

**Village Board Meeting**  
**Monday, April 13, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.**

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

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

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

ABSENT: None

**SET DATES FOR MAY MEETINGS:**

The Mayor said the first item on the agenda is that we will be setting the dates for the May meetings. The workshop will be Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board meeting will be Monday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor said before we begin the public hearing she said she knows a lot of people are here tonight in regards to the budget hearing. She said she would like to just read a statement from herself with regards to the budget. The Mayor said she would like to thank all of our residents who have come out tonight to discuss the budget for this coming year. As she is the Chief Financial Officer of this Village, she feels it is her duty to present a tentative budget that reflects an accurate accounting of the finances of the Village. This budget was prepared using budget worksheets from all departments that accurately depicts the needs and expenses to continue to deliver all of the services to our Village. It has also included a comprehensive overview by Michael Genito, the Village's treasurer, as to the present state of finances. In order to achieve a clear picture of these finances, she felt that it was imperative to present a tentative budget that reflects our true state of affairs before any reductions as this gives not only the Board but the residents a better understanding of the budget process. This has also been of great assistance to evaluating the method of budgeting the needs of the Village for both today and in years to come. There has not been a definitive plan to budget the ongoing infrastructural and maintenance of our Village. This has led to years of cumulative neglect to our buildings, water and sewer systems, as well as annual increases for the general cost of living. Each year we as residents see increases in a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas and a loaf of bread. We pay these increases because these are our needs to which we must have. We consistently are making repairs on our homes and replacing and

updating our homes as this is our investment and we continue to protect and maintain that investment. This is the same practice that we must have for our Village as this is our home and we must all do our part to maintain it. We are a full-service Village and this supports the many services to our Village that we desire and that is why we live here. Our water rates are half of what the rest of the county is paying regardless of the increases included in this budget. The assurance that our police are at our door in seconds or minutes, which has made the difference in life and death in health emergencies, our state-accredited police department has kept our Village ranked fifth safest jurisdiction in New York State and today we were notified that we are in the top 100 safest jurisdictions in the country. Our fire department's response time is outstanding, which has saved many lives and homes. The price we pay for this service is immeasurable as to the sense of security that we have. Since taking office, she has been working with Charles Sawicki and Joe Hunt to put together a multi-year maintenance plan for the Village. This will include ongoing building maintenance, vehicle maintenance and replacement as well as identifying future projects of the needs of the Village. This plan will be a safety net to project and budget these needs as well as prevent future neglect of our Village. It will also be a sounder budget tool to be used to minimize large tax increases. In 2010 the need for infrastructure and upgrades were imperative in the wastewater treatment plant to both maintain the plant as well as restore its compliance. A conscious decision was made to invest in our infrastructure, however, it was a large expense. To date we have invested in over 4 million dollars in our wastewater treatment plant. This investment will give us decades of compliance as well as bringing the plant to its most efficient and maintained state. While we are in a time where major expenses are being faced we must all do our part in ensuring the future of our Village. There has been far many too instances that an election of office has outweighed the due-diligence of keeping our Village financially sound, safe to live in and affordable in the long-term. Although this is her re-election year she will not allow that to cloud her commitment to this Village. She is here to bite the bullet for Suffern and its residents to restore financial health and invest and protect our Village for the years to come. This may come with tax increases that are not as low as we are accustomed to however those past low increases in our budgets are a serious contributing factor to our financial condition and neglect of our Village that we are faced with today. She said she hand picked Michael Genito, who has extensive expertise in municipal financing. His years of successful financial planning for municipalities she felt was imperative giving the concern she had when beginning her term as Mayor. Mike worked over nine months in sorting out the treasurer's office to restore it and bring order. The next step was to create a sound deficit plan going forward. Mike has created a sound deficit financing plan as well as a plan for a more accurate budgeting process. This coupled with a plan to maintain our Village

will bring financial stability to our Village. She will propose the following to alleviate some of the increases to our residents this year as it is our most critical year - a year that we will start our recovery. She will not, however, propose means of consolidation of services that will eliminate or decrease the service that makes our Village such a desirable special place to live. The Mayor said we have been working on this budget, she has been working with Mike Genito, and there are some things we can do to reduce the 22.8% increase. She said she wants them to know that the reason that it came out at 22.8% is because that is a perfect world budget. But she truly understands that this is a number that scares people. But in order for the residents of this Village to understand where this Village is and where it is going and how it is going forward to recover we needed to all be on the same page. So we have looked at the budget and we found some ways to bring down the budget and tonight she will propose that we remove the replacement of a police car, we will forego the replacement of two police officers, we will forego the replacement of two DPW workers, we will forego an additional part-time clerk in the DPW, we will forego one dispatcher position, we will surplus Village equipment. She said she had the DPW go through all of our equipment in the Village that we are no longer in need of which equates to about \$116,000. She has implemented a state procurement policy for all purchases including supplies to reduce the purchasing expense by 33%. She will continue on-going negotiations with the Union for decreases in raises. She will continue to do negotiations with United Water for the selling of our water. She has received word tonight that there has been some small progress in the continuation of the sale of our Orange Avenue property. She will look to use the VFW building as a very good source of revenue for the Village and she will ask that we remove the additional attorney proposed at \$48,000. This will total about \$441,000 which reflects 18.3% of the budget - she said she is sorry, 4.5% of the budget bringing the budget down to 18.3. So she looks forward to all of the comments and we look forward to anyone who has suggestions. This is what we are here for. This is a team effort between residents and Board members to work on this budget so that we can come to a number where it may not be 100% comfortable but better than a 22.8% increase.

The Mayor said that being said we will go on with our - it is a little early for our first public hearing - so we will go to our Fire Department.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Mayor said she wishes to start by thanking Chief Stark for his service to the Village of Suffern. Mike has been a Chief though the ranks for nine years. We celebrated with him on Saturday night as he is now the outgoing Chief of the Suffern Fire Department. So this will be his last meeting. But she must tell him that his professionalism and the way that he has taken our fire department

forward has just been outstanding and she, as the Mayor of this Village, thank him so very, very much for all that he has done for the safety of this Village and for its members. Chief Stark thanked her for those kind comments. It is deeply appreciated. He said it is a bittersweet time for him. He has spent a good part of his career in the Suffern Fire Department in the officer's ranks and he is definitely going to miss it but you have some good officers coming up behind him, believe him.

**A) New Members - Hook & Ladder - Nicole Rok - Age 16 And New Members - Hose Company - Kyle Lynch and Louis Mansaniello:**

Chief Stark said with that said he has a few items on the agenda this evening. Two of the items are three new members - one of them is Nicole Rok, age 16. She is a prospective member of the Suffern Hook & Ladder. The other two are over 18 members. The first one is Kyle Lynch and Louis Mansaniello. They are members of the Hose Company. A motion approving Nicole Rok was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Morris. Upon vote, the motion was carried. A motion approving Kyle Lynch was made by Trustee Markunas, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried. A motion approving Louis Mansaniello was made by Trustee Hagen, seconded by Trustee Morris. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**B) Final Approval of the 2014 LOSAP Program:**

Chief Stark said the last item is the final approval for the 2014 LOSAP service award program which you all were provided copies of. A motion approving the 2014 LOSAP program was made by Trustee Markunas, seconded by Trustee Morris.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Chief said once again thank you for letting him be a Fire Chief.

The Mayor said we still have a few more minutes.

**CULTURE & RECREATION:**

Mrs. Cathy Mills said she had a few things on the agenda this evening. She said we had yesterday, and usually she doesn't go backwards in the agenda, but today she will go one day - yesterday - she said we had the Broadway show "On the Town" yesterday. She said they took 47 people from the Village. It was a great day,

beautiful day out. The tickets were all sold. We had \$95 a ticket and it was a good time had by all. Mrs. Mills said the next thing we have on the agenda is that we are going to be interviewing for the 2015 lifeguards tomorrow. We have head guards this year and we have chosen Emma Patwell, Bill O'Connor and Billy Osborn to be our head guards. So we have those coming up and again Lou Ciaccio and herself will be interviewing for guards starting tomorrow night.

Mrs. Mills said we have this Friday night, April 17, LEAD over at the community center and that is from 8 to 11. They have this Saturday, Suffern Little League is opening day so there will be a parade in the Village starting here at Village Hall and going down to the Village fields so we welcome everybody to join us there. This Saturday, April 18 also, there will be an American Legion road drive so we look forward to everyone's support helping out the American Legion. They will be at the four corners here by Soldier's Monument. The street fair with the Chamber of Commerce is coming up and that is on Sunday, April 19, between 10 and 5. It is also a car and bike show so it should be a wonderful day for the Village of Suffern. They have "Keep Rockland Beautiful" which will be here in Suffern Saturday, April 25. The community center is the location for everyone to come in and get their supplies. So they encourage people to sign up and help clean up Suffern. And again that is from 9 to 12. On that day also we will be having an Arbor Day ceremony. She said they don't know what time that will be as of yet. She will get those details out but they welcome the Village Board to attend that. It is always a nice day. Mrs. Mills said right now they are in the process in Recreation of working on the Summer Calendar. They have that all set for - they have that started to be set for the year. So they are looking forward to getting that out by the end of April, beginning of May. The Mayor thanked her and said she wanted to thank Mrs. Mills and her staff for a wonderful Breakfast with the Bunny. She said she has gotten so many phone calls and e-mails saying what a wonderful time was had by all. So thank you for all of your staff and you for doing such a fabulous job. Mrs. Mills thanked her and said as always she has to thank the Recreation staff and the Recreation board for that because they do such a great job with it. So thank you. And everybody else - DPW and everybody that helps them. Trustee Markunas said to Mrs. Mills that he would like to make a comment also in regards to the Recreation staff and the Hudson Valley Honor Flight ceremony that was put on. You all did an outstanding job. Mrs. Mills said thank you very much. She said again Elaine, who is in the back there, did a tremendous job setting up the center for that. Trustee Markunas said for those of you who don't know the Hudson Valley Honor Flight is a program that flies World War II Veterans down to the World War II monument in Washington, D.C. And they had a preview here in Lafayette Theater. They put together a movie and we had a reception in the community center which was great. It was a great job. Mrs. Mills thanked him.

**7:45 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - PROPERTY TAX LEVY:**

The Mayor said it is 7:45 so we will have our first public hearing. It will be on the property tax levy. Attorney Terry Rice said the local law that is being proposed as the subject of this public hearing authorizes the Board of Trustees to exceed the 2% tax cap and it requires a vote of 4 affirmative votes from the Board of Trustees in order to exceed the tax cap. The audience members said they could not hear Attorney Rice. Attorney Rice said the local law would authorize the budget to exceed the 2% tax cap. It requires a vote of 4 members in favor of the local law in order to exceed the tax cap. The Mayor asked if anyone would like to speak with regard to the property tax levy.

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

A motion to adopt the local law to exceed the 2% tax cap - someone from the audience said you are voting to exceed the 2% tax cap. Up to what percentage? The Mayor said that will come with the budget. It could be above 2%. That is all it is saying. Trustee Byrne asked if this vote could be taken along with, or prior to - obviously it has to be taken prior to the adoption of the budget, correct? The Mayor said correct. Trustee Byrne asked if there was any requirement that it be taken tonight. Because he thinks it would be, if possible, more sensible if people had a number. Obviously we say it is going to be over 2% and he doesn't think anyone in this room thinks that we are going to have a magic wand and have a number below 2%. However, he just thinks doing those things in conjunction with each other, obviously one having to be prior, might make more sense. He is curious as to the legality behind it. Attorney Rice said the only point is that it has to be adopted prior to adoption of the budget - Trustee Byrne said right - Attorney Rice said assuming the budget exceeds the 2%. Trustee Byrne said understood, okay. Trustee Byrne said then for that reason he would just move to table the adoption of the override of the tax cap for tonight understanding that it would have to be done prior to adoption and he personally would prefer that it be done at the same time. So his motion would be one to table. Trustee Hagen said he agrees with Trustee Byrne. Trustee Morris said he will second that motion.

The Mayor said she will defer that. She will disagree with that. We have called in the State Comptroller's office to do an overview of our budget and she believes that this is one of the things that they will need to accurately give us an analysis of our budget. So she would ask that we do vote on this tonight because she has been specifically asked by the State Comptroller's office to report back to them in the morning on how we have acted upon the 2% tax cap. Trustee Byrne said okay, he was not aware of that. Trustee Byrne said he will withdraw his motion with the understanding that the

State Comptroller has - he said by the way people should know that the Board in unison, all five of them, asked for the State Comptroller to come in and review the tentative budget to perhaps provide some guidance, assistance and some input in the process and they are here every day, as he understands it - the Mayor said yes, they are here every day - reviewing all the backup and all the information provided with the budget. So that part of it is perfectly accurate. So with the representation the Mayor has made as far as that affecting their ability to review the budget he wouldn't want to hamper their ability to review the budget. That is why we brought them in. The Mayor said yes, otherwise she would have no objection to it but they did alert her this morning that they would like to have the information tomorrow morning as part of their review as well as the results of the water and sewer rate increases. So those are the three things that they have asked for. Trustee Byrne said he will withdraw his motion.

Trustee Markunas said if the Comptroller was not here reviewing the budget what would be, what would we do? We would just continue with the 2% tax cap levy vote? Or would we table it? The Mayor said no, we could have tabled it. We wouldn't need to as long as it is done before the adoption of the budget if the budget is going to exceed the 2% tax cap. But in lieu of the fact that the State Comptroller has asked for the result on those three items that would be the reason that she would propose that we do take a vote on it tonight so we can give that to him so they can continue the analysis of the budget. Trustee Morris said he personally thinks it is an important enough issue that he would still make a motion to table this until we have a budget at which time we will vote whether or not to go above the cap or not to go above the cap. The Mayor said okay. So now she has - Mr. Byrne has withdrawn the motion. Mr. Morris has now re-entered the motion. Does she have a second? Trustee Hagen said he will second the motion.

AYES: Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen

NOES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Edward Markunas who asked if this is a motion to table the 2% tax cap levy. The Mayor said correct. Trustee Markunas said no, he is voting to tabling it.  
Trustee Matthew Byrne

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said now she needs a motion to adopt the tax levy. Trustee Byrne said just so everyone understands - the vote now is to permit the Village, upon the adoption of the budget to go beyond the 2% tax cap. The Mayor said it doesn't mean - Trustee Byrne said it doesn't mean that it necessarily has to happen and doesn't lock us into a number of any type. Is that right? The Mayor said that is correct. Trustee Byrne said he would make the motion. The motion

was seconded by Trustee Markunas.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato  
Trustee Matthew Byrne

NOES: Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Frank Hagen  
Trustee Markunas said let's be clear again. He said we made the motion and now we are voting on exceeding the tax cap. Attorney Rice said this is to adopt the local law to exceed the tax cap. Trustee Markunas said no. The Mayor said now you are voting no.

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said okay, the motion does not carry. She said we cannot exceed the 2% tax cap therefore our increase in taxes have to be below 2%.

The Mayor said okay. We will now continue with our second public hearing.

Attorney Rice stepped down and Attorney Magrino stepped in.

**7:45 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDING ZONING LAW AND ZONING MAP TO REZONE PROPERTIES ALONG EAST SIDE OF ORANGE AVENUE AND NORTH SIDE OF CHESTNUT STREET:**

The Mayor said this is for amending the zoning law and zoning map to rezone properties along the east side of Orange Avenue and north side of Chestnut Street. She said the applicant for Orange Avenue Associates, the attorney for them, has sent a letter over this morning asking that the public hearing be continued as they are having - making progress now with the property owner who was not working with them with the sale of his property on Orange Avenue. They have asked to continue the public hearing. She said she would like to suggest that we hold it over until April 27. So this is before we adopt our budget so that if in fact there is an agreement we are able to include it in this year's budget. A motion to hold it over until April 27 at 7:00 p.m. was made by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Markunas. Upon vote, the motion was carried, with Trustee Byrne abstaining. Trustee Byrne asked if that was going to be a special meeting just for that purpose? The Mayor said yes. Attorney Magrino said it doesn't have to be renoticed because we are announcing it tonight. We will have certainly an agenda but it doesn't have to go out to all the properties.

The Mayor said continuing on - it is not quite 8 o'clock so we will go to our Village Attorney. Attorney Magrino stepped down and Attorney Rice rejoined.

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY:**

**A) Resolution - Coverage Provided by General Municipal Law Section 209-il-b for Volunteer Firefighters:**

Attorney Rice said he has a number of items tonight. He said first of all we spoke at the workshop meeting about the amendment to the General Municipal Law that would cover our volunteer firemen for worker's comp when they assist in another municipality and in order to provide that coverage you have to adopt the resolution that has been provided.

RESOLUTION NO. 9, 2015

It is the intent of this Resolution to make available the coverage provided by General Municipal Law Section 209-il-b.

Whenever a volunteer firefighter of the Village of Suffern provides services under General Municipal Law Section 209-1 when there is no jurisdictional officer in command present, such volunteer firefighter shall be entitled to coverage under the VFBL coverage provided by the Village of Suffern for the provision of such services. Upon the arrival of a jurisdictional officer in command, such volunteer firefighter shall report to such officer and offer his/her services to assist such fire company or fire department. If such offer of assistance is not accepted, then the volunteer firefighter of the Village of Suffern must immediately cease providing any additional service at the scene of the emergency.

A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**B) Set Public Hearing - Revise 15 Minute Parking on Lafayette Avenue to End:**

Attorney Rice said the next item is that there has been a request that the 15 minute parking on Lafayette Avenue not be continual around the clock but that it end at approximately 5 o'clock. In order to amend the vehicle and traffic provision of the Village code we need to set a public hearing. A motion to set a public hearing on Monday, May 4 at 7:40 p.m. was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**C) American Legion Post Agreement:**

Attorney Rice said the next item - at the workshop meeting there had been some discussion with respect to the contract for the Village to purchase the American Legion Post - the Mayor said no - Attorney Rice said sorry. He said we also had the American Legion Post with respect to the revision of the agreement so that we would provide certain services to them in exchange to be able to use the building for emergency services when there is a disaster and there needs to be a place to house people. If the revised agreement is acceptable you need to authorize the Mayor to sign it. A motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement was made by Trustee Markunas, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Trustee Hagen asked the Mayor if she had talked to Vic Smith. The Mayor said yes. Trustee Hagen said as long as he is okay with it he will second it.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**D) Municipal Home Rule Law Request:**

Attorney Rice said next you have the Municipal Home Rule law request. As he discussed with the Board previously, the deficit financing legislation which is before the State legislature requires that the Board of Trustees adopt a Municipal Home Rule law request and it also requires four affirmative votes to do so. Trustee Hagen said he will make the motion. He asked if that was the 10 year deficit financing act - Attorney Rice said yes, exactly. And in order for the State legislature to act on it they need a Municipal Home Rule law request. The motion was seconded by Trustee Morris.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**E) Auto Use Policy:**

Attorney Rice said we had been discussing the automobile use policy. He said that Mr. Morris gave him a copy of something that had been worked up based on the various regulations that he had provided to the Board. Attorney Rice said he didn't know if they wanted to act on this tonight or if they wanted to study it and

suggest any changes to it. Trustee Morris said he would suggest that we take a look at it and see if everybody agrees with it and if any changes need to be made to it. The Mayor said she agrees. She asked if he wanted to make a motion to table? Trustee Morris said he would make the motion to table it to the next meeting and give everybody a chance to read it. The motion was seconded by Trustee Markunas. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**F) Draft Agreement on Cable Franchise:**

Attorney Rice said lastly as discussed at the workshop meeting we are pretty close to finalizing a draft agreement on the cable franchise. In order to move forward with that we would need to set a public hearing for the next Board meeting. A motion to set a public hearing for Monday, May 4 at 7:45 p.m. was made by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**8:00 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - TO SET WATER RATES:**

The Mayor said it is now 8 o'clock so we will have our public hearing to set the water rates. Treasurer Michael Genito said as part of the budget for the water fund, being one of the funds for the Village, there is a need to increase the water rates by approximately 12 ½%. As you know both the water fund and the sewer fund over the past few years, since 2010, have been borrowing revenue anticipation notes to make up the difference in the financing that they needed throughout the year. But more importantly than that the rates should be set in order to recover the cost of the water department including capital items that are generated, debt service and as well as the normal operating costs. The 12 ½% is calculated to mesh with the budget itself in order to raise sufficient funds for the budget for the year 2015-2016. The Mayor thanked him. She asked if anyone would like to come up and speak on the water rates.

Jim Giannettino of 2 Memorial Drive said he thought the Village Board, some years back, had come up with a plan to wipe out the debt in these two funds. He asked if he was mistaken. He said he didn't think so but evidently it hasn't worked. The Mayor asked if that was his only question. She asked Mr. Genito if he would like to speak on where we are with the deficit. Mr. Genito said he wasn't here when any plan was developed but he will tell them that the water fund is in a deficit. It has been in an operating deficit and in order to make up that difference the water rates are needed to match it. But he wasn't here for the - Mr. Giannettino said no, he didn't expect him to answer it. The Mayor thanked Mr. Genito. She said what she would like to say is yes, the former treasurer did present to the Board a deficit reduction plan for the water fund and yes, Mr. Giannettino, you are correct. That was proposed as a successful plan and it was not successful.

Mr. Giannettino said his next question in regards to these funds are - he doesn't see any cuts in any expenses in either one of these funds. He said he understands that we have a deficit situation but you can't expect the taxpayers to keep paying 12% increases, 14% increases. How long is it going to take to get out of this mess? Do we have a five year plan again to get out of this mess? He said we did it once. It didn't work. It is very easy to just keep saying pay more, pay more. These people pay for everything. He said he means that we have to find a way to have a reasonable increase in these fees and these funds and not throw it on the backs - look around. He said he is a senior citizen. He said he sees a lot of senior citizens here. He sees some young families here. They can't afford these increases. We need to learn how to live within our means. We haven't done it in years. He said we cannot do this year after year and unfortunately how bright is our future? We are going to lose Novartis possibly next year. That is another million. We are going to borrow five more million from the state. What is our debit now? Seven million. So it will be up to twelve million. You can't dig a hole by just taxing the people. We have to learn how to cut some costs. It's not nice. It's not easy. We are not looking to hurt anybody but you can't hurt all these people either.

Patsy Wooters of 19 Mansfield Place said she had got involved in fighting the desaleination plan even though she lives in Suffern and drinks Suffern municipal water. And it was drawn to her attention that United Water charges the fourth highest rate in the country. This is before desalination. Rates would double with desalination. And thanks to the efforts of many good citizens in the county that proposal has been stopped in its tracks and now she is part of a task force. She said this isn't Suffern water. She is talking about Rockland County water. It is a private company based in Paris. She said our two neighbors, Hillburn and Sloatsburg, neglected their water systems and they chose the answer that has been chosen by municipalities around the world - go jump into the arms of United Water. Ms. Wooters said now the Mayor said that United Water charges twice what Suffern charges. She said she is not sure that is the case. Her calculations say they currently charge four times but she could be wrong. But if we neglect our water system that is the next thing that happens. We need to take care of our water system. It's not an if or whether. We need to do this if we want to stay out of the clutches of United Water. Ms. Wooters said she had a question for the Board. She said she is not sure what the unit of water is that is charged. Teaspoon, 100 cubic feet, she doesn't know. There are millions of measures of water. So what is the unit - what does it consist of? Mr. Genito said 100 cubic feet. Ms. Wooters said 100 cubic feet. Thank you. She said then she believes that it is far more than twice. So that is the future if we don't pay the piper we get to pay four times what we are paying now. Like it? She doesn't.

Michael Curley of 84 Orange Avenue said the water problems - the debt that we have incurred now in the Village of Suffern started years ago. It started back when John Keegan was Mayor. At that time we had a proposal to sell water. United Water wanted to buy some of our water. There were meetings. Chris St. Lawrence from the Town of Ramapo called a meeting. He said he recognizes - he thinks Ms. Wooters might have been at that meeting and he thinks that she was against selling the water at the point. He said he knows that Jim Giannettino was against selling the water. For the last seven years he has yelled let's sell the water. He has been laughed at many times years ago. But the reality is we have an asset and as the time goes on and years go on that asset is going to become more valuable. As you look at California, you look at the things. As Ms. Wooters just mentioned here. It could be as much as four times they are paying. He said he doesn't like an increase as well as anybody and his increase even goes more because he has a commercial property. So he is not happy with it. And he is mad as hell that they didn't sell the water. But the same people now who are saying, complaining about it, didn't understand what happens. Suffern has its own wells and the water flows there. We can only hold so much water in the wells. The rest of the water goes back into the river and into the Hudson. He said he had proposed, after he had heard about it, it wasn't his idea, but he caught onto a good idea and said let's stick with it to sell that extra water and if we ever had a drought we were allowed to turn that valve off. Back at that time they offered about, and he is reaching into his memory here, about \$125,000 they offered us back then. We are now in negotiation to sell our extra water but now they know we are in a different position so they are playing strong business with us. We may have to consider looking at other assets where we can sell that water, whether it is Nyack - it's more costly to do that. But we can make money off of our water in time. And if we would have done that years ago we wouldn't have that 12% now. We may even have a decrease in our water. He thanked them.

Charles Barone of 5 Mansfield Place said when he came to the meeting and he heard numbers 12% water increase, 22% budget increase he took out his phone and googled what was the rate of inflation for 2014. It was 1.6%. 2013 it was like 1.9%. These numbers seem very large to him and instead of having a one year 12% increase can we have a multi-year that we know it is going to be for this year, for the year after and for the year after that to get to the 12 gradually? The Mayor said she is going to let Mike Genito answer him but unfortunately there are some numbers in this increase that are not changeable. They are not numbers that can be changed or taken out of the budget. There are some increased increases that are just what they are. She is going to let Mike Genito get up and explain to him why in fact there is a 4% increase just in those numbers that are not variables. Mr. Barone thanked her.

Mr. Genito said to begin with we really can't compare the consumer price index or inflation rate that we all might pay for compared to what a water utility has to pay for or a sewer utility has to pay for. They are under some very, very strict health department and department of environmental conservation as well as the EPA regulations that require them to spend money that you and I wouldn't normally spend in our households. So there are things like chemicals and controls both in water and in sewer that go far beyond what we would normally spend or expect to see as an increase in our households. And the consumer price index or the cost of living increase - inflation as it is normally called - talks about a normal family that has housing and food and clothing, insurance and things like that it has to buy and it can't be compared to a commercial establishment especially like a water or sewer utility. Part of what has happened over the course of time is that the water fund and the sewer fund haven't had enough of the revenues coming in so for instance as we look, even with the increases that were there, we look at the sewer fund as one example and while we budgeted 1.6 million dollars for revenues to come in they are more likely to come in at 1.5 million dollars. There are a lot of reasons for that. Part of it is how people use water and how many people are not using it this year. So that is one thing that happens. The other thing that may be happening is just simply a miscalculation on what we expected to happen during this year. So when that happens during the year, and it also happened in the sewer and the water plant both, you also have some expenses that are going to exceed what your normal revenues are because certain things come up. The DEC has, for instance, a consent order on our sewer plant at the moment to prevent certain things from happening that will damage the environment and you have to comply with these. If you don't comply with them you pay pretty heavy fines. In the water fund it is all about water quality. You have some of the best water anywhere in Suffern, New York and yes, we have our own artesian wells that have been there for a very, very long time and he can tell him that we do pay about ¼ the price if you were in an equivalent home with United Water. But he would never want to compare the price with what somebody else is paying. It is really what is important to us and making sure that we have our costs covered. So it was mentioned that the State Comptroller's office was asked to come in by the Board unanimously to come in and review the budget and they are doing that at this moment. Mr. Genito said he can tell them that he met with the auditor last Thursday and he had a lengthy discussion with him and one of the things that he is looking at and he is concerned about is our water and sewer structure - the revenues versus the expenses of it. And he wants to make sure that we have a plan in place to bring them up to the proper balance. When he mentioned the increases we had and said that they are a little bit onerous because they are so high - a double digit increase - he said that is something that he is going to look to see if we do or don't do it because that is going to make a big different in how he writes up his report on how we are

handling the budget. But the most important thing he thinks here is this budget wasn't put together on a whim. It was put together by the department heads putting in their submitted requests both for revenues and expenditures. And he sat down with them on more than one occasion and some items they did cut some additional things where they could and they found some other things where they had no choice. And for that we ended up with the budgets where they are so he can tell him that these budgets are structurally sound and the former Mayor mentioned that we are going to lose Novartis eventually and maybe something will or won't come into place. We do know that they are going to reduce their water usage over time and that is another concern that we are going to have. But once again the things that you can cut in both the water and the sewer fund - there is a limitation to that because you do need so many people to operate the plants. You do need so many people to make sure that the quality of the water going out is proper and that the infrastructure which is not only the plants themselves but all the many miles of lines that are out there that have to be kept in good shape so that good potable water is brought to your home. And he thinks that is the best he can explain it.

Trustee Markunas said to Mr. Genito that he had one question in regards to the water fund. In previous years are you aware if we had borrowed any revenue anticipation notes? Mr. Genito said we have borrowed money in the past and we continue to borrow money. Normally the Village has borrowed for a very short period of time with the exception that in 2012 we did issue long term bonds for both the sewer department and for the general fund - not for the water department per se but the sewer department and that bond issue was 2 ½ million dollars. Trustee Markunas said 2 ½ million in 2012. Mr. Genito said in 2012. Trustee Markunas said okay. Mr. Genito said and we continued - we borrowed approximately 1.2 million dollars this year to help fund additional improvements that are needed. Trustee Markunas thanked him.

Carolyn Varano said she has lived here all her life. She said at one point we had a system where if somebody came in, built the house, wanted to connect because they had a septic system, their own well water they needed to pay their own whatever the cost was to hook up and connect. Laying the pipes in, everything else. With all the construction and the building that is going on now she said she just has a question. What is the impact on our sewers and our water. Are these people footing the bill or is it our taxpayers that are going to foot the bill for these people that are doing the building and construction. The Mayor said in other words are they paying for their own hook-ups to the Village. The Mayor said yes, they have to put their own pipes in. Yes, they have to do all of that themselves. And they also have to pay a hook-up fee to the Village. Ms. Varano said okay. And the other question was she personally went to United Water and interviewed them, spoke with people there, went over the system and how it would be used when

they wanted to put the desale in. They had no intentions of using any other water system. Their alternate plan was to take over the full entire system with the Hudson River desale, shutting down our reservoirs as well as any other access water. She asked them and that is exactly what they told her. She said now that is what they did in Melbourne, Australia. It is what they did over on the Nile. These guys are ruthless. The money that it costs the people that use that water now - Melbourne, Australia's water rates skyrocketed tremendously. If we end up selling to them we need to hold the purse strings. We need to have the control. Not them. You need to cover your own. Make sure they have no way, and she guesses Terry knows enough about that being an attorney, that they can't finagle their way to come in with some loophole and take over our water and control us rather than us control our water ourselves. The Mayor thanked her.

Tom Zordan of 249 Parkside Drive said as has been stated there was a deficit reduction plan that was put in place by himself and the Board and for various reasons it hasn't come to fruition. These reasons have been discussed numerous times over the years. A general for instance when Sandy came along we couldn't use our own water. We had to get water from United Water. We had to pay them \$62,000 that we didn't expect to be paying that. So there were certain things. A couple of years we managed to reduce it. But the two years when we had hurricanes we weren't able to reduce it. He said he is not exactly sure what the deficit is. When we started this plan it was \$630,000 in the water fund. And he believes when he left it was 45 or there about. According to this budget where it shows the actual results for 2014 we attempted to reduce the deficit in the water fund by \$70,000 and what it shows in this budget is that it was reduced by \$64,000. So he thinks although we didn't make our goal of 70, we were on the path to reducing the deficit.

He said in this years current budget, for the year ending May 2015, we had budgeted to reduce the deficit by \$148,000. He said he knows that the water fund is very well maintained in terms of costs. They generally don't go over. He said he knows that in 2014 on one point almost 8 million dollars in revenue we missed by like \$6,000. So he would presume that we would be very close, if not exceeding, that \$148,000 number. With that being said, in the upcoming budget instead of continuing at \$148,000 to reduce the deficit, we are increasing it to \$289,000. So that is an increase of \$140,000. He said he is also presuming that that is the amount of the projected deficit for the upcoming year and we are using that to finally have a zero deficit. Is that correct? The Mayor said yes. Mr. Zordan said oh, that is correct so we are projecting our deficit to be \$289,000 and that is why we are putting \$289,000 in there. The Mayor said no. She said to Mr. Genito that the projected deficit is going to be less, correct? Mr. Genito said yes. He said the \$289,000 he is referring to is in the contingent account. That

money is for two things. One is contingency for the things we do not expect, or the unanticipated, he should say, that may happen during the year and the rest of it is to replenish the water fund to start building its fund balance back up. It is in a deficit. And the deficit is larger than what appeared in the 2012 statements mainly because one of the things that was listed was the receivables from the water fund and the sewer fund in those years at the end of that fiscal year. Those were actually dedicated or restricted to pay back the revenue anticipation notes. So while that showed up as an asset that year, it was really a restricted asset. It gets a little bit technical there but the bottom line is it was in a more severe deficit than originally projected. The Mayor said reported. Mr. Zordan asked what is the actual number today or 5/31/14. Mr. Genito said that rather than trying to pick a number out of his head he would prefer to get the numbers and will have them prepared for tomorrow for whoever would like to see them. The Mayor thanked him.

Mr. Zordan said the reason he brings this all up is to add another \$148,000 for, if it is strictly deficit reduction he could understand the reasoning behind that. As far as potential unforeseen things within the water fund - we really haven't had that problem other than the hurricanes. But if we could lower that number from 289 to a more manageable number - say 200,000 - that would bring that 12% increase down to maybe 7 or 8%. And still if nothing goes wrong and we have it at \$200,000 that number is built into the budget going forward which would if there is any remaining deficit the subsequent year it can finally be paid off and in light of the general fund taxes right now at 18% and the sewer fund going up also he thinks it would behoove us to maybe trim that number down a bit. He thanked them.

Trustee Markunas said he would like to ask Mr. Genito a question in regards to the water fund - to elaborate a little bit on Mr. Zordan. He said he just wanted to elaborate on Mr. Zordan's statement in regards to the water fund and the contingent account. If we could make it a little more clear that we are adding \$140,000 to the contingent account and with that is due to the fact that we have to, well we have to increase the rate to pick up that extra \$140,000 to the contingency. The contingent account. Mr. Genito said yes. One of the reasons why it is a larger number too is we just spoke about Novartis. We did an analysis of the last few years that Novartis has paid in their water and sewer and it is about \$300,000 a year in water which they pay which they say they are going to cut in half. He would suggest that we leave that contingency where it is giving the condition of where Novartis and the unlikelihood that Novartis will be indeed cutting back. We received an official e-mail from them that they were cutting it back by 50%. Trustee Markunas said so we definitely need the \$140,000 contingent account in place with the rate increase as is. Mr. Genito said that would be his recommendation. Of course, the

Board can make a decision any way it wants. He is recommending what he believes is the best practice here which is to say if we are going to lose a major customer worth about \$150,000 a year that that contingency is probably more real than we want it to be.

Mary Figera of Squires Gate said her question is this. If you are increasing the budget 22.8% is that evenly disbursed throughout the whole Village - including all homes, condos, all the new construction. The Mayor said yes, everybody's tax rate will be the same. Ms. Figera asked if there were any exemptions to that - she said she doesn't mean churches, religious - she means people in homes. There are no exemptions. The Mayor said no. Ms. Figera said so everyone who owns a home or has a condo, even all the new construction going on - the Mayor said they will receive the same tax increase. Ms. Figera said the other question she had. You mentioned sewer repairs. Where have they been done? Have they been done in Squires Gate? She said she means she hasn't seen any that is why she is just wondering where the sewer repairs are done. Mr. Genito said if he may. He thinks the biggest issue with the sewer system itself - one big piece is the wastewater treatment plant. And again that consent order from the Department of Environmental Conservation - as a matter of fact we negotiated with them to give us a little breathing room to start implementing some of the work but they have already told us that the work we need to do is probably close to 2 million dollars in improvements. Now this has to do with the treatment of the sewerage - the lining of the pipes. A lot of stuff that you don't necessarily see. It's not individual homeowner's repairs. Ms. Figera said she understands that. Mr. Genito said it is major system repairs. Ms. Figera said but it hasn't been done in Squires Gate at all. Trustee Markunas said he thinks Mr. Sawicki would have the answer to that. Mr. Genito said he wouldn't know the repairs. Ms. Figera said the only reason she is saying is that she lives there and she hasn't seen any sewer repair. The Mayor said it was done within the plant - all the improvements and all the - Ms. Figera said so nothing in the pipes and the sewers going to Squires Gate. The Mayor said everything was done in the plant itself. Ms. Figera said okay, alright - that answers that question. She said that is it. That is all she has.

Alfred D'Ambrosio of 4 Cross Street said he doesn't understand why we always seem to imitating big government. They always go into deficit, they always go belly up. And we seem to be doing the same thing in a way. Now this last thing where there is 2 million - whatever it is - is in the plant - why the devil isn't the plant just being the one that should be paying or those who control the plant rather than the populace. The Mayor said it is our plant. Mr. D'Ambrosio said yes it may be our plant but this has been known about for a long time. 2 million dollars in one little zone and one experimental application to try to remedy it and yet we are hearing a multi-year thing that is going to take on loans. This sounds like it's humongous. The Mayor said there is no experimental repairs

being done. These are consent orders from the DEC that they are ordering us to do. Mr. D'Ambrosio said he wasn't saying experimental repairs. He said he is saying experimental processes to try to get it remedied but it is not being remedied apparently because we are on a long-term basis. The Mayor said no, it is being remedied or else the DEC would not approve the upgrades and the remedies that have been put in place for the sewer plant. So all of this goes through the DEC. Mr. D'Ambrosio said well let's grant maybe it is and maybe it is part of our community but he is surprised - he said he doesn't know - but he is surprised that all of the new construction from our block - for Cross Street - the huge Mormon Castle, the one over there that is going to be rented if it is done yet - another Goldstein project. He said that he is surprised that they are not able to bring enough money in that some of this would be reduced rather than still everything is going up. And why do we have - let's put it this way. A lot of entertainment things that we must have for all of us - we need our entertainment - we have to have all these things which cost money. Why aren't we tightening our belts instead of finding ways to spend money. The wrong ways - while this might be a real valid one but all these other things - we just heard well he had this thing - it came in earlier in the very beginning of the meeting - he said he likes these things for our youth and for this and that but if we are really almost on bankrupt just like the government then it is time to tighten our belt and stop doing all these nice things for us. He thanked them.

A gentleman got up to speak who did not state his name. He said he would like to thank Mr. Markunas for the e-mail today to let people know that this was taking place tonight. He said he wishes it was a little earlier - maybe like the last week - at the same 2:03 p.m. He said you are giving people 4 hours, 5 hours before the meeting. If they had plans. Trustee Markunas said that he did request that the meeting be posted on the home page of the website on the Suffern Village website. The man said right. Trustee Markunas said it seemed to be a problem last week also and he thinks it was a problem again this week so he noticed that and he took it upon himself to send out a few notifications to make sure that people were aware. The gentleman said well it is because of your e-mail that a lot of these people are here. The Mayor said to Trustee Markunas that it was definitely on the Village website. It was put up on the website. She said she was able to access it. The gentleman said but he thinks you react much more to e-mail to you than you do having to go look at a town - the Mayor said right. She said the unfortunate part is that the Village doesn't have a complete e-mail list of all of its residents so we use the Village website as a means of communication with all of our residents because you can all access us. So anytime you want to know if there is something going on - a meeting or an event or anything - check the Village website. All the information is put up on there. The gentleman said the other thing he wanted to mention was that he

spent a lot of years in corporate - probably twenty eight or thirty years - the majority of which he was management - and he knows that every September, October time of year all the managers would cringe because they knew the budget was coming. Senior management would say 2% maximum - that's it. But everybody gets their little corner and you get another 3% here and another 5% there and pretty soon you have a 6% budget. The managers who maintain their 2% didn't appreciate that. But it went through anyway. He said is there any reason why all of this backlash from previous years has to take place this year? Can't it be - the Mayor said you are talking about on the budget as a whole? The gentleman said the budget as a whole. The Mayor said right now we need to be talking about the water rates but we will get to that. We are going to be having the public hearing on the budget. The gentleman said he thinks that is why everyone is here tonight - because of the 22.8%. The Mayor said right. She said she understands - the gentleman said the water rates are probably very well - he said this gentleman behind him seems to know his business. Seems to appreciate the need for the state to come in and DEC and all this stuff. The gentleman said he doesn't know all the details. That is why he is the manager and he is not. But the water is a very important thing. That is something that can't be postponed. It can't be put three years out. But some of the things that people are objecting to is being slapped in the face with a lot of money at once. That's what they would like Suffern to do. The Mayor thanked him.

The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to speak with regards to the water rates. Since nobody else spoke, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Markunas, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

The Mayor said she would need a motion to adopt the water rates - Local Law No. 2, 2015.

Trustee Byrne said just briefly if he could. He said it sounds to him that there are some variables, although not many, and Mike has pointed this out. And one of them might be whether any discussions with outside entities in terms of selling assets might assist us with regard to the water rate. He asked Mr. Genito if that might be a variable? Trustee Byrne said water - as an asset. Mr. Genito said it certainly could be a variable. The question would be is if you had a contract in hand that you know that you are going to get that revenue in. Trustee Byrne said understood, understood. And he doesn't know what stage that is at but he is not comfortable voting to set the water rates without checking on all those variables as a result of our public hearing tonight and as a result of us considering what might be out there that might change things between now and the time we have to adopt. So he would rather not take a vote on the water rates tonight just for that reason that there may be some variables and something that we can do to that rate that can change it.

The Mayor said okay. Again she must tell them that the State Comptroller's auditors were here and they are waiting to complete the assessment of the budget at our request and they need these answers to be able to complete it. So if in fact we do not complete the answers to these questions by the time that they - the Mayor said they can't complete the assessment because they don't have all of the different. The Mayor said the fact of the matter is that this budget has to be adopted before May 1. Trustee Byrne said right. The Mayor said so there is not a lot of time. But if you pass the increase in the water rates tonight that does not mean that if in fact we do come to a deal or we do find a way to reduce the increase that we cannot amend that. We can amend it at any time. Somebody asked from the audience if there was a benefit for them. The Mayor said in the benefit for us we can amend it. She said that is what she is saying. So if in fact the sale of United Water - and we have a signed contract - we can amend the water rate before the budget is passed to reflect whatever we do find to reduce the increase.

Trustee Markunas said it is similar to the property tax cap that we made a motion on. He said we made a motion to adopt the property tax cap at 2% which brings that out to a vote so we make a motion and then we vote on it and then actually the property tax cap went down. We voted no. So now what is taking place is the same thing is that we are going to take a - where someone might make a motion and then we will take a vote on it. Even if we vote no or yes we can amend it afterwards. That would be the process. So definitively we would know where we stand if we pass it or we don't which will help the Comptroller make his report or decision - his audit more viable. So that may clear it up for some of you. Trustee Markunas said he makes a motion to adopt the water rates local law. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hagen.

AYES: Trustee Frank Hagen

NOES: Trustee Robert Morris, Trustee Edward Markunas  
Trustee Matthew Byrne

ABSENT: None

The Mayor did not vote.

Trustee Byrne said he would have preferred to word it as a motion to table to consider the rate in the future but he thinks it has the same effect.

**8:00 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - TO SET SEWER RENTS:**

The Mayor said we will go on to the next public hearing to set the sewer rates. She said she thinks that we have kind of touched upon

with the water rates public hearing but if there is anyone who would like to add anything additional to the sewer rates.

Jim Giannettino of 2 Memorial Drive said he is not going to repeat about what he said about the water but it does go for this one. His question is - the state has put out 200 million dollars in grants for water and sewer systems. Has our request gone in already? Because if not all these big towns and villages are going to snap up the 200 million and we will be borrowing another 2 million for the sewer plant at we don't know what rate. The Mayor said yes, Mr. Rella has in fact gathered all the information on what the criteria is for the money and he is presently working with Mr. Sawicki in applying for that funding. Mr. Giannettino said the early bird gets the money. The Mayor said correct. Mr. Giannettino said so we can't work on it for three weeks. You should be burning midnight oil and be the first one in there and hopefully they will consider this little Village. He said he doesn't know what rate they are going to charge because he thinks there are grants involved with this money. The Mayor said correct. Mr. Giannettino said it is probably 60/40, he believes. The Mayor said there is also a criteria now that they have implemented. We may or may not fall within the guidelines of it. We are working with the funding office as well as within our own department's to come up with enough information that they may possibly allow us to be part of the program even though some of the criteria we may not meet. Mr. Giannettino said unfortunately he brought this up for years that we should have been looking into the Clean Water Act. Over the last several years when we borrowed this 4 million dollars we may have been able to get some money from the federal government or the state government and we wouldn't have to pay back 4 million plus. He thanked them.

The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to speak with regards to the sewer rents. Since nobody else spoke, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

The Mayor asked if there was a motion to adopt the sewer rents. A motion to table the sewer rents was made by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

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

NOES: Mayor Patricia Abato, who said that she votes no only for the simple reason - not that she is in favor of the increase being as high as it is. She certainly will be looking into - continue to look into ways to reduce that percentage. However, we have gone out of our way to get an analysis from the State Comptroller's office. We have asked them to come down here and do that for us so that we can have a sense of some input from them on ways that

we can reduce our budget and without this information that is not going to be completed. So for that reason she will vote no. But the motion is carried.

ABSENT: None

Trustee Morris said he would just like to say something and he understands her concern for the auditors that are doing the books right now. But if you remember, and we go back a couple of months, we made a recommendation at that time that you refused to - the Mayor said no, Mr. Morris, that is not - Trustee Morris said excuse him, but he is speaking now. The Mayor said but you are giving incorrect information. Trustee Morris said excuse him - he is accurate and we can pull the minutes if you would like. The Mayor said absolutely. Please go right ahead. Trustee Morris said we made a motion to bring in a financial review board. The financial review board - there is nothing mandatory about it. What they do, and they have done it for any number of cities throughout the state. He said they will come in and they look at your budgets. There was a Comptroller's report out not too long ago that Ed and he used when they ran for office that highlighted all the inefficiencies and discrepancies that were present in our budget - the over-estimation of revenue, etc., etc., which is what got us into this hole. He said the financial review board - the Board members voted to ask them to come in, look at our budgets, see what we are doing wrong and correct them. And again, he stresses this very importantly, because the misinformation was that as soon as you put these people out there they are going to take away the sewer, they are going to take away the police, they are going to take away this. There is absolutely not a grain of truth and you can go on to the State Comptroller's board to find that what he is saying is accurate. There is nothing except their advice. They will lay out a plan for us, or they would have laid out a plan for us if we chose to become part of that plan then we might have been under certain obligations if we decided to take grants or money that was available under this program. In those cases, we might have been obligated to follow up on their plans. But rather than do this a couple of months ago when we had the opportunity we couldn't do it as a Board - we needed the Chief Financial Officer, which is the Mayor - to approve this financial board coming in and again a lot of these issues with the budget might have been identified earlier and we might have been able to circumvent some of these problems. But the Mayor at that time did not allow the town to continue into that.

The Mayor asked Trustee Morris if he was finished. Trustee Morris said yes. The Mayor said first of all we are not a town - we are a Village. But, that being said, she should note that there are two different programs that Mr. Morris is talking about and she thinks he is confusing them. The program that they had proposed several months back was a program where the State Comptroller's office would look over the services of this Village and they would make

recommendations on how to consolidate services in order to save the Village money. She said she doesn't believe, and she still does not believe, that anyone in this room moved to this Village to give up their services - to give up their police department, to give up their fire department, to give up their sewer plant, to give up their water plant. So for those reasons she did not feel that that was an appropriate program for this Village. However, when they did come to us - when the Board members came and said that the State Comptroller's office will come over and do an analysis, a general analysis - to see what the increases were, where they were, if they were enough and if we certainly were on a good path of restoring financial health to this Village, that she agreed to. We can always use any opinion from them, any suggestions from them that can reduce our 22.8% increase. So she definitely signed off on that and she was very, very excited to have them come over and look over our financial budget to give recommendations. So you should know that these were two different scenarios for help from the State Comptroller's office.

Trustee Markunas said if he may add to that. He said the initial, because he feels a little differently than she does - the initial request for the financial control board was to come in and do a comprehensive financial review - that is the main understanding of the review. A comprehensive review of the finances of this Village. There was no mention of any consolidation. He said they did not discuss it. They were not planning on it. This is - it was a comprehensive review. He said he took it upon himself to call the Comptroller - discuss it personally with them, also request them to come and just review our budget - just to get some type of oversight to see what is going on with our budget with these astronomical increases that we are facing. So we welcomed it. And he thanks the Mayor for signing the letter - the whole Board, the whole Board wanted this to happen. The whole Board wanted the financial review board to come in with the exception of the Mayor. Trustee Markunas said she needed to concur initially. It has nothing to do with consolidation of services. So Bob and he, he believes, are on the same track. The Mayor said she disagrees with him because if in fact you go to the State Comptroller's website and you do your homework on the program the recommendation that they make for reducing debt to the Village is consolidation of services. Trustee Markunas said that is if you take money. If you take their loans or grants or whatever they are offering you then you are bound by their recommendations. There is nothing wrong with accepting recommendations if you feel they are worthy. If you don't feel you want to consolidate a department, you don't consolidate. You don't take their grant money.

**8:00 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - 2015-2016 VILLAGE BUDGET:**

The Mayor said she will open the floor for anyone who would like to speak.

Roy Tschudy of 16 Lonergan Drive said it is nice to see everybody here. He said he wishes we had something like this for every monthly meeting. He said for this budget that is upcoming, he personally believes that no stone should be left unturned and that every option needs to be explored - every option. He said that one thing that he has heard tonight - that he hasn't heard he should say - is the word that is accord by whether you are a union member, a worker - it doesn't matter - and that is cuts. And he believes that everything starts at the top. He said he would like to see it imposed - instead of taxes being imposed - further taxes on hard-working people who are overtaxed as it is - that it starts at the top. It starts at the top and by that he would like to see the Mayor, the Board, and every management position take a 10% cut in pay right now. He said he is not pandering. This is a fact. You have to lead by example. You just can't say we screwed up - you pay. It doesn't work. With regard to the Village employees by saying that we are not going to hire anybody in the future or we will table it, that is not a cut. That is status quo. What we need is true cuts. He said he was a New York City employee, he was a police officer in New York City for twenty-four years. He said he happens to know a little about this. He served as a delegate for two years. So he knows as a union member that you always want the best for your men. You try to do the best for your people. But somewhere in between you have to meet in the middle. And by that he says that every employee of this Village should have to pay a percentage into their health care. Everybody would love to have free health care. He said he did twenty four years in the city. He paid into his health care, he paid into his pension. And to expect taxpayers to continue to have to do this he thinks this is just not fair. He said he is not talking a large amount of money but a percentage. Something that would be agreeable to all. He said another thing that he has to say is that when you hear the word consolidation you are making it sound almost like communism. Consolidation could be a good thing. It reduces a redundancy of work, paperwork, and everything that goes along with it. New York City did a consolidation of three police departments into one and now they are by far and away the best police department in the world. So he thinks that everything should be on the table. You arbitrarily stated that you would not consolidate - think of consolidating our police department. The Mayor said that is not what she said. She said what she did say was that she would not be agreeable to giving our police services over to consolidate with another municipality, town, village. What she would do - what she would consider is our police department consolidating with other municipalities in our Village so that our residents are still served by our police department first. That she would be agreeable to. But she would not want to give our police department over to the Town of Ramapo. She is very sorry. Mr. Tschudy said he believes Sloatsburg did the same and he checked their crime stats and their responses and everything is still status quo with them. They didn't have a decrease in that. It has nothing to do with the police

department. He loves the police officer as much as anybody. He thinks Chief Clarke and the Suffern Police Department do a great job but there is no reason that this couldn't become a police precinct and you still receive the same coverage. But it should be explored. He is not just saying it should be done. The Mayor said as Hillburn and Sloatsburg do with one car that is shared? Mr. Tschudy said excuse me? The Mayor said as Hillburn and Sloatsburg do with one car that is shared. Mr. Tschudy said yes, they haven't had any increase in crime. The Mayor said do you know what the response rate would be for a medical emergency for that? Mr. Tschudy said he is saying that this should still be a precinct - a police precinct. You are not pulling anybody out of here. All he is saying is it should be explored. He is not saying that it should be done. The Mayor said okay. Mr. Tschudy said that every option should be on the table. That is all he is saying on that.

Mr. Tschudy said that he had in his hand a copy from the NYS Office of the State Comptroller on fiscal stress monitoring and again this goes up to 5/31/2013 where as we all know the Village of Suffern is the most fiscally stressed Village in the state with a fiscal score of 86.7. The closest to us is Amityville in Suffolk with 70.8. And then it goes on and on and on. The fiscal stress monitoring system of the Village in distress for that year was 86.7. During fiscal years 2008/2009 through 2011/2012, this is according to Thomas DiNapoli, the Board adopted unrealistic budgets that caused large deficits in the monies available to be appropriated for the ensuing year's budgets or for contingency or emergency needs. These budgets were caused by unrealistic budget estimates and the Board's insufficient monitoring of financial operations throughout the year. Local governments in poor financial condition often experience recurring operating deficits. Persistent operating deficits are usually indicative of poor budgeting that can result in cash flow problems and/or deficit fund balances. The general fund had deficits in its unexpended funds of \$674,575 in 08/09; \$217,145 in 2010/2012. The deficit in the sewer fund's unexpended funds increased by \$750,000. The water fund also experienced deficits in its unexpended funds from 08/09 through 11/12 ranging from \$524,336 to \$608,039 for that period. It goes on to state the Board's budgeting practices caused these deficits. On the date April 1, 2013 a motion to adopt the 2013-2014 budget was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and in favor was Mayor Dagan LaCorte, Trustee Charles Falciglia, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Trustee John Meehan. On April 2, 2012 a motion to adopt the budget was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Corrigan. In favor Mayor LaCorte, Trustee Abato, Trustee Corrigan, Trustee John Meehan and abstaining was Charles Falciglia. On April 4, 2011 a motion to adopt the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget was made by Trustee Bruce Simon, seconded by Trustee Corrigan. In favor Mayor Dagan LaCorte, Trustee Simon, Trustee Abato, Trustee Corrigan, Noes: none, Absent: Trustee Meehan. As is reported by the state fiscal monitoring system both the past Village Board's budgeting

practices has caused these deficits along with the inability to stabilize continued deficits. This has placed the Village as the number one most fiscally stressed in the entire state. Mr. Tschudy said now placing the onus on the backs of the taxpaying public due to the above is unacceptable. He said senior citizens who live on small retired incomes and young families who struggle to make ends meet cannot and should not be asked to bear the burden of the past fiscal irresponsibility. Instead of tax increases drastic cuts have to be found. A tax increase in all probability will cause some families, through no fault of their own, to claim bankruptcy. Better that a Village become the recipient of Chapter 9 Title XI. Then have true professionals over see and straighten out the financial mess that the Village is currently in. He said again he says this with no disrespect for our police department, which he has the greatest respect for. All he is asking is that everything be viewed as a consideration. He thanked them.

John Mallon, Suffern PBA president, said he did not plan on speaking tonight but Mr. Tschudy said things that he did not agree with. He said you are talking about cuts. He said about two years ago Mayor Bloomberg was complaining about New York City getting a supplement - a \$12,000 supplement, which they negotiated back in 1968 and again in 1980. He asked if they gave it back. Mr. Tschudy said he was going to answer this gentleman's question. He said in 1968 New York City was completely broke - they were going bankrupt. They came to the PBA and they stated listen, can we borrow money out of your general funds. He said they gave them over 100 million dollars. They said okay, now we have to negotiate how we are going to pay this back. They used to have something called a deferred compensation where when you retired you would receive money based on the stock market. Then they came out with an idea. This is the City of New York that came up to the PBA and said we will give you a defined benefit - Mr. Mallon said he agrees with him. You shouldn't give it up. You should not give it up. He said you should never give it up. Mr. Mallon asked about consolidation. He asked if anybody every worked out the numbers. Trustee Markunas asked about what consolidation? Mr. Mallon said he was talking about consolidation - to look at it. He said explore it and nobody explored it. But you are throwing it out there. Mr. Mallon said Airmont pays 4.8 million and they get two cars a shift if they are lucky - two cars a shift. He said we have 40 people - 38 people and we are paying the same amount of money. 5 million dollars. So you are not going to have a savings. You will not have a savings. There is no savings there. You have to look at that before you shoot your mouth off. Trustee Markunas said to Mr. Mallon that Mr. Tschudy is a resident of the Village who made a statement. Mr. Mallon said he is disagreeing with the statement. Mr. Mallon said Mr. Tschudy also sent an e-mail out today that he got a hold of. The Mayor asked Mr. Mallon to please address the Board. Mr. Mallon said there was an e-mail out on how to break the unions by threatening Title IX. He said he will send a copy of it. Mr. Mallon said it was a blueprint

on how to break the union. And this is from a union guy. He said he showed it to the NYC union and they didn't like it. They didn't appreciate. But he was a delegate. He said he just wanted to show what people are.

Mr. Mallon said he has a letter here from 1989 - "Dear Mr. Giannettino. In my capacity as Village Attorney I have been apprised of a very serious situation at your property." Mr. Mallon said 1989. The Village Clerk asked if they could hold up a minute. The Mayor said to Mr. Giannettino that he will have his say. Mr. Mallon said maybe if you hooked up your water we wouldn't be in this bad of shape. He said he has the letter here and he is not making it up.

Mr. Mallon said he feels sorry for the people of Squires Gate about the buy-out thing. He said he lived in Squires Gate when he moved up here. He said that is where he comes from. He lived there for fifteen years - in his youth. He said he feels bad, he really does. He deserves better. He said he has been here since he was a kid - since he moved up here the Army Corps of Engineers is coming in, this one is coming in, that one is coming in. Don't buy all this stuff. It's political right now. Trustee Markunas said the tape is broken right now so could you please hold on one second. The Mayor said okay, it is working. Go ahead. Mr. Mallon said he knows they are upset. He said but you can't buy a bill of goods just because this politician tells you that. He said he has been hearing this - he is 59 years old and he has been here since he was ten. He has been hearing it. He spent ten to twelve years down there. Somebody from the audience said something and Mr. Mallon said he mentioned consolidation so he had to respond to him. He is the PBA president. Mr. Tschudy said explore it. Mr. Mallon said explore it? He said he doesn't think you should explore it. He said if and when you do you are going to find out that you are saving money. Trustee Morris asked if we are addressing the Board. The Mayor said to Mr. Mallon to please address the Board. Mr. Mallon said okay. He just wanted to address Mr. Tschudy - his comments. The Mayor said there needs to be order here. She said she has always and will always give every resident a chance to speak. She said we will now hear from Mr. Mallon who will address the Board and then anyone who would like to speak afterwards we will take your comments. Mr. Mallon said he is a little mixed up. Before - one is the restructuring board, right? Is that what you turned down? And one is the financial review which everybody agreed to. The Mayor said that is correct. Mr. Mallon said it is two separate boards, two separate things. The Mayor said correct. Mr. Mallon said okay because the restructuring board really puts pressure on the Village or the town to consolidate. Trustee Morris said it is not a restructuring board. Mr. Mallon said it is not? Trustee Morris said no. Mr. Mallon said he is asking - Trustee Markunas said a financial - Trustee Morris said there is nothing in there that says restructuring. It is a financial review board. Mr. Mallon said he

is trying to get it straight himself. Trustee Morris said he is making it straight for him now. He said he will e-mail him the site and he can go on it and look and read it and you will see that what he and Ed has said is the honest to God's truth. Mr. Mallon said okay. What did we agree to? The review board that we are doing now. What is that. The Mayor said an analysis of the budget. Trustee Morris said this is not a review board. The Comptroller is auditing the proposed budget. Looking to see if it is a sound budget. That is all he is doing. Mr. Mallon said okay.

The Mayor said in lieu of it getting very warm in here, she is going to take five minutes for everyone to regroup. We will come back in five minutes and we will continue the meeting. She said she hopes we will all take this five minutes to realize that we are all here for the same common goal.

The Mayor said she would like to make a few comments. She said this is our Village and everyone is entitled to right their opinion. We are adults. We must sometimes agree to disagree. So please let us restore order back into this Board room. Remember why we are here and let us continue the hearings that we are all here for tonight in an orderly fashion. She thanked them.

Mr. Giannettino said we are on the budget hearing now? The Mayor said we are still on the budget hearing and we are continuing the budget hearing after a five minutes, everybody cool off, including this room that got very warm. She said she has put on the air and hopefully things will cool down as well as the tempers.

Mr. Giannettino said as you know he looks at the budget every year. The Mayor said yes. Mr. Giannettino said in looking at page 5 of the budget where it lists all the different departments and their projected budgets for the year. He said there is basically only one department that has a cut in their budget in this whole Village. And it is a substantial cut. It is 14.8%. He said now he would assume that if a person made that sacrifice and the hard work to come up with a cut that the powers that be would have held the other departments to similar cuts but he doesn't see that. He said he sees increases anywhere from 11.8%, 18.7%, 10.6%. He said he congratulates that manager that she was able to come up with a cut. He said he just thinks that whatever method was used, and he knows how it goes. He said he knows you put out the budget papers to the managers. But when these budgets came back and we knew the devastating financial situation that we are in - you have to sit down and tell them you have to do better than this. They are not all fixed costs. There is always room to cut something. He said he doesn't expect anybody to lay off two people or anything like that. But there is money to cut.

He said let's go to page 9. Board of Trustees. Contractual expenses - 64,500. He said now he is assuming that the 48,000 number was in

there that is being thrown out. The Trustees agreed to do without that attorney. Is he correct? Trustee Markunas said yes. The Mayor said no, we did not have a formal withdrawal of that. Trustee Markunas said not a formal withdrawal but it was discussed that the \$48,000 that was initially anchored into the budget will be removed for the hiring of outside counsel which was specifically related to the purchase of United Water - the sale of water. The Mayor asked Trustee Markunas who was that discussion made with because she is not privy with that. He said he discussed it with a few members of the Board. The Mayor said oh, okay. And you didn't feel it was important for the Mayor of this Village - Trustee Markunas said tonight - he said he guesses we are going to discuss it tonight. The Mayor said oh, okay. Trustee Markunas said nor did the Mayor of the Village discuss the budget process and the worksheets that went out and they were not aware of the budget. The Mayor said she is sorry but he was given by the Village Clerk the process, the timeline, and she has several e-mails going back and forth between herself and the Trustees with regards to meeting with the department heads and going over their budget worksheets. Trustee Markunas said yes, you are correct. But they were not made aware of the outrageous increase. The Mayor said okay. After you met with the department heads did you make any recommendations to the Village Treasurer as with regards to cutting any of those budget sheets or making any cuts or making any - Trustee Markunas said he has met with Mr. Genito three or four times and he has e-mailed him also and telephone conversations. The Mayor said again. Was there any suggestions made that we could have included before the 22.8% was given to the public of ways to cut back on the budget. Trustee Markunas said specific? No, general. General, yes. The Mayor said okay. There was no specific suggestions that he could have implemented in the budget is that correct? Trustee Morris asked if he could - the Mayor said to let her finish with Trustee Markunas. She is trying to get a clear sense if in fact she was given information by the Board of Trustees that would have helped in bringing down the increase in the budget prior to the tentative budget being released. Were any of those recommendations made to Mr. Genito that could have been put into the budget to reduce the 22.8%. Trustee Markunas said he is not sure. The Mayor said you are not sure. Trustee Markunas said he is not sure of a specific - the Mayor said okay, well this is a pretty important issue. Trustee Markunas said he knows it is. The Mayor said so she would think that - Trustee Markunas said and they should have been made aware of it - the Mayor said and you were. You just admitted that you were made aware of it. Trustee Markunas said the increases? The Mayor said yes, you saw all the budget worksheets as she did. Trustee Markunas said you saw them before he did. Let's put it that way. The Mayor said no, Mr. Markunas, when she met - Mr. Giannettino said okay. Let's keep it civil. The Mayor said she is not going to get into a match with him but it is his responsibility, as he has pointed out to her several times, to make sure that he gets all the information that he needs knowing the

timeline of the budget process as the tentative budget was going to be presented. Trustee Markunas said that is what he is currently and continually working on. The Mayor said very good, she is glad to hear that. That is a wonderful thing for this Village. Trustee Markunas thanked her. Mr. Giannettino asked if they were done.

Mr. Giannettino said during that discussion it seems to him that none of the Trustees were included in discussions between the Treasurer and herself. Is he correct? The Mayor said the Treasurer and she did not have meetings with just the two of them. They had meetings with the department heads and that is the same thing that she encouraged the Board members to do as well. Mr. Giannettino said wouldn't it be better to have had one Trustee say at one department and another Trustee - this way everyone would have known what was coming down with the 22.8% increase. And it wouldn't have gotten shocked when the budget was presented by the Village Clerk with a 22.8% increase. Maybe you could have worked some of these things out before this meeting. The Mayor said and if in fact she was included in some of the discussion that Mr. Markunas has told us he has had with the other Trustees there could have been a possibility of that happening. You are absolutely correct. Trustee Markunas said he was in discussion with the Mayor in her office and she was not even able to divulge the increase to him. He said you were so taken back by the increase - the Mayor said upset by it. Trustee Markunas said the Mayor had to write the figure down on a piece of paper and push it over to him. He said come on now. This is not working together. He has tried. He said he has been in that office. He said you know it. And everytime - the Mayor said no, that is not true. Trustee Markunas said and everytime he is in there he is speaking to you about the budget. He said he spoke to Mr. Genito. He has been in the Village Hall numerous times. The Mayor said we can go back and forth and this is about our residents.

Mr. Giannettino said okay. Let him continue. He said there is this figure of \$64,500. Can somebody in God's green earth tell him why the Trustees would need contractual amount of \$64,500. He said he will wait. Mr. Genito said \$48,000 is the aforementioned attorney. Most of the remainder of it is for planners and other experts that the Board has hired in the past to review various planning and zoning type of issues. Trustee Markunas said not this Board. Mr. Giannettino said no, he said in the past. He said his question is - last year under contractual for Trustees it was \$1000. Now we have 48,000 which is gone or going to be gone and that leaves them with \$22,250. Since when does the Board of Trustees hire planners? Planners come through the Planning Board or the Zoning Board so why is it in their line. And he thinks it should just go away, period, so that is \$64,500 that is gone, as far as he is concerned. Whatever you do is your business.

Under the Mayor we have \$4500 in contractual. Elected officials

aren't supposed to get health benefits. What is that number for. Mr. Genito said that he believes is the mileage for the car. Mr. Giannettino said that is even worse. We are paying \$4500 for mileage when we have cars all over this lot that can be used that we own and we have a gas pump that we can put gas in and we are paying \$4500? Where are we going for - this is a two mile square Village. Where are we going. Just another question. So that was 64 and 4 is 68,750. This is one page.

He said let's go to another page. Contractual expenses under the Village Attorney. Last year was 12,250. This year it is 27,150. He said he doesn't know. Tell him. Mr. Genito said that is outside counsel for labor and other issues. Mr. Giannettino said so we are hiring attorneys, outside attorneys, which was a bugaboo for the water but that is besides the point because that is gone. We have an attorney that has been here for 30 years - he said if he is wrong to correct him, Terry, but he thinks it is 30. Mr. Giannettino said he has handled labor items before. He has handled all kinds of other cases for this Village. Why are we hiring outside attorneys? The Mayor said to Mr. Giannettino that we have had labor counsel for this Village for many, many years. Mr. Giannettino said not when he was here. He negotiated a police contract and he doesn't think anybody here will complain about the contract they got. The Mayor said would they complain about the CSEA contract and the money that it cost the Village for that. She thinks so. She said it was much more beneficial for this Village to have a labor counsel attorney to negotiate all contracts and that is something that has worked well for this Village since you had been Mayor. Mr. Giannettino said he still says that preliminary negotiations you do not need a labor attorney. When you come to some sort of agreement or close to an agreement then you can bring in your outside attorney at \$200 an hour. The Mayor said and that is exactly the way we use the attorney. We do not do it for preliminary. We bring them in when we are close to an agreement and we also use them for grievances from the employees. Mr. Giannettino asked if we have had many grievances. The Mayor said yes, we have. Mr. Giannettino said he doesn't know why we would but that is another story.

Mr. Giannettino said special items - same page. Contingency account last year - \$30,000. \$60,000 this year. A 100% increase. What causes a 100% increase? Mr. Giannettino said he feels bad for Mr. Genito. Mr. Genito said that's alright. Mr. Giannettino said he thought maybe the Mayor would answer something to give him a break. Mr. Genito said it is the Giannettino exercise program. Mr. Giannettino said he could use it too. Mr. Genito said actually if you look at the actual amount spent in 2014 or the actual amount in that account was \$106,000 so \$30,000 was a little bit too low. Mr. Giannettino said this is your actual? Mr. Genito said well the 2014 actual. That is for fiscal year 2014. So you see that that number was \$106,000. \$30,000 in the 2015 budget was probably okay but if

you look at that as a percentage of the total budget it's not really that large - \$60,000 was between the 30 and the 106. Mr. Giannettino said so that was another case of underestimating expenses and overestimating revenues.

Mr. Giannettino said contractual expenses for the fire department - \$327,750 last year. 379,110 this year. He said we bought a fire truck last year, right? We're not buying another one are we? He said he doesn't know. He is asking. He said he guesses there is no explanation for that increase.

Mr. Giannettino said he is only going to do a few. He could keep them here all night until tomorrow morning but he said you don't want to do that and neither does he. He said page 27 - he said we are transitioning from a parking authority to a parking department. So it seems that the parking department is going to have three parking people that walk around, which is what you have. It is going to have supposedly a full-time clerk for \$48,728. It is going to have a part-time clerk for \$12,578 and a clerk typist for \$24,364. He said his understanding is it went to the police department. Why do we need all these clerks? He said we need one clerk to take care of clerical work. He said we need a full time person in the parking authority that the police department is overseeing? So that is 48, 24 and 12. It's a few bucks. \$48,728 in that neighborhood. Add it up. It is a couple of percent on your budget. That is what it is. There are other things in this budget and he really doesn't like to get into personal identification of people but there are some positions on the second floor where we have duplicate people with part-time positions. Some of them only work at night. In fact, if he is correct, they both work at night. Which means there is no one here during the day. And if we can survive with no one here during the day why do we need two people at night? He said our building inspector - the Mayor said to Mr. Giannettino that it would be very hard for us to understand what you are talking about when you talk in - so if you are going to bring up something - Mr. Giannettino said okay. There are two code enforcers, two part-time code enforcers. Do we need two part-time code enforcers? The Mayor said first of all. They do not work both at night. They work whatever time they are needed to go out on specific calls of complaints. That can happen daytime, nighttime. Mr. Giannettino said don't they both have full-time day jobs? The Mayor said they both work it out so that someone is available during the day and someone is available in the evening. Mr. Giannettino said that wasn't his question. His question was don't they have full-time day jobs. The Mayor said she doesn't know what they're working - Mr. Giannettino said he thinks you do, but that is another point. The Mayor said okay, but she just told him that she is not familiar. Mr. Giannettino said well maybe we should find out. The Mayor said she doesn't need to know. What she needs to know is that they are doing the job that needs to be done in this Village and that she is satisfied. Mr. Giannettino said that could

be debatable if you ask some people with code enforcement problems. The Mayor said okay. Mr. Giannettino said as far as building inspectors. Do we need two building inspectors. Right now there is nothing being built. Hasn't been anything built. Maybe a couple of private houses on Hillside. He said we are looking to save money - at least he is looking to save money. He said he doesn't know about anybody else. He said these are options that haven't even been looked at. The Mayor said to Mr. Giannettino that he was making generalized statements for the Board and that he doesn't even know that. Mr. Giannettino said well you brought up the things that you identified tonight. None of them were on the list. The Mayor said okay, so you are directing this comment towards me or are you - Mr. Giannettino said you are the only one who brought up the reduction from 22. The Mayor said she thinks she has come up with some good plans. Mr. Giannettino said yes you did. You have come up with some good things - it is a great start. The Mayor said and she is not done yet. Mr. Giannettino said he certainly hopes not. And he is sure that the Trustees have some that they would like to come up with too but they don't get to speak until after everyone else speaks. The Mayor said she is sure that he knows that - she does. Mr. Giannettino said he thinks that he has identified some money here - the Mayor said thank you - Mr. Giannettino said probably - what did you knock it down? 4%? You might have another 3% here. So now we are at 7. And let's see where we go from here because this Village should not be - these taxpayers should not be burdened with an 18% tax increase or a 22% tax increase. He said he doesn't think anything more than 9% and even that is a stretch is acceptable to the majority of the people that are paying these taxes. He thanked them. The Mayor thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Tschudy said he wanted to offer an apology that is why he is coming up. He said he wants to apologize to the Mayor. He wants to apologize to the Board. He said he would like to apologize to the people here and especially the Suffern Police Department. He said at no time did he mean to be disrespectful and he apologizes if it came across that he was. He apologizes for his actions up here with another police officer. That is the worst thing he could ever do is have another argument with a police officer. He said he has the highest regard and highest respect for all police officers and he wants to make one thing perfectly clear. He said when he said a 10% deficit or cut in pay he did not mean the police department so he thinks something might have been misconstrued on that. No way. All he wanted to do is to say that everything should be on a - should be looked at. Whether it is consolidation or whatever. It should just be looked at. He is not saying - if the numbers show one way or the other that is how the Village should go. But in no way, no how would he ever defame a police officer or a police department. He said he just wants to make that clear for everybody.

Dan Loparco of 5 Foxwood Avenue said he has been here for quite a few years. He said he didn't have an ample opportunity to review

the 37 pages that was generated by Mr. Genito. It was a very thorough report. He said he picked up a few graphs and pie charts. And first of all, before he gets into this, he just wants to say something about the Village and the community. He said we have young people moving into here - own a home, raise their children, live in a community where they feel safe. Unfortunately, the way things are going, we are giving them a second thought about living here, raising a family, contributing to the community, contributing to the tax base because your tax base is disappearing. Looking at these charts he said he doesn't see how you can sustain even with the 22% that you are asking us for, which we are not going to give you. It's that simple. We are just not going to give it up. He said he is sorry. He said we have Village workers here, we have the police department here. Sure, everyone is going to be looking for their own pie in the sky if you will. He said he wants to protect his job too but he has an obligation to his constituents, his colleagues, to do what is right. And he believes what he is doing up here is the right thing and that is speaking his mind. He said he is willing to protect his community and his neighbors and this is part of that protection. And what we are doing here is inconscienable. This is something that is not right. It is something that cannot be sustained. Again, looking at these charts - and he has a little bit of background in finance, although he has people who do this stuff for him and if he doesn't know something he asks them. He said he is smart enough to ask them if he doesn't know. But he is looking at - now, he said, he is looking at a pie chart and this is 100% of the budget that he is looking at here. He said he is looking at 37.2% for public safety of 100% of the budget. 37.2%. This is nobody's fault. This is just economics. This is just the way things work. What goes down. Do tolls go down on the bridge? No. There are still potholes in the road. The Mayor asked him if he could stay close to the mic since some people could not hear him. Mr. Loparco said he was sorry. He said now he is looking at the employee benefits. 31% of 100% of the budget of the Village. He said you can ask us - he said he doesn't care - 22%. You cannot stay on this track. It is impossible. Fiscally impossible to continue along here. He said we are fooling ourselves. This Village, honestly folks, ladies and gentlemen, has seen better days. If you look at this report, this very well documented, thought out written report - the numbers don't lie. They are what they are. He said he doesn't care. \$64,000. That changes nothing. It is not going to change anything for any of you. He said he understands. We have jobs, we have careers, we have benefits, we have salary. That is great. But he will be damned if he is going to let the Village, the Titanic, take down the lifeboats. This is not going to happen. You can't allow it to happen. So with that being said - he can't say anything more but this is really outrageous. He said he hears people up here pontificating about why didn't we hire this guy or do that or get rid of this or cut over here. It is more than that. This is very serious financial issues. He said he has looked at the State

Comptroller's report. He said he will be damned if he can find Suffern in there. Are they in there now? Because we are required to file and he doesn't see a report. And he looked for it for a number of years. So we are in deep trouble and the employees and everyone else here better wake up and face reality because you can't come to us, 2.10 square miles of Village, maybe 13,000 - 12,000-13,000 residents. Where is the money? Where, where? We are all paying through the nose. School tax. You want to talk about school tax. What about \$7,000. The school tax is outrageous. He said but this is no one's fault. It is just a matter of taking fiscal responsibility and hard choices. Nobody is going to like it. Nobody likes to be on the short end. But guess what. If you are going to save the ten people here then it is worth to sacrifice the one. That is how it has to be. We just can't throw the baby out with the bath water. But looking at this he is sorry to say that we are fooling ourselves. You are not going to make it. That's it. And you can't come to him and ask for \$60 a month more to pay - hoping that we are going to reach some fiscal responsibility. It just isn't going to happen. As time goes on so do costs. It is inevitable. It is just the way it is. And that is the way he sees it and he hopes that people see it that way as well. And on another note - he doesn't plan to be here much longer simply because he is being taxed out. He said he refuses to give his business to New York - any further money to the state of New York, he doesn't want to do anything here. It is just a big money pit. There is a better life in other parts of the country than this place. That is for sure. The Mayor thanked him.

Mike Sanford of 10 Interstate Street said that he wanted to clear up a couple of things. He said you guys said before there was no restructuring. The name is the financial restructuring board. He said that is the name of it. Just to clear it up. He said if anyone wants to look it up it is [frb.gov.ny](http://frb.gov.ny). So that is the name. Restructuring board. He said another thing he wanted to touch on is some of this consolidation - the police department issues. He said he has had a lot of experience. He retired from Suffern. He worked a lot of other towns and villages also. It was a good experience. He said he thinks there is some misinformation out there about Sloatsburg and some other villages. He said Sloatsburg did get rid of the police department. He said he is not going to comment on whether they are happy or not. That is up to them. But he does know that if you can see in public on some newspaper articles that they were looking to hire their own constable and that was in the past couple of years because they wanted some speed enforcement on their streets and they weren't getting it. And he is not here at all to bash the Town of Ramapo police department because they are a great department. It is not about them. It is what they can do with the money they have. The village of Haverstraw consolidated with the town of Haverstraw police department. Once the initial contract is up the village of Haverstraw's tax rates are much higher than they were when they had their own police department and their crime

rates are through the roof. It is just something to think about. These things seem all great. Start looking at the numbers and realize it is not that great. Village of Warwick, town of Warwick. Same thing. Village of Warwick - the crime rate is up. They lost their village department. It is a lot different when it is in your department or its in your village. He said his other concern is this as he said. He said he just can't imagine us - he said it before at other meetings - he said he just can't imagine getting into more, into bed, any further with the Town of Ramapo. They have their own financial issues. And you can't tell him that for the same amount of money what we get for our police is what Airmont gets. Because he lived in Airmont. And he and his wife moved to Suffern because of what we have here. And it is superb. If anyone lives on Lexington Avenue, if you call the Town of Ramapo P.D. and if they were there and say speeders everyday he has the school buses - no fault to them. They are not going to pull resources from Hillcrest, Chestnut Ridge or Monsey because we are the Village of Suffern and send us anybody. He said he can tell us who will. He said he knows if anyone here calls Clarke Osborn - he is going to have somebody over there. He said he thinks everybody knows that. He said he is with you on saving money. He is with it. He just thinks there are certain things that you have to think it through before you want to go ahead with it. He said he just thinks we really should be looking for independence from the Town of Ramapo. Financial independence. Keeping our money here from them. That's what direction. He said he knows it is not easy. He knows it can happen today. But he just can't imagine - we are talking about giving them more money. It is not about the P.D., it is not about the personnel. It is about you and I who know the supervisor and the town board. They are not going to take our money and sink it back into this Village. No way. Not for any of our services. He thanked them.

Theresa, who said she is not going to say her last name or address but said she does live in the Village - just for reasons - but she just wanted to speak about recreation - first and foremost. She said she has a little boy - just the first of her little family. And a lot of people are all saying we need to cut back on recreation - we need to get rid of it. She said she is really upset with that. She said you all had us growing up - our children and we had things to do. We had things to keep us busy. We had places to go to stay safe. One of them being the DARE program, or the community center, or the Easter Egg hunt. There are a lot of different things going on - the Suffern pool. These kept them out of trouble and if you look at what is going on right now, the amount of heroin addiction going on in our high schools, the marijuana, the drugs, everything - it is all there. And it is happening whether you want to believe it or not. And if you get rid of these programs that our children are going to be invested in starting at four or five years old - what is going to happen in ten or fifteen years. She said she knows she doesn't want her son

getting into something that is going to get him into trouble. So he starts t-ball this coming weekend and she is so excited. What happens if we get rid of that. She said she doesn't want him going to Ramapo because then he is going to be lost. Ramapo, again, they have a great department. They have a lot of stuff going on. But she agrees with him. She doesn't want anything to do with Ramapo because the second we let them in our door they are going to take over and then we are all going to all be crying even more. She said that she wants to be here another twenty-five, thirty, forty-five years. She said they are the younger generation. And speaking for the younger generation. She understands that you have to spend a little bit more money because, guess what, it is 2015. It is not 2000, it is not 1995 anymore. Prices on everything are going up. She said she just switched from Verizon to Sprint because their prices are going up. But that is what happens. Prices go up. Now, they are not saying that the taxes are going to be 22.8%. They are not saying that is definite. They are saying let's open the door and start looking into what our options are. We are all working hard. She said she works her butt off. She has her degree. She is trying to work off her student loans and she is not making anywhere near enough money to pay those off. And you guys don't have to deal with that. But they do. Her generation does. And she has to prepare for her son for college. So she understands money. Believe her. She gets it. And that is more of a reason why she wants to stay in the Village of Suffern where she knows that if she needs a police officer at her door, or if she has a fire going on, that she knows that they are going to be there in under a minute. And not only that. Look at the hit and runs we have been having. Look at the three cars that got stolen in Mahwah out of their driveways. Literally right at our back doors. So the whole consolidation thing. She said we really need to reevaluate that. She said she enjoys our water. She enjoys our sewer. She said she enjoys knowing that we have guys that we work with and see with on a regular basis that she knows that they are taking care of us because they live here. What happens if Ramapo takes over. Or a water company that takes over that is bigger. What is going to happen. We don't know. At least we know if we keep it in the Village of Suffern that we have some kind of control. Because our votes do count. So keep it here. Let's see what happens. This is not a definite answer but this is saying let's go from here. Let's see where it goes. Recreation is important to her. She wants to make sure that her son grows up in a Village, such as Suffern, the reason why she is here, and she doesn't plan on moving upstate or anywhere else. She wants to stay here. And she knows that with some team work between the Board, because we see that some problems are happening there, and she really hopes they resolve those issues and start communicating that we as a whole Village can work on this. And not coming from the younger generation because everyone can't speak on that but she is the younger generation that is starting a family in this Village.

Michael Curley of 84 Orange Avenue said that he read over the budget and looking at the budget you go over the years and people have analyzed at the State. He said there was no money stolen from anywhere. Nobody misappropriated funds. Nobody stole a dollar. Just looking back everybody tried to go under that super 2% tax cap. As the gentleman mentioned here it doesn't work. It doesn't work in the formula of trying to provide services and at the same time always staying under the 2% tax cap. The only way you can accomplish that mission is consolidation. But it is not consolidation of us going into the Town of Ramapo, where he finds it comfortable in saying that there will be indictments coming down soon. It is consolidation in the fact that we need to at Suffern and take our services and make someone else help us pay for those services. At the same time then not increasing our employment ranks and our benefit costs. If we then can consolidate by making Suffern the key. There are many areas around us that are looking to get away from Ramapo because they do not trust Ramapo and as time goes on Ramapo said they do a bait and switch. We will charge you a million and then before you know it you are up to 4 million. He said well we can actually provide those services at a cheaper rate at the same time it's cheaper taxes for us. You have to work on it. It's a plan. And this is something over time. Someone had come up with the idea of making the Village of Suffern a city because it is easier to attain those things. It is a work in process and it is not his idea and he is not trying to take credit for that either. But nobody robbed anyone. No one in any administration robbed anyone. They probably should have said we were hopeful. Water usage went down immensely. And because it went down immensely it cost us more then over time and as they mentioned we are going to have a problem with Novartis there. He said he went to the workshop the other day. He was waiting to hear everyone's ideas here. He said he went there waiting to hear what whoever had to say - this is what I am cutting, or this is how I am doing it. You don't have to wait. As Mr. Giannettino said they get their chances at the end of the meeting. These people came. They have to get home. You don't have to wait until the end of the meeting. Tell what you want to cut. Tell how you want to save. The man just came up with at least 4%, 5% or whatever exactly it comes to. We want you to work together. Knock more off. But for us to go ahead and say to ourselves here we are not going over 2% is a ridiculous statement. There are contractual agreements between employees that we cannot break. We can break them if we want to try and we will be in court and it will cost us three times as much. We talk about Ramapo. Suffern police got a raise of about 2. something percent. Ramapo police got a 4% raise. So if you want to see really what the cost will be in time go look and see who gets paid what, when and where. That is just one simple fact there. He said he can go back - now if you want to go back and look into what they got in their benefits, you are really going to be amazed at Ramapo. So that idea - you can talk it but it is a foolish story to talk. Consolidation he agrees with but we're the king. They come to us and we give them fair

service and we share our costs. Other villages are trying to get away from Ramapo. Why would we even consider trying to go to them. We would be a real sucker.

Rich Gandon of 45 Somerset Drive said first of all. The financial restructuring board, if you read it, if you accept the recommendations you are bound by those recommendations. So that is a misnomer. Trustee Morris said he begs his pardon. He said if you read it. Mr. Gandon said it is the financial restructuring, not review. Trustee Morris said we are not talking about restructuring. Mr. Gandon said that is what you proposed a few meetings ago. Trustee Morris said he will give him suggestions on restructuring. Mr. Gandon said that is what you put forth a motion on a couple of months ago. Trustee Morris said again if you read it he thinks he will have a better understanding - Mr. Gandon said if you read it - Trustee Morris said he did read it. Mr. Gandon said Mr. Genito will probably agree with him if you accept the recommendations you are bound by them. Is that correct? He said yes. So what really troubles him is that without fully understanding what you are voting on - Trustee Morris said excuse me - Mr. Gandon said he is not done talking. He said you will get your chance. If you don't read and understand the information - talk to Mr. Genito. He said he thinks he knows a little bit more about these things than any of us. Trustee Morris said alright. Go ahead. Mr. Gandon said what you are potentially doing is you are jeopardizing the residents and employees of a full-service Village by not understanding of what you are putting forth. All he is asking is you know you have an expert right here. Talk to the man. Talk to the man. If you want to go there - he said the last minute he was wrong about the \$48,000 for that attorney. You told me that. Mr. Markunas just told us all that he was right. Trustee Morris said that was an error. Mr. Gandon said that is fine. So let's move on. So Mr. Giannettino came up with 7% in reductions. Mr. Giannettino said about 4 or 5. Mr. Gandon said okay, 4 or 5 plus the 4 or 5 you already have. What are we down to - 17 or 18%? Mr. Giannettino said no, 14%. Mr. Gandon said 14%. Great. He said we have already agreed that we are not going to exceed the 2% tax cap. He said he wants to know where the rest of the cuts are coming from. Another 12% worth of cuts. Are we going to cut recreation to families? Are we going to cut recreation to senior citizens? He said they are in there working out all the time. He said we just had a bus trip. He said we do a lot for the seniors here as well and they have earned it. He said let's talk about the police department. We spend about 5 million dollars on our police department. Airmont spends 4.8 million dollars. They get 1.5 to 2 officers per shift. Those numbers do not come from the brass. They came from the guys that are actually on the street working. He said he knows for a fact Hillburn has had Suffern show up to help them out before Ramapo gets there. Nothing against the guys that are out there. What it really comes down to is response times. We've got the people. We are paying for public safety. As someone pointed out 37 or whatever % it is for public safety. He

said he thinks it is a bargain. He said something else you probably don't understand about the Ramapo police department is God forbid you need a SWAT team. Who is coming? Who is showing up? He said oh, they will show up. The county will show up. Do you understand that they don't have a SWAT team? We do. They are going to get a bill. If we have a situation like that where we need the REACT team we are getting a bill. Do you know what we pay for that. We have Rick Marsh who is on the REACT team. People don't understand that. He said we have had some drug arrests in this Village through the Rockland County Task Force. Guess what. Ramapo isn't apart of that anymore. They don't have one. And as Theresa brought up we have heroin, we have drugs all over the place, prescription medications - we have those guys and they do a great job. And what he really wants to know, and he is not trying to pick on Mr. Morris, but what he really wants to know is where are the rest of the cuts going to come from or do we bite the bullet and come up with a fair proposal. Some sort of - you know we negotiate something where we maintain a full-service Village. Mr. Gandon said nothing on the cuts? Have they been considered? He said we have 12%. We have to cut based on the votes tonight. Anyone? Anyone? The Mayor said she has given him what she has come up with to date. Mr. Gandon said thank you very much.

Alfred D'Ambrosio of 4 Cross Street said it is interesting that we do hear constant requests for programs. He said some are federal, some are state, some are local and some are dealing with our youth and some of them are constructive. But he said something earlier and he thinks different people actually have in a way said it as well. If you are going to cut back some of it, some part of it, dealing with your youth, dealing with your libraries, dealing with your structures that can have an additional part put onto it for the community that has to be stopped. He said he stopped contributing to his library. They have a thing there for voting. They needed something like 40 or 60 thousand for the year and then they wanted to make it triple that, he thinks. He said he may be wrong. But triple that and it was including Sloatsburg, this and that. He said that was going to be tax money, he imagines. He said no. He said it was a private vote and now he is being public, he is sorry. But it's got to be said. Either you are going to stop spending, cut back on programs or you are going to go bankrupt. Our government is bankrupt. You want to do the same damn thing? You gotta cut it now. You have a problem. You have a thing being built someplace in the quarry where they are saying well we have to use - they are going to do rent. So they have a special deal where they may not be paying profits to the town for an amount of years. But that water mind you. That's interesting. That water's been used more and more. Whoever is saying it's not that is hooey. How can it not be used. You have new condos built here, there, everywhere and they are all using it. And it will go down. Sure, you will have moments it goes up. And there are merits in some of the case when you say you have an excess you could sell it. There are merits in

that point. But the other side of the coin is if you have something you better keep it. But two if you have a board up here from the highest echelon down you have got to have that level of where you say restraint because money is worth a penny now? You are going to say it's okay, I will still keep printing it and doing it. No. Because you are going to need more, and more and more. If you can't teach your kids about drugs and if you have to take out the guy who is doing it, if you can't do it, well then of course our lawmen will. But if you can solve the damn problem somewhat you should do it and that is what your job is to lower these requests for more and more money. Interests are out of sight. Here and in every other respect. We spend money, yeah, we are going to lose our town. It can happen. More and more will go. And then what - oh, Sloatsburg. I remember that. It was like Doodletown. Which is an existent - oh, it is not existent anymore. It's gone. So that's the worry. So you have to stop spending anyway you can. Cut back our benefits. Cut back your own benefits. He said he was dropped from AIG years ago. What was he earning? 40 some odd thousand a year. Hey, what's this new guy getting they are hiring for here - 40 somewhat just hiring from scratch. He said he worked there 33 years. He said if he could be let go and told go to hell, well he is sorry, don't hire so many people. He thanked them.

Bruce Simon said as always his friend Al is a tough act to follow. Mr. Simon said he lives at 31 Utopian Avenue. He said he just wanted to say something. He is not going to get into specific departments or dollars or anything. He said he thinks there is a general perception that needs to be corrected. There is a budget timeline from the Mayor through the Trustees. All the department heads know every step of the way what that budget timeline is. They know every piece of paper that is moved around. There is nothing that stops anybody on that Board from getting involved in the budget process from day one. If anybody tells you that they were excluded from a process that they were not allowed to be involved in the process, that they were kept in the dark about the process - the word he used online is the word he will use today. That's absurd. Anyone of them could have been involved in the process at any point in the process so maybe the better question to ask is how many of them have been involved in the process, what have they done to date to make that 22% number better. He said he is not pointing a finger at anybody. Last month didn't go well. And just as his friend Mr. Tschudy apologized for his behavior before he will apologize for his behavior last month. He should not have raised his voice. He should not have done what he did. He said to Judge Byrne that he apologizes for speaking about him the way he did. He said he was wrong and he accepts that. And he hopes he will accept his apology. But it is true that anybody here could be part of this process at any point. He said he would like to know, and he guesses we will find out towards the end of the meeting, he would like to know what they have done. Who besides the Mayor has met with department heads, what numbers have they come up that are

different, that would be better, that would be more palatable to the people here and to the residents of the Village. He thanked them.

Patsy Wooters of 19 Mansfield Place said that she was under the impression that there would be a public comment period. She said she has some information which is actually good news for the Village and so she is going to take it upon herself to just give the good news. The Mayor said there is going to be audience participation. Ms. Wooters said oh, okay. Then she will make her other point that she wanted to make. She said that several years ago she was nominated to get a scholarship to attend the Pace Law School Land Use. It is a four day course for public servants and for people who are on planning boards and busy bodies like her. And the person who ran it at the time was a John Nolan and he made a point. He said that residential taxpayers on average get \$1.27 for every dollar in taxes that they pay. So, ladies and gentlemen, when we look in the mirror we are looking at the problem. We can't have it all.

Tom Zordan said before he gets to his point he wants to clear up little things that people don't realize. He said yes it is true that the Board and the Mayor can be involved in the budget process at any given time. And they should be. And they have always been encouraged by himself and he is sure Mr. Genito has encouraged them. But what is not understood is that when they do get involved and they get the budget worksheets and so on, all they are really seeing is what the dollar number is that is being requested, what was last year, what was the year before. They don't have the whole picture which is this 22% number in front of them. So when they looked at it and they see okay, this is going to go up a few dollars, several thousand dollars, they don't have it altogether and they don't know it is 22% so he just wanted everyone to realize - the Mayor said she is sorry to Mr. Zordan. She said that he wasn't involved in the process this year but Mr. Genito requested narratives from each one of the department heads in regards to their budgets. So they were properly laid out and they were available to everyone on the Board. Mr. Zordan said what he is saying is that he agrees that they have all the pieces but they don't have them put together and have the total budget increase. That is all he is saying. The Mayor said right. He said he is agreeing that they should be involved and they are involved to whatever magnitude it is. The Mayor said okay. Mr. Zordan said okay. With that being said he said he did look at the budget and Mr. Genito did put a lot of work into it.

Mr. Zordan said but on the narrative. He just wanted to make just one comment. And that is that the money that was in last year's budget to purchase Orange Avenue was not \$295,000. It was \$280,000. He said he just wanted to let them know so that they can make that correction. He said there was \$295,000 in sale of assets but

\$280,000 was just for Orange Avenue. He said that Mr. Giannettino talked about the parking authority. He said that he knows that efforts were made to dissolve the parking authority and to bring it into the Village. He said he is assuming that has been done. Mr. Zordan said the parking authority itself has always been there to generate money and that was one of the reasons it was brought into the Village because we kept saying why shouldn't we keep any leftover money that is there. And in years gone by the parking authority did make money. Now that we are taking it over we are not showing it making money. We are showing the same revenue as expense. He said that having some knowledge in what the budgets used to be for the parking authority included in their expense items were depreciation, which when it is brought into the Village we don't recognize depreciation as a dollar expense item in our budget. So that should be freeing up some funds. He said in addition they used to have an outside consultant and they don't have that anymore. And that used to be anywhere from 12 to 18,000 dollars a year. So since that goes away that should be freeing up some funds. He said in addition they paid an outside accountant to do their quarterly sales tax returns for the rail lot and for the regular parking passes. And that should be done in house now and free up some more money. They also used to get audited by a firm and now since this is part of the Village we shouldn't be paying for an outside audit of the parking authority. So that should free up some more funds. Mr. Zordan said and again they had part-time clerks working there. Now he is being told that they want to have a full-time clerk at \$48,000. He said he doesn't understand why because we are going to be absorbing more of the work in terms of record keeping and the bill paying so he doesn't understand why all of a sudden they would need, not only not cutting back on clerks, but increasing the number of clerks. So he hasn't figured out what an appropriate amount of additional revenue taking in the parking authority would give the Village but he would have to say it is somewhat substantial.

Mr. Zordan said and the Board, as it was constituted a couple of years ago when we brought this all up about taking the parking authority in they were all in agreement that yes, not only would we be able to control this this would provide additional revenue for the Village and we would make money off of this. But as it is constituted in the budget right now it is not showing that the Village is making any additional revenue. So he thinks this should be reviewed.

Mr. Zordan said another item is that the planning board, as Mr. Giannettino pointed out, they are the ones that basically hire the planners when someone is coming in. They want to build something. They hire the planners. And then what happens is we get reimbursed from them 100%. So what we do is in the revenue area there is planning fees. That is the number. Then in the planning expenses, contractual expenses, that should be the same offsetting number.

Well this year we have \$23,000 in planning fees and we have zero in contractual expenses. The money we received should be paying out for the planners. And now he realizes that Mr. Genito, he guesses, put it into the Trustees contractual expenses. So he thinks that should be moved around if he is not mistaken.

Mr. Zordan said that looking at a few things here it appears that we have with Orange Avenue a lease, a five year lease, in which if they don't buy the building they are supposed to pay us \$12,000 a year. He said he doesn't see that \$12,000 in the budget. He said we have an agreement with New York State because our DPW guys plow their state roads and we get roughly \$13,000 a year for plowing the roads. He said well he doesn't see that in the budget. He said in terms of pool fees. He said that we have in the actual from 2014 he thinks it was \$46,000 or \$47,000 in revenue. Well, this year's projected budget reduces it to \$42,000. He said he doesn't know why we would reduce it. He said he doesn't see us reducing our fees that we are charging and he doesn't think that our population is really changing in regards to the number of families that come and children, etc. that have to pay.

Mr. Zordan said additionally we get grants - a youth grant. The police department gets one and recreation gets one and unfortunately it has been going down but roughly now it is down to about \$2500 combined. He said he doesn't see that in the budget either. He said we have in our budget a police buy-out which in the long run is going to save us money. It is actually it should be saving us money now. And this year it is budgeted at \$297,000 to pay off the second installments to the police officers who retired. Additionally, another \$103,000 to pay for accrued vacation or sick - he said he doesn't remember off the top of his head. He said anyway it comes to about \$401,000 - a good chunk of change. He said he would suggest looking into bonding, not BAN, bonding that number with a say 10 year bond. This was done he believes in the County of Rockland when they had their buy out for about 3 million dollars. He would suggest looking into bonding that - not that he likes borrowing money - but if we can bond that and pay it off over ten years - the way it works is that because it is in the general fund, or if you want to move it to the capital fund, and he doesn't know if we can, but since it is in the general fund the bond would be attributed directly to the general fund and therefore we can recognize the revenue which would offset the expense 100% in that year and then we would be picking up going forward the payments of principal and interest as expense and over ten years say \$40,000 plus interest - let's say \$50,000. He said he is just throwing out a number but in the year it would save \$400,000 approximately. Mr. Zordan said in addition a few years ago we settled an agreement on the Shabbos house and we borrowed with a BAN \$200,000. We have been paying that off at the rate of \$50,000 a year. Well, because this is a general fund BAN and the way you work BANS, when you pay it down that is when you recognize the revenue. He said he doesn't see

this \$50,000 payment as a revenue in the budget. He said he only sees it as an expense but not a revenue because it is supposed to offset because you are not supposed to do the same expense twice without recognizing offsetting revenue so net you only have expense once.

He said in terms of the police department, like everyone has said, and he is a true believer - they do a great job. But what has happened was last year we had the buyout - our fellows retired. And they deserve their retirement. They worked a long time. And we went and hired new fellows and now we have a whole bunch of new young men and women and so what happens is a couple of things. One is that the people that retired were getting six weeks vacation. The people that are now here are only getting two weeks vacation. So that means that all five of these new people, or six, are now providing the Village with four extra weeks of work. So that means that we have twenty extra weeks of shifts that are being covered. Additionally, they get paid at a lower rate. Therefore, he can't, in good conscience, understand why we are raising our overtime from \$150,000 to \$240,000 - \$240,000 when obviously there are going to be times when people are out sick and we are going to be short. We have to call in people. But if people are getting paid less then we shouldn't have to pay as much overtime. Additionally, because of the way the rules are - you have to have so many police officers on staff because we have more younger guys that keep providing more man hours there is less time that people are gone on vacation and stuff. So like he said. They are there four more weeks each. If there are five people it is 20 weeks more or if it is 6 it is 24 weeks. So he doesn't understand why the overtime would have to go up so much.

Mr. Zordan said again we talk about fiscal management and managing our resources and everything. And granted our people, whether it is salaries or benefits, is a tremendous number and a tremendous % of our overall budget but that is because that is what we offer. We offer people. You have to pay them. We don't produce a product that we sell. We only have our people so it is understandable that our people are such a tremendous amount of our budget.

Mr. Zordan said now back to - in years past, our DPW overtime has gone up drastically also. This year we are only asking for a \$5,000 increase. But he thinks we have to look at how we are using our overtime in the DPW. And everyone will say oh we had the snowstorms, snowstorms. That is true. We do. But when we have a budget of \$70,000 or \$90,000 and we use \$40,000 to \$50,000 of that before we have one snowflake he thinks we have to look at what we are spending our overtime dollars on. And we can't spend it on watering plants and cutting grass. We have to be more responsible.

The Mayor said to Mr. Zordan that there are other people who want to talk and it is starting to get very, very late. We have given

you probably about 20 to 25 minutes of time so could you just - Mr. Zordan said he is wrapping it up. He is wrapping it up. The Mayor said thank you. She appreciates it. Because other people would like to speak. Mr. Zordan said that what he is suggesting here is that we reduce the police overtime by - reduce it from - instead of it going up to \$240,000 give them a 10% increase up to \$165,000 and for the street department - he thinks if we better manage our summertime overtime we could definitely get through the year on a \$70,000 overtime budget instead of \$95,000. Based on all of these things he is talking about savings and additional revenue over \$500,000. The Mayor thanked him.

The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to speak. Adam DeStefano of 19 Prairie Avenue said he promises that he will be very, very short. It is a late night. He said there are a couple of things he wanted to bring up. One is that he really does like a hiring freeze. He said it is not only going to save us money on the budget this year but it is going to save us money in the future, which is what we are looking for. This isn't about lowering the money for one year's budget. It is about lowering the money for the next five, ten years in the budget. And that is what we have to look for. He said the other thing he likes is selling non-essential assets. Right now we need money. We are strapped for cash. We have years of mismanagement and misappropriation of funds, overestimated revenues that didn't end up coming in that cost us millions and we now need to make that money up. And we have to start selling some non-essential assets to do that. A lot of people on the Board and even in the audience are saying well this is something, oh, where did this come out of. He said this was something that was going on for years and you know what. It's hindsight - hindsight - we look back and we should have done this and we should have done this. Very few people - himself, Mr. Giannettino, who apparently just left, and Mr. Tschudy were three people who came up year after year saying you know what - these figures - they look really high for your estimated revenues and we were told oh, no, no, they will come in. Every year they came in short. They came in short by anywhere from \$300,000, \$200,000-\$300,000 on some years which adds up very quickly. And you know what. It was meant to reduce - he understands the Board's logic - it was meant to reduce the amount we were paying during hard times but you know what. The more you put off paying something the more you have to pay down the line. And that is what we are feeling now. So not only does he think we have to make this budget lower this year by means that are reasonable, that keep our services, but we also have to look in the future. Because we can't afford to pay the piper again this steeply because it is going to kill this Village. We have to make sure that not only is the budget this year reasonable but we have to make sure for in the future to make sure that we don't push it to the next year - by saying you know what - let's add \$300,000 here so we can help relieve the residents. Pushing it down the road only makes the problem substantially worse and he implores this Board to do that

practice now not tomorrow - now - and make it so we don't push problems off until tomorrow, especially financial ones, because now everyone is here and has to pay a large sum of money for misappropriations over years of mismanagement. He thanked them.

Patricia Sanford of 10 Interstate Street said that prior to that she grew up in Stonegate her whole life, except for three years. And she wants to talk about those three years very briefly. She said she moved up to Orange County because she wanted to get away from the taxes. She moved to Warwick which was one of the villages that went to the state and consolidated with the town. She said she closed on her house and said okay, what night do I put my garbage out. They said well it depends on who you hire. Who you hire? What do you mean who you hire. She said she had to pay for her garbage to get picked up. She said well when do I put out my recycling. She said you have to shlep it all the way across town and you have to drop it off. Nobody picks it up. She said okay. Where's the town pool? She was told there is no town pool. She said is there summer camp? She was told no, there is no summer camp. She said where am I. Where did I move? That was her fault because she didn't do her research but she thought, she was naive because she thought everywhere was like the Village of Suffern. She said it is not. So she moved back. Where does she move? Airmont. Again, didn't do her research. Because she just thought that everywhere was like the Village of Suffern. It is not. She said let me tell you about police responding time. She said her son had an anaphylactic allergic reaction to something - three years old - grey, on the carpet in her living room. Lifeless. She said she doesn't know if it was 8, 9 or 10 minutes before the police arrived but they were the longest minutes of her life. And here it probably would be less than a minute and she is not exaggerating. So you want to charge me 10%, 12%, 15% - she is happy to pay it. Because she has seen - you get what you pay for. She thinks that the first thing we have to do is work together and she thinks that - she said she is going to be very honest. The first meeting she attended a few months ago - she didn't know who was who. She didn't know who was what. But by the time she left she knew it was very divided. You come here and there are teams. When you are on social media you can tell - there are teams. You can tell who is on which team. She said she is on the Village of Suffern team and we all have to be on the Village of Suffern team. And she has to say - Mr. Markunas - how do I get on your e-mail list because - Trustee Markunas said to give him her e-mail - she said it is rolando (after her dog, her beautiful boy) two l's - rollando214@yahoo.com. She said because she has to say you have some work to do to gain her trust back. She feels like at the meetings she has been to there has been a lot of contradiction in things that you said. And she feels like there is a resistance between some of the Board members and the Mayor and it makes her - it saddens her because she wants everyone's best interest to be the Village and not whatever their agendas are besides that. So she wants to be on his e-mail list. She wants to hear from him. And she

just hopes that everybody doesn't freak out by the increases and cut, cut, cut. Just be careful what you wish for.

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

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Clarke Osborn said he will be very brief. He said he knows it has been a long night. He said he just wants to stress real quickly. He said tempers can get heated, there are a lot of issues going on, obviously. He said we get along well in Suffern. He said he knows most of the people sitting here - your families, your kids - he said walking his dog he sees them. He said we are a tight community and we need to continue to be that way. And obviously there will be some second opinions. Maybe feel the same way as somebody else. But we need to keep moving forward. We have a great Village. We have great services. We will do - back to the police department - what needs to be done to make it work. He said he is a life-long resident, he has been a police officer here for the last 25 years - the last 11 as Chief - and we are going to make it work. We are going to do what we need to do. Most of us are friends. Even in the heat of the moment. We are friends. We know each other. Let's just keep moving forward. And the Mayor and Board we will work together on this and we will continue to work on this. And he appreciates that. And he just wanted to stress that because obviously his department came up a few times and he just wants to let them know that they are here to help them out - whatever they can do. That is just very simple.

Chief Osborn said he just had a few informational items. He said this month we are focusing on - which we have been doing, he should say and we are going to continue - our downtown safety. We are going to focus on crosswalk enforcement. He said the reason we do that is that they found - he said we have had some complaints - and they are justified - primarily from senior citizens and young mothers with strollers that every time they get to an intersection and try to get across the street no one will stop. Chief said it is a violation if you don't stop. So they have been setting up some operations and they have issued numerous summonses and they noticed the difference because it slowed down because they are continuously enforcing it. It is for the safety of everybody to do that. He said they have been going after the distracted driving, cell phone driving. It has been working out very well. He said they started foot patrol today. They had officers out walking today. He said they are going to continue it. It worked very well. He said he was out himself walking today. And a lot of people were coming up and talking to them. He said they will continue that. He said we have been very proactive on speeding and aggressive driving enforcement. He said they have focused on Route 202 for the last month - multiple arrests, multiple summonses. There are several officers

here tonight - off-duty - that were involved in that operation and we thank them. They did an awesome job and the residents are very appreciative of that. He said a couple of more quick things. He said at the street fair they are going to have a booth set up with some police vehicles. He will be down there. On May 9 they are looking to work with the Mahwah Elks - Walk Out on Drugs event. He said he will give them more information. He said we want to plan a pretty large scale walk. He said he thinks they are going to go from Connor School or the DARE Hockey Rink on Yorkshire Drive walking to the Elks for a big barbecue and event. He will keep them involved. It looks like it is going to happen at this point. And one more thing, which he knows is not the first major thing - but for the parents today. He said he was up there today. He said he spoke to Ed. And he spoke to the Mayor. And it was in regards to the crossing guard again. He said they were up at Connor School today. He said they started having - he said the parking authority as most of you know did disband. He said they took over the enforcement part in the police department and it is working out excellent. The agents are doing great under them and they have them doing crossing guard detail at Connor for the kids because people do go up there and if we are not there they have a tendency to go through the stop signs. So thank you. It worked out excellent. And they will continue every morning. And that is it and once again, and he thinks most of them know, that if he can ever help them - a lot of them see him outside of work - some of his neighbors are here - friends of the neighborhood - but even if you don't know me and you live in the Village, please, you are more than welcome. He has an open door policy. People come down every day to talk about issues. He thanked them.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

**A) Update:**

Mr. Charles Sawicki said he wanted to give an update on the digester upgrade project which is a NYS DEC consent order project. This project is currently substantially complete with punch list items remaining. He said some of the scope of work includes evacuation of the digester and transportation of sludge, cleaning and recoating the digester interior, replacement of the primary digester mixing system, repair of the primary digester cover, replacement of the bio-gas equipment, replacement of the primary and secondary heat exchangers and associate hot water circulation pumps, replacement of the digester sludge motor. He said this project has two minor field modifications. The first one being the thermo cut-off added from the variable frequency drive to the sludge mixing pump motor. This is a 20 horsepower explosion proof motor which is very large, very heavy, and very costly. The thermal cut-off prevents damage to the motor such as overheating and failure. Mr. Sawicki said the other item is the gas flare control panel relocated to a safe location on the process building at a

height above the recorded high flood level. This work includes new power and control conduit within the process building. Mr. Sawicki said he was requesting modification to the electrical portion of the digester upgrade project. This modification is in the amount of \$5,659.23. The total cost of this project is \$1,183,562.55. A motion to approve the modification was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**B) Application for Payment:**

Mr. Sawicki said he had two applications for payment requests requesting payment of application of payment no. 8 to Northeast Remsco Construction in the amount of \$27,530.05 for the WWTP digester upgrade project. He said he has confirmed with Michael that funds are available. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki said he was requesting payment of application of payment no. 4 to HVS LLC in the amount of \$3,529.07 for the WWTP digester upgrade project - the electrical portion. The Mayor said again, you have confirmed with Mr. Genito. Mr. Sawicki said he has confirmed with Michael on the availability of the money. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Markunas.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**C) MS4 Public Hearing:**

Mr. Sawicki said he would like to request a public hearing during the May Board meeting for the annual MS4 report. The Mayor said that would be at 7:50 p.m. on May 4. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Markunas. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**D) Training:**

Mr. Sawicki said he had one training request. He said the Village street sweeper is manufactured by Pelican. A free Pelican sweeper service training course for operators and mechanics is being offered on April 29, 2015. This course is located in Oldwick, New Jersey. He is requesting Mr. Vogel, Mr. Barish and Mr. Cronk to attend. Trustee Byrne asked if there was a cost. The Mayor said it is free. Mr. Sawicki said there is no cost - it is free. Trustee Markunas asked if the employees would be going on their scheduled work tour. Mr. Sawicki said yes - no overtime. Trustee Markunas asked if we needed three people to go. Mr. Sawicki said we are trying to get everyone trained on the sweeper and these are the three remaining employees that haven't received training as of yet. A motion approving the request was made Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT:**

Mr. Steve Conlee, the building inspector, said this will be real quick. It is just to bring the Board up to speed on what we brought in and what we did last month. He said we issued 17 building permits, we did 10 municipal searches, and performed 51 fire inspections for a total of \$40,430. He said they also issued 15 violation notices and issued 14 appearance tickets. He said he would also just like to mention - he said that Mr. Giannettino brought it up before - about the code enforcement officers and the building inspectors. He said they are part-time and the code enforcement officers do work primarily evenings and weekends. The building inspectors work daytime. The building inspectors can also perform the duties of the code enforcement officers. So in essence you have coverage pretty much around the clock and as such, being part-time, there are no benefits being paid. So you have full-time coverage with no benefits being paid. So that is pretty much to him a win, win situation. He said they do all try to work together and work with each other and their office is there and if anybody has any questions call them, come in and see them. They are available.

The Mayor thanked him. Trustee Markunas said that he just wanted to thank him for responding at his request to some violations that were noticed in and around the hospital area. He asked him if he would like to elaborate on that and what took place in regards to your response. Mr. Conlee said sure. He said they investigated a complaint, went up and checked it, and rightfully so there was quite a mess up there. So they were immediately posted in violation for several different items and the manager there, Jay Thomson, was in to see him last Thursday, he believes, and he said he was working on getting a lot of the stuff cleaned up. Mr. Conlee said he went up and checked it today. There are still a few items left there. There are two trailers there and a couple of other items but he is working diligently to get rid of it. So hopefully he will get that done this week. Mr. Conlee said there were a couple of other issues there with the handicap parking, no parking fire zone and stuff like that and Mr. Conlee gave him a little leeway on that because of the spring time to clean up. He said he worked on the parking signs and the restriping of the parking lot will take a little longer by the time they can get the parking lots cleaned and then restriped. He said he gave him a little leeway on that but not on the - Trustee Markunas said great. And notice of violations were issued. Mr. Conlee said yes. Trustee Markunas thanked him very much. Mr. Conlee said the next step if they do not comply will be an appearance ticket. Trustee Markunas thanked him. The Mayor thanked him.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

The Mayor said if you wish to speak please come up to the microphone and state your name and address.

Bob Burbridge said he was a property owner at 11 Dunnery Court off of Ramapo Avenue. He said his comments and questions will be brief but they relate to the proposed emergency access road from Orange Avenue through Dunnery Court to Ramapo Avenue. He said while himself and his fellow residents on Dunnery Court certainly can see the value for emergency response in the West Ward they have a lot of questions and a lot of concerns as to why Dunnery Court, which is a very densely populated court with twelve homes and many young children, is the only and the most viable location for this road to be. Particularly when, in his opinion, Jersey Avenue is a much better option. He said for those in the room that may not know this proposal is going to require both himself and his neighbor to relinquish portions of their very small lots, of which of course the Village will have to pay them fair market value. With the \$250,000 grant that Assemblywoman Jaffee got he has a little bit of a hard time to understand how that is going to cover not only the construction of this road but also the compensation of the two property owners that have to relinquish parts of their very small lots. Mr. Burbridge said that what he wanted to say tonight was that this process, as far as he is concerned, with notification to

him that began back in October. He said they did have an initial meeting with the Mayor and several other Village officials after which they presented a list of questions and concerns. And again he really is just asking for his questions and his concerns to be answered. He said they were promised a meeting in February, which has not happened. So none of their questions have been answered. He said he will say that he issued two written FOIL requests - one to NJ Transit because he got several different stories that the railroad wanted this versus we wanted this. The Mayor said just a second. She said to the audience that we are really having a hard time hearing Mr. Burbridge so if they could please keep it down a little bit. It is very difficult to hear him. Mr. Burbridge said with regard to the FOIL request, he has to say NJ Transit wrote to him twice and had the courtesy to tell him or ask him for an extension to reply to his request. The only response that he has gotten from the Village of Suffern is that from the Village Clerk that most of this is verbal. He said that he has a very hard time to believe that a project of this magnitude doesn't have a piece of paper or an e-mail or a communication that everything is verbal. He said he issued the FOIL on January 4 and he asks this Board if this Board has any intention of complying with the law and responding. The Mayor said she tried to update him a couple times to let him know that we have not received any approvals yet with regard to the funding for the project. So therefore we have not done any work because there is no funding to do any exploratory work or any planning work until we know that the funding is complete. So we really have no more information on the project then we did when we initially met. But as soon as that funding comes through and things start to move along again she will be meeting with all of them. Mr. Burbridge said and his expectation would be that there would be a public hearing prior to this? The Mayor said she doesn't know if we need a public hearing on the emergency crossing - Mr. Burbridge said you are going to be taking property - the Mayor said on taking property we would. But not if we go to eminent domain. But she hopes that won't happen. But certainly she will be in touch with him once we have the studies done and we know exactly today why they still feel that that is the crossing that should be used and you will be included in all of that. Mr. Burbridge said okay. The Mayor said she promised him that then and she promises him that today. Mr. Burbridge said in helping him to understand some of the answers to some of those questions - the Mayor said absolutely - Mr. Burbridge said he thinks that the responding to the FOIL request from January will be helpful. He did not know that you have that documentation - the Mayor said she does - Mr. Burbridge said he will be happy to come and pick it up. The Mayor said absolutely and she will have it ready for him tomorrow.

Chief Osborn said there is a document that he has also and the one thing they didn't address was the actual location of it. He said he has it downstairs. He said the reason that they chose that location, because he happened to be involved - it wasn't his

decision where to go with it - but he brought it up saying there is a spot where we can cross and he knows that the one spot that they suggested, at least three years ago, was that location because they felt of the width it was and they felt because of the height from the track. They felt as you went up the track it would have made it drop off more. They were concerned they could not do it economically and safety-wise. He said he just happened to be there at that time. He said he doesn't think that is addressed in the letter but the rest of it is, he knows that. He said he just wanted him to know instead of looking for something that is not there. That was not in writing. He said he was there with some of the people and that was the reason they chose that spot. So he said instead of making him chase around.

Roy Tschudy of Lonergan Drive said he would like to know if there are any contingency plans for this spring to clean up the river bank that leads from Boulevard down to Donna Hallett park because of all the debris that has been dumped over there. The Mayor said yes, Roy, actually she put it together last year. It was very, very poorly attended. However, she is going to try again this year with the hopes that there will be better attendance from the neighborhood. She said she tends to think that she needs to wait a little bit longer than she did last year until the weather turns a little bit nicer. For whatever reason Mother Nature is hanging on to this cooler weather. But yes, as soon as we see that the weather has truly made its turn, she would like to set that up again. And she hopes that she can get his help in getting the residents out. Mr. Tschudy said he will be glad to do what he can. The Mayor said she appreciates it. Mr. Tschudy said but there is a lot of heavy debris that is across the river so he doesn't know how - the Mayor said unfortunately, you are not going to believe this, and if Joe Hunt is here if he would help confirm - she said we can't touch that. Mr. Tschudy said so then the property owners would they be requested to remove it from their property that dumped it down? The Mayor said no, we are not allowed. She said the Rockland Drainage Agency will not let us go across that river to get the stuff on the other side. So what she is doing is that she wrote to them to ask them if you are not going to let us do it, and we are willing to do it, then we need you to come and do it because now it is really becoming a problem with the flow of the river. Mr. Tschudy said it is very unsightly. If you go by now you will see what he means. The Mayor said yes. Mr. Tschudy said the second thing was the Donna Hallett basketball courts have been destroyed because basically the equipment that was put there was a little inferior, to be truthful, so hopefully so the kids can have something to play with through a grant he would hope that they can find money because he understands how the fiscal constraints are right here now with the Village so maybe through some grant money again we could find a way to rebuild the park - the Mayor said we do have some money in lieu of recreation that we are going to be able to replace those with. Mr. Tschudy said thank you very much. The Mayor thanked him.

Patsy Wooters of 19 Mansfield Place said this is her good news. She said that Mr. Markunas and she met with Alden Wolfe a couple of weeks ago. He is the head of the Rockland County Legislature and he has a transit initiative which he is using to promote economic development and he wants to include Suffern in this project. And so earlier this week we went up and we met with Jim Hall, who is the head of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and he has agreed that the trail conference will be able to expand the network of trails leading out of Suffern. And that will mean that there will be more trails for people to come to and we are hoping that they will come by New Jersey Transit from all of New York City, hike, and then come back and spend their dollars in downtown Suffern. So good news. And at no cost.

Jim Giannettino of 2 Memorial Drive said to Mr. Genito that he just had a couple of questions. He said he was still looking at this budget. He said under code enforcement we have no income - page 14. Last year we had 22,000. Mr. Genito said he thinks that was based on the fact that the year before we didn't have any either. Mr. Giannettino said and year to date we don't have any? He said to Mr. Genito that you won't know that until you look. Mr. Giannettino said and the same thing with other public safety. We had 65,000 last year and we have 20,000 this year. He said he is assuming we are not making those numbers. Mr. Genito said right. He said the other public safety he is not quite sure what was anticipated when the 2014-15 budget was adopted. But the history of that account has been closer to 20,000 historically. So there must have been another 45,000 anticipated that never actually came in. Mr. Giannettino said okay. One more. He said building permits. We are saying 70,000. What are we basing the 70,000 on because last year it was 230,000 and he doesn't even want to know what we brought in. He doesn't want to get sick to his stomach. Mr. Genito said no, again, that was the history of it where we ran through the last several years of history. There certainly were a couple of years where we had some outliers - some large spikes - but for the most part the average is between 70 and 75,000 dollars. Mr. Giannettino said it makes sense. Thank you.

Michael Curley of 84 Orange Avenue said this is on an issue that he thinks is going to come up later in reference to the VFW. He said he thinks is it fair to say that we prior had voted to buy the VFW. Is it fair to say tonight that we are going to vote it down not to buy it. Is that a fair guesstimate? He asked Mr. Morris. He said that he said at the workshop that we voted it down the other night. Trustee Morris said right. Mr. Curley said and we didn't have the vote. Trustee Morris said yes. Mr. Curley said is it fair to say that we are going to vote that down Mr. Morris? Trustee Morris said yes. Mr. Curley said he would ask him to do one thing. Every hour in this country a veteran commits suicide so during this meeting here, when we were here, about three veterans killed themselves during this meeting on average. Mr. Curley said he has come up with

an idea after he talked the last time the Crotty Foundation approached him. It was actually Pete Crotty and what he is considering doing or willing to do, if the Village would hold off and maybe try to figure something out and talk about it, he would be willing to buy the VFW and give the Veterans tenancy rights - lifetime tenancy rights on the building. But as you know the permission to do this was sent up to the state of New York to see if they could sell it first. He said he doesn't think that answer has come back yet. But what he wouldn't want to do is hurt that application, or hurt that chance. He said he would ask them to just look into this. It doesn't hurt us one bit. It is not in the budget. It is not costing us. But you might save a Veteran's life who hears some bad news. So he would ask them to just hold off on it with this plan he has in mind. He will actually work on it. It doesn't cost us anything. It is not going to hurt anyone here and it is a drastic thing that is going on with the new Veterans that are coming over from all these wars and he would ask them to just consider based on his representation that he made to them. He thanked them.

**VILLAGE CLERK:**

**A) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of September 8, 2014:**

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said we have a lot of approving to do. She said approval of the minutes of the Board meeting of September 8. The Mayor said okay - it is just the three of us. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried with Trustee Morris and Trustee Markunas abstaining since they were not on the Board.

**B) Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting of September 23, 2014:**

The Mayor said approval of the minutes of the special Board meeting of September 23. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried, with Trustee Morris and Trustee Markunas abstaining since they were not on the Board.

**C) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of October 14, 2014:**

The Mayor said approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting of October 14, 2014. Trustee Byrne said he was not present at that meeting. The Mayor said okay. So that one we can't vote on.

**D) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of November 10, 2014:**

The Mayor said approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting of November 10, 2014. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried with Trustee Morris and Trustee Markunas abstaining since they were not on the Board.

The Mayor said we will not be voting on (G) the approval of the minutes of the Special Board meeting of March 20, 2015. Although they were completed, they were not distributed to the Board so we will hold off. They will distributed to them tomorrow and they will be able to vote on them at the next meeting.

**E) Approval of Minutes of Organizational Meeting of December 1, 2014:**

The Mayor said approval of the minutes of the Organizational meeting of December 1, 2014. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Markunas. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**F) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of December 1, 2014:**

The Mayor said approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting of December 1, 2014. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**G) Permission to Advertise for Concession Stand - April 23, 2015 - 10:00 A.M.:**

Ms. Menschner asked for permission to advertise for the concession stand. She said she would like to have them brought back April 23 at 10:00 a.m. A motion authorizing the advertising was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Markunas. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**H) Tables and Chairs Request:**

The Village Clerk said now we have tables and chairs requests. Shamrock Hotel wants 10 tables and chairs, Craft House wants 6 tables and 30 chairs, B-Ball Meatballs wants 3 tables and 6 chairs. They have all been approved. The Mayor said tables and chairs for Shamrock - does she have a motion? Trustee Morris asked if he could ask a question. The Mayor said sure. He said when we give these permits to have tables and chairs - do we send code enforcement out. The Mayor said yes, they have all been approved. The Village Clerk said the code enforcer goes out and measures - the Mayor said that is what Virginia just said. They have all been approved. Trustee Morris said they have all been inspected. The Village Clerk said they measure the distance on the sidewalks and tells them how

many tables they can have. Trustee Byrne asked what is the term of the approval. The Mayor said one year. She said Shamrock is a renewal. A motion approving the tables and chairs for Shamrock was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Markunas. Upon vote, the motion was carried. A motion approving Craft House, which is a new application, was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried. The Mayor said B-Balls Meatballs for 3 tables and 6 chairs. A motion approving was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**H) Suffern Farmer's Market:**

Ms. Menschner said we have one other thing. Suffern Farmer's Market wants to extend their hours to close at 4 p.m. just for one day on May 9. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Markunas, seconded by Trustee Hagen. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**

Mr. Genito said he had nothing to report since the last three hours.

**TRUSTEES:**

**A) VFW:**

Trustee Morris said he would like to go ahead with - just a little background information. He said he spoke to several commercial real estate brokers and we should have an offer to purchase the VFW building before the end of the week by a private developer who is looking to make three or four apartments out of the building was his guesstimate. But he should be sending an offer in before the end of this week. So he thinks we should go ahead and not pursue the sale. Obviously there is an interest for a private company to take it over and once they do again it becomes a ratable for the Village and you have people buying and selling the goods and wares of the Village. So he makes a motion to go ahead and cancel the sale of the VFW building. As far as the Veterans go he spoke to Ed with the American Legion and Trustee Morris suggested that though they have a hard time understanding with each other they are all on the same side and maybe some accommodations could be made for them to be absorbed into the American Legion and a place put aside for their meetings and whatever other issues that may come up with them. He would like to make a motion that we discontinue pursuing it, especially given this financial status of the Village - \$150,000 is not - it is not only the \$150,000. It's the thousands of dollars that follow the purchase. Once you purchase the building you have to heat it, you have to air condition it, you have to maintain it, clean sidewalks, etc., etc., etc. So it is not just the \$150,000. If we were better off financially maybe it is an

easier decision but right now he would go ahead and cancel the sale of the VFW building. The Mayor asked if she had a second. There was no second. The Mayor said so there is no motion - Trustee Markunas said he would just like to discuss it a little bit if that is okay. The Mayor said she would need a second then. She said okay, then we will move on.

Trustee Morris said he had one more thing. He said we do have time set aside for executive session, right Mayor? He said we had issues at the workshop meeting and - the Mayor said to discuss? Trustee Morris said some issues for executive session. The Mayor said yes, she needs to know what the topic is. You just can't go into executive session without a reason. Trustee Morris said it was a personnel reason. The Mayor said personnel - that's fine.

**MAYOR:**

The Mayor said on to her. She would like to report to the Village some good news. Most of you know we had some filming here in the Village. CBS came in to film a pilot for a TV series that will be airing on CBS called "For Justice." The Village was able to, after expenses, put into our accounts \$63,529.37. The Mayor said it is good news. She said she really expressed to them that in coming into this Village we really would need some substantial numbers from them. They came through. They were wonderful to work with. They caused little to no disturbance to the Village. They were very good to the business owners. Anyone who was put out it was an overall excellent experience. They have already sent some others to us - some major production shows that are already airing and some that are movies that are to be filmed. So hopefully if we could get one of these every other week we would be alright. That was her good news.

The Mayor said she also wanted to let everyone know that as she promised Mr. Tschudy a letter went out to Mr. St. Lawrence - Supervisor St. Lawrence - with regards to the quarry projects as she promised. She did send it registered return receipt and she has not, to this date, received a response. The Mayor said she also cc'd the Board members. No response yet. Just to let you know it did go. And someone did sign for it. She has the card here.

The Mayor said the next thing is - is Jonathan still here? He was still here. The Mayor said Jonathan Turco is here and Jonathan has very graciously offered to donate his services of Turco Landscaping to maintain Point Park for us - to do the grass cutting, to keep the shrubbery trimmed back, and he would like to do that as his way of giving back to the Village. He has his business here in Suffern. He is very thankful for having business here and it is his way of giving back to the Village of Suffern. The Mayor asked him if he wanted to say a few words. He said he was good. The Mayor said she would need a motion to accept Jonathan's - she asked Jonathan if he

gave us the Certificate of Insurance yet. He said no. The Mayor said we would require that you give us a Certificate of Insurance. If he could get that to Virginia that would be wonderful. And then he would get in touch with Mr. Sawicki upon the approval tonight if it is approved and he will be the one that he would be in contact with logistics. Trustee Byrne asked if that would include any signage for the business that indicates what they have donated. A little free advertising - not free but advertising for the company. Trustee Byrne said maybe we could talk about that in the future. The Mayor said yes, she thinks it would be nice if he put something there like services, or however you want to word it, donated by Turco Landscaping. The Mayor said like an adopt a park program that you are starting. Trustee Byrne said he should get credit for it, absolutely. The Mayor said you are going to start something big here. Trustee Byrne said we won't charge you that much for the free advertising. The Mayor said we appreciate it. Thank you so much. It is really a great help. A motion to accept the offer was made by Trustee Byrne, seconded by Trustee Markunas. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

#### **A) Deputy Mayor:**

The Mayor said the last item she has is to appoint a deputy mayor. She said there is only one Trustee left as all the other Trustees have declined to take the position. By law she must appoint a deputy mayor so to fulfill her obligation to the law she would like to appoint Ed Markunas as deputy mayor. Trustee Markunas thanked her and said he was honored. The Mayor said she was glad. Can't wait. She is really looking forward to working with him. Trustee Markunas said that is what he is saying. The Mayor said that is what she is saying.

Trustee Hagen said before we adjourn he would just like to let everybody that is left, the other 10%, 90% left, that we all spoke to Mr. Genito about the budget after we got a tentative copy two weeks ago. He said we have been to every department and we made suggestions to Mr. Genito. He asked if he was right. He said thank you. So who said we didn't make suggestions and we didn't do anything about the budget is full of crap. Trustee Hagen said thank you. The Mayor said thank you. Trustee Hagen said the second thing he wanted to say was where is the homeowner buy-out letter. You gave it them. How about giving us copies. The Mayor said oh, they should have been put in your boxes. Trustee Hagen said well they weren't. The Mayor said they were sent out and one was supposed to go into each one of the copies. Trustee Hagen said you like to involve the whole Board. Where are our copies? The Mayor said she apologizes. She left it to the Clerk's office. The Mayor said we will adjourn the meeting. We are going to go into executive session.

Trustee Markunas said excuse me. He said he just had a couple of

points if you don't mind. The Mayor said sure. Trustee Markunas said just to clarify to the people who are left, as Mr. Hagen did say, he would really like to go on record to say that he has met numerous times - he said he doesn't know how many times. It has to be at least five times with Chief Clarke. He said he has met with Detective Mallon, the head of the policemen's union. We discussed different ideas on reducing the budget. He said he has met with Charles Sawicki along with Mr. Hagen. He said he has met with Mr. Genito numerous times for hours. Exchanged e-mails. Calls on the phone. He said he met with Cathy Mills from the recreation department. He said this is all directly related to this budget crisis that we are in. That we have explored, and he has spoken to these department heads. Please, if anyone disagrees with him they can stand up and tell him. Trustee Markunas said he has also met with Steve Conlee and spoke about different ideas about building permits, fire fees, multiple family dwelling costs for applications. He has met with Terry Rice and the Mayor in regards to the budget, in regards to revenue. He said he is just going through his list. He said he discussed labor contracts with Lance Klein, our labor attorney, on cost saving measures. He attended the court to see what type of revenue that we were bringing in from our fines. Trustee Markunas said as you can see this is a very complex budget and problem that we are in. He said he would recommend not a recommendation on the budget but a recommendation on working together and forming a committee, a public committee, including the Board and the Mayor where we can meet openly in a public forum and not violate the Sunshine Rule and come to these decisions and brainstorm and try to figure out how we can get through this crisis. He said he is proposing, if it is possible, Terry - maybe you can guide us on it - if that is a possibility that we can form some type of a committee that is able to meet in public and work through this budget together.

Attorney Rice said the Board can meet as a whole and go over the budget. You don't need to set up a separate committee. Someone from the audience asked Attorney Rice to speak louder. Attorney Rice said the Board can meet as a whole. It is obviously subject to the open meetings law but certainly the entire Board can go over the budget and meet with department heads as has happened in the past.

Trustee Markunas said so we can meet but we have to have a meeting, a public meeting. It has to be open to the public. Attorney Rice said correct. And even if you created an ad hoc body that would be subject to the open meetings law as well. Trustee Markunas said correct. The Mayor said she said she doesn't think we have enough time because those names would have to be presented to the Board and approved by the Board. Trustee Markunas said he is just offering suggestions and trying to - the Mayor said it may be something good for next year. Trustee Markunas said he discussed this - he went through the department heads that he discussed it with. He also discussed it with Matt Byrne, Frank Hagen, the Mayor.

He said he doesn't want you to think that the Board, collectively, or himself is not doing their job. They are working on this budget hours on end. He thanked them.

Trustee Byrne said he would make a motion to adjourn at the end if you don't mind - the Mayor said we are not going to do executive session tonight. We are going to do a special meeting because it is so late already. She said she thinks everybody has had enough for the night. She said she just spoke with Mr. Morris and he has no problem with us meeting at a special meeting at another time. So if you would like to make the motion go right ahead.

Trustee Byrne said two things very briefly that may have gotten lost in the shuffle tonight. There are two items that this Board was unanimous on and a lot they are unanimous on. Watch the votes. Most of them they were unanimous on. But two very important items - the quarry representation to the Town of Ramapo that we are together as a Board in support of the Town of Ramapo who owns the property going through with their promise to look into the siphoning letter. He said he doesn't know if it is posted on line or not but maybe it should be. It may not be a bad idea. He said we all came together to do that. And the five of them also came together on requesting the Comptroller to come in and look at the budget. Those are not insignificant items. So the idea that we don't work together he rejects that. Are there items where they disagree? Clearly. Personalities sometimes get in the way and he understands that. But they all here - he said he doesn't question anyone's motives on this Board. He said he doesn't question the Mayor's. He doesn't question anybody else's. We all want the best for our Village - the Village he was born and raised in and many of them were also. He said we all have a vested interest in making sure that the right thing happens. He said we may have different approaches but we are all here for the right reasons and he would hate to see us questioning each other's motives. He said he doesn't think that is necessary and he doesn't think that is right. We are all here for the right reasons. No person on this Board is here for anything other than the right reasons. That is his two cents. The Mayor said to Trustee Byrne just to let him know that she just gave to Virginia the letter and she is going to put it online. Trustee Byrne said thank you.

Trustee Byrne said as we adjourn tonight, and he has done this on a couple of other occasions - when there has been a loss in the community that is not insignificant - when we lose anyone in the community of course it matters but a gentleman who passed away a little over a week ago dedicated his, much of his adult life, to raising his family just over the border in Suffern Park but had a great impact on the Village of Suffern. His involvement in Sacred Heart Church, his involvement in the Knights of Columbus - his law firm right here in the Village of Suffern representing families across the Village. A good, honest and quiet man who made his

points not by pointing fingers and yelling but by being just a good and decent man and he would like to adjourn tonight's meeting in honor of Robert Ellsworth who passed away just about a week ago, a little better than a week ago, who left his mark on this Village and is someone that we shouldn't forget. So he moves to close the meeting in his honor. The Mayor said she will second it. He was a good man. A wonderful part of Suffern.

Upon vote, the motion was carried at 11:24 p.m.