

**Special Village Board Meeting**  
**Monday, March 12, 2012**

A special 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 Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Trustee John Meehan

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

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

The Mayor said tonight is a special Board meeting to discuss the proposed 2012-2013 fiscal year Village of Suffern budget. He said that has been the practice for the last several years, they have tried to streamline the budget process so that people would have the opportunity to have more of an input in the budgeting process. So just to go through the budget timeline, it has been posted on our website for several months now. On December 16 of last year, the budget worksheets were prepared to assist department heads in formulating their budgets. They were presented to all department heads on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December and from the 19<sup>th</sup> of December until January 13, each department head prepared their budget and discussed it with their employees B their needs, their limitations. On January 13, and again they have adhered to this timeline, the budgets were returned to the Treasurer=s office. From January 13 to February 10, the Treasurer prepared the budget including debt service, fund budget and employee salary and benefit budgets. On February 10, the Treasurer presented the budget to the Mayor. For the next week, from February 13 to 17, the Mayor had a discussion with the budget meeting with each individual department head, along with the Treasurer, to discuss their budgets. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, the budget was presented to the Village Board B February 29<sup>th</sup> at a workshop meeting. From March 1 to March 8, the Trustees were afforded the same opportunity as the Mayor had to discuss the budget with the individual department heads, which many of them took the opportunity to do. And then on March 9, last Friday, the preliminary budget was posted on the Village website enabling residents to then e-mail or come tonight to offer their comments or suggestions on the budget. In the past, what happened was the budget would be presented to the public at the public hearing. So

if residents came and offered suggestions, those suggestions were not able to be incorporated in the budget as was the practice that the Village Board would have voted on the budget that night. So by doing this, what they have done is really streamline the process, set it out, and now they don't plan on voting on the budget until April 2. So whatever suggestions they get tonight they can take the opportunity over the next month, in addition to whatever comments people have by calling in or e-mailing and they can input their suggestions and we can reflect those in the final budget. The Mayor said so again they believe this process is streamlined and is more public and enables everybody to have their opportunity to have input into the budgeting process.

The Mayor said we have copies of the proposed budget here this evening so if anybody wants any copies, you can come up front and get it. So the budget includes, obviously, the expenditures, the revenue, and the tax levy. The Mayor said he would like to say that we had a public hearing last month to discuss potentially the tax cap that has been instituted by the state government and the Village will remain under the tax cap. The proposed levy in the current budget is 2.98%. That includes exclusions for pension costs B an increase in pension costs which was over 30% which was sent to us by the state government. It also represents a lot of hard work from all our department heads in terms of understanding that we had a significant increase in pension costs. We also had a very rough year in terms of weather events, sustaining several hundred thousands of dollars in damage due to Hurricane Irene and the storm that occurred on Halloween. He said that we have not increased the head count at all in the Village over the past several years. We have hired new employees but any new employee that has been hired has been as a result of another employee leaving. And he believes that an estimate of the head count of the Village over the last three years has been reduced by roughly ten employees. That being said, we do not want to reduce our head count just for the sake of saving money as to destroy the services in this Village that make it really the best village in the county would kind of do no good. So what they have tried to do is increase efficiencies by moving people around in departments. Where we felt we had overstaffing, they would look to shift people to departments where we had less staffing. And as a result they have been able to keep the level of service that people are accustomed to and that they paid a significant amount of taxes for while also not increasing our head count or increasing our expenses. As a result, our total expenditures this year were only proposed to increase by 2 of 1%. So that is the

situation we are in. Again, if anybody on the Board has any questions or comments, we can open it first to the Board members and then we will open it up for a public hearing. The Mayor thanked everybody for being here and he looks forward to discussing the budget.

Trustee Meehan said he had some questions and he knows the answer to some questions but just for the general public we have an item in the budget of \$300,000 as other compensation and he talked to Tom about that and as he understands that from Tom that is settlement of our lawsuit with our friends in New Jersey caused by the proposed mall. And one of the things that he understood about that settlement is that we were going to B they were either going to directly do it or would fund an emergency crossing B Attorney Rice said there was an issue with that. The money is not attributed to any particular improvements. Trustee Meehan said okay. The Mayor said if you want to B again, the money, which is a good point of the settlement is directed towards the Village for its general purposes. Trustee Meehan said he was sorry. He can't listen to two people at once. The Mayor said that the Village will seek to do that crossing and that is something we are going to look to do this year. Trustee Meehan said okay, on advice of counsel, he has no further questions.

Trustee Meehan said he does have a question and one of the things is the current year budget. He said last year we had a very low increase like we have this year and one of the reasons is that we had B it was actually sale of equipment and it is in this year=s budget. And we have received revenue for 20,000 but the total revenue we were supposed to receive on that was 333,000. We still haven=t received 313,000 of that. And his understanding was when he asked about it last year is that that money was going to be from the sale of 130 B the Mayor said 120 B Trustee Meehan said 120 Orange Avenue. And he doesn=t see how we are going to be able to sell 120 Orange Avenue by the end of this fiscal year. So it appears to him that we have a big hole in this fiscal year=s budget and how is that going to be funded except by appropriating money in next year=s budget. The Mayor said that the way we addressed it obviously, as people are aware, when you enter a budget process you really are making your best estimate because there are a number of things that you don=t have control over. Obviously salaries and such you have the ability to determine because that is a fixed cost in assuming all the employees are here and we are providing services. That really is the largest portion of the budget. Other things that we have to estimate are

in terms of the revenue side. And at the time of the budget, we felt, and again, that selling that property would be something that would be able to be achieved. The Mayor said now that he thinks that again we have a proposal from a potential developer which is before this Village now. And the Village, he believes, the Board in the next month should decide whether we want to pursue that with the developer or if that is not the case that we should sell the property because he believes at this point we have had interest. We have put it out twice for a request for interest from developers and if we are not willing to pursue this proposed project that we should look to sell the land. He said that now ultimately he believes that we will, because it is sale property that is in prime commercial space that the Village owns in the downtown. Overwhelmingly the majority of the cost of that building has already been paid off. He asked the Treasurer if we were free and clear on that. The Treasurer said it will be paid off Friday. The Mayor said as of Friday that property will be owned and be completely paid off. So it is an asset of the Village. Again, we hope to sell it or at least transfer it to a developer for sale by the end of this fiscal year which is the end of May. If not, we are pretty confident that other items in terms of revenue, which haven't been fully reflected in the budget, should make up for it in terms of anticipated and already pretty much determined reimbursement from FEMA as a result of what happened during the hurricane. We know, based on the status of our claims that we already are going to receive several hundred thousands of dollars from FEMA. So what we have done in order to compensate for the fact that that property may not be sold in time that we really underestimated the amount of money in next year's budget that we are going to receive back from the federal government. So again in terms of reimbursement for the volunteer firefighters, reimbursement for overtime for the collection and removal of debris B all of that is money that we are already in the collection phase of from FEMA and again that revenue is not fully attributed to in the budget so that should compensate for that. So again ultimately we will get all that revenue. It is just the timing. When it does it will balance out. So one may come in early. One may come in late. But ultimately the amount of money will balance out.

Trustee Falciglia said the street lighting expense B why is that going up \$26,000. The Mayor said the street lighting B is that for the project B Trustee Falciglia asked if that included putting in the lighting. Treasurer Tom Zordan said yes, that does include the electricity for all the lights that we have and he

believes we are going to put new lights in B and he doesn't remember which park it was B Mr. Sawicki said we need lights in all the parks. We will pick one each year. The Treasurer said that is why it went up in that category.

The Mayor said that any meeting that a Trustee wants to set up we again have another three to four weeks before the budget is adopted so everyone can have the opportunity. Trustee Falciglia said he didn't want to do it line by line. The Mayor said if you want you can set up those times whenever you want. Trustee Falciglia said okay.

The Mayor said now he will open it up to the public. He said to please come up, state you name and any comments or suggestions you may have.

Sam Jannarone of 73 E. Maple Avenue said he first wanted to commend the Village for getting so close to not imposing a tax increase this year in light of what the county and town have obviously both been going through and will continue to go through for the foreseeable future. It is great that we can avoid that fate it seems. He said it appeared to him from an article that was published in the *Journal News* that we came within \$61,000, he believes it was, and he said the Treasurer probably know best, to having no tax increase. Is that correct? Is that take by the *Journal News* correct? Treasurer Zordan said what he was referring to is the expenditures going up. In the article it is a 2% which is roughly - he thinks it was \$52,000. He said we are increasing spending by \$52,000 which is about 2 of a percent. Mr. Jannarone said which constitutes the interest, correct? The Treasurer said yes, but there is also a portion that is increasing because we have less revenue. So that is how you get up to the 2.98% between those two items. Sometimes we can't control all the revenue. But we did our best on the expense side. Mr. Jannarone thanked him. He said he understands. He said that he, as well as everybody else's property value has fallen, again through no fault of the Village or the state or the town or the county. There is nothing we can do about that. He said he wanted to ask the Board whether or not it would consider trying to find within the next three or four weeks that \$52,000 and not increase spending at all in 2012. That is a very small percentage of the budget and just the optics of it, he thinks, for the Village would be fantastic in light of what the county and the town of Ramapo is imposing on us in 2012. He thanked them and thanked them again, all of them, for working so hard to get back to that number while providing the services

and paving our street in 2011 that occurred.

The Mayor said that is a good point, and he doesn't want to speak for the Board members B he said we don't want to have any increase. And let him just say that really the overwhelming amount of our budget B probably ninety percent is the people who work for the Village and he thinks that when you look at our services our taxes B yes, our tax is high, our tax is high. Anyone who lives in this area compared to if you move somewhere in South Carolina or move to Georgia or other areas. Yes, the taxes in this area are high but he believes that if you live in the Village of Suffern versus any of the neighboring villages, including those in our same school district, that the level of services that you get in this Village are far better and present a far better value than if you live in any other neighboring community. And if you look at really how everybody reacted to the hurricane, in terms of our police support, in terms of our department of public works, they really did an amazing job and for months after the surrounding communities still had debris all over their streets and to a point where a neighboring village contracted with our DPW several months after the event to come in and clean up their debris. We did it. We did it for a profit. One thing we are doing is that we voted last month for an intermunicipal agreement with the village of Sloatsburg to provide services as an auto mechanic which saves them money and it also makes us money. We did it as a one time basis because we only have one auto mechanic now and we have been looking to fill the position. The Mayor said he is happy to say that tonight we are going to hire another auto mechanic. So he knows that other villages are interested in using our services. So again it will make us money, help them save money. We are also working on another significant or several significant intermunicipal agreements. He said he is not prepared to publicly announce it yet since we are still in the negotiation phase but it is something that there will be an announcement shortly which again will make the Village money, save our neighbors and also provide us with an opportunity to seek grants in light with the governor=s mandate that municipalities look to share services. So it is great that we will be able to do something that will benefit us, our taxpayers, neighboring municipalities and also get funding to do it. So we are excited about that. Again we could take this budget and increase revenue estimates, try to decrease some costs, have a zero tax increase but he thinks if we did that we would probably be in a position where if things

didn't go right next year we could face a significant increase. So again we reduced our revenue because last year we had anticipated and projected revenue very high in terms of building permits and fees. A lot of that has come through and we believe that a lot more of it will come through. But in this budget we wanted to have that number be lower because again we don't want to overshoot, have a budget and then next year have a major shortfall. So again over the next few weeks, if we hear more things from FEMA that we again will look to readjust the budget. As he promised, the budget could change in a direction but he assures them that that will only be in the direction of down. So he promises that we will not allow this proposed number to go up between now and the final adoption of the budget but that it may, and likely, will go down.

Jean Hennelly of 135 Wayne Avenue said she had a few questions but first she is curious why there is only roughly 72 hours allotted to the general public to see this budget before we have to come before the Board. It was put on, and she doesn't know what time Friday morning, and then the meeting tonight. People have busy lives, busy weekends with family, and she doesn't see the rush. The Mayor said there is no rush. Mrs. Hennelly said then why was the meeting held tonight as opposed to giving people more time. The Mayor said this is just an opportunity to speak but the budget will not be voted on for another month. Mrs. Hennelly said she understands. That is why she is wondering why it is not being B why there isn't a little more of a gap between the time B the Mayor said whenever we held it he is sure there would be a concern on her part. He said we have posted this online for months. It is going to be an open process. You are free to come in tomorrow, the next day, and everyday for the next four weeks with whatever comments you have and we will leave it open. But at some point we do have to have a hearing. There are only so many dates. We are going to have another hearing in April to vote on it. The timeline has been online for months. So again, no matter what we did, if it was four days, five days, or six days, we are not voting on it tonight and there will be ample opportunity for people to comment. Mrs. Hennelly said okay.

Mrs. Hennelly said in addition she would like to ask the Board's consideration about once the budget is adopted and voted on that you could put the actual budget online. It's always the preliminary budget and she would like to see after the fact the actual budget. The Mayor said sure, we can do that. And it is always available. It is a public document. Mrs. Hennelly said

okay, thanks, and if you could put it online. The Mayor said sure.

Mrs. Hennelly said she had a question B to date, how much revenue has actually been received into the Village B the 3,198,000. The Mayor said what revenue B Mrs. Hennelly said for this year. For this actual year B the fiscal year. It was anticipated at 3.19 million that was going to come in. She said she was wondering where we are at this point. There are only 75 more days left in the fiscal year and she would like to know how much has actually come in. She said her reasoning is that last year we were short 190,000 from what the documents here say. So she is wondering how far off we are from the actual. The Mayor said that some revenue we got in late so then it is just reallocated. Mrs. Hennelly said she was just wondering if that was going to happen again this year.

Treasurer Zordan said that as of B and he wasn't anticipating that question B and as of January 31, 1.7 million dollars was collected as of January. He said he doesn't remember what the total was in February off the top of his head but certain revenue that we receive isn't received every month B like sales tax revenue which usually is about B actually we received sales tax today for \$109,000. It comes in quarterly. So we are expecting another \$333,000 in sales tax revenue that we haven't collected yet. There is another \$50,000 mortgage tax bill that comes in after the fact B in July, but it is attributed to this current fiscal year. We have two more quarters of gross receipts tax which are about \$70,000 each quarter. And we are supposed to get another \$50,000 in reimbursement from the county for police services and there are a couple of other things. The court revenue we get every month is anywhere from \$35,000 to \$45,000 every month. Mrs. Hennelly asked at the end of May 31, how close would we be. The Treasurer said he wouldn't want to guess because he doesn't like to have his feet to the fire because if he is off by \$10,000 people will complain. Mrs. Hennelly asked if it would be closer than the \$190,000 from last year. The Treasurer said it is all a matter of timing. Because we are going to get FEMA money in. It is several hundred thousand dollars. He said he can e-mail her an updated figure that would include the month of February and then he could give her some more projections. He could do that for her tomorrow. Mrs. Hennelly said okay. The Mayor said and for example we had an item which was from a budget several years ago B a street sweeper B which we were awarded a grant. But in terms of what happened with the state, we were awarded the

grant but it took a long time and we had to reapply and our grant writer, Fred Rella, has been updating on it and again that was \$100,000 which was attributed to several budgets ago which again was a shortfall not because of anything that the Village had done. We were given the grant but just because of what was going on with the state. So ultimately we are going to get the money but again we don't control the timing. And if you look at it, most of the items are items which we have to estimate and they are somewhat out of our control but in terms of what we really do have control over again is departmental income and again fines and forfeitures, depending on the revenue that is associated with the court. And he knows that the revenue has been up significantly versus this time last year. So sometimes it works the other way where we get more in than we anticipate. And similarly that is why in terms of what he said earlier to Trustee Meehan with estimating how much funding we are going to receive back from FEMA we are really estimating on the low end so that if there is anything else that's a little bit off. And again, we are doing the best we can. This is an honest and straightforward process but sometimes you are asked to project things right now B 15, 16 months out. And you do the best you can.

Mrs. Hennelly asked if FEMA pays the public sector first and then the private sector second? Because she keeps hearing estimates of up to 18 months before B Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said they are completely different. Municipalities get B Mrs. Hennelly said get the money quicker? Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said they are different programs.

Mrs. Hennelly said her next question is regarding the zoning and planning board. She asked if they could clarify what the difference B why there is a vast difference in the contractual expenses between the zoning board and the planning board. And what those contractual expenses actually are. She said it is on page A12. Treasurer Zordan said that basically the expenses in the zoning board and planning board B there are small amounts for some training for some books. But the big discrepancy is when people come to us and they want to do a project B he said we get money B we make sure that our planner that we use is instrumental in drawing up the plans and making sure that they are correct, that they conform to Village zoning codes, etc. And what happens is they make an estimate and say okay it is going to cost so and so \$10,000 for his planning fees. They will then give us that money and we will count that as revenue and then when our planner does all his work, we pay him that \$10,000. So it is a wash in

terms of money coming in, money going out. But we have to, by law, recognize the revenue and the expense. We have to do that. We just can't put it in an escrow fund and pay it out. And what happens is that most of the money is basically done, and he believes it is the planning stage which is the one that has more money B Mrs. Hennelly said yes. Treasurer Zordan said and that is where most of the cost to the developer goes.

The Mayor said we have a planning consultant that the Village has a contract with. It is Frederick P. Clarke Associates so they do work and we engage them to do the work and then the applicant will put money in escrow and that pays for it. So as Tom said whatever expenses there are typically for the consultant, unless we have them do some minor stuff for us, there will be an offsetting revenue figure. Mrs. Hennelly said thank you.

Mel Berkowitz of 52 Milford Lane said he had a couple of questions. Number one B as far as policy as to how things are done, and he doesn't think a lot of them don't B in other words we talked about having an April final meeting. Now between that time, and he believes they did say so, we are allowed or we should be allowed to discuss any of these things openly behind the scenes with the Treasurer or the Mayor or the Trustees or any department head, he guesses, if there is anything they can find for us or for them for Suffern. Is that how it works. And then a final decision is made in April? The Mayor said yes. Mr. Berkowitz asked if it goes to a meeting. Anytime that someone brings something up does it go to a meeting before April? The Mayor said a meeting? Mr. Berkowitz said yes, how do you then discuss it. The Mayor said what we will do again is that typically the way the budget process works, if it is an idea, it can be e-mailed in or called to the Treasurer or the Mayor and if it is an idea B I noticed that this B he said that someone had called and said that they realized a number didn't add up B the Mayor said we will fix it. So the input will typically be reflected and then an updated document will be presented to the Village Board to vote on.

Mr. Berkowitz said okay, that makes sense. He said with that said, what he was indicating before, a lot of them probably just picked up this budget just now and they didn't have a lot of time so a lot of questions and comments they would have to have some time to study it like the Board all did during the last couple of weeks or even a couple of months. He said a couple of things stand out. Some were discussed already. But even to him there is

one word in the budget which he doesn't recognize and it is under transportation. The word CHIPS in parentheses. What is that? The Mayor said he knows that in the past it was the custom for eternity in this Village B the budget was presented to the public and then the night it was presented to the public it was voted on. So we are now holding a hearing nearly a full month ahead of voting on this. He said it has been posted online a month before it is going to be voted on and have set out a timeline with everything. So everyone is entitled to their opinion but he thinks this is the most open and transparent and involved process that any municipality he knows of has. And again there is always room for improvement but there are only so many days that we can meet and all that. E-mail, come in, talk, whatever anybody wants.

The Mayor said CHIPS is the reimbursement program B it is the state fund that provides the Village or any municipality with money to improve our roads. So that is, again, something which is incorporated as revenue but then also will be an offsetting expense. Each year we try to do a significant amount of roads. He believes in the last five years we have spent over 3 million dollars on roads. What we try to do is our capital expenditure and our debt service, which again are a significant portion B we don't want to spend all this money and then leave it to future generations. The Mayor said he has young kids who live in this Village so he doesn't want them saddled with a debt. So what we try to do is even out our expenditures so what we have committed, and again most of the money is spent by our good friend, Charles Sawicki and the Department of Public Works, on capital expenditures to try to have a consistent number every year. So for example this year a large expenditure is going to be redoing the roof on the street garage, which was something again last year that had first been brought up by Charles. He came in with his wish list and we said look, that's great, but that is a significant amount of money. Let's look into it. Let's see what options there are and let's see where the priority is. And the priority last year was decided that we wanted to do a lot more roads last year because we still had a lot to be done and maybe hold off another year on the roof. So again this year we are going to do additional roads, but we are also going to get the roof done. An item which Charles is talking about also this year was a new garbage truck which would be an automated garbage truck which would essentially pick up the cans itself and again it is probably the wave of the future. Municipalities have gone that way. It is something that we are looking at. But again based on the priorities this year we felt that this year was not the year

to do it. So again it will be visited again next year and see where it fits in in terms of the capital budget. So again we are always looking to keep costs down but we do need to reinvest in infrastructure or we will be in a situation like we faced B this administration faced B where we had the sewer plant which was neglected for fifteen or twenty years and simply putting in \$100,000 a year or even less each year would have probably saved us millions of dollars that we are faced with now. So we don't want to be in that situation and we are trying to be mindful of the limited amount of resources that we have and the burden that taxpayers face but also at the same time invest within our infrastructure which again is always an investment that does pay dividends. Mr. Berkowitz said that answers that question regarding CHIPS in a round about way.

Mr. Berkowitz said the next question basically. He said we did have one meeting that lasted one meeting regarding dogs and dogs out there biting, etc., etc. We never solved that problem. However, what he would like to see done with a little bit of money. He said we have several parks which have no bags in the system where people could use these bags and pick up after the dogs themselves. If we go out and look at the parks we have it seems to be getting worse. People either don't care. They don't pick up. Or they may only take one bag at home and the dog goes twice or they have two dogs. He has two dogs. So you need two bags. However, it is not a lot of money and one of the meetings six months ago it was thrown into the area of culture which obviously didn't make sense and it was refused. Obviously it was just a discussion. It probably shouldn't go there. But he would like to find some money for that, a little bit, and make sure we can do that. He said that he knows that Ramapo around us has that. And regarding Ramapo B he said he knows we have a park on Yorkshire. It is a park. Right after the park there is a parking area and a few people in his condominium complex who have trucks they are complaining to him that he should try to do something for them. So here he is right now. Although it is probably not the time. He said they want to park their trucks there but all of a sudden a sign recently appeared that no commercial trucks could be parked there. The Mayor said is this a budget B this is a budget hearing. Mr. Berkowitz said it is not the budget but he thinks that today, obviously there are other things you are going to discuss today and aren't just including the budget. The Mayor said this is just the budget hearing. Mr. Berkowitz said that with that part of the budget we can just turn it around and just say that he thinks that if we have code enforcement, as far as

budget goes to raise some funds properly. He said we do have like we see all around B unfortunately a lot of fires and a lot of people getting hurt and killed. And he would suggest that we have fire department and code enforcement go through the buildings that have, in the condominium complexes, different things that would help heed and be against any fires that happen such as batteries not operating, etc., etc. That is part of a budget. And he would pick up that. He said however the other thing is briefly. The \$300,000 that we are getting from Mahwah he finds interesting because he knows we said it last month and he was assuming, and he never saw the original lawsuit, but he was assuming that most of it or part of it was going against the builder and he obviously made a mistake. He said he saw in the lawsuit that the lawsuit was against the Mayor and the Board of Trustees of Mahwah and the builder and he said that obviously he has attended more than 60% of their meetings including one two weeks ago, and there is one tonight, which he is not attending, obviously, and he is just trying to figure out. The lawsuit was against everybody in Mahwah or the four people in the lawsuit or did that change any. Because he thought we said that we were getting \$300,000 from the builder unless he misheard last month. The Mayor said yes, correct. Mr. Berkowitz said from the builder? The Mayor said the lawsuit was primarily against the builder. He thinks the other parties were just necessary parties.

Attorney Rice said when you sue on a zoning approval, you have to sue the authority that granted the approvals as well as the interested parties. So yes, they were all sued, but the money is coming solely and exclusively from the developer, not from Mahwah. Mr. Berkowitz said it is funny. He made a comment two weeks ago at one of the meetings B this is their lawyer and he couldn't believe it B and he said he didn't know anything about lawsuits. Somebody brought it up. He said we have to shell out how much? And that was the end of the conversation. So he hopes they know what they have to do. And he doesn't know when we are getting it. Attorney Rice said we sat in a room with him so he has amnesia. Mr. Berkowitz said well he probably does. So with that said that won't come through obviously until something is already done. The Mayor said no, that is not the arrangement. A significant part of the revenue is coming to the Village on the execution of the agreement and paid after June 1. Mr. Berkowitz said okay, because they don't seem near to being completed at all. The Mayor said that was the whole point because the Village has concerns and had to initiate a lawsuit so we wanted some of

those concerns addressed immediately and again as a condition of settlement as well as the fact that some of the things obviously would only take place if there was a development. So they did agree to have stricter standards in terms of flooding, in terms of water runoff, which has already been reflected. Their plans had been reviewed by our consulting engineer and has signed off on them as being acceptable as far as the settlement agreement. And we will get more bags. He promises him that. Another thing which Mr. Berkowitz said B in terms of the dog law B we did have an issue over dangerous dogs. We were informed by the state that we cannot pass certain legislation that is breed specific but we do have a situation that allows us to deal with dangerous dogs and in fact now the courts and our prosecutor are dealing with a dog that attacked two other dogs and has had a history of attacking and again we want to ensure that dangerous dogs are kept off the street because they can hurt people and other animals. So we do have the authority to act and we are acting in that respect. And lastly, and he knows that Mr. Berkowitz hasn't brought up tonight but you brought up in the past in terms of the meetings and people being paid if only they are attending meetings. The Mayor said obviously we want a pat balance. People coming with what's legal and he believes it is something that the Board is going to consider in short order. He said he knows that Trustee Falciglia has approached him about that and it is something that we are going to address shortly to make sure that members are paid for attending meetings. But again we also want to make sure that due to continuing education for certain members a lot of work goes outside the meeting so these people are motivated because the amount of money that they are getting through the course of the year is not a huge amount of money but we also don't want to insult somebody B while I couldn't make the meeting but I spent 10 hours reviewing the plans and they don't get paid. Mr. Berkowitz said the truth is they don't have to take the appointment. And with that said they are volunteering like everybody else is volunteering and they are getting paid whatever it is. They don't have to take it. They know better that when they are taking it that it is a minimum of once a month and maybe during the summer they don't. And it is just like every other municipality. The Mayor said we are looking to do that. Mr. Berkowitz said other groups are doing the same thing.

Jack H. Rosenberg of 13 Somerset Drive said he had every intention of attending last month's meeting but due to a severe illness he could not attend. So he found out it was a very long, three and a half hour meeting, and he found out that it was on

the internet. And he listened to portions of it. And there were a number of items being mentioned that he would like to call to the Board=s attention. The Mayor said before Mr. Rosenberg begins he would ask him to please that we are not rehashing that meeting. Mr. Rosenberg said he is not going to rehash it. The thing is that there was an article in last week=s newspaper about the subject matter of this meeting. And he did not see five monetary figures that totaled \$1,140,000 which is still a lot of money for a Village of this size. The five items were: \$23,000, \$200,000, \$289,000, \$300,000 and \$328,000. He said he doesn=t see any reference to these five items in the news article that was published last week. He said that three of the items he considers to be expenditures. Two of the items he considers to be revenue. The two revenue items were \$300,000 and \$328,000. That is \$628,000. The other three items are expenditures - \$512,000 for an overall total of \$1,140,000. He said he could go into the five items but obviously time is limited and he has a number of information to anybody who is interested as to why some of these items should not be considered in the preparation of a new budget. For instance, last year a monetary item was added - \$300,000 B was added as revenue to be received. That would have amounted to over 4% on the tax rate. In other words, the tax rate came in at about 2 2 - if the \$300,000 had not been added, it would have been 6 2. And then as a result of watching the internet, the former Mayor mentioned something about fees and permits. And Mr. Rosenberg checked it out and it turned out that it was a fees and permits estimated at \$480,000 of which \$155,000 has been received. That means that \$328,000 has not been received. The \$300,000 that was put on the revenue was from the proposed sale of a building B a property B that would bring into the Village \$300,000. Well if you take \$300,000 and \$328,000 that is \$628,000. He said there is no way when you consider a budgetary year is 366 days long because this is leap year that we have used that 286 days of the 366. There are only 80 days left in the budgetary year. Where is the person who is going to buy 120 Orange Avenue. What is his name. How much has he agreed to pay. At one time, there were seven lots B one and two thirds acres. It is now down to five lots. 1.22 acres. It was 100 units and now it is being advertised as 88 units. No drawing at all has been submitted to show what it will look like with one lot pulled out by the Village B lot number 7 was pulled out. Lot number 5 was something that this Board said we are going to buy 130 Orange Avenue. You advertised it.

The Mayor asked Mr. Rosenberg if we could keep this to the

question on the budget. Mr. Rosenberg said there is no way in which you are going to see \$300,000 coming in within the next 80 days. There is no way. The Mayor asked Mr. Rosenberg if there was a question. Mr. Rosenberg said and on fees and permits you estimated \$483,000 and you took in \$155,000. You are short \$328,000. The Mayor asked Mr. Rosenberg if there was a question. Mr. Rosenberg said if you keep up the figures B the Mayor asked if there was a question. Mr. Rosenberg said you gave an attorney \$29,000. You were supposed to receive it back. You got back \$6,000. You lost \$23,000. You had a case in court which went sour and you had to borrow money to pay the plaintiff \$200,000. The Mayor said thank you. Mr. Rosenberg said you are not giving the facts to the public. The Mayor said you asked a question. Mr. Rosenberg said you do not give the facts to the public. The Mayor thanked Mr. Rosenberg. He thanked him for the opportunity. He said just so he is aware, and he doesn't know if he came late to the meeting, but the question of the 120 Orange Avenue property was addressed earlier in the meeting. And again he was sorry that he was unable to attend last month=s meeting and he hopes at least from his appearance tonight that he seems to be doing well. He thanked Mr. Rosenberg.

The Mayor said the revenue B he thinks Mr. Rosenberg is referring to a statement made by Mr. Giannettino. The figures provided to him were in response to inquiries regarding specific properties. Not with respect to all of the fees and permits taken in by that department. He did not ask for the entire departmental income in his information request. He asked for departmental income with respect to a number of properties. So the revenue number that he was given only in response to that inquiry and the revenue is significantly higher than that number which Mr. Rosenberg stated. On top of that, additional revenue has been received since that meeting B significant revenue from applicants. The Mayor said to Mr. Rosenberg that he was a Trustee and he would hope that he would afford them the same respect and decorum that he expected when he was on the Board. Mr. Rosenberg asked how much has been received since March 1. The Mayor said he is answering the question that there is additional departmental income that has been received since March 1, since the last meeting, and in addition significant income that was not stated to Mr. Giannettino in the request that he made. Mr. Rosenberg asked how much has been received. The Mayor said the Treasurer will provide the information to Mr. Rosenberg tomorrow if he so requests.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Meegan-

Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

The Mayor said we also have a couple of numbers on for a special Board meeting. The first is Resolution No. 5, 2012 naming a Village street Blauvelt Way. We have a resolution to that effect. It is in honor and memory of Mr. Richard Blauvelt who enjoyed a lifelong career in the jewelry and clock-making and repair business and owned and operated Blauvelt Jewelers in Suffern for decades, a profession which he loved and for which he never fully retired. He was working on clocks up until this past October. He was also a respected resident of Suffern residing in his home on Chestnut and was a fixture of this Village, helping us out in opening and closing Haggerty Park on Chestnut Street. So as was suggested by a resident last month, and he believes all members of the Village Board felt fitting, that we are looking to honor his life by naming the street that extends from the intersection of Orange Avenue to the fork in Chestnut Street, approximately 100 feet to the north, known as the Chestnut Street extension to be renamed in his honor as Blauvelt Way. And we will have an event befitting of such honor during the spring. A motion to rename the Chestnut Street extension Blauvelt Way was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. The Mayor said he spoke to his daughter who was really very touched by this honor that is going to be given to her father and he spoke to Gail and Gail will be in touch with his daughter to come up with a date to have a proper ceremony. And obviously we will make it public and make sure that all the Board members and everyone in the public can come to celebrate that occasion.

The Mayor said the next item on the agenda is a resignation from the Planning Board from Mr. Bob Apple. A motion to accept the resignation was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

The Mayor said also, and this is the Mayor=s appointment, he would like to appoint Mr. Apple as an alternate to the Zoning Board. Mr. Apple will fill an unexpired term. The Mayor said he would like to appoint Greg Sussman as an alternate to the Planning Board. A motion to confirm was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. This will run for one year from December. Upon vote, the motion was carried. The Mayor said he thinks he is the youngest member of the Planning Board in the history of Suffern.

The Mayor said similarly a request from Mr. Hank Sussman, who is chairman of the Zoning Board, to attend the NYPF Conference in Albany from April 15-17, 2012 at a cost of \$159 plus tolls, etc. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

The Mayor said we have two items from Superintendent of Public Works Charles Sawicki. Mr. Sawicki said the first item is requesting authorization to hire Mr. Joseph Tripoli, Jr. of the Town of Tuxedo for the vacant position of automotive mechanic I. Mr. Tripoli will start on Monday, March 26, 2012 at a rate of \$22.29 per hour. The Mayor said he knows that this has been a vacancy that we have been looking to fill for a number of months. We had an applicant who decided at the last minute not to take the job. So he would like to appoint Mr. Joseph Tripoli, Jr. to the position of auto-mechanic I at the rate of \$22.29. A motion to confirm was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

Mr. Sawicki said he was requesting authorization to transfer funds from account to G8130.4400.0105 in the amount of \$1500. These funds will be utilized for the sandblasting of the street department modified truck dump body. This dump body has been modified for a sludge transportation during the Wastewater Treatment Plant dewatering demonstrations. We essentially have an existing truck that we have modified B a dump truck that we have modified so that we can use it at the Wastewater Treatment Plant during these dewatering demonstrations that we are going to be

doing later this month. We have the screw press and the fan presses B the Mayor said we are looking at all the dewatering. It is going to be a dewatering expo. Mr. Sawicki said \$1500 for the sandblasting and the rest of the work is being done by Danny and Joe down at the garage. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan asked what account. Mr. Sawicki said it is the collection system account. Trustee Meehan said just a question. You said demonstration. What are we demonstrating. Mr. Sawicki said he thinks it was from the previous month=s meeting he had asked for authorization to bring in two different vendors B one is for a screw press and one is for a fan press. Presently, we are utilizing a centrifuge so these are different types of equipment that we want to bring in and see how effective it is going to be on our sludge. Trustee Meehan said okay. Mr. Sawicki said and to see which one is going to work best for us. The Mayor said the centrifuge is very energy intensive. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan asked if they are going to get those demonstration dates so they can all come. Mr. Sawicki said he will send out special invitations. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said actually she would like to see it. A motion authorizing the transfer was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Trustee Patricia Abato

The Mayor said the last item on the agenda is to set the budget hearing for April 2 at 7:30 p.m. A motion to set the public hearing was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Trustee Meehan asked if people would be able to make input at that point of time as well. The Mayor said we can do it. It is going to be a public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Meehan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

The Mayor said if there is nothing else. He just wanted to, again, many of them were there last night to congratulate the Suffern High School Hockey Team for winning the State Championship. The Mayor said he was privileged to go up there and it was quite a game. And this Wednesday, even though we had an amazing parade last night, and it was quite a fun evening, and this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. including a parade, a ceremony at the

monument, and a reception following at the Community Center so he hopes that everybody can make it.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.