

**Special Village Board Meeting Public Hearing
Wednesday, September 3, 2014 - 6:30 P.M.**

A special Village Board meeting was held on the above date at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Trustee Frank Hagen
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

ALSO PRESENT: Virginia Menschner, Village Clerk
Rob Magrino, Deputy Village Attorney

ABSENT: None

Mayor Abato said she would like to give some information that was just passed down to her a short while ago. It was quite impossible for her to get it all to everyone in the short time it was given to her. She said she has been in touch with the school board and they have advised her that as of today they have continued negotiations with the developer of Orange Avenue. Orange Avenue has brought a new proposal to the table for the school district however today being the first day of school the school board and the superintendent have not had a chance to all sit down and review it. Therefore, no determination has been made by the school board as of this hour. Therefore, this Board has decided in all fairness to the negotiations with the school board, as well as the Village residents and the developer, that we postpone this hearing until Monday evening, when hopefully we will have a decision from the school district on what their intentions are for the proposed PILOT that was given to them just today. So we will be continuing the public hearing on Monday. We will be happy to hear everyone's comments at that time. We feel that it is imperative for you to know where the school board stands since the school board taxpayers are Village taxpayers. So that being said she thinks it is important for everyone to have all the information before we hear comments on the proposed PILOT program for the school district.

Trustee Meehan said he would like to ask our counsel, Mr. Magrino, a question. Trustee Meehan said he always thought that when we considered PILOTS that the Village would consider and the town would consider and the school district would consider. It is his understanding, from reading the paper, that the town board basically they held a hearing on the PILOT, which they should be doing, but in some fashion they basically tied the hands of the school district as to the amount of taxes the school district

would be paying. Trustee Meehan asked if he was correct in his interpretation.

Mr. Magrino said that his understanding is that a vote was taken by the town board with respect to the school. The town is the assessing authority. Trustee Meehan said he knows that. Mr. Magrino said and his understanding is that in spite of that the developer is negotiating with the school board to reach a mutually acceptable agreement directly with the school board between the developer and the school district itself. So while that vote has taken place we have been told by the school district and the developer that negotiations are continuing in spite of that vote by the town board. Trustee Meehan said his feeling is that he is concerned about the town board basically usurping the power of the school district and as far as he is concerned when the town board can make a vote they can change their vote and until they change their vote he is not considering voting one way or another on this zone change.

Mr. Magrino said if there is an agreement between the school district and the developer - he believes that's at the point that this Board will entertain the zone change. And his understanding is the Board won't entertain the zone change until there is some type of mutually acceptable agreement between the district and the developer. Trustee Meehan said he really - he said the fact of the matter is the people here in Suffern - he goes around and he knows how they think - he is a retail politician - he goes door to door - and he knows how they feel about the town board. It is not a very good feeling. And he thinks that they do have - he hopes they have faith in our Village Board - some do, some don't. But he knows how they feel about the town board and he thinks that they do have faith in their school board and he thinks that he really wants to see the petitioner was able to convince the school board to pass that and he thinks that the petitioner can request - got the town board to pass that resolution which actually infringes on the rights of the school board and he thinks that certainly the petitioner can ask the town board to reverse that vote.

A motion to postpone the public hearing until Monday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. The Mayor said we will be starting the Village Board meeting a little earlier. We will be starting at 7 o'clock. The first item on the agenda will be the public hearing for Orange Avenue.

The Mayor said she wants to remind everyone that it was this Board's decision early on in these negotiations with ourselves, with the town of Ramapo, and with the school district's PILOTS that the Board would not entertain a zone change until all of the PILOTS are in place. Her feeling is that the PILOTS are not in place. The school board has not come to an acceptable - what they feel is an acceptable PILOT for the school district and for the taxpayers and until such time she herself does not feel it is appropriate for us to go forward with any zone changes. And it is also the feeling of her Board members as well that this should be postponed until such time that we have all of the information from the school board - either that they have come to an agreement which is an agreement that they feel is good for the school district, good for the taxpayers. Because she can assure them that Dr. Adams has let her know that he will not only be watching out for his school district but he is going to be watching out for the taxpayers which is something she feels very strongly about and she is very happy to hear. So the Mayor feels that until we have all that information from the school district on how the negotiations went and what the decision is from the school board it wouldn't be productive for us to go forward this evening. There certainly wouldn't be a vote. And she would love to hear comments if the school board decides to accept this proposal. She would like the people to be able to hear what that proposal is and she also, if they do not accept the proposal, she thinks we should have that information as well when you make your comments. So in the interest of everyone the Board has decided to postpone it until Monday night's Board meeting at 7 o'clock.

Someone from the audience spoke and the Mayor said we still don't have the zone change and without the zone change the project cannot go forward and that is why we are not taking any action on the zone change at this point in time because we don't know that all the PILOTS are in place and we vowed to our Village that until all that finally was in place and everyone was in agreement that we would not go forward with a zone change. So that is where we are at right now. Dr. Adams has asked to give them time to review it and to see what the developer is offering. And she thinks that in lieu of the fact that he is protecting all of us it would be the right thing for us to do to give him that time to review the PILOT and to make his determination with his board.

Someone said you are only allowing one half hour. The Mayor said no, no, no. That is not true. We started it - we can start a workshop or Board meeting late. We just can't start it early. So

we started it at 6:30. However long the public hearing would have taken it would have taken. We would have just started the workshop - the gentleman thought it was starting at 6:30 and then at 7.

AYES: Mayor Patricia Abato
Trustee Frank Hagen, Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan
Trustee Matthew Byrne, Trustee John Meehan

NOES: None

ABSENT: None