is on the agenda for the sewer authority's meeting Thursday night. He spoke to their attorney today and we expect it to be approved. Trustee Meehan said let him point out. The \$313,000 is nearly 4% by itself of the budget. So that we would be looking at more like a 5 or a 6 if it wasn't for this one-time thing. The Mayor said okay, thank you.

Trustee Meehan said he had one question. When we had the meeting and we hired Mike Stark - the part-time code enforcer and the deputy fire chief - he had brought up the fact that we did have a full-time

code enforcer and that this was something that he certainly would like to see - to have a full-time code enforcer and you said that you agreed with me but there is no full-time code enforcer in the budget and he would like to know why. The Mayor said that right now having two code enforcers putting in the amount of time they are, and again, he doesn't know if Trustee Meehan has taken the opportunity to speak to anybody in that department - Trustee Meehan said no, he hasn't but he will this week - the Mayor said he thinks he should. Because he believes that according to everybody, and himself, they are doing the best job that they have ever done where we are able to get two people out there at various times. It is important to have two people working together especially if they are going out in the evening dealing with sensitive issues to protect themselves, to protect the public and to protect the Village. And he thinks they are doing a very effective job. So in the end we spend money where it makes sense and where it is a good use of our money and he believes that our code enforcement right now is the best it has ever been. Randy Ortiz, being our lead code enforcer, does a phenomenal job and is available 24/7. The advantage that we have is that he is only billing us when he is working. So it is not like somebody sitting in an office and putting in hours if they are not working. So what's great is he is available 24/7 but only bills us during the actual times when he is out working. The Mayor said he can say that he has spoken to him on numerous occasions discussing properties and bringing his attention to things and asking him about it and he can say unequivocally that there has never been a situation where he has called him and not gotten him, where he has said that he is on it or will be on it that day. So he thinks right now we have the best team that we have ever had and he doesn't think there is a need to spend more money unless we think that we are going to get a benefit from it. Trustee Meehan said well you have changed your mind. Because you voiced an opinion that at that time when we hired Mike that you did feel that way. So you have changed your mind. That is quite alright. The Mayor said he thinks it is whatever is doing the best job. The Mayor said you will see that they are doing a great job.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

