

**Village Board Meeting  
Tuesday, August 7, 2012**

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

PRESENT: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Patricia Abato, Trustee Charles Falciglia,  
Trustee John Meehan, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan

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

ABSENT: None

**Set Dates for September Meetings:**

The Mayor said the dates for the September meeting will be the workshop will be Wednesday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board meeting will be the following Tuesday, September 4 at 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor said that before we begin the meeting he has a couple of presentations to make first. He said he would just like to say that he saw a number of the rehearsals this year throughout as Clifford Theater takes over Village Hall for a while. But anybody who came out this weekend saw what was truly an amazing production. The program has grown tremendously - quadrupled over the past five or six years under the leadership of Chris and Jillian Abato as well as their team which grows each year as well. They did a phenomenal job. The Mayor said that what we would like to do is that we will have at our September meeting - the Board has unanimously decided to recognize at our next meeting Chris Abato and Jillian with the Andrew C. Haggerty service award. The Mayor said he has a presentation to make so he will go to the podium.

The Mayor asked Mrs. Curtin to join him as well as Chris and Jillian. The Mayor said he would like to invite up Mr. Graham and his family. The Mayor said that on behalf of the Village Board and Jillian and Chris and Gail through recreation that they would like to thank Mr. Graham so much for his generous donations to the Clifford Theater program. The Mayor said all donated materials and time in building the beautiful scenery. It was truly generous and Chris and Jillian and all the Clifford Theater participants thank you for everything that you have done for the program to make this year's the best yet.

Chris Abato, the director of the Clifford Theater program, said this year we did a production of "Hairspray" and it is a very complicated and amazing show. He said he has a couple of his students behind him who worked very hard to put on the show but more so he had a lot of people behind the scenes and Mr. Paul Graham and his family so generously donated a lot of their time in making the beautiful set that they had on our stage and they couldn't have done it without them and they wanted to give them a very special thank you today. So he said he would like to give them a cast picture, which is signed, and also they would like to award them with a Marcello's gift card for him and his wife and for him and his kids a Dave and Buster's gift card which includes a game. Chris thanked him very much.

Chris said the kids would also like to give Mr. Graham and his family a little something on their behalf too. One of the children said that without Mr. Graham they wouldn't have had this set and all the attachments. He said they tried a million different things and they just couldn't get it to work. Mr. Graham figured out how to do it and all of them in the cast would like to thank him. He said they have a Home Depot gift card and chocolate hammers. Mr. Graham thanked them very much.

The Mayor said he wasn't able to be at the show but the pictures and everything were amazing and he knows to add to the program there is going to be an item on the agenda that they are going to talk about today to try to improve our stage - our theater here in Village Hall.

The Mayor said we have one more presentation. He said he would like to call up long-time Suffern police officer, 26 years, Jeff Stern, who is retiring to a nicer climate shortly. He also called up Chief Osborne. Chief Osborne thanked everybody. He said that Jeff Stern has worked in our police department since 1986. He is a long-time Village resident who has been involved in numerous community organizations and whatever he could do to help out. He has been very instrumental and very active particularly in their department in the area of vehicle and traffic enforcement. He said that Jeff will be retiring and leaving us this Saturday and on behalf of Chief Osborne and his fellow officers here, they are sort of sad to see Jeff go. He always came in in a good mood and did a great job and is just a great officer to have in our department. The Chief said that on behalf of their department they have a plaque which came out beautiful. It says "presented to Officer Jeff Stern, 1986 to 2012, in grateful appreciation of your dedicated service to the Suffern police department." Chief Osborne said to Jeff that he did a great job, he can walk out of here with honor, he did a good job for the residents and

everybody here. And we want to thank you for your service to this department for the last 26 years. Mr. Stern thanked him.

The Mayor said that he would just like to say on a personal note that not only will we miss Jeff as a member of our department but personally he has been a great friend to him and he will be missed. The Mayor said best of luck in his retirement and he hopes he will visit us soon.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

**A) Permission to Attend the RCVFA Parade September 8, 2012:**

Chief Mike Stark said he just had two items on the agenda tonight that he would like the Board to act on. The first one is for the fire department to attend the RCVFA parade on September 8, 2012 and the next one is the Nyack Chief's Inspection Parade on October 6, 2012. A motion approving the requests was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Trustee Meehan said he just wanted to keep a promise. He said to the Chief that they had what the Chief would say a minor stop at his next door neighbor's house. And his neighbor's were very much impressed with the professionalism of the department and how fast you arrived and everything else. And Trustee Meehan promised them that he would tell them that. So he kept his promise. The Chief said he appreciates that and he doesn't think a lot of the residents really know what we do for them until they call us. He said they appreciate it.

Trustee Abato said if they didn't mind - to go out of order a little bit. She said we have a very special lady here tonight who has been quite a wonderful friend to the Suffern Clifford Theater and has donated an enormous amount of time as a seamstress and mom and coordinator and a little bit of everything. So Antoinette Mariano is here. Trustee Abato said that as you can see our curtains on our stage are quite old and quite dilapidated to say the least. She said she would love to try to have them cleaned, however, she thinks they would fall apart. So that being said Antoinette was good enough to do some research for us regarding the curtains and what the cost would be to replace them as we do many programs here - Pearl Harbor Day, Gail has a lot of events in here, the Senior Citizens utilize the auditorium as well as Clifford Theater. So we do use this auditorium for our meetings

and so on and so forth. So she thinks it is time, as it is our duty to maintain our Village Hall, to look into the replacement of the curtains. So she is going to ask, since Antoinette did all of the leg work on this, for her to come up and share with the Board what she has found out about what it would cost us to replace our curtains.

Antoinette said that as you are aware they run the Clifford Theater here within four weeks and the children put on a tremendous performance for all of us. She said she is actually going to read the letter that she wrote to the Board.

*Dear Suffern Board Members:*

*We thank you for your interest in Clifford Theater. As you know, they are a group of young children from our villages that come together as one. Once a year they put on a show for our community at Clifford Theater here in Suffern. We have so much local sports and other activities around but very little in the arts that is close to home and for such a reasonable cost. It is important that we keep this program running for our children that want to do acting. As you know, it teaches our children so much more. For this, we thank you for running such a successful program and giving our children the chance to do what they like to do. However, there is a need for some improvement. The stage curtains need to be replaced. This is important as it will enhance the whole feel of the performance that our children work so hard to put on in four weeks. There is no other town or village that she knows of that can do this like Suffern and she for one wants to ask that we make it even more successful. We also are in need of purchasing our own microphone set. We rent them but it has been her experience that they always let us down. This is hard on the children after they work so hard and especially for the spectators. Nobody wants to come to see a show and not have the mikes work. If we own our own mikes it will reduce the cost of renting for each year and help with the sound. She said she presents to the Board three quotes.*

She said she does want to let the Board know one thing about the curtains. The curtains are fire resistant. It is up to code. The three quotes that she had given them - two of them have worked with our school district. So obviously they are up to NYS standard as far as fire code goes. She said she also has here with her a piece of the fabric if anybody would like to look at it. She said that she does have to tell them - and she knows they

have to choose their selves which one to go with - but she has to say that Ackerson has been wonderful and they are the least expensive from the three quotes that she has received. Trustee Abato asked if they were one of the ones that has worked with the school district. Antoinette said they are. As a matter of fact the school district will only work with them now. Antoinette said with the microphone sets, she produced three quotes with that too. She has to say that Alto Music has come up with the best price. Everybody else was way higher. Plus they are also local. They are right here in Airmont. So it is another good investment for our Village as well. So she thinks with that she asks the Board to take this into consideration. That we do work together as a group. She said she is willing to work with and do whatever she needs to do in order to make this happen for us for them to get the curtains and microphone set. She thanked the Board for listening. The Mayor thanked her for all her hard work.

Trustee Abato said that she just wanted to add that in thinking about the curtains and Antoinette's passion to have this happen for the kids, she even offered to make them herself. And it ended out to be a very big undertaking and buying the materials it wasn't feasible or reasonable to do it that way. It was actually cheaper to go through a company. But just to show them her dedication to the Village and to the children, she wanted to thank her for that. Because that would have been quite the job. Antoinette said also that Ackerson, free of charge, they are also going to fix our line, our curtain line. Trustee Abato said that with that being said she would like to actually try to move forward on the curtains tonight. As far as the microphones go, although she is sure the Board is in agreement that we want to have the best system that we possibly can that the children are heard because they work so hard, she thinks that is something that we are going to have to look into further with possibly finding some funding for that. But she is glad that she brought it to us. It is something that we can work on for sure and we have a whole year to try to get working on that. But she thinks the curtains probably right now is the biggest issue. Trustee Abato said she would like to move that we go through with Ackerson's Drapery, using money in lieu of recreation, to replace the drapes on the stage in the sum of \$3,750. The Mayor said just so everybody knows. That is money that is in a fund that is set aside for purchases like this for recreation. The funds are getting a little low. But we will get more funds if there is a subdivision or anticipated projects before the Planning Board. There will be more money coming in but for now this is what we

want to do with the curtains. Trustee Meehan said that he will see if he can get some money from the Suffern Foundation. Trustee Abato said are you talking about the microphones? Trustee Meehan said yes. Trustee Abato said that would be great. The Mayor said okay, so we will do that. That will be great. The motion was seconded by Trustee Falciglia.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Charles Falciglia, Trustee Patricia Abato  
Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**7:40 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - TAXICAB LICENSE - JOSE LUIS PEREZ CASAS:**

Attorney Rice said it is his understanding that the police department has checked on this individual and finds no problem with it and everything is in order.

Since nobody spoke, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Abato. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

A motion to grant a taxicab license to Jose Luis Perez Casas was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Abato. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**GRANT WRITER:**

The Mayor said that Fred Rella is on vacation but he sent the Mayor an e-mail, which he will quickly read where he is on stuff. He said he has been in touch. A major grant outstanding is the \$400,000 grant that we did jointly for \$200,000 each with the Village of Hillburn regarding selling the water. The Mayor said we are going to finalize our agreement with them once we know. Because obviously we can enjoy the savings and pass it on equally to both us and Hillburn depending on how much money we get. He said that Fred was in contact with the Department of State and it said that the Governor's office, even though the Department of State is aware of who the recipients are, they cannot announce it until the Governor's office appropriates the funds. They have every year appropriated those funds. So the timing now is not

anything unique and it is not a matter of if. It is a matter of when. And then once we hear that hopefully we will get a significant award.

The Mayor said on the facades. Last week they had pre-construction meetings and Deputy Mayor Corrigan was there with Joe Abate from the Rockland County Office of Community Development and the architect. Essentially we are in a position where we have two - the liquor store and Steven's law firm are set to begin the work in the beginning of September and the work should take about three weeks. For Artistic Floors the architect is redoing the design. The stucco - there are several designs there depending on what is most feasible based on the funds we have. So that could be a couple of more months. And then the building that contains Colonial Florist between parking lot B and next to the bakery from Park to Chestnut - we are just waiting on approval from the NYS Historic Preservation and then we will move forward on that one. So we are hoping that one will be early October or something. And then again we are going to move forward on design for the next two buildings on the money we got awarded this past April. So we are moving forward on that which is great. And again Joe Abate, even though we want it to move quicker, said actually we are doing well and we are going according to schedule because this program takes a while to get up and running. So they are happy with our progress.

#### **CULTURE AND RECREATION:**

Mrs. Gail Curtin thanked the Board in their graciousness in approving the curtain project. That will be wonderful for next year. Since the last Village Board meeting, they had a kiddie pool party on July 10, they had a concert on July 12, family day at the pool on July 15, and although he left early, she did want to thank Mike Stark for being so cooperative with them this year on family day and allowing them to get the ice that they needed. They had a concert on July 18 and another one on July 25, which she had told them about, which was Wayne Cobham who was introduced through the Chamber and it was really fabulous. It was jazz music and it was the first time we ever had them. Mrs. Curtin said they had the ever-popular Kurt Gallagher here and once again, as the Mayor knows, and Mr. Falciglia, the kids and the parents were out in droves and she wanted to thank Trustee Meegan-Corrigan for her presence at all the concerts too. She said she really appreciates everybody being there. And finally, as you heard, this past weekend we had "Hairspray" and you are

being graced by what is left of the backdrop. Upcoming, we have the senior citizen picnic on Thursday, September 6. Mrs. Curtin said they have since the last meeting confirmed the trip to New York City. They will be going to see the 2012 Tony Award Winning "Once." And this is going to be an evening trip. They will be leaving Village Hall, she believes, at 5 o'clock on Thursday, October 4. And after you approve it tonight tickets will go on sale immediately. Trustee Meehan asked if we will be going out for dinner first. Mrs. Curtin said on our own. People go on their own. So when we get down there some go out, some don't. Some shop. Trustee Abato said she thought we approved this already. Mrs. Curtin said no, she said we were looking into it. But now it is confirmed. Trustee Abato said she would make the motion approving it. And then Suffern Day is on Saturday, September 29, and the fireworks have been coordinated and that will be happening in the evening. Mrs. Curtin said she would like to set the date, if they agree, for the 9/11 Remembrance at the Donna Hallett Park on Tuesday, September 11, 7:00 p.m. - candlelight ceremony. A motion approving the date was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. Mrs. Curtin said the Suffern Women's Club has asked to sponsor a card party at the community center on Friday afternoon, November 2. Trustee Meehan asked if that was a military bridge. Mrs. Curtin said not a military bridge. A card party. The Junior Women's did the military bridge. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. Mrs. Curtin said that at a meeting early this evening with the pool staff, they are beginning to get the dates when a lot of the guards are returning to college. It is looking like we are going to be very much in need this year of bringing up and in new people. So as soon as she has that information, she would ask them for permission to either have a special meeting or conference call or whatever you need to do.

**VILLAGE ATTORNEY:**

The Mayor said there was no report but he would just say that we got our check for the settlement from Crossroads - the development - \$125,000. And again we will monitor it and move forward if they get final site plan approval and the second half for \$175,000 due the Village.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT:**

There was no report.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Clarke Osborn said that he just had one item on the agenda and that is to appoint Dispatcher Colleen Mueller provisionally to records clerk effective September 3, 2012. She will be taking the place of our recently retired records clerk who was there 31 years. Dispatcher Mueller has been with us for 22 years and is well capable of doing the job. She has already been cleared through personnel - he spoke to them today - so we are just literally waiting for a test to be given which could be in the next year, year and a half. The Mayor said no change in salary, right? Chief Osborn said no change in salary. A motion to confirm the appointment by the Mayor was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was confirmed.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Nobody spoke.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Charles Sawicki said he would like to omit the personnel item on the agenda. The only other item he has is application for payment and that would be requesting authorization for payment of application for payment number one for the roadway improvements phase 5 project in the amount of \$128,410.61 to Tilcon New York. A motion authorizing the payment was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

AYES: Mayor Dagan LaCorte  
Trustee Charles Falciglia, Trustee Patricia Abato  
Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Mayor told Mr. Sawicki it was a great job in the amount of roads that we have been able to pave over the past four or five years. It has been great. He said he knows that every year Mr. Sawicki is looking to do more. And he knows that Mr. D'Ambrosio who is here is happy that Cross Street was paved. We told him we would do it and we did it. And again he knows that Mr. Sawicki

got that project going quickly and we appreciate it.

Mr. Sawicki said just one other thing as an update. Tomorrow they are going to be doing the slurry seal on Lonergan, Temple, Ruby and Spicer and then on Thursday Sylvan Way and Yorkshire. The Mayor said excellent. Mr. Sawicki said so the end of this week they will be all done. The Mayor thanked Mr. Sawicki again and said great job.

**VILLAGE CLERK:**

**A) Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting of May 23, 2012:**

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said we have approval of the minutes of the special meeting of May 23. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**B) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of June 4, 2012:**

Ms. Menschner asked for approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting of June 4, 2012. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**C) Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting of June 11, 2012:**

Ms. Menschner asked for approval of the minutes of the special meeting of June 11, 2012. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**D) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of July 9, 2012:**

Ms. Menschner asked for approval of the minutes of the regular Board meeting of July 9, 2012. A motion approving the minutes was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

**E) Request for Block Party B Kim Hamilton - 8 Lexington Avenue - September 1, 2012:**

Ms. Menschner said we have a request for a block party from Kim Hamilton and this is at 8 Lexington Avenue. This is every year that they request it. A motion authorizing the block party was

made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. The Village Clerk said she was sure she would thank them.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**

There was no report.

**TRUSTEES:**

Trustee Meehan said that he thought it was the meeting three months ago that he brought up the fact that Supervisor St. Lawrence had been here and had mentioned possibly installing sidewalks on Campbell Avenue and at that meeting about three months ago we passed a resolution unanimously to contact him to discuss this possibility. Well, Mayor LaCorte has made several phone calls and e-mails and actually sent a letter, and he thinks it is the second or third letter that he has sent, and the outcome is that we have had no response. And it is just incredible, and he is sorry to say that is really SOP for the Supervisor. He said he has heard this from village officials throughout the town that he doesn't return calls, he doesn't answer questions or anything else. And it is just unfortunate. And that is all he has to say and maybe he will answer this letter or maybe his constituents will see this on the internet or on TV and maybe remind him that there is a Village of Suffern. The Mayor thanked Trustee Meehan and said he will follow up again with him this week.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.