

**Village Board Meeting
Monday, April 2, 2012**

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

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

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

ABSENT: None

Set Dates for May Meetings:

The Mayor said the workshop will be Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. and the Board meeting will be on Monday, May 7, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING - WATER RATES:

The Mayor asked the Treasurer, Tom Zordan, if he wanted to quickly brief everybody on it. Mr. Zordan said that based on our calculations of what we are going to be using in the upcoming year and additional debt that we took on in the water fund, we have to raise the rates 1.79%. It is roughly 5¢ per unit for Village residents. For residents outside the Village it is 6¢. So it is a 1.79% increase.

Attorney Rice said that this just relates to the following: the minimum stays the same. For 10-71 units it has been changed from \$2.79 to \$2.84 and for portions over 70 units it has been changed from \$3.21 to \$3.26. Also for consumers outside the Village, and there really aren't that many, just a few, for units over 10 it has been increased from \$4.21 a unit to \$4.27.

The Mayor asked if there was anything from the Board. Since there wasn't, the Mayor opened it up to the public. He asked if anyone had any comments or questions from the public. He asked them to come on up. This is just as it relates to water.

Rich Karpp of 88 Lonergan Drive asked if we still give water to New Jersey? Do they still take and use our water? He said he thought they used to take our water. The Mayor said not that he knows of. Mr. Karpp said he thought there was some sort of a law that gave them certain, depending if they ran dry, that they would take ours. Trustee Meehan said he thought what he was referring to is United Water which is owned across the state line. Our water is strictly generated from the Village wells and we never sell any of it except to some people who are close by. Mr. Karpp said then he has the wrong information. He thought that - Trustee Meehan said it has to do with the amount of water taken out of Rockland County and at some time sold to New Jersey but it doesn't have anything to do with the Village of Suffern. The Mayor said if we don't use it it goes down river to New Jersey. Mr. Karpp said yes, that is it. He said he was just curious. His question is that if you are going to raise the rates with us are they going to get an increase. The Mayor said we don't sell it to them. The only thing, which again is on the agenda tonight, we don't sell water to anybody other than users which are very close to the Village. We do have different rates. The different rates for the commercial users over a certain level. Attorney Rice said by volume. The Mayor said by volume - a graduated rate. And then on top of that we are in discussions and we are moving forward on a grant. We are looking to sell water to the Village of Hillburn which will help them get off a contract with United Water and it will also generate significant revenue for the Village. So it is a win win for both of us. And on the agenda tonight is a resolution in support of our grant application to pay a large portion of the infrastructure improvement needed to accomplish that end which would be the construction of a pump station somewhere along the Suffern to Hillburn interchange. Mr. Karpp said okay. He was wrong in assuming that.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

VILLAGE OF SUFFERN

LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 2012

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING
CHAPTER 261 OF THE CODE OF THE
VILLAGE OF SUFFERN REGARDING WATER RATES

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern, as follows:

Section 1. Section 261-15 of the Code of the Village of Suffern is hereby amended to provide as follows:

A. Water Rates. Water rates will be charged as follows:

I. For consumers within the Village:

- a. For the first 10 units or fraction thereof: \$35.00 minimum charge;
- b. For that portion over 10 units and less than 71 units: \$2.84 per unit;
- c. For that portion over 70 units: \$3.26 per unit.

II. For consumers outside the Village limits:

- a. For the first 10 units or fraction thereof: \$55.00
- b. For that portion over 10 units: \$4.27 per unit.

Section 2. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

A motion to adopt Local Law No. 5, 2012 was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meehan.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

7:30 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - SEWER RATES:

The Mayor asked the Treasurer to talk about this a little bit. Treasurer Zordan said that as everyone knows, we embarked on a 3+ million dollar program to upgrade our sewer plant which was required not only by the D.E.C. but by the people of the Village because we had to get rid of the smell. There is a lot of money being put into the plant. And because of that, it has caused us

to increase the rates for the sewer rents. And right now the rate is \$5.04 per unit. It is going to go to \$6.04 per unit. And it is all basically due to debt service that we have to pay off, the bulk of which will be paid off within four more years. The sewer rate, although it is \$6.04, it is actually paid in two increments where it will be \$3.02 every six months. So that is what we have to do for that. The Mayor thanked the Treasurer.

The Mayor said we don't want to increase. We would like to have rates that are minimal. And again, like with the water, right now we are moving forward with the sale of water to the Village of Hillburn and that is not included in the budget so that will be something which will take a year to get going and hopefully next year we can not have any increase at all and potentially decrease rates. We obviously have to see how things go. With the sewer we have been spending a significant amount of money and time and really revamping the sewer plant which included new personnel. We have discussed this many, many times at many meetings about what we have tried to do there. The plant was long neglected and as Tom said there is a significant increase and that really the overwhelming majority of that increase is due to debt service because we have to start paying back the money that we are borrowing to get the sewer to a point where it can function - function properly. Because it really was getting to a point where the infrastructure was really in danger. And as he said there are also commitments to ensuring that we spend that money well and that is why there was a great deal of personnel change there because it wouldn't make sense to keep the same people running the plant that kind of were there when it went - when the infrastructure kind of failed. So we want to make sure that our investment, the Village's investment, is protected.

Since no one spoke from the Board, the Mayor opened it up to the public.

Steven Alpert of 17 Meadowbrook Lane said he has just a quick question with the increase from \$5.04 to \$6.04. He said that is a pretty big increase - like 20%. The Mayor said 18%. Mr. Alpert said he was estimating - about 20%. He is just rounding it. Which is a pretty big increase. He said he hasn't really looked at his water bill lately but what would the average homeowner expect between the sewer increase plus the water price increase as a typical six month increase in their water bill - average. Treasurer Zordan said it is very hard to judge. For a single family home for 6 months at 80 units it probably would go up about \$4 more for water and \$40 more for sewer - for a total of

\$44. Mr. Alpert said okay. He was trying to get an idea.

The Mayor said he appreciates it. It really is all going back into investing in the infrastructure of the plant. The Mayor asked if anyone else had any comments.

Sam Jannarone of 73 E. Maple Avenue said that we discussed a couple of months ago the flooding that occurred during the hurricane - during Irene last year. He asked if this increase will handle any provisions for any potential down the road? Charles had mentioned something called a dutch dam which he looked into and he spoke to a couple of friends in New Jersey. He said he doesn't know if it is a viable option over there. He was wondering if anybody had looked into it. The Mayor said we are looking into it. He said he thinks that to a certain degree some of what goes on at the sewer plant, in terms of having fully-functioning pumps if there is significant rain that we can work on that and try to minimize disruption. To a certain degree some of that is out of our control. With respect to the water plant, we do feel confident that we would be able to continue supplying water if a similar event to Irene happened. Just in terms of some modifications to prevent water from going into the pumps. The pumps were still, and the well was still able, to pump water. The problem was that water got in the basement around the base of that well and so there was a potential contamination situation so as a precaution we didn't want to use that well. But in the future we are looking to take action to prevent water from getting into the building to get into that area so in a similar storm like Irene we would be able to continue supplying water without having to connect to United Water. Which we are doing obviously for the security of the Village. It saves us money because that way we don't have to connect to United Water to pay for water. And on top of that in negotiating with Hillburn they want to ensure that they have a consistent water supply as well. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said that as well they have put quite a few projects into FEMA for flood mitigation for those two properties. And Charles has defined them and they have been sent into FEMA so we are hoping that we get awarded the flood mitigation for those as well. A gentleman from the audience asked if it was posted on line. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said no they are not. The gentleman asked if we could post them online. The Mayor said it is a public document. He said we can make it available if you want to take a look at it. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said they are in the Village hall and they are documented as being there. The Mayor said we can post them.

Jean Hennelly of 135 Wayne Avenue said that her understanding, as you said, is the rate is mostly due to debt service. So after the debt within the next four years can we anticipate that the rates will be going down at that point or will it stay the same and are you anticipating additional rate increases already - like down for the next three or four years. Treasurer Zordan said the rate for operations will only change if our use of water goes down. He said in four years time when we pay off the short term debt, the rate should go down. The Mayor said as Tom has said for a while a number of years back in the water utility and it was created not because our expenses went up. Because those are fixed. It's employees, electricity. And obviously we are looking to make things more efficient and right now in the sewer plant the next major infrastructure investment is in our dewatering apparatus which right now we use a centrifuge which is really very energy intensive and expensive. So we are testing and we have talked about it the last couple of meetings different types of equipment that can achieve a better result than we have now but also do so while consuming a lot less energy. So that we are looking at. But a real reason why we had a situation is because usage was down, especially in the water, because people were conserving water. So we have a lot of water. We want people to use water. People are conserving. We want them to use it. And in the last couple of years we have done better in terms of our estimate so if the water usage comes in less than that. But if people use more water and it is a hot summer than we should be in good shape.

Mrs. Hennelly said if everything stays the same usage-wise next year and the following year is it still 76¢ that will be put towards the debt or is there more debt next year. Or is it equally distributed. Treasurer Zordan said the next four years should be the same number.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

VILLAGE OF SUFFERN

LOCAL LAW NO. 6 OF 2012

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING
CHAPTER 220 OF THE CODE OF THE
VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
REGARDING SEWER RENTS

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern, as follows:

Section 1. Section 220-44(A) and (B) of the Code of the Village of Suffern is hereby amended to provide as follows:

- A. The sewer rent shall be established and may be changed by Local Law following a public hearing thereon. The sewer rate shall be \$6.04 per 100 cubic feet of water consumed for properties located in the Village of Suffern.
- B. The minimum sewer rent shall be \$20.00 per billing period.

Section 2. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

A motion to adopt Local Law No. 6, 2012 was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Abato.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

7:30 P.M. - PUBLIC HEARING - 2012-2013 BUDGET:

The Mayor said now we have the public hearing on the 2012-2013 budget. He said this has been a long process that first began in early January with the distribution of the budget worksheets from the Treasurer to the various department heads. As has been the practice of this Board for the past several years, the budget timeline has been posted online so that everyone can know the exact process, the exact dates. We have adhered to that, exactly to those dates. So we kept the process moving forward. We also similarly had a public hearing several weeks ago, an initial public hearing, because in the past the budget would be adopted tonight and tonight would be the public hearing so this would be the first time that residents would get the opportunity to come up and comment on the budget. And we were required to vote on it

and we felt that that was really not a proper way to do it because it really didn't give people a real opportunity to have any input because no matter what they said we were voting that same night. So we had a public hearing several weeks ago. People have had the opportunity to e-mail in comments, call, come in and right now the budget that we are proposing to adopt tonight reflects input from all department heads, from the Mayor, from all Village Board members, and he knows that most Board members took advantage of that meeting with individual department heads and/or Mr. Zordan as well as input from the public. So he thinks that is about it. He said we are staying within the legal limit of the property tax cap. There are certain exclusions which apply. The state recognizing that it is hard to ask people, to municipalities, to keep to a limit of 2% when the pension increase was upwards of 40% and that increase alone would represent several percentage points in excess of the cap even if there were no increases in anything else. The Mayor said our increase in expenditures during the course of the year, which obviously we spend the money because revenues are impacted by the ratables. If people's property gets reassessed the tax rolls go down. But he believes the actual expenditures on our part are increasing by .5%, so less than a 1% increase in expenditures. So again he thinks that represents hard work. Everybody here recognizing the environment we are in and the overall tax levy is an increase of 2.98%. So if there are any questions from the Board members, we will go there first. And then we will open it up to the public for comment.

Jim Giannettino of 2 Memorial Drive said he would have been here last month but he was away. He said he is looking at street maintenance - personnel - line A.5110.001. He said he sees an increase of \$47,754 over last year. The Mayor asked if Tom wanted to explain that. The Mayor said he didn't know that exact line. He asked Mr. Giannettino to read that again. Mr. Giannettino said A.5110.001 - top line. Trustee Abato said page A1-11. The Mayor said got it. Mr. Giannettino said he thought he made it easy by giving them the line. But he guesses not.

The Mayor said that in terms of personnel what he can tell him is that there actually is a reduction in forces. The amount of people employed with the Village versus last year. So any new hiring is not an increase in the number of personnel. Mr. Giannettino said it looks like a new hire and that is why he is asking.

Treasurer Zordan said the increase in the budget there is about \$28,000 in payroll of which we increased the overtime by \$7,000.

Mr. Giannettino said he was looking at this particular one. One line, not the overall. The Treasurer said it increased \$28,000. Mr. Giannettino said okay. The Mayor said there is no new personnel.

Mr. Giannettino said he was looking at snow removal - personnel and equipment. Zero. Treasurer Zordan said we don't allocate our people into snow removal. They are part of our regular street maintenance guys so we don't know how many hours they are going to spend so we don't estimate - let's take 10% of their salaries. Mr. Giannettino said you don't put a money figure in there. Treasurer Zordan said no. Mr. Giannettino asked how much are we ahead this year with the lack of snow removal. Mr. Giannettino said you should have come out ahead on some line. Treasurer Zordan said yes, yes, we are ahead on snow and ice on the salt. What happens is in this area - snow removal - we put in for salt and we put in for the spray and then we put in for some equipment parts like a plow or something like that. But it is in our regular contractual expenses. So right now we are way ahead on salt. Because we went out twice and bought salt. Mr. Giannettino said then you should be ahead on everything really in that line. Mr. Zordan said salt is the most biggest component of this number. The calcium chloride is only about \$5,000 and the salt is like \$86,000 or \$90,000. Mr. Giannettino asked if he had any idea of what that number would be - that we saved. Treasurer Zordan said he thinks about \$50,000 or \$60,000. Mr. Giannettino said let's say \$55,000.

Mr. Giannettino said retirement. State retirement increased by \$51,000 and change over twelve. Line A.9010.001. Treasurer Zordan said yes, \$51,000. Mr. Giannettino said that was just due to increases in the premium or increases in personnel. Treasurer Zordan said increases in the premium. Mr. Giannettino said you can't control that. No need to explain. Same thing with the police. Treasurer Zordan said correct.

Mr. Giannettino said worker's comp. That looks like an awfully high number - \$290,000. The Treasurer said that is basically what we have been paying. Here is what we paid in 2011 - \$289,000. Mr. Giannettino asked if we hit the insurance part where they start picking this up. There's a limit. Treasurer Zordan said we changed over from being self-insured - and he thinks it was the year Mr. Giannettino came here or the year before - where we had Gallagher Bassett was our insurance carrier and we would pay - the maximum we would pay on any one claim was \$50,000. Mr. Giannettino said correct. Treasurer Zordan said what would happen is if you had five or six claims over the course of a year, you

could be in the hole. Mr. Giannettino said for \$290,000. The Treasurer said right. So now what we have is we have regular insurance where we pay them a premium and they cover whatever it is. Mr. Giannettino said so this isn't our \$290,000 or is that the premium. Treasurer Zordan said that is the premium.

Mr. Giannettino said hospitalization. He said he knows we don't have control over that but that's like - the Mayor said 3% - 13% of your budget. The Mayor said yes, but the increase this year was 3%. Mr. Giannettino said that is the old number. The Mayor asked the Treasurer if it was 3% this year. Treasurer Zordan said yes, it came out to 3.3%. The Mayor said obviously contractually we do have - any police do not pay into the medical insurance per the contract. Any new hires in the Village outside of that hired since 1997 and that policy obviously has continued and as the premiums go up their pro-rata share goes up as well.

Mr. Giannettino said he led him into his next question. He said you have just extended a contract. You have been in negotiations to do another contract. He said he doesn't know whatever happened with the dispatcher's down there. Has any attempt ever been made to try to get the employees to pay a fraction of this cost? The Mayor said the Village employees do pay. Are you talking about the police? Mr. Giannettino said and the people that are over the limit as far as contributing. The Mayor asked what he meant by over the limit? He said the people that were hired before 1997. The Mayor said no, he thinks that the majority of our employees have been here under 15 years and as people retire the amount continues to turn over. We have instituted insurance buy-outs if people are covered especially if somebody is hired before 1997 they would sit there and say you know what, well, I'll still take the Village insurance because I'm not paying anything. So by having a buy-out it becomes economic for them because they are getting something and for us because we have saved the premium. Mr. Giannettino asked how successful has that been. The Mayor said we don't have a huge base so it is not a huge base. It is something that is out there that hopefully people will begin to take advantage of.

Mr. Giannettino said he wants to commend whoever was responsible for lowering the building permit number \$303,000 from last year's ridiculous amount of money. He thanked them for coming into reality. The Mayor said he thinks that we are doing okay there. We have a lot more permit money coming in. Mr. Giannettino said he hopes you get a million dollars in. The Mayor said thank you.

Mr. Giannettino said that also with the sale of equipment and property. He sees it is lowered by \$303,000. The Mayor said that is correct. That is the one item we had in last year's budget - which is the sale of 120 Orange Avenue. We have not sold the property yet. It's always been something that he knows, including Mr. Giannettino, that we wanted to develop. We had another developer so either potentially a developer would purchase the property as part of the development or if that doesn't go through we would sell the property. So either way there is going to be a decision. We had one developer who came through. And again we are coming down to the situation where he thinks it is a matter of what, obviously the majority of the Board wants to do and the community, because there has been some significant interest but like anything people want to build market-rate rentals. Beautiful buildings. He said he personally thinks there is nothing wrong with that but he knows that people are concerned so he is not going to move ahead on something that the community doesn't want. But right now condominium projects are just - unless you are financing 50% of it yourself - it is not really happening. We are okay in terms of the functioning of the Village in that we have the liquidity to continue paying our bills and ultimately within the next bit of time when we decide whether to sell the property or a developer does. We will get, we believe, that amount of money - a legitimate amount of money. Similarly, the way he can kind of draw a similar situation is, as everybody knows, we have been working on getting \$100,000 for that street sweeper for four years. That was money in the budget. And right now, finally, with a lot of hard work on Fred's part, we should be about thirty days away. Mr. Rella said four to six weeks. The Mayor said obviously when that money comes in it is not money that is going into this year's budget because it has already been counted. It is going to go to fill that item. Mr. Giannettino said it goes in the general fund. The Mayor said correct. We are going to sell the property and we think that is a fair price and it is just a matter of deciding exactly what we want to do.

Mr. Giannettino said that looking at this he also sees that we are expecting a \$30,000 increase from CHIPS. Treasurer Zordan said yes. The current year's CHIPS was \$90,000. Mr. Giannettino said you might want to tell them what CHIPS is. Treasurer Zordan said CHIPS is Capital Highway Improvement Program run by New York State and they reimburse us for expenditures for making improvements to roadways. And during this current fiscal year, we received \$96,000. We only had \$60,000 that we allocated to the general fund because that is all we spent in the general fund and the other amount went into the capital fund. Next year we are going to spend that money in the general fund so now we are

showing it all in the general fund. That is why there is a difference. The Mayor said that essentially what we have done, at the Treasurer's suggestion, is that we looked at the capital expenditures outside of what is going on in the sewer plant and we are trying to maintain a consistent level. So thanks to Charles most of the money is spent in the capital in the Department of Public Works. So we have been very fortunate in that we have done a lot of roads over the past several years. We are going to do some more roads but there is also a significant expenditure this year. It is for a new truck. And also we have to put in significant repairs into the street garage. So what we are trying to do again is do stuff every year and keep a consistent budget so that way it maintains the same level and it is just a matter of prioritizing what we want to do each year. So we are going to do roads but probably not to the extent that we did last year. Mr. Giannettino asked is all the money from the borrowing that you did for road reconstruction gone? It was like a million dollar bond or something. Treasurer Zordan said it is not gone yet. It is a 20 year bond. Mr. Giannettino asked if there was still money available to spend. The Mayor said no, he thinks there is very little. Treasurer Zordan said he didn't know. The Mayor said about \$25,000 and that is part of the budget. Mr. Giannettino said he has a reason for asking this. He said you have about \$20,000 left, you got about \$30,000 in CHIPS. Maybe you could do something for the people in Squires Gate who are seriously unhappy with the way that place looks. The Mayor said we are talking about it. He thinks the miscommunication there was that there was no money in this year's budget because the roadwork for 2011-2012 is typically done in the fall of 2011 so he thinks what happens a lot this year, and especially also, and he knows there are a lot of people here, like the park - everybody is asking if you are going to do something with the park. He said of course we are. It was just such a mild winter. So people are looking in the month of March and wondering when are things going to get done. Realistically, the asphalt plants don't open until mid-April. We don't do park work until April or May so we are talking about it and he believes we do have some sort of solution for the road in Squires Gate and we have approved a \$15,000 expenditure to equipment and various materials for the park. And you can see that we cleared out the park already, that it has already been cleaned out. That we are going to do the work there. So it was just a question that there was no money in this budget, but once June 1 rolls around, we are going to start looking at what roads we are going to do this fall and he feels confident that we will be able to do something in the neighborhood. Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan said which has already been explained. Mr. Giannettino said he wasn't aware. He has been

asked by people how come they don't have any money to do anything with the streets in Squires Gate and he figures if the money is there you can do something. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said we are looking into multiple solutions for the problem. Mr. Giannettino said he is sure that the people are glad to hear it. The Mayor said it is just going to be in the 2012-2013 budget. So after June 1, probably again, in the fall, usually in August or September they do the work. The Mayor said by time we go out to bid and decide what we want to do. And he thinks also what we are going to look to do like we have done in the past is to kind of facilitate it - go for a per unit price if we can. That way if we decide later on that a different road needs to be done or something happens we haven't bid specific roads. We have done a unit price. And we have been pretty successful working with various bidders and that is a credit, obviously, to Charles for all the hard work that has been done.

Mr. Giannettino said he had a question for Charles. He asked if he had spoken to the Drainage Agency about possibly raising the grade on that park? Because you are going to invest money in the equipment again. Mr. Sawicki said the Drainage Authority at the end of last year moved a large rock which was a project which they formulated and there is no discussion about raising that park. Although it is something we can certainly discuss. Mr. Giannettino said you might be able to get some free fill from someone. Mr. Sawicki said the problem with doing that is you raise that level and now that water has to go somewhere else. Mr. Giannettino said it is going to go where it is going to go. We all know that in this room. We've given up on maybe it's not going to go there. Mr. Sawicki said there are pros and cons - plusses and minuses. Mr. Giannettino said he knows. That is why he was wondering if you discussed it. Mr. Sawicki said we have discussed it a little bit. But it really hasn't - Mr. Giannettino asked if he talked to Vince Alfieri. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said she also - if she could interrupt for one second - she said she didn't get a chance to follow-up with Mr. Sawicki today but we are having a meeting with Vince and we will be discussing the river with him. And believe her, everything that Mr. Giannettino can come up with we are absolutely looking at. Mr. Giannettino said he is glad. These people need all the help they can get and we all know that. We just want to make sure that they get whatever money is available to help them. He is not trying to say that nobody is doing anything. You didn't hear him say that once.

Mr. Giannettino said this is probably his last thing. He said he looked at the employee levels. The police department is under at least five patrol officers who are permanently gone and two that

are on disability. So that is a deficit of seven officers. He said now we have eleven patrol officers, seven sergeants, three detectives and one that is classified as a youth officer, a lieutenant and a chief. Are those numbers pretty accurate? Mr. Giannettino said he doesn't know how we expect the Chief to do his job with seven people unavailable for work. And he knows we don't want to hire a lot of people. And he is not saying hire five people. Maybe you can hire two people. At 40 some odd thousand. The Mayor said what we have done - we are looking at every option. He discusses this with the Chief every day. We actually had extensive conversations today and Friday about that. Also working with the negotiations - what we can do to improve our existing manpower. The Mayor said he doesn't know and he believes that the numbers Mr. Giannettino is citing is from the peak of what the department was. Mr. Giannettino said 29. The Mayor said yes, that is the peak. Mr. Giannettino said no, 30 was the peak. The Mayor said that he knows since he has been here - Mr. Giannettino said it has been 29. The Mayor said no, no, no, no - we are not down seven officers in the last two years. That is no way. We are down - he thinks currently we are down two officers and then there are two who are out. Obviously we are working with that - we want them to come back to work. If not, we are making sure that the Village is protected. Because people get injured. They are entitled to get better. But obviously we are going to pursue all options available. Mr. Giannettino said then if not you have to get them off the rolls. The Mayor said we are working on that and as you know we have labor counsel who has been very successful. We had an officer who prior to this administration was out for three years. That officer is no longer on the books and retired. We had another officer who got into a situation - a criminal situation - and something that could have really dragged on for years and that officer was gone in several months due to working with the District Attorney, working with the Chief, working with our attorney to make sure that we did the right thing. We are also looking at our use of part-time officers. We do have in the budget the ability to hire another part-time officer and also making sure that those hours are used appropriately. We are also trying to control overtime. So he thinks that we are doing okay and talking to the Chief he thinks that if we didn't have those two officers injured now that we would be in fine shape. We hired another officer last year when Harry Uhlhorn retired and he thinks that made a big difference. He said we are doing okay and again it is a struggle. We want to do the right thing. We are trying to maintain the security of the Village which is obviously very important. But we also want to maintain the proper level of manpower. Mr. Giannettino said okay but if you check your contingent that you are authorized from the

office of Personnel it is 29 police officers. The Mayor said correct. The Mayor said we have 24 right now in the budget. Mr. Giannettino said yes, that is what he said. The Mayor said I thought you said 21. Mr. Giannettino said no - 24 - 5 down and 2 disability. The Mayor said that would be 31. The Mayor said we really do have 26. The Treasurer said 24 officers are being paid. Mr. Giannettino said you have two out on disability. The Mayor said they are out on disability or 207c. The Mayor said if you want to ask one thing that is not in our control. That is a law that the state really needs to look into. Mr. Giannettino said he agrees. The Mayor said if everyone gets injured they should do it but at a certain point there shouldn't be an incentive and he is not saying this is the case with the officers but the state - the law as written - people get compensated more to not work than they do for working. And again it really hurts a department like this. Mr. Giannettino said it is another mandate. The Mayor said because if an officer is out - that is one officer - and we are paying them their full salary tax free and they are not working. And at a certain point they either need to come back to work or if they can't come back to work then they should retire on disability. Mr. Giannettino said absolutely. The Mayor said but the point of someone staying out for a long period of time, which we had for three years, is really what hurts this Village. But we are being very proactive about it and he thanks the Chief because he really is working hard on that part.

Mr. Giannettino said and his last subject. At the workshop there was a proposal to create two MEO-II jobs. The Mayor said correct. Mr. Giannettino said if he understands it correctly you are not hiring any additional people. The Mayor said correct. Mr. Giannettino said so why are we moving these people up to MEO-II's. The Mayor said what we are looking to do here - in working with the union, he thinks we have done a very good job at having - and he gives credit to the union and he knows the union president is here tonight. They have been really, really good at working with the Village in understanding when we have employees who are not doing their job. And we have a number of employees who are no longer with us for the simple fact that they didn't do their job. And even though there may have been bodies here, we know that all bodies are not equal and that there are people who work a lot harder so what we have done is, at the same time while we have gotten people who haven't been working who are no longer here, we also want to encourage the people who are working to improve themselves to move up to help us out, to get commercial licenses and to do that. So we are looking to advance people who are here because those who are doing a good job should have the opportunity to advance. And when you look at our budget and you

look at our situation, he believes, as strong as ever, and especially many people here if you look back at what happened during Irene that all our services, but here we are talking about the Department of Public Works, they provided very good service for a very good value. And you can look through here and look at the salaries and we do not have people who are making, by any means, an exorbitant amount of money. And he thinks when you look at it and anyone who has been hired over the last 15 years pays into their benefits and they work very hard and he thinks the least we can do is look to advance the people who are here because any investment we make we are going to get back three-fold in increased productivity and our workers being happy. So that is really what we are looking to do. Mr. Giannettino said so basically you are rewarding people by promoting them which will perpetually increase your payroll which will perpetually increase your pension costs. Why don't you just give these outstanding people a monetary bonus and be done with it. Trustee Abato said we can't do that. The Mayor said it is not legal. He said we are promoting people who earn a promotion. For example, we have an employee now, where based on this, it actually put us in a good situation because we had an employee who went and is going to get a license and at the same time he was doing this the County came to us in the Water Plant and essentially mandated that we have another employee with that license. The Mayor said this person would step into the shoes of that position and we are going to look to do that and if that is an investment and a cost he thinks it is an investment that is well worth it. But cutting the legs of the people who work hard for you in the end may save you some money but as his grandmother taught him, a penny wise, pound foolish. Mr. Giannettino asked what type of license were you talking about? You said somebody is going for a license. The Mayor said a water license. A water operator license. Mr. Giannettino said that is what he thought. It had nothing to do with the MEO-II. The Mayor said no but this is just in another area. He is just saying that as an example. Mr. Giannettino said thanks very much. The Mayor said no, thank you.

Roy Tschudy of 16 Lonergan Drive thanked the Board for the opportunity. He said this is regarding Mr. Alfieri. He asked Trustee Meegan-Corrigan that when she gets in touch with him if she wouldn't mind - Mr. Tschudy said he knows that he has come two times prior to clean up debris, which they appreciate, but there still is, besides mattresses and things like that, there are rock slides that have come down from the other side which has helped damn up half of the river so you might bring that to his attention to help clean that up particularly in back of his home. If they have to use his property to do so, they are more than

welcome to but he has a huge landslide in that water and ironically that same river that drowns them right now you can walk across and barely get your feet wet so that is how crazy that system is. And also he would like to know if we have any kind of a contact with Mahwah for them to clean up their side of the bridge which leads into it. Because he has walked and looked over there too and there is a lot of debris over there which helps back up into us too. So if we can work in conjunction with them to help clean it, he said he knows it is the last thing from an end all, but anything that would help them. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said that is one of her agenda items when she meets with him. Mr. Tschudy said that is all he has so thank you very much.

Steven Alpert of 17 Meadowbrook said he had one question. He said he came to a meeting approximately two months ago where the budget was first being discussed and at that time the Mayor said you would not need to go over the 2% number and you wouldn't need any of the exceptions. So he was just curious as to what changed between that meeting and now where you are talking close to 2.9% increase. The Mayor said we didn't need to go over it. Which we didn't. So it is just a question of we didn't need to legally go over the limit of the budget. Mr. Alpert said let him clarify what he is saying. He said he believes, if he is not mistaken, at that meeting you said that even taking into the account for the pension and so forth, even though you would not need to go over the 2%. The Mayor said yes, we didn't need to go over the statutory amount. Treasurer Zordan said we never mentioned 2%. He said we would always be in compliance with the cap. There are exclusions involved. Mr. Alpert said he believes he asked a similar question then and then he was corrected that there wouldn't be a need to go over the 2%. He thinks that is what he heard. So essentially just to clarify and get on the record. Nothing has changed between that meeting and today as far as the numbers and what you are presenting is basically the same thing. The Mayor said yes.

Trustee Meehan said that maybe for clarification sake that there are certain things and one of the biggest things in the budget that is exempt from the 2% is the amount we are paying additional into the pension program for New York and that will become worse next year and worse the following year and in fact *The New York Times* printed a very interesting story on this a week ago Sunday where they said that New York State municipalities would be spending 35% of their budget on pensions. It is a real wake up call. But that's why we are almost 3% but we are still within the law. Because the law exempts those huge increases in pension.

The Mayor said the increase was what - 40% this year? And the problem is that they use a five year average so you still have in the market average 2008 which was a terrible year for the market so if the market stays the same, even if it doesn't do great, when 2008 drops off then the rolling returns that looking back will get better. So it is just one of those things. They don't exempt the budget but just a portion of the increase. Treasurer Zordan said that what happens with the exclusions is that they take, and they actually do it unfairly, the way they do it, but it benefits you in the long run. They say okay, if anything over an increase in the rate that they charge us and, for instance, they were charging us about 20% for the police pension and it went up to 24.6% so what they said was that anything over 2% increase you get an exemption for. So what happens is this 4.6 we take 2.6 of that and we multiply that by our police expected payroll and then we get to exempt whatever that number comes out to and this year it came out to \$94,000. For the non-police pensions it was 2.6% so we got to exclude .6 of a percent which was roughly \$19,000. So those two components together was about \$94,000 that we were allowed to exclude. So what that means is when we take our tax levy and you take last year's tax levy, which was roughly \$8,700,000 and you multiply that by 2% and now you are saying you can go up to \$8,850,000 but because you get an exclusion of \$94,000 you get to add another 94,000 onto your levy and now it gets you up to \$8,930,000 - off the top of his head. But anyway what happens is even though it says 2% because they gave us an extra \$94,000, the number percentage increase that we could have went to was 3.37% and we still would have been in compliance. So we were out 2.98%. And unfortunately this is throughout the whole state. If anyone has looked at the school budget, the school budget is going up 2.86% and it is basically for the same problem in that the pensions are driving up the tax bill so high. And it took him a while to figure out what was going on and how this all worked out. But if anyone would like him to discuss it in further detail just come by the office or give him a call and he will go over it step by step with them.

The Mayor thanked Treasurer Zordan. The Mayor said he would like to say one thing. He believes it was Mr. Alpert at the last meeting who asked a very appropriate question. Really by the end of the day what is the head count in the Village and where are we going. Have we increased it. Because when you look at the services we provide, we do provide a good level of services. And everybody's taxes, if you live in this area, is high. They are all high. And we are not saying that they are not high. But when you look at the Village compared to other municipalities, you get much better services. Just look at the clean up after the storm.

What goes on. Garbage pick-up, of our roads being plowed. So if you live in the Village of Suffern versus Airmont or Montebello or Chestnut Ridge, he really thinks we have the best services and we have tried to reduce our head count to the best that we can. And again at the end of the day, our expenditures, the money we are spending, even with a 3% increase in health care, and even with the portion that is still in the budget for benefits and raises, our expenditures are only going up ½ of 1%. So there really is not that much fat to cut here without really affecting services. People say one thing but they say you don't have enough police officers. There is always a balance. And really overwhelmingly 90+ percent of what we spend in this Village is for our human capital and it is the people here. So it is not on a lot of other things. And we do the best we can and we will always look to improve but we don't want to negatively impact our services because the little money that we could save you are going to see in your services. Someone suggested that we should only pick up garbage once a week. He said he doesn't think anyone in this Village would want that. He said he thinks that he knows so many people in looking for a house want to live in the Village of Suffern because of our services. The Mayor said he is not saying versus Myrtle Beach or Florida but versus living in Airmont or living in Montebello or those other areas because there really is a higher level of service here.

Jean Hennelly of 135 Wayne Avenue said just to clarify. The preliminary budget that is online right now is the same as what is being voted on tonight? The Mayor said correct. Mrs. Hennelly said with all the meetings and with all the recommendations nothing has changed from the preliminary one. The Mayor said there were some changes but the changes did not affect the rate. If something we increased a little or lowered a little, the rate - because again it is great and we did get it and we tried to really look at revenue and things that we did. There were some changes in the sewer rate that we were working on at the last minute potentially looking for additional outside funding so that affected that rate and that rate went down 3% versus originally what was proposed and he was on the phone today with the sewer district, with the sewer authority, looking to get funding, additional funding, which they look like they are going to come through to do that and we felt that we picked a conservative number in the budget to account for that but again at the end of the day there - our personnel is really what the expenses come to. There are some things we are working on contractually which at this time haven't come to fruition yet. Potentially we may end up amending the budget or discussing it or maybe it is something where we will get savings that will benefit us down the line. So

he can tell her that anything that we are working on to have significant savings comes in the area of personnel. Mrs. Hennelly said that will be done before May 31? The Mayor said we are working on it. Mrs. Hennelly asked if you can amend a budget after the fiscal year ends. The Mayor said no, once the bills go out - it would just be hopefully an additional savings. Believe him, he would like to have this come through if it works out because it could have been an additional savings but it is just the timing of it - we can't control that.

Mrs. Hennelly said that at a previous meeting she had suggested putting the final budget online once it is voted on. If that could happen, she would appreciate it. The Mayor said sure. We will do that. And he thinks we also talked about - someone had made a suggestion - he thinks it was Jack at the workshop - about having, and we are going through a new web company and they are coming tomorrow again - where we are going to have the minutes - because all the information is there. We do have a lot of information on the website. It is not just the most navigable website. So we are going to look to improve it like Jack had suggested that the minutes would be next to the agendas. So that way you can look through the agenda so if you are looking for this it is in this meeting. So we are looking to do that. So to get more information out there. And Kathy, as we mentioned, and Gail getting those FEMA applications that we talked about online as well. Mrs. Hennelly said just one minor note. Can you explain the dental insurance. Is that privately done through you or is that mandated as well. Because she notices that the 2011 was extremely high and now the dollar amount is coming low again. The Mayor joked about removing everybody's teeth. Mrs. Hennelly said it is just a small amount of money. Treasurer Zordan said that again, because of union contracts, we have two different types of dental. The police have a dental plan where whatever it costs to get their teeth fixed, it gets fixed. We pay a premium for that and it is roughly \$2200 a year for a family. The non-police have a plan where we have a provider and each individual is allowed a maximum of \$3500 a year in expenditures and depending on the year, if people have a good year with their teeth - if they only go for maybe a checkup and so on, it costs a hundred bucks to make their two visits for the year. If they have a bad year and they have to get wisdom teeth taken out or something it could cost them up to their \$3500 limit. So every year stands on its own and we just have to make a best estimate when we prepare the budget as to what we think it is going to be that year and then keep our fingers crossed that we don't go over and everyone has a good year with their teeth. And what happens is we have a third party provider that administers that plan and they get a fee - it

is like \$4.00 a month per person. So it doesn't cost us that much to administer the plan and they do have some doctors that are in the network so they get a reduced rate. But again, like he said, the maximum that could cost us is \$3500 and that is only a handful each year. Different people each year might have it. But for the most part people are much, much, much less than that.

Trustee Falciglia said he had a question. He said actually maybe Tom could answer this. Do you have an estimate of how much tax revenue we lose or do not collect from non-profit entities that are in this Village? The Mayor said all exemptions or just non-profits. Because there are a whole host. The Mayor said he can give him a list because there are senior exemptions, veteran exemptions. Trustee Falciglia said let's say non-profits. Treasurer Zordan said he wasn't expecting that question but he could get him that answer tomorrow because in the tax rolls, and Virginia could correct him if he is wrong, it lists the exempt properties and the assessed value and we could make that calculation. The Mayor said he has it in his office. He can give it to him right after the meeting. He can give him the package. Trustee Falciglia said the reason he brings it up is that we are here talking about budget increases and 2% and 3% and he doesn't think the Suffern public is aware of how much we can't collect. It is substantial money from what he understands. You are talking maybe 1.5 to 2 million dollars. So when you get angry over your taxes going up, there are some culprits out there that - the Mayor said a lot more than that. Treasurer Zordan said he is not a politician but he will just say that that is something that is probably near and dear to everyone's heart. Whether it is your church, your synagogue, meals on wheels. Somebody people would say take it away from that guy but don't take it away from this one. Trustee Falciglia said he has some other thing in mind. But okay. The Mayor said he will give him the form right after the meeting. He has the list. Treasurer Zordan said if the Mayor can't give it to you, he will give it to him. The Mayor said he has it in his office.

Steven Alpert of 17 Meadowbrook Lane said he just wanted to inquire about one thing that you had mentioned before with the different plans for instance for dental that is offered to most of the Village employees versus the police officers who work here in the Village. And they do a great job and he is not questioning that. But he is wondering why there is a difference in the plans that are offered for the different departments. Why shouldn't all employees share in the same benefit level. Lower, not necessarily higher, but lower. He said he wants to make that clear. The Mayor said negotiations. Attorney Rice said there are two different

bargaining units. The police, from a long time ago, have a better plan so we wouldn't want everybody to have the same plan. We are not going to get the police to back off of the plan that they have and he doesn't think that anybody is volunteering that we give that plan to everybody else. Mr. Alpert said he thinks what he meant - the Mayor said the medical everyone is the same. It's the same plan for medical. And there was an issue which we talked about in the past where for a while the Village was self-insured. Medically for the non-police. And it was the kind of thing for one year where it worked out a little bit and the next year it didn't and he thinks that the prudent thing to do is - we can make do if we budget items that we know about. And he thinks the concern there was you can do well but it could also really blow up in your face so one year you can have too small a pool. You could have a zero percent increase and the next year if a few people get sick you could have a 15 percent tax increase. So it made more sense to go with that plan that again everyone has and it is just a difference of what your hire date is. Two different unions. Obviously the law with respect to arbitration as opposed to mediation. But he does think that one thing that the state can do is to reform that law. That law, more than medical or anything, if they could reform 207c - you would be surprised that even a lot of police officers who may benefit from it think that it is a law that needs to be reformed. That would make a huge difference. Mr. Alpert said he is not familiar with 207c. The Mayor said that again is the law that enables - if someone is injured on the job - that they get paid their full salary tax free until they can come back to work so ultimately he thinks there should be a time limit where someone either reports back to work or retires on a disability pension.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

A motion to adopt the budget was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

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

ABSTAIN: Trustee Charles Falciglia

ABSENT: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Dan McInerney said he just had a quick update. He said that in 2011 they had 357 calls. 34 of them were vehicle, building or brush fires, 11 of them were water, elevator or vehicle rescues, 94 were pump outs. And that means one day at Squires Gate was one call. They didn't do it for every building. They had 60 good intent calls, 103 false alarms and 3 severe weather calls. On April 16, the three chiefs will be meeting with ISO and that is the Insurance Service Office. That is to review their training, equipment, pump test, ladder test, response times and that determines what the public protection clarification is for insurance. And also just to let them know this will be his last report as chief of the fire department. April 19 he will be stepping down and the assistant Chief, Mike Stark, will be Chief.

Mayor LaCorte said we will properly thank you at the annual dinner but it has really been a pleasure working with you. And you have done a great job. We would say we'd miss you but you're not going anywhere.

Trustee Abato said that she just wanted to actually say a few things to Dan because she has known Dan for a very long time and actually got the privilege of working with him in the fire department when she was president of the ladies auxiliary and he was fireman Dan, fire prevention fireman Dan, and he brought that program so far forward that it was just absolutely amazing. He put his heart and soul into that program and she does believe that our children today benefit because Dan really cared about this Village and our kids and our families that they were really safe and he really brought home to change your batteries. He really gave the kids a sense of safety and security in their own homes and knowing what to do and to stop, drop and roll which then went to something else. And Dan really gave the kids the opportunity to be educated and she just wanted to take that time to say thank you. It's been exciting for her to watch him go through the ranks and you have done such a fabulous job here and she just wanted to thank him.

GRANT WRITER:

Fred Rella said that a couple of months ago the New York State Department of State came out with a grant program called the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program and what it does is that it is a program where if one or two or more municipalities can work together to show some economies of scale and cost savings - for example, by maybe combining DPW's or doing something with shared services where it would benefit both

communities there would be monies awarded to these communities for such endeavors. And the amount of the award for this activity is up to \$200,000 for each community within the program itself. So the actual program application was due March 21, which was about a week and a half ago to the Department of State up in Albany. So they sent the application and we put in for a program whereby the Village of Suffern would be selling water to the Village of Hillburn, our neighboring community, in bulk. Right now the Village of Hillburn buys water from United Water and pays a negotiated rate that they have already in their negotiated contract. We would simply be selling them bulk water, which they would buy at a reduced rate, lower than they could purchase it from United Water, hence, Hillburn rate payers could then receive a separate water bill and they would receive a reduced water bill and the Suffern water bill is not part of the tax rate. It is part of its own fund. So the monies that would come in to us from Hillburn would help reduce the water bill to Suffern people. In order to get the water to Hillburn we have to build a pumping station. The pumping station costs approximately \$500,000. So we can put in for up to \$200,000 for each community, so that would be \$400,000. And the grant stipulates that it will allow for 90% of the cost of construction. We would have to put in 10%. So we meet that threshold so it would only be \$440,000 so we are a little bit over that. One of the criteria of the grant application was basically within 30 days of submission of the application we have to give a resolution of the approval of both boards - that's the Village of Hillburn's board, which they approved last Wednesday night, their board, saying that they agree with the submission of the application to the Department of State and would like to see this project come to fruition. Now here we are. We need the resolution from the Village of Suffern saying that the Mayor can sign the application, which he already did, so it is after the fact but that you agree that this is a good endeavor to be pursuing. So you have the resolution before you and you need to vote on it.

RESOLUTION No. 6, 2012

RESOLVED, That the Village of Suffern's Mayor and Board of Trustees support the Village of Suffern's filing of a NYS Department of State 2011-2012 Local Government Efficiency Grant (LGE) application (RFA #11-LGE-09) in the amount of \$400,000 for the construction of a water pumping station. That the Village of Suffern Mayor, Dagan LaCorte, is authorized to sign said application. The application is being jointly submitted with the Village of Hillburn whereby the Village of Suffern is the designated lead applicant. The construction of the pumping

station will allow the Village of Suffern to supply and sell the Village of Hillburn with potable water thus saving the residents within both municipalities money on their water bills. Within the application, each municipality is requesting \$200,000 for a total of \$400,000.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 6, 2012 was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Abato. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Rella said he had just one final item. And that is the Community Development Block Grant. He said there are just two things. First of all, approximately two weeks ago the County Executive Scott Vanderhoef and the Office of Community Development, Joe Abate, made the announcement for the awards throughout Rockland County. There were 51 applications from villages, municipalities and not for profits, 29 actual grant awards were awarded. We were awarded \$85,000 for the façade program which was the fourth highest of the 29 people that were actually awarded. And Carrine now will give you an update on the façade program.

Carrine Kaufer said she wanted to give them an update on the status of the façade program. She said we had gone out for a second bid at the beginning of December. They received the bids back on January 31. They received four bids back this time compared to the first bid when we received two. It has taken a little bit of time to review the four bids and determine the lowest bidder and work with him to make sure that everything was in line and references and everything checked out. The low bidder was Hudson Valley Bridge Construction out of Harriman. They have had two separate meetings with him and he has met with a number of the property owners to address their concerns from their end. We feel comfortable moving forward with him. The total project amount is \$180,752. That is to do four buildings - 86 Lafayette Avenue, 92 Lafayette Avenue, 98 Lafayette Avenue and 100 Lafayette Avenue. There was a fifth building that was part of the bid package. That was 76-80. At this time that property has withdrawn. The number for their project. The cost was much higher than they had anticipated and based on what they would have had to put into the project. Because we are only giving a max of \$50,000 per building, it wasn't feasible for them to stay in the program at this point. There is the possibility to consider them later on but at this point they have withdrawn from participating in Phase I. Of that total amount, \$136,388.80 is from past years Community Development Block Grant money. They are working on 2010 and 2011's awards. They have expensed that money for actual

construction. \$44,363.20 will come from the property owners. The way the grant works is that if 90% comes from the grant, 10% comes from the owner except for the cases where the project cost exceeded \$50,000 per building because we are only giving a max of \$50,000 to each individual property owner. So there are instances where two of the buildings are receiving \$50,000 and subsequent money is coming from the property owner which exceeds the 10% of \$5,000. One is \$20,000 and the other one is approximately \$20,000 as well. And then the other two projects are much smaller. The other project only has to put up about \$1300 and \$2600 for the other. So that is where the difference is. Their projects are much smaller scale and a lot less work. The one project is under \$20,000 total and the other one is only about \$25,000. The Mayor said just so people know. It is the Stevens Law Firm building, the liquor store, the hardware store - that whole building, the Hines building - and the building where the shoe repair is and Artistic Floors and that whole large building. So that is the four buildings. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said they are with us tonight. The Mayor said four store fronts there? Mrs. Kaufer said four. The Mayor said four store fronts. So in total he thinks it is four, five, six, seven, eight, nine store fronts that are getting their facades redone. So she would like the Village Board to consider awarding the bid to Hudson Valley Bridge Construction for a total project award of \$180,752. A motion awarding the bid was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Attorney Rice said before you vote on that. He just wanted to interject that the motion awarding the contract should be subject to each of the individual property owners entering into a contract with the Village of Suffern. Mrs. Kaufer said and the contractor. Attorney Rice said yes, so we don't have a situation where we would award the contract and any of the property owners don't go ahead because we have awarded unconditional contracts. Trustee Abato said she would amend her motion according to Attorney Rice's comments, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan according to Attorney Rice's comments. The Mayor said he would like to also thank obviously Carrine, Fred, Terry has worked on it, Tom and Jo has done a significant amount of work meeting with the contractor because the Mayor has no clue when it comes to that. So she met with the contractor and the buildings owners so that they can feel comfortable with the work that is done because ultimately it is their building.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The Mayor said we look forward to getting this work done this spring.

CULTURE AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Gail Curtin said that since the last Village Board meeting AARP continues to have the tax service at the LPL building on Tuesdays. Young Life met at the community center on March 7. There was a DARE dance on March 9. They assisted in the coordination of the NYS 2012 Hockey Champion celebration on March 14. They worked with the Mayor to host a girl scout visit here at Village Hall on March 16. And again we worked with the Mayor for his very successful visit to Montebello School on March 21. The farmer's market met at the community center on March 24. Mrs. Curtin met with the Clifford Theater Workshop staff and they set the dates of Friday and Saturday, August 3 and 4, 2012, for this year's production of the Clifford Theater Workshop. And she will let them know when they hear back as to what the actual show will be this year. When she sent them the paperwork, they had interviewed 12 lifeguards for 2012 positions at the pool. That number has changed to 13 and she has another two coming in on Thursday. So they are moving ahead with that. They provided permits for use of the Suffern athletic fields to the Suffern Little League for the 2012 baseball season. And as they know, although they were not able to have the children hunt for eggs, they did have a very successful, she thinks, breakfast with the bunny - an inside event at the community center. So she thanks everybody who was there and she is sure all the kids had a good time. Mrs. Curtin said it was very, very well liked by the kids.

Mrs. Curtin said coming up we have Keep Rockland Beautiful. So far there is a cub scout pack and a girl scout troop signed up to help clean the Village on Saturday, April 14. The annual Rotary pancake breakfast will be held at the community center on Sunday, April 15. And that same day, later that afternoon, the Challenger Little League is coming back to Cucolo Field to celebrate the opening day of the 20th season, which is their 20th anniversary. And she wants to mention that it started here in Suffern and they are celebrating here in Suffern.

The Suffern Junior Women's Club Military Bridge is going to be held at the center on Thursday, April 19; DARE dance on Friday, April 20; girl scout powderpuff derby Sunday, April 22; LEAD Friday, April 27; Farmer's Market Saturday, April 28, and girl

scout family evening on Wednesday, May 30. Other than all of those, on behalf of the Recreation Department, we want to thank Dan for all of his service and we know that he will still be with us on Recreation and Suffern Day. So thank you for that Chief.

VILLAGE ATTORNEY:

Attorney Terry Rice said that as you know, we are finishing out the settlement of the lawsuit with Mahwah over the Crossroads Shopping Center. The settlement agreement has been provided to the attorneys for the developer and we are waiting back to hear from them. We had contact from Mr. Geneslaw today that they had a couple of minor issues but nothing of any substance. And the bills that are outstanding to pay them we need another \$2416.18 that the Board needs to authorize. A motion authorizing the amount was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Trustee Falciglia asked if this was the last bill. Attorney Rice said he suspects there probably will be one more small one. The Mayor said he thinks it is about \$25,000. And he thinks they have done a good job for a large litigation. The bill is reasonable.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Attorney Rice said then on the dangerous buildings. He had drafted and provided to the Board at the last meeting a proposed amendment and everybody has had an opportunity to review it and he understands at this point the Board would like to set a public hearing on the matter for May 7. A motion to set the public hearing on May 7 at 7:40 p.m. was made by Trustee Meehan, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Clarke Osborn said he looks forward to giving them a quick update. Nothing very critical. One thing he really wanted to stress. He said we spoke the other night about the court attendant. For several years we had officers that would go into the court and they would handle court security, corridor details and anything of that nature. Obviously due to the manpower

situation they are having a hard time keeping somebody up there. So what they have decided to do, along with the Village, which he thinks every village and every town in the county is doing, is to appoint a court attendant. And the court attendant will be responsible for court room order for any issues. They will also be trained to use the wand when somebody comes in with the metal detector. Long overdue. And he said he knows we spoke at the last meeting and the gentleman that we brought down was the court officer in Sloatsburg and Airmont that we were looking to possibly hire for that position. So that's the one thing you want to discuss here in case you want to go over it. The Mayor asked if we had to vote to create the position. The Village Clerk said we sent over the application and it hasn't come back yet. Chief Osborn said it would be a PO27. The Mayor asked if we could vote to create it first? The Village Clerk said no, you can't. Not until you get the paperwork back from civil service. Chief Osborn said okay, sure, he just wanted to make sure you understood and he wanted to explain to the public the reason we think it should be done. Very minimal hours and we think it is long overdue. And it is something we definitely need. Chief said we have an individual who is a certified court officer. He works for Sloatsburg, Airmont and carries his own firearm and is certified to do this. He said he knows we spoke about it before and he just wanted to bring it up again. Chief Osborn said he will wait to hear from the Village Clerk. She said we should have it for the next meeting.

Chief Osborn said since the last meeting we spoke about surplussing old police department equipment as well as DPW, recreation - whoever has anything in the Village. There is a site for municipalities called govdeals.com. Lieutenant Bonkoski did the research. He is a Trustee in Sloatsburg. And we felt it would benefit the Village basically to get rid of old surplus vehicles. For example, they have old lights for light bars for the police cars, cages for the police cars. And he is sure the fire department, recreation, DPW - we all have things. So they would set up the site and they would be ready to go. He said they spoke to Terry today about legalities that were worked out and he thinks they are ready to go with that if the Board is okay with it. Chief Osborn asked if there were any questions about it. Trustee Abato said that she did understand from her conversation that we have to set a minimum bid on it, correct? Chief Osborn said that is correct. We spoke today with Terry and we have to set a minimum bid which we will look for fair market value on police vehicles, and cages and we can usually find them pretty easily. All he asks is that any department that wants to list on it to let them know. They can put it on. Just the minimum bid is

all they need. A motion to declare the items on the Chief's memorandum surplus and to authorize the police department to use govdeals.com as an advertisement for those vehicles was made by Trustee Abato. The Village Clerk asked when they want the bids returned. The Mayor said it is on the website. It is open ended. The Village Clerk said we still have to have a date. The Mayor said what do they return it. What are the terms? The Village Clerk said they could return them by the 26th of April. The Mayor asked if we knew what the term is on that website. Do they put them up for a month. Chief Osborn said you can keep them up as long as you want. Trustee Abato said you can take them down also. Attorney Rice said and then you come back to the Village Board at the next meeting to award the sale. Trustee Abato asked if April 26 was a good enough time. Chief Osborn said a representative for that company that deals with municipalities is coming next week. Trustee Abato said how about the 30th. That is four weeks. Chief Osborn said okay. The motion was seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

Chief Osborn said that we had a narcotics sweep last week. We charged five people with drug sales. Here in the Village we are seeking three or four more. We are working with U.S. Marshalls at this time and hopefully we will have them in custody very shortly. It was all narcotics sales. It was marijuana, cocaine and crack. They are in the county jail and he thinks that two of them have federal immigration retainers that were placed on them by immigration.

Chief Osborn said the surveys they sent out went very well. They received an abundant number back. And good or bad, they were glad to see the comments.

Chief Osborn said that with the Orange Avenue crossing, which he thanks the Mayor and Board, and with Dan and Charles, he said he thinks they probably heard him talk about this for the last seven or eight months that he brought it up. He said it is critical to have an emergency access to the West Ward during floods. The Mahwah side gets flooded and the Suffern side. We cannot get an emergency vehicle to that side. The fire department has been great with them by positioning a fire vehicle in the DPW area in case we have to get there. We also put a police vehicle there in case we need to get to an emergency. The Chief said, all of them, have been working with NJ Transit. He said he just sent a letter to their real estate section of NJ Transit requesting this with the plans that Charles had given him and he thinks that we may have the funding from the county to do it. So it is going very well. It's just that it is moving slow because there is a lot of

different people that it has to go through but he thinks it really looks very strong in NJ Transit. The engineering department and the ranking officials totally agree with what we are doing. They are not putting up a fight. They just want to make sure it is done legally to get the right of way for the Village. So it is still going very well. Chief Osborn said the last thing is we have these emergency placards going out today. If anybody would like them. We have given them to senior groups. Mr. Giannettino invited them on Wednesday to the seniors group. The Mayor had spoken to Esther Gitlow. He said we are going to give these out to anybody who wants them. It is just informational to put on your refrigerator door with your name, your basic contact information, and any medication that you are on. Because one of the things that they are finding when they go to medical calls is that if the person is disoriented or cannot speak they are having a difficult time finding information on them if they are by themselves. This will stop that. And anybody who wants one. They ordered 1000 of them. He has them in the police department. He will be going to the seniors group on Wednesday. And Esther Gitlow. And anybody else who wants them. They will be keeping them in the police cars for them. It is a magnet that goes right on the refrigerator.

Chief Osborn said that he wanted to congratulate Dan McInerney for the past three years as fire chief. You are not going to find a guy more dedicated or determined to do what is right for this Village. And this guy is incredible. And he wants to thank him for everything he has done for their department and now he will get more time to do his civil war studies. He has helped the Chief out with his family members that were in the civil war. He has gone a great job with everything with the fire department and he will see him on the 14th at his dinner. But he just wanted, in front of the public, to tell him how good a job he has done. Thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Michael Curley of 80 Orange Avenue said he just wanted to put out that as he drives through Squires Gate it is not where it should be. He said he grew up there so he knows it very well. He said he remembers being Mr. Karpps paper boy and him being a good tipper. He said he just thinks it is not always the government's responsibility. It is also the people's responsibility. We all as a community have to work together. So as he was driving through with Jean Lockman, who is from Shamrock Hotel, she said Michael, what can we do to help. He said so what they are going to do, and she is putting it all together, she was actually sick tonight and

he thinks she was nervous to talk and she fooled him into doing it instead of her. But what they want to do is have a day where for a whole day long there is a fund raiser for the Shamrock Hotel to use for the benefit of Squires Gate. To try to help them fix up the neighborhood and fix up the park. The idea is to go out - and it is not a government function. We are not asking the Village to do it. You have many meetings - budget meetings - and you are very busy. But he would like them to come and spend money that day. But the idea is to raise, whether it's 500 or 10,000 dollars. And on their end they will go ahead. They will go to different communities, whether it is the Bon Aires and the other things around there, to see what they can do just to help. Because he thinks it is a personal responsibility too. He thinks it is important for the whole Village to show that we care. That we care about Squires Gate. He said he doesn't live there anymore but it will always be something special - that part of our community. So we are going to call it Operation Care and we are going to reach out to people in the community, to different businesses, to maybe give a little donation so everything that is raised that day goes directly to that community for them to spend as they choose. And he will even let Roy Tschudy work the register so he can count all the money coming in. He thanked them. And he said it wasn't his idea. It was actually a girl named Jean Lockman who actually grew up in Paramus, New Jersey. But as we were there - we went together - but it was her thing because she saw the community before the storm and she saw it after and again we went down there a couple of weeks ago and she actually had worked on a little thing that she wants to go out and hand to all the neighborhoods there and then go to the other neighborhoods. He said we are not asking for the people of Squires Gate to do the work here. We think that they need the help and they should be the benefit. And the rest of the community, the rest of this Village, and even people in the town should come and support them and say we care. So thank you again. The Mayor said thank you and if you can thank her on her behalf that would be great. It is really nice.

Richard Karpp said that speaking of Squires Gate. It is a sore subject in everybody's heart. He said he appreciates what Michael was saying. Fortunately and unfortunately most of the people are doing fine. But there are four homes that are just standing there with no decisions. Four families have been going house to house sleeping. They need the help more than everybody else. Now, the Village of Suffern - has the Village or any of its engineers or anybody to this day determine the cause of the devastation that knocked out the foundation of the houses?

Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said it is absolutely not up to the Village to decide what destroyed those homes. She said we have had forensic studies done. The insurance companies for the four homes came out. It is in the homeowner's insurance hands at the moment. Which Mayor LaCorte has diligently sent forensic studies over to the head of the insurance in New York State and is working diligently trying to get them to move forward. We have put letters of intent for the four homeowners should they go with the program. That is up to them. We are doing everything we possibly can but it is the homeowners who have to decide with their insurance companies what is going to happen to the homes at this particular moment. Mr. Karpp said okay, that is fine. He said he is old fashioned. He said that he believed, him personally, he believed that it was the Village - the Mayor and the Board of the Village - at that time under a lot of questions building homes there. That these homes should not have been built. And at the same time the homes should be built with no basements. And for some reason, lo and behold, he thinks they built one or two houses with no basements. Then they went down the line. Those houses should not have been built. He doesn't know why the people on the Board and the people in charge of the Village of Suffern at that time had given the okay on a swamp to build homes. There is a story about a car being found as fill. He personally believes the soil under all of those houses is bad. All the water over the years. Now if that is not the Village fault - sorry, not fault. But if that is not the interest of the Village to pitch in and do something. Like he said, first of all you have four houses. One of those houses are two houses away from him. He looks at those houses and he says, hey, the next time is that me. And that could possibly happen. The river is never fixed. It is never dredged. It is never cleaned. We had problems with dams breaking and dams being opened when they shouldn't have. Hopefully, he hopes that some people will think about doing something that things like that will never happen again. It is a shame. It has been seven months now and those houses are there.

The Mayor said he appreciates it. He said we have been in touch consistently and regularly, and he knows that some of the homeowners are here tonight with that. He said we were awaiting the forensic study, which we got. It was submitted to the state - mailed out to them on March 1. The Mayor has a call into them that was made on Friday here out of the office. He said he didn't hear back today but he will speak to them and ultimately when we hear back if, based on their urging, the insurance companies decide to do anything, at that point we will meet again with the homeowners, probably within the next week or two and decide what

the next step is. The Mayor said we are trying to protect their interest. He said in other areas, as Deputy Mayor Corrigan mentioned, there are other municipalities that just knocked homes down and sent the bills to the homeowners. So we don't want to do that because we don't want to devastate people more financially where we are trying to work with them. So the same - there are also people who sit there and say why haven't you knocked them down. They're an eyesore. And just like Mr. Karpp is saying, our number one concern is for those who are homeowners. So we are doing what we can. The Village shored up the homes. We did an engineering study. We shored them up again over the winter. He believes the DPW went in there and removed the hay - the Mayor said cleaned up all around it. He said he knows there was some cleaning done. He said we are always working on it and he really does credit Deputy Mayor Corrigan and Elaine Accocella. They are working everyday on it. And it is a terrible situation. We are continuing to move forward. We are all trying and we will see. Mr. Karpp said don't get him wrong. He is not blaming. The Mayor said he knows he is frustrated. Mr. Karpp said you guys were excellent in the disposal. As a matter of fact the insurance company said okay, we will be there. We will look at the stuff. Take pictures. Mr. Karpp said to them that they can't. The Village has put dumpsters every 500 feet. As soon as we put them out they scoop them up and they throw them away. If you want to come here and look you are going to see it basically cleaned up the way everybody went overboard in cleaning. The police, the firemen, everybody. He said he has no qualms about it. The Mayor said we will know in the next couple of weeks. He said he knows everyone was waiting and he definitely talked to a number of the homeowners that the state said they wanted a month - and this person is way up there. The person he is dealing with is the special assistant to the superintendent of the department of financial services, which is the body that regulates the insurance industry. So if anyone can be an advocate on behalf of the homeowners with respect to the insurance companies it is them. And they have been responsive and they did ask us to provide all evidence so that we can make a case that it was something more than just a flood. While concurrently led by Deputy Mayor Corrigan, Elaine Accocella, Charles Sawicki moving forward on the applications.

Mr. Karpp said a few days before the flood there was an earthquake. The Mayor said we can talk more about this. Again, he appreciates his comments. Mr. Karpp said it is just a shame. Every time you look around you see the houses and every day the houses look more and more presentable. And yet the longer it stays the more mold or whatever you want to call it gets in there

and once they start knocking it down then you are in for one heck of a mess. Mrs. Cohen said it is shifting more. It has moved 2 inches. Mr. Karpp said what if it goes more and kaboom. The Mayor said Mr. Sawicki is aware of it. We spoke about it on Friday and it has been relayed to our consulting engineer. We are doing what we can for the homeowners. We can talk some more. Mr. Karpp said no, no, no. He is not blaming. He would just like to get to the bottom and get them down. He said he thinks if people knew what caused it. Because everybody says - he knows for a fact that those houses were poorly built. Bad construction. Now who oversees that. The Mayor said we can talk about this. He thinks that there is another forum for us to talk about it. But we can talk about this at another time. Mr. Karpp said he will shut up and go sit down. The Mayor said no, no, no. But thank you.

Camille Buris of 12 Boulevard said she has a couple of concerns. One was with Chubby's Deli in Suffern. They recently added a chimney exhaust system to the building and she is wondering why that didn't go for a variance. The Mayor said they didn't need a variance but they did go to the building department. Ms. Buris said why wouldn't they need a variance. It is a non-compliant building. The Mayor said that is not a change in the use. The Mayor said it is not an expansion of the use. Ms. Buris said no, it is not a change in the use. If you make a change for the outside - the exterior of the building - you are required to get a variance because you are not within the setback. The Mayor said that he does know that everything they have done has been directly involved with the building department, with our building inspector. The Mayor said he is not an expert to speak to what would amount to a change in the use. He said he does know that our building inspector - the Mayor has the utmost confidence in him. He said you can talk to him about it. But this was not something that was done on their own without working with the building department. Anything they have done the building department is aware of and they have approved it. Ms. Buris said she knows that. She said she is thinking that they made a change to the building that took it from residential to more commercial looking and they butchered the building, as far as she is concerned, and it affects property values in the area. The Mayor said he does know that there has been a deli there forever - Ms. Buris said yes there was a deli. And she loves the fact that it is going to be a pizzeria and they need an exhaust. But she does think it should have been covered. It should have been sided over. It should not be allowed to look like this. Ms. Buris said that the building department says that if you don't change the footprint of a building then you don't need a variance. And she said the footprint has changed when you make a change to the

exterior because when a survey is done it is going to differ from the original. They are not going to ignore the fact that there is a chimney there. Just like 54 Prairie was just required to get a variance for their chimney.

Ms. Buris said her second point - and this is more addressed to Mr. Rice. There are some homeowners in the Village that are under the belief that when the Village mailed out this nice little postcard saying that sidewalks are to be shoveled full-width. They shoveled a 12 inch path and they are adjacent to her property so that is a concern to her because if they are being negligent and someone falls on their property, since it is adjacent, or if someone trips on their property in the 12 inch path and stumbles onto hers, why they aren't notified that they need to - she presented pictures.

Trustee Meegan-Corrigan asked if this was this year's storm. This is October 31? She asked if she called anybody to ask them to come look at that. Ms. Buris said she called the only people she knew. It was a Sunday. She called the police department. And she said that it was more than 5 hours of the cessation of the daylight hours and the cessation of the snowstorm. Attorney Rice asked her if she spoke to the building department about this. Ms. Buris said the building department said they have to come out and see the violation themselves. Attorney Rice said to tell him if he is wrong. Isn't there an issue between you and your neighboring property owner with some easement rights or something like that? Is that right? Ms. Buris said there is an issue. But the sidewalk doesn't really get involved in that. Attorney Rice said with his conversations with them they weren't really able to basically adjudicate what the rights are between the two property owners. That's what they said. Ms. Buris said that is nice. Shoveling a 12 inch path of a sidewalk, regardless, is not compliant with Village code. Attorney Rice said there was another underlying issue. Ms. Buris said yes, well it's the sidewalk. Because it is her understanding that Suffern code 235-7 states that each homeowner is responsible from their property line to the curb. Keep it free of encumbrances, obstacles, debris, etc. And repeatedly these people push the envelope every winter. And just go a little further because they seem to be immune to violations.

The Mayor said it seems to him that and again this is why he thinks Terry was making the point. He said he doesn't want to speak for him. But if you look at the picture there is only a small area where it is not wide. And right after that - Ms. Buris said it is like 7 feet - the Mayor said it was like intentionally

- obviously there is something going on here that's more than - it's not like someone did not clear a wide path. There is just a path in the area. Ms. Buris said exactly. They are playing games because - the Mayor said obviously it seems to him that it is an issue between two property owners over a small - the width of this is what. What are we talking about here. Ms. Buris said 12 inches wide by 7 feet in length. The Mayor said yes, only a 7 foot area where it is not the full area. Ms. Buris said yes, adjacent to her. The Mayor said and the issue is who is responsible for doing that. Ms. Buris said well obviously the homeowner is responsible for it - it is the sidewalk. The Mayor said okay, but as you said there is an issue over easement and who is responsible and what is going on here. That someone would fail when they have done everything else to do 7 feet. The Mayor said obviously we weren't at the time able to - Ms. Buris said yes, the sidewalk has nothing to do with the easement. Ms. Buris said she has requested in the past - every winter she has requested - can the homeowners be notified that it is their responsibility in accordance with code 235-7. They are responsible from the property line to the curb to remove the snow - well not snow - obstructions. The Mayor said generally people are aware of what their responsibility is. But we are not going to adjudicate whose particular property and whose responsibility it is unless it is completely clear. That is not the building department's responsibility. But every homeowner was mailed the same green card. Ms. Buris said yes, and they have basically ignored it and only did 12 inches and she went to the building department and said perhaps they need a singular mailing to themselves. They will say they didn't get this card. Because obviously they are - Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said all we can do is kind of really watch the scenario. Ms. Buris said watch it? All she requested is that they send out notification saying that sidewalks have to be shoveled full width and it is your responsibility from the sidewalk to the curb and to maintain your property.

Trustee Abato said that every homeowner was sent that. So they are aware that whatever property that belongs to them that they are responsible for. But in this instance, that piece of property right now - the building department is working on to see who actually is responsible for that 7 feet of property. So there is nothing we can do to enforce the code to someone when we don't even know who owns the property yet. So as soon as we find out who is responsible for the property, if we ever do, then obviously something can be done. But until that time the Board can't make any decisions on who is responsible and we couldn't even - the code enforcer you could call him and ask him to go

out. But he would go back to find out who in fact is the owner of the property and there is no answer right now. The Mayor said we can give you both tickets and then you can come in and fight it out if that is the way you want to go. But probably not.

John Glicksman of 67 E. Maple Avenue said he has a safety issue that concerns really all the residents and anybody who is on their street, which is just two blocks down, trying to get out onto Washington specifically on Sunday's when churches are in session - not session but the churches are having their services. Because cars, congregants, are allowed to park on Washington on the far side of the street within a car length of both corners. When they try to pull out, you literally cannot see anybody coming. You have to nudge your car out until the bumper of the car is almost in the middle of Washington trying to peer through windows. At that point it really is almost too late. The Mayor said that is a good point. Mr. Glicksman said a lot of people just sort of pray, close their eyes and step on the gas. A catastrophe is going to happen. Really you need at least, and they are just guesstimating, four or five car lengths on either side to be able to see far enough in both directions to make a decision as to whether or not it is safe to pull out. The Mayor said it is a valid concern. He said he knows the parking on the day of the church has been an issue. One of your neighbors has been in here a lot talking about it. Also the other issues are you can't limit it, you don't want to prohibit the parking because then people can't do it. The Mayor asked the chief if we could take a look at those corners. And the other issue is he was going to bring it up to him anyway. Can we also look on the north - the Boulevard side - the Boulevard side of Washington. There is also a concern that we had talked about. If someone is coming out and making a right off of Boulevard onto Washington, in front of Dr. Leshen's house, potentially no parking the length of the Leshen house. Because what happens is that when there is a car parked there on the right in front of Dr. Stan's house, that people have to pull out onto the far side of Washington and then there is oncoming traffic in the other direction. So maybe we can also look at that area. Trustee Falciglia said and Clinton Place. The Mayor said if we can look at certain areas along Washington to have no parking here to corner. The chief said they will take a look. Mr. Glicksman said it starts around now and it ends about 1:30 - whatever the masses are and the services. And it happens - there are other days, other holidays - but it is primarily steadily every single Sunday. Chief Osborn said they will take a look. Mr. Glicksman said just enough so they can see. The Mayor said we did it once in Bon Aire along the corner there. We have a no parking here to corner. The Mayor said we can take a look and

go through different areas and that other area on Washington in front of Dr. Leshen's house. Mr. Glicksman said this has been brought up before. They brought it up to the Mayor at a fundraiser at the Shamrock a couple of months ago. They wrote little charts and diagrams on napkins. The Mayor said we will take care of it. He said he thinks at the end we just have to have areas where you can't park from here to corner. The Mayor said he doesn't think anyone would have a problem with eliminating a little parking on Washington.

Roy Tschudy said that first he would like to thank Mike Curley and Jean Lockwood for that very generous offer and anything he can do to help coordinate that he would be more than pleased. He thanked them for that. Mr. Tschudy said one of the questions regarding the traffic that we were talking about. If you know the situation by South Street where Turco has their landscaping business. They continuously block the streets so that anybody that is coming down from either the Squires Gate area or the dog groomer or the car wash - to try to come out of there it is difficult to try and navigate through there. The Mayor said he knows where he is talking about. And we did the line. And we had the whole stop sign there. Trustee Abato said she has actually gone down those streets and she is telling him that he has no regard - he just leaves those trucks wherever - Mr. Tschudy said it is pretty blatant. He said that to make the problem even worse when you come to that stop sign and you want to make a left onto Franklin Turnpike - there is a sign that says "Stop here on red." What happens is it is ignored and it is ignored by mainly Jersey. They just backfill it in. Therefore you again have to inch out and then when the light turns the people are going north and you are stuck and you can be there for quite a long time and it leads to people coming out honking - it could lead to - he said he has been honest with them. He has been in a few verbal altercations. The Mayor said we are aware. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan asked Chief Osborn if we could put a stop sign underneath the sign that says "Please stop here on red?" The Mayor said that is not our road. If you put a stop and the light is green we are going to have a road hazard. The Mayor said what we did was we put the sign up. We did put the sign up and then we painted the road. Mr. Tschudy said the sign is beautiful. The line is beautiful. It is just that people ignore it. He said he doesn't know if Mahwah would be responsible for issuing summonses there. The Mayor said you are still in New York. Mr. Tschudy said if you are talking about a source of revenue that would pay for an overtime post right then and there. Or if you want to give him a book of summonses. He still knows how to write them. He said he hopes it is adjudicated because again he believes in being proactive and not reactive and

for an accident he is sure will happen. The Mayor said we will revisit that in the parking situation. Mr. Tschudy said he appreciates that.

Joe Cestone of 25 Temple Lane said that not to be redundant but if you want to look at mortgage papers, he has his GI bill mortgage papers when he bought the house. No where in it does it tell him that he is in a flood plain. Only after the first flood were they told. He said he hates to say it. You are the future and you are part of the past but you have to suffer with the sins of the past. You have to do something for these people. Where tax increases and property values are diminished by 30 and 40 percent. Who is doing something for them. He said he lives next to a lot. It is the biggest doggie latrine in the Village of Suffern. Nobody helped him clean up the lot after the flood. When the snow is heavy, where do you dump the snow? Right next to his house. It makes it difficult for him to back out. And as far as the traffic laws go - the Squires Gate roads - Spicer and Temple - you might as well take the stop sign away and throw it in the garbage because nobody obeys it. He said he almost got run over the other night by some idiot doing 60 miles per hour on Temple Lane.

Jean Hennelly of 135 Wayne Avenue said she had two things. First is a question. Is it safe to say now that the tentative deal - well there was no deal - but the investigation into looking to purchase the property on Spicer or Temple Lane - the commercial lot - is it safe to say that it is completely off the table? The Mayor said yes. Mrs. Hennelly said if there is a way to spend that \$61,000 and give it to the residents instead of a commercial establishment she thinks that would be the way to go. The Mayor said we are not moving forward with that. They have done some landscaping. We are dealing with what is going on there to try to increase the buffer and deal with the commercial use to make sure that they adhere to the law and it is always an issue with the code enforcers that we are on. They are having some issues there with the towing company and their certificate of use. There are a lot of accusations. We are on top of it. It is just a question of making sure that we see them do what they are not supposed to do. But we have evidence of. That money is recreation - recreation money - so it is not like we can just hand it out. It has to go for specific recreation purposes. Obviously we have gotten funding and have applied to get funding from FEMA to refurbish the park so that is there but we are trying to help out. He doesn't think that money can be specifically done for - given to people like a gift but we are looking to do a lot in that area to improve it during this season. And again working with the

homeowners, working with FEMA, doing what we can. Working with the drainage agency. Again we have two people who are committed to it. He said he thinks Elaine maintains a cell phone just so people can call her for that. So we are there. We are trying. And we will continue to try.

Mrs. Hennelly said the second thing - regarding 166 Wayne Avenue. She said she guesses it is going close to - at least over two weeks. She said she has called the police department - the non-emergency line and she guesses she spoke with the dispatcher or someone and she had mentioned the fact that there is complete access to the side entrance of the front property and there are absolutely no windows to the basement to the property in the back. And she is very concerned about it. There are a lot of teenagers in the area. Kids will be kids. Always look for an adventure. And she is very concerned about them being mischievous and going into these vacant buildings. So the nice person said we will look into it. And she called Mrs. Hennelly back within five minutes later and said that she had spoken to the building department and she said it was cited to be demo'd in the next week and she said she has been hearing this for the past eight weeks. Because there has been a commercial backhoe plopped in the front yard since they purchased the property. So she is wondering where do we stand on the demolition of this property. The Mayor said his understanding is that they have gone FOR the demolition permit and there were some issues concerning how it worked out with the utilities in getting it taken care of but his understanding with the building department is that that should happen soon. Mrs. Hennelly asked if we could request them to at least put plywood up to prevent people from accessing these homes? The Mayor said yes. Mrs. Hennelly said she doesn't know the reasons why the doors have been taken off. The Mayor said he will talk to the building department tomorrow and see if that building permit if it is not going to be issued and it is not going to be demolished - sorry, the demolition permit - within the next couple of days and if it is going to be a lot longer. Mrs. Hennelly said just to prevent any tragedy. The Mayor said sure. He will talk to them in the morning.

Jim Giannettino of 2 Memorial Drive said that on that subject - all you need to do is send them a letter. If he doesn't do it the Village has the right to board it up and charge them. Attorney Rice said the building department is aware of it because he had a discussion so he knows they are considering that.

Mr. Giannettino said okay. He said he had two short ones. He said we hired a second part time code enforcer he believes last year.

Is it possible that we can get a report once every couple of months on what they are doing. Because it seems to him in certain areas that we are getting overcrowded again. If you just look at the five and six garbage pails in front of these houses. You are going to know that there is more than one family in there. And he is sure that the sanitation guys - years ago they would drop a note to the code enforcer. The Mayor said correct. The best way to see what they are doing is really coming to court. The Mayor said he thinks they have been on top of it. They work very hard. And pretty much they do operate mostly on tips. They do drive around a lot. It is funny. Because some people go well they see the code enforcers - why are they driving around just looking for issues. The Mayor said no, they are investigating. So the same people who are critical also should realize that they are out there. If there are any specific properties they will address it. And they are on top of it. In terms of a report - the Mayor said he doesn't know. We don't want to talk about specific situations. Mr. Giannettino said no. The Mayor said but yes, we can try to get something on a regular basis. Mr. Giannettino said even if they hand you a written report and somebody reads it. Attorney Rice said he doesn't think you need to read it out at a meeting but he thinks they ought to give - Mr. Giannettino said violations. He is not saying to give specific properties. Attorney Rice said he didn't finish. He said he doesn't think it is necessary for the whole report to be read at a meeting but he knows in the past the code enforcement officers have given a written report as far as violations that are issued. And he thinks, if the Board wants to do this, that should be part of the Trustees packet which is made available on line and for anybody who wants to see it. The Mayor said we can do that. He said he speaks to them personally all the time when there is court. And he also speaks to the prosecutor. But if we want to make something more public there is no reason why we can't do that.

Trustee Meehan said in that area we are really going backwards. Because a few years ago he knows under Mayor Haggerty and his successor we received how many building permits were issued, how many violations were issued in each area. Not specific to a home but you had a tally. And we have a building report on the agenda. Every agenda. And nothing is ever reported. Mr. Giannettino said exactly. The Mayor said we can do that. Mr. Giannettino said it was done under him also. The Mayor said he thinks there are reasons in the past when - yes, we will do it. Let's leave it at that. It is no problem. No problem.

Mr. Giannettino said here is a pet peeve that he has let fester for about two years. Why is it that we cannot have a moment of

silence for our troops serving in a war zone at each meeting and why aren't our flags lit any more in the Village? The Mayor said what flags? Mr. Giannettino said every one of them except the one at the community center. The Mayor said flags are lit? Mr. Giannettino said they have no lights on them. He said the one right in front of the building. Go out tonight and look and see if the light is on. The Mayor said there is a light on that. Mr. Giannettino said when you go out take a look. The Mayor said if there is a light out you can tell us. We will fix it. We have had some problems - Mr. Giannettino said he has done it in the past. But he would assume that with five Trustees someone would notice it. The Mayor said fine. But any insinuation that we are specifically not lighting American flags - Mr. Giannettino said he didn't say that. The Mayor said we will look into it. We will make sure all flags are lit. Mr. Giannettino said he said you are not doing a moment of silence. Address that issue. The Mayor said we can do a moment of silence if that is what people want.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

A) Training:

Mr. Charles Sawicki said he was requesting authorization for Mr. Dan Haglund to attend the 2012 Highway School on June 10, 2012 through June 13, 2012. A motion authorizing the request was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Trustee Abato said not to exceed \$700.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki said he was requesting authorization to attend the NYS Flood Plain and Stormwater Managers Association training session on April 30. A motion authorizing the request was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Jo Meegan-Corrigan. Trustee Abato said not to exceed \$730.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Sawicki requested authorization for Mr. Nick Fabriccatore to enroll in two online courses not to exceed \$50. A motion authorizing the request was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

B) WWTP:

Mr. Sawicki requested authorization to issue a purchase order to low bidder Longo Electric Mechanical Inc. of Hawthorne, New Jersey. This is a turnkey installation of two new vertical turbine pumps for the trickling filters at the Wastewater Treatment plant in the amount of \$44,622. The cost will be charged against the Wastewater Treatment plant capital account. A motion authorizing the purchase was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

VILLAGE CLERK:

A) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of February 9, 2012:

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

B) Establish Two (2) Motor Equipment Operator II Positions:

Ms. Menschner said we have the applications back that we sent over to civil service to create the position of two motor equipment operators. A motion establishing the positions was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried. The Mayor asked the Village Clerk to make sure that we post one of them tomorrow. We don't have to advertise. We just have to post.

C) Request: Plaka Greek Taverna for 4 Tables and 8 Chairs:

The Village Clerk said we have a request from Plaka Greek Taverna for 4 tables and 8 chairs. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Meehan. The Mayor asked if the code enforcer has okayed this. The Village Clerk said yes. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

D) Request: Shamrock for 10 Tables and Chairs:

The Village Clerk said we have a request from Shamrock for 10 tables and chairs. A motion approving the request was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

The Village Clerk said she had one more. DaNina's Italian Restaurant has an application for valet parking. Trustee Abato asked if we could table that. The Village Clerk said it is to set a public hearing. Trustee Abato said she would like the Board to have discussion on that since we just got it tonight. She said she would like to discuss it at a workshop or whatever you want to do. The Mayor asked if it was the issue of where the parking is going to be. Trustee Abato said no. The Mayor asked if she wanted to talk about it. Trustee Abato said how about if we set the public hearing since we will have the workshop before the public hearing. The Mayor said okay, let's do that. He said he knows there have been - we have to deal with that. A motion to set a public hearing for May 7 at 7:50 p.m. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Falciglia. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT:

There was no report.

TRUSTEES:

A) Jack Meehan - Contributions Disclosure:

Trustee Meehan said that in previous campaigns he had mentioned the idea that we wanted - before a vote on a zone change specifically - that we wanted all the members to declare whether or not they had received contributions from the zone change applicant. And he discussed this with Terry Rice. And he came up with a suggestion. It is very difficult for anybody actually to - unless they are pretty good with the computer and navigate the NYS Board of Elections disclosure law - so he had suggested that the Village Board, the Village Clerk keep a record of what all candidates declare with the State Board of Elections here in Village Hall and it was also suggested by others at the workshop meeting that we would also put that on the website of the Village so that any - it would be very easy for any Village resident attending a meeting to know if contributions were received and what contributions were received by any individual on the Board. Trustee Meehan asked if we needed this in the form of a resolution or a local law.

Attorney Rice said no. The Mayor said we will have it available. It is a policy issue. The Mayor asked Trustee Meehan if he could assist the clerk's office in carrying that out and make sure they get the link on the website. The Mayor said he doesn't think it is difficult once - he said he goes on there all the time. It is difficult to find but if you have the page you just put in the name and then it is pretty easy. It's not difficult to find where you can do it. If we can have a link that goes directly to - enter the name of the candidate or the committee then at the top it is available and then if you could discuss with the clerk when they would have to do that. Because election season is just twice a year. Trustee Abato said she had a question. She said you are talking about putting a link on the website as well as the Village Clerk will have to keep that information in her office? Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said no, it just stays on the website. Trustee Meehan said well it could be a link to the website. Trustee Abato said they can print it off the website. Trustee Meehan said not everybody has - Trustee Abato said then they need to go over to the Board of Elections. Our staff shouldn't be - they can print it from here. But she is just saying that the Village Clerk should not keep that information and be responsible for that information. She said she doesn't think it is fair that taxpayers are paying our Village staff to handle political contributions. Trustee Meehan said it is very, very, very easy to do. Trustee Abato said okay, right, and that is why we are putting it on the website. It is going to be there for everyone to use. Trustee Meehan said that is right. Trustee Abato said she agrees with him. Trustee Meehan said believe him - you don't - Trustee Abato said she agrees with him. She 100% agrees with him.

She is agreeing with him 100%. She is just saying to him that she doesn't think our staff - it is a political - it is something political. She doesn't think that the Village municipal staff should be handling political things. If we want to put it on the website she is all for that, 100%. If they need to print it off here, she is all for that as well. But she just doesn't think that our staff should have to field phone calls about that and to provide that information when we are providing that on our website. Trustee Meehan said unlike her he spends several days a week, especially this time of year, dealing with senior citizens in Suffern. And believe him, they don't know the website from their left elbow for the most part when we talk about these things. So that they - he wants them to know that they can come into Village hall and simply ask for a copy of something. And it could be a book and the book could be right on the thing. And he doesn't think it puts any type of strain on the Village Board and he thinks that people really - a lot of people - don't have access to the web or don't use the web - don't know anything about it - and he wants those people to have access just as much as other people. The Mayor said he thinks she is agreeing. He thinks that this is a disagreement over nothing. All Trish is saying is that if they want to come in and get a copy we will print out a copy for them. It will be on the website but if someone doesn't have access they can come in and say can you print me a copy of Jack Meehan's. Trustee Abato said right. That is all she is saying. Trustee Meehan said okay he thinks that is a resolution. The Mayor said he just thinks it is a question of them having to maintain them and if they don't have that - they can come here and if they don't know how to use the website we can print out a copy. Trustee Abato said that would mean that they would have to make sure that all the filings are updated. That they update each filing. And that is time consuming. The Mayor said we would just use the website as our resource here.

Steve Alpert of 17 Meadowbrook Lane said he does have one question about this topic. He said as you may know, or maybe not, on the NYS website it is a very convoluted means as far as checking who has donated to which campaign because there are different dates. There is primary versus the general election. Would this list that you are proposing to build - would it at least consolidate it and say okay, for John Doe. The Mayor said no. Realistically if somebody comes in, other than in an election season, there are only two reports a year. There is a July report and a January report. So someone can go in and really outside of Village elections those are the major reports. Because that is when people raise their money. So people can come in and say can I get the most recent financial disclosure. And we will get them

that. Mr. Alpert said but that may not display whether a donation was given during the primary season for this particular - Trustee Abato said yes it would because you have to file. The Mayor said you can say can I have all the years and we will give them what we can. The Mayor said we are going to make it available where that site is and they can get the disclosures and we will do the best we can. Because believe him. He thinks that if it comes a point where somebody has such an intimate knowledge as to how the process works that they will likely know which reports they want. And we will give them a disclosure. Mr. Alpert said right. But hypothetically if there is a vote coming up on a particular zoning issue, and he is just going to make up a name, and John Doe has given \$1000 towards one of the candidates but it was maybe like some particular period and it was not the one that is the most recent that they are viewing, he thinks it is still relevant. If it happens, say, in the last twenty four months. He thinks it is relevant. Trustee Falciglia said but there is a date range. Isn't there a date range? You can pull up a date range of five years. The Mayor said it is not only zoning. It is any thing. Any business. Any contribution. It is not just zoning. Mr. Alpert said there is a date range where you can get all the documents but it is multiple documents. The Mayor said we will do the best we can to assist people and give them what they want but at a certain point we can't, like Trish is saying, burden our people because there is the Board of Elections at a certain point. Trustee Meegan-Corrigan said if there is that much concern and the person disclosed what they have done it is already out there. Trustee Abato said you can call the Board of Elections and they have filters which can filter that stuff out. Where we don't have that ability, they can do that. You can just call them directly.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m. was made by Trustee Abato, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan. Upon vote, the motion was carried.

