

**Village Board Organizational Meeting
December 3, 2012**

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

PRESENT: Mayor Dagan LaCorte
Trustee Charles Falciglia (who as a little late)
Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Trustee John Meehan

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

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

The Mayor said we are waiting for the Judge so we will continue to the designation of the meetings day and time.

DESIGNATION OF MEETING DAY AND TIME:

The Mayor said the workshops are on the final Wednesday of the month and the Village Board meeting is the following Monday at 7:30 p.m.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS:

The Mayor said the official newspapers are *The Ramapo Times* and *The Journal News*. A motion designating them as the official newspapers was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote the motion was carried.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES:

A motion designating the official depositories for the Village of Suffern as Chase Bank, Key Bank, Provident Bank, the TD Bank and the First Niagara Bank of the Village of Suffern as official depositories as per section 4-412 of the Village Law of the State of New York. The motion was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

The Mayor said what he would like to do right now is that he has a presentation to make. The Mayor said it was brought to his attention and to the Board's attention that there is a young lady here in Suffern who is in first grade who decided to, instead of birthday gifts, that she wanted all her friends and family to give her pet food so that she could donate it to the Hi Tor Animal

Shelter and this was something that was not a school project which she came up with on her own and did a wonderful job of getting so much food for these animals who definitely need it. The Mayor said so it is his honor to call up Collette Mulhall. The Mayor then presented her with a plaque which read: "Presented to Collette Mulhall, the Village of Suffern Community acknowledges the generosity you shared on your sixth birthday. You made many dogs and cats very happy." The Mayor also presented her with bags of dog food.

At this point Judge Richard Ackerson administered the Oath of Office to Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan and Trustee John Meehan.

Deputy Mayor Meegan-Corrigan read the following statement: Our Mayor Dagan LaCorte - under his effective leadership our Village has flourished. As a bipartisan Board we have passed a budget under Governor Cuomo's tax cap. We have worked cooperatively with residents, business and each other to provide the best possible services at the lowest possible cost. Day in and day out the Board and Mayor LaCorte makes that all possible. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said she would like the opportunity to welcome Mayor LaCorte with warm smiles and a big thank you.

Mayor LaCorte thanked Deputy Mayor Corrigan for her kind words and for her service to Suffern. You are a passionate and effective advocate for the families in our community and he is so honored to serve the people of Suffern with her. The Mayor said Trustee Meehan - your decades of service to the county and Village bring keen perspective to new challenges. And Trustee Falciglia, who we are waiting on at the moment, he is a member of the grand old party but he finds him to be a great open-minded partner and he thanks him for his bipartisan commitment to improving the quality of life for Suffern residents. In this historic Village, where America's early leaders plotted a young nation's path to freedom, public service and civic pride are the fabric of our community. Everyday he sees the warmth and strength of our Village - at our community center, at our DARE hockey rink and at this Village Hall, whose hundredth anniversary we will celebrate later this month. The state of our Village is strong. With the careful financial stewardship of this Board of Trustees, we passed a budget under Governor Cuomo's property tax cap while surrounding government's increased property taxes by double digits. We reduced our debt service while making new investments in our infrastructure. We reduced our full-time payroll without layoffs, expanded recreation for our seniors, and we are building a new playground funded by the private sector at no cost to Village taxpayers. These accomplishments are solid and they are shared with the Board, with the community and with our incredible Village employees. The Mayor said he would like to ask everyone who works for the Village or serves on a board to stand up and be recognized for their service to the community. The Mayor thanked them.

The Mayor said as his daughters have gotten a little older, Stacy and he have tried to share with them why their family views the kind of community involvement that we have here in Suffern as so

important. He said he knows it is a lesson learned at home for all of us. The Mayor said his mother was a teacher and his father was a doctor. His mother taught the hearing impaired and his father treated infants with heart conditions. They came home from work that forced them to defy the odds to believe that they could make a positive change even when few others were willing to try. That's the faith that inspires his work and the optimism that strengthens his spirit. But we are a community of optimists. We know that having a downtown during a tough economic time can be a difficult challenge. But we have local merchants who demonstrate every day that our community-supported businesses can be profitable, charitable and innovative. And our emergency service volunteers are a vivid reminder that our community remains filled with neighbors willing to sacrifice even while so much of our culture is self-absorbed. Maintaining a vital, thriving Village center is essential to the future of our community. That's why we improved our lighting and crosswalks, promoted businesses with the Chamber of Commerce and began our facade improvement program. In the coming year, we will enhance our downtown with the improvement of more than a dozen more storefront facades and expand shopper parking through relationships with local merchants. No commercial district can thrive, however, if taxes in this county continue to rise at recent rates. The oppressive property tax burden is forcing people from their homes. The Mayor said when he speaks to some of his neighbors and long-time residents they are terrified that one year the taxes will just get too high and they will need to move. Social security, pension, savings - they just don't keep pace with the tax increases. That's why he proudly and unequivocally supports Governor Andrew Cuomo's property tax cap. The property tax cap is to save taxpayers across the state millions of dollars, forcing government to manage taxpayer funds with caution and care. He said he applauds the Board of Trustees for passing last year's budget below Governor Cuomo's property tax cap. He is also pleased to share with them tonight that the budget that he will propose for the coming year will again be below the property tax cap, ensuring that our Suffern community remains an affordable and attractive place for families of all ages. But we all know that the best way to reduce the tax burden is to expand the tax base. And since he has been Mayor we have had millions invested in new construction and infrastructure that supports it. Suffern is open for business. While we grow our tax base to spread the burden, however, he is concerned that present laws do not fully share the burden. The Mayor said that our Village is the proud home of leading Rockland institutions - Good Samaritan Hospital, the Salvation Army, Tagaste Monastery. We treasure our beacons of compassion. But it is simply not fair to have 25% of the Village's assessed value exempt from any taxation and place that burden on everyone else. While non-profit and religious organizations are our partners in our community, it is fair for them to contribute to the cost of certain public services such as police and fire costs currently provided to them at no charge. That is why we negotiated a \$30,000 annual payment from the tax exempt Gitlow Towers to cover police and fire costs in their new proposed residential building. And that is why he will be writing to each of our tax exempt property owners asking them to be active and participatory citizens and contribute to our

Village budget. He will vocally and publicly acknowledge every organization that responds favorably to this request on behalf of all our citizens. The Mayor said he is also so pleased that tonight Stephanie Furgang Adwar responded favorably to his request for her to serve as our acting Village justice. Judge Adwar is a trailblazing woman who earned the respect of her colleagues and neighbors and the affection of her friends with her intelligence, integrity and compassion. The Mayor said he offers a warm welcome to Stephanie's family, her friends, and the many distinguished members of our community who have joined us here tonight to celebrate with her. As our Village begins to glow a little bit brighter for this season, he wants to thank you again for the privilege of serving as your Mayor. Stacy joins him in extending his family's warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Joyous New Year.

Trustee Meehan said these meetings are telecast and he really didn't have an opportunity because he wasn't interviewed by the newspaper on election night but he really does appreciate the support the community has given him in this last election and in many, many other elections. Suffern voters have always been very kind to him and he appreciates it and he just wants to make that public.

The Mayor said that right now he is going to go through a number of appointments. Most of them are essentially his appointments and then the Board confirms the appointment. He said he will make the appointment and ask for a motion to confirm.

DEPUTY MAYOR - 1 YEAR TERM:

The Mayor said this appointment is the Mayor's appointment and he appoints Jo Meegan-Corrigan for a one year term as Deputy Mayor.

VILLAGE CLERK - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Virginia Menschner as Village Clerk was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. The Mayor congratulated her. He said this is the "new girl, Vrigina." Fifty three years with the Village of Suffern and we are so honored.

DEPUTY VILLAGE CLERK - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Kathy Van Sickle as Deputy Village Clerk for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Terry Rice as Village Attorney for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote the motion was carried.

ASSISTANT VILLAGE ATTORNEY - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Robert Magrino as Assistant Village Attorney for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE - 1 YEAR TERM:

The Mayor said he would like to call up, and he would like to nominate for a one year term as our acting Village Justice Stephanie Furgang Adwar. A motion confirming the appointment was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. Judge Furgang Adwar was then sworn in.

TAX COLLECTOR - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Joanne Cioffi as Tax Collector for a one year term was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Virginia Menschner as Deputy Tax Collector for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

TREASURER - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Thomas Zordan as Treasurer for a one year term was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

DEPUTY TREASURER - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Barbara Cottiers as Deputy Treasurer for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

HISTORIAN - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Craig Long as Village Historian for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

REGISTRAR - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Lynne Bryant as Registrar for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Kathy Van Sickle as Deputy Registrar for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

SUB-REGISTRARS - 1 YEAR TERM:

A motion confirming Joanne Cioffi and Virginia Menschner as sub-registrars for a one year term was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

A motion confirming Henry Sussman as a member for a five-year term was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

A motion confirming Henry Sussman as Chairman for a one year term was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

A motion confirming David Hamilton and Robert Apple as alternate members for a one-year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

PLANNING BOARD:

A motion confirming Steve Jaffee as a member for a five year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried, with Trustee Falciglia opposing it.

A motion confirming Paul Gdanski as Chairman for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

A motion confirming Frank Greenberg, Gregory Sussman, Andrew Dale and Daniel McInerney as alternate members for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

PARKING AUTHORITY:

A motion confirming William Schoenleber as Chairman for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

A motion confirming Neil Wanamaker as a member for a five year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

BOARD OF ETHICS:

A motion confirming Deborah Schoenleber as Chairman for a one year term was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

ADVISORY BOARD ON CULTURE AND RECREATION:

The Mayor said this is his appointment. He said this is a group who

advises culture and recreation throughout the year and volunteers at all the events which so many families and seniors in Suffern enjoy. This is a volunteer position and we appreciate all the hard work they do so the Mayor is going to read off the names of all those individuals who have graciously offered to donate so much time to making the lives of our residents better. The Mayor read the names: Gail Curtin, Nancy Christopher, Louis Ciaccio, Barbara Cottiers, Heather Ford, Mary Guccione, Suzanne Joyce, Lynn Limbrick, Daniel McInerney, Virginia Menschner, Cathy Mills, Kevin Patwell, Denise Schultz, Jonathan Theodore and Kathy Van Sickle. He thanked everyone for their continued hard work to the Village.

SEWER RENT APPEALS BOARD:

A motion confirming Stanley Leshen as a member for a three year term was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

A motion confirming Stanley Leshen as Chairman for a one year term was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE:

The Mayor said this is also the Mayor's appointment. He said it does not require Board approval. As chairman, for a one year term, the Mayor appointed Bruce Simon. He appointed as members: Bruce Simon, Isabel Haggerty, Frank Hagen, Lois Hagen, Charles Barone, Sandy Stead, Patsy Wooters and Sheila Foster. The Mayor said once again thank you all for your service to the community.

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

The Mayor appointed Trustee John Meehan as a representative to the Community Foundation.

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MAHWAH RIVER COMMITTEE:

The Mayor said he was appointing a good friend of ours, someone who cares deeply about his community and what goes on in Squires Gate - Mr. Gerry Levitus. The Mayor thanked him for all the good work that he does.

RESOLUTION: RE: MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT - 55.5 Cents Per Mile:

WHEREAS, the Village Law of the State of New York authorizes reimbursement for mileage; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that (1) the standard rate of reimbursement to people using their own cars in pursuant to Village matters or when undertaking trips authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern shall be 55.5 cents per mile plus tolls.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion approving the mileage reimbursement of 55.5 cents per mile was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

A motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan.