

**Village Board Meeting
Monday, December 3, 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 Charles Falciglia, Trustee John Meehan,
Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan

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

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

Set Dates for January Meetings:

The Mayor said he would like to set the dates for the January meetings. The workshop will be Wednesday, January 2 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board meeting will be Monday, January 7 at 7:30 p.m.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Mayor said they are not here. They have their drill tonight and there is nothing to report.

CULTURE AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Gail Curtin said congratulations to Trustee Meehan and Deputy Mayor Corrigan. Mrs. Curtin said she would like to start her part of the meeting by asking them how they like their beautiful new handsome curtains. Mrs. Curtin said she is not here but she thanks Trustee Abato and Virginia for working with her on that. Since the last Board meeting they had a DARE Dance on November 9; they assisted with the Veterans Day Parade on Monday, November 12; they had LEAD on Friday, November 16; the Women's Club Game Afternoon was on Saturday, November 17; and the Winter Farmer's Market this past Saturday, December 1.

Mrs. Curtin said upcoming is a very busy December. The Christmas Parade is this Thursday, December 6 at 6:45 p.m. She said she can't share with them the excitement and the pride that she personally feels and she thinks they are going to feel when you see the float that Mr. Graham has made for this event. She said Richard is here tonight and they were talking about how a few months ago he and she sat down and brainstormed this possibility. It is happening. So for the first time you will be having a Christmas Parade and your Santa will arrive on a beautiful float.

Mrs. Curtin said the Pearl Harbor Commemoration is the other

reason for this beautiful auditorium tonight. They are getting ready for that and that will be this Friday night, December 7 at 7 o'clock. The Elks Hoop Shoot will be held the following day after that, Saturday, December 8, at the community center. The week of December 10, Mayor LaCorte mentioned it earlier in his remarks. They are really excited to be expecting the installation and delivery of the toddler playground equipment over near the pool. A Hanukkah Festival will be held on Monday, December 10. The special Recreation and Village Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11. LEAD on Friday, December 14. The next session of the winter Farmer's Market Saturday, December 15. The 100th Anniversary, and again the Mayor mentioned this earlier, of the municipal building is Sunday, December 16 between 3 and 5 p.m. And the student participation of that celebration Tuesday, December 18 at 10 a.m. The DARE Toy Drive will be in the community center on Wednesday and Thursday, December 19 and 20, and this afternoon they finalized, although they haven't even shared it with the powers that be yet, but the employee holiday luncheon will be on Friday, December 21. The Mayor thanked Mrs. Curtin for all her hard work.

GRANT WRITER:

Fred Rella said the big thing on the agenda is the Community Development Block Grant. The application is due January 31 and as such the Citizen Advisory Committee, which is made up of local members of the community that you approved the membership of at the last meeting, has to meet a couple of times. And what happens with that board is that they come up with varying ideas to put in for the application for the Community Development Block Grant and obviously we are going to be looking at continuing with the facade program in downtown Suffern and you can actually see the first two buildings which they have begun - the actual modifications of the facades - which would be the attorney's office and the liquor store downtown. And as the Mayor mentioned in his speech there will be close to a dozen buildings by the end of next year which are participating within that. Also with this Block Grant they have something new this year where Joe Abate, who is the head of the office of Community Development, wants each village or each applicant's municipality's board, planning board and zoning board to participate in a fair housing seminar in which you can also receive credits for that. And Jo Corrigan was instrumental in talking with Mr. Abate's office and we actually won't have to do that prior to the application. They are going to be offering training within a few weeks after that so thank you Jo for doing that. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said Virginia too. She said we tag-teamed them because we wanted to make sure it was correct. Mr. Rella said Virginia too.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY:

A) Request from Ramapo Cirque - Re: Building Permit:

Attorney Terry Rice said very briefly. You have a request from Ramapo Cirque to exempt them from the building permit fee for the wall that they are rebuilding. He said we have a specific provision in the Village Code that authorizes the Board of Trustees to determine that a particular application is exempt from paying the building permit fee or reducing it when the building department doesn't necessarily have to be involved in it. And in this particular instance, because it is a large retaining wall, rather than the expertise of the building department what's more appropriate is to get a private structural engineer involved in it and that is exactly what they are going to do and they will provide a certification satisfactory to the building inspector instead at the end of the project. So under those circumstances they are requesting that the fee be waived and the building inspector that he spoke to today has no issue with that. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Trustee Falciglia asked how much was the fee that we are waiving. Attorney Rice said he didn't know. He was supposed to give us that. The Mayor said he believes it was 1% - a few thousand dollars. But they are going to pay for the engineer. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Clarke Osborn said he had no report.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Bill Pamm of 176 Doxbury Lane said he just had two points. Last month, he noticed on the bulletin board that you honored the late Mel Berkowitz by naming the blood drive with his name. So on behalf of all the friends of Mel, they want to thank the Board, especially Gail for doing that.

Mr. Pamm said the second point he had is that many months ago he was here talking about the lack of a line on Yorkshire Drive, especially at night. He said he is very limited with his night driving and as a matter of fact he was on the road tonight and he has to be extremely careful. The Village did repave all of Yorkshire Drive. You did put the lines on all the main thoroughfares also. They were redone. But suddenly from the intersection of Parkside all the way up to Cragmere there is no line. He said he really doesn't follow the logic there and he wonders if the Village - why does the Village refuse to put a line down a main thoroughfare in the Village of Suffern. The Mayor said he believes we had discussed this. When this first came up a number of years ago, several years ago, before we started the paving project we had a traffic study done that was

done he believes under the prior administration. And essentially what we did was follow the recommendation of that study and what it said to do was to put a double yellow line on Yorkshire Drive from Parkside down particularly because the road narrows at that point and also that there is a lot of on-street parking. So we went by the recommendation of the report. The Mayor said he could get him a copy of the report if he would like to look at it. He asked Mr. Pamm if he would like that. Mr. Pamm said yes he would. The Mayor asked the Village Clerk to work this out. He asked Mr. Pamm to give Mrs. Curtin his number so we can make sure to get him one. Mr. Pamm thanked him.

Roy Tschudy of 16 Lonergan Drive thanked the Board for this opportunity and he would like to wish them an early Merry Christmas and Hanukkah as well as everyone here present tonight. Mr. Tschudy said that during the month of October, 2012, he received correspondence from a Mr. Vincent Altieri, who is the executive director of the Rockland County Drainage Agency in reply to a query on Mr. Tschudy's part. He states that he has been in contact with the Town of Ramapo and the Village of Suffern concerning sediment deposit in the rear of 16 Lonergan Drive and other areas of the Mahwah River that flows into the Squires Gate community. He states that the deposit has minimal impact on the flow of the river. He also states that there is no drainage easement to the County of Rockland at this time. Mr. Tschudy said with all due respect he asks the Mayor if he or any member of the Board or employee of this Village accompanied Mr. Altieri for this assessment. The Mayor said if he accompanied him - Mr. Tschudy said yes, if you or any member of the Board accompanied him when he made this assessment. Trustee Falciglia asked when did he go? Mr. Tschudy said this was in October of 2012. Trustee Falciglia said this October? Mr. Tschudy said this October. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said she speaks to Vince Altieri about every three to five weeks or so. They keep a monitoring of what is going on and no one from the Village of Suffern went because that is really his domain to go into the river beds, watch them and know what is going on. Mr. Tschudy thanked her. Mr. Tschudy said since he further states that said deposit appears to be located on several properties, this suggests that any mechanism or component of any sort was absent for this inspection. And to Mr. Tschudy's knowledge, Mr. Altieri is an esquire and not an engineer. With regard to this that would make said inspection subjective and speculative. I request an individual licensed in this area to make an inspection and document for the record the results of his or her findings. On his first complaint to Ms. Jo Corrigan requesting an inspection, a Village employee visited the property in question and after visually scanning the site declared that it is a normal situation. This yet is another subjective opinion as opposed to a professional examination. Mr. Tschudy said he asks this current

administration if they were or are now currently aware that the storm drain release pipes feeding into the Mahwah River in Squires Gate is without an easement. He asked if everybody here is aware that there is no easement? Trustee Falciglia said no, he is not aware of it. Mr. Tschudy said this is from Mr. Altieri. Trustee Falciglia said he wasn't even aware there was a discussion by him. Mr. Tschudy said so his question to that would be who is responsible to clean and maintain, to inspect and document and keep records of this. It is acknowledged that on a legality issue Village and towns are allowed to empty storm drains into a river stream because it simply has to have a place to go. However, when the river and streams abut private property the additional thousands of gallons, and he does mean thousands of gallons, of street stormwater surge from the Village of Suffern exacerbates an already compromised situation. The Mahwah River, which flows directly into this Squires Gate community, cannot physically withstand the natural water flow. Storm drainage into the Mahwah pushes flooding to even further limits. Attorney Rice said to Mr. Tschudy that this is all new to everybody sitting up here so if you have something written because no one is going to be able to respond to this - if you have something in writing they would be happy to give it to whomever. Mr. Tschudy said he will be glad to give this to them. He just wants this to go on the record. Attorney Rice said it will if you give us something in writing. Mr. Tschudy said that's fine. Is it proper for him to just continue with acknowledging with what you just said. Attorney Rice said there is a time limit but if you want to submit - Mr. Tschudy said he is almost finished. Attorney Rice said that is fine. But if you want to submit it in writing, that is fine too. Mr. Tschudy said a domino effect is now created, and none of which is good. A negative environmental impact is created as it aids in soil bank erosion. This in turn leads to the rooting system of large trees aligned along said river bank becoming exposed with little to no anchor system. High winds make these trees subject to fall on property, homes, and this in turn leads to an accident-prone condition for any residence in the vicinity as property damage, serious physical injury or the possibility of death may occur. During the last storm an incident of a large tree located on the very same river bank did in actuality occur. The rooting system of the tree was in all probability compromised from water flow and fell from the rear of 72 Lonergan Drive onto the home of 70 Lonergan Drive. Thankfully, only property damage was reported this time.

Mr. Tschudy said lastly the street water drainage brings with it a multitude of adverse contaminants. Vehicle oil and antifreeze droppings, animal waste, garbage, lawn and pesticide treatments, etc., etc. When the Mahwah River floods it brings these pollutants into the residents homes which now creates a health crisis. As was reported and documented from Hurricane Irene and

sent to the Rockland County Health Department many residents, along with their pets, fell victim to an assortment of ailments. An alternative exists to this problem and the answer is the old Tilcon Quarry located in back of Avon. Every effort must be made to divert this additional street storm water from the Mahwah River and their homes into the quarry. They should not be a captive audience to Goldstein Developers or any other enterprise on whether or not this is implemented.

Mr. Tschudy thanked the Board for their time. The Mayor thanked him for his comments.

Jim Giannettino of 2 Memorial Drive said he had two questions. He will do the short one first. Does anyone on the Board or the Mayor or anybody working for the Village have any idea when the Montebello bridge will be reopened? The Mayor said the one on Montebello Road by the Cirque and the Knolls? The Mayor said they have been working on it. Originally it was supposed to be over a year December and they are still designing it. They said it would be over a year to design and then build. The Mayor said he hasn't gotten an update probably in the last month and a half but he will check on it. Mr. Giannettino said okay.

Mr. Giannettino said his next question is in regard to the grants that were applied for after the Irene storm. He said he believes if he looked this up correctly there was about four major ones - one for the retention basin to pick up the water from the Chestnut Street bridge and the athletic fields for \$750,000. One for the water well housings for \$165,000. One for the wastewater treatment plant for flood panels for \$310,000. And the biggest of which is the dredging of Lake Antrim for \$3,350,000. Have we heard anything? Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said no we have not. Mr. Giannettino asked if that was customary. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said yes it is. Mr. Giannettino said the only reason he asks is it customary is because the people in New York City, Rockaway and other areas, they are already knocking down their homes. 200 homes are being demolished. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said they have no homes, that is correct. Mr. Giannettino said he wasn't going to go into this but we have four people who have no homes and their homes are still sitting. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan asked Mr. Giannettino if he thought FEMA bought those people out already. Mr. Giannettino said he doesn't know who bought them out and he is not claiming that FEMA bought them out. But he noticed that the City of New York went in and condemned them and is knocking them down. Sixteen or eighteen months later we have four people who, for the grace of God, would still be homeless. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said so you think that we should have condemned the houses and made the people pay for them to take them down themselves? Mr. Giannettino said he doesn't see that the people in the city are paying for them to be taken down.

Trustee Meegan-Corrigan asked if he was sure about that. Mr. Giannettino said did he say that he was sure about that? He said he is going by the news broadcasts. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said okay. No one mentioned the 200 homes that they started to take down were being done at the expense of the owners. His question is if the city can do it why can't Suffern.

Rich Karrp of 88 Lonergan Drive said first of all Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and hope we have another good year. According to what his friend and neighbor Roy said he agrees with him 100% but in times when watching the Board you seem to be laughing and joking and talking and not even listening to what the man is saying. Mr. Karrp said just try to put yourself in his position or my position or the people that are homeless position and then you will know why he is up here every time talking about it. That's enough of this. He is not going to talk about the river, he's not going to talk about the houses or anything like this. He said he has another project. He said our illustrious streets that were so-called done. He asked if Mr. Sawicki mentioned to them what he told him. The streets are cracking. There are cracks going all along the streets and they are getting bigger. Now what's going to happen in the cold and the snow and the rain. The water gets in there, it ices up, it is only going to get worse and eventually the slurry coat, he doesn't know how far down it goes, but you are going to have more cracks on that street and if something isn't done before the real snow and bad weather comes they are going to have a lot of problems. The Mayor said he will talk to him about it. Mr. Karrp said he wishes they had left the streets alone. They are worse now than they were and he doesn't know whether the streets are paid for, and if they weren't paid for, whether the job that we got was what was asked for or was what they were told. He said he doesn't think that the job to dig them up - to actually repave them - he said he doesn't think we asked for that. But there are other streets in the Village that had the slurry coat on and it is like night and day compared to what they have. And he hopes that is adjusted.

Lois Hagen of 10 Dunnery Court asked if we had received any money from FEMA. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said in regards to what. Ms. Hagen said Squires Gate. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said no, we have not received any money. Personally or for the homeowners? Ms. Hagen said either. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said the homeowners have received money but that is their story to tell. The Village itself has not received any money for Squires Gate. The Mayor said we got reimbursement for all the damages. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said that is true. The Mayor said we received all the money for the garbage, for overtime, for our police and fire. So we received a lot of money. That went to our emergency response recovery. Ms. Hagen said okay, then we have received money and it has been allocated to different - the Mayor said yes. Ms. Hagen

said thank you very much.

George Gabrielson of 26 Prairie Avenue said that recently here with Sandy it put a lot of people on edge, particularly people who are in a flooding area. And fortunately there was no outcome - any disastrous outcome as a result of it like there was a year ago. But he thinks that we have to really take this seriously. The people that are in those flooded areas, or flood plain areas, how stressful it has got to be. And as a town, as a committee, as a community, we have to share that feeling that they have and take it very seriously. And when it comes to the quarry project particularly and the ability that possibly this could be a saving mechanism for pumping the water into an area to diminish and to take the fears away from the people who live in that area, he thinks it would be paramount. We have to take that very seriously. That is all he wants to say for the record.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

There was no report.

VILLAGE CLERK:

A) Special Permit - New Rock Bar - Live Entertainment:

Village Clerk Virginia Menschner said the first thing is we have New Rock for live entertainment. She said she understands that Terry said we have to set a public hearing since this is a new application. And our next meeting is January 7. A motion to set a public hearing for January 7 at 7:40 p.m. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

B) Request for Annual Walk to Remember - Pamela C. Magi (Perinatal Bereavement Coordinator):

Ms. Menschner said the next item is the Annual Walk to Remember which is going to be October 6, 2013 and that usually starts down at Chestnut Street and goes up to Good Samaritan Hospital. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

C) Suffern Chamber of Commerce - Request for Street Fair Dates - April 28, June 2, and September 15:

Ms. Menschner said the next thing is the Suffern Chamber of Commerce is requesting their street fair dates for April 28, June 2 and September 15. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

D) Special Permit - Ole, Ole - Live Entertainment:

Ms. Menschner said this is a special permit for Ole, Ole for live entertainment. This is a request to renew their entertainment permit. The Mayor said this is the same terms and conditions. Attorney Rice said the same. 90 decibels, subject to revocation and signing the letter. The Mayor said Ole, Ole to Chief Osborn. He said we have no problems, right? Trustee Falciglia said there have been no fights there, right? The Mayor said Ole, Ole. Chief Osborn said it is okay. Attorney Rice said the reason this is different than New Rock is that New Rock was revoked and so they needed a new application. This is a renewal. A motion approving the renewal of the permit subject to the existing conditions was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

VILLAGE TREASURER:

Treasurer Tom Zordan said that he just wanted the Mayor and Board to know that he is going to be putting up the budget timeline on the web this week. And he will be handing out the budget worksheets to everybody so we can get started moving on the budget and getting it done. The Mayor said he was looking forward to a nice budget season.

MAYOR:

A) U.S. Dept. Of Interior/National Park Service - Historical Plaque at Avon Park:

The Mayor said he had one item on the agenda. He said we are fortunate that we are getting a donation from the U.S. Department of Interior/National Park Service of an historical plaque at Avon Park noting that it is part of the Rochambeau Trail. The Mayor said Craig Long is working on this. A motion to accept that donation was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

