

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 9, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Board of Trustee Meeting will take place live at Village Hall

Limited space is available and members of the public are encouraged to join via Zoom

The public will be able to participate in the live meeting and provide comment through Zoom

<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID and Password to be posted on Village Website prior to meeting

Meeting video and audio will be broadcast live on public access

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Trustee Engelbert
Deputy Mayor Howell
Trustee Taylor
Trustee Kronen
Mayor Andino

APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Appointing Christopher Mahoney to the position of Motor Equipment Operator
Trustee Engelbert made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Trustee Kronen;
Motion was carried by a vote 5-0
- 2) Appointing John Sullivan to the position of Administrative Intern
Trustee Howell made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Trustee Taylor;
Motion was carried by a vote 5-0
- 3) Appointing John Richet to the position of Cleaner
Trustee Kronen made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Trustee Taylor;
Motion was carried by a vote 5-0

PRESENTATIONS

- 1) Presentation on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Andrew Richet, St. John Fisher University
Justin Smith, Tuckahoe High School
Sanvi Goindi, Greenvale Elementary
- 2) Library Program Showcase by Ava O'Connell and Kathy Bobolakis

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1) Public hearing to consider a proposed local law modifying reducing the maximum speed limit in the Village of Tuckahoe from 30 to 25 miles per hour

Trustee Kronen made a motion to open public

hearing; motion was seconded by Trustee Howell; motion was carried by a vote 5-0

Residents voiced their favor to the reduction and voiced concerns regarding enforcement
Chief of Police explained the enforcement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes of the December 5, 2022 meeting

Trustee Howell made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Trustee Kronen;

Motion was carried by a vote 5-0

FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

Lovely Billups thanked the Police, Beautification, Board and DPW.

RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing the piggy-back of a Village of Bronxville Sewer relining bid for services on Warren Ave. in the amount of \$30,300 to Green Mountain Pipeline Services

Trustee Taylor made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Trustee Howell;

Motion was carried by a vote 5-0

Authorizing the execution of an inter municipal agreement with Westchester County for the disbursement of \$149,820 in Community Development Block Grant Funding for a sewer repair and relining project on Midland Place, Union Place and Washington Street

Trustee Howell made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Trustee Taylor;

Motion was carried by a vote 5-0

Authorizing the approval of vouchers in the amount of \$641,682.59

Trustee Howell made a motion to approve; motion was seconded by Trustee Engelbert;

Motion was carried by a vote 5-0

DISCUSSION

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS TO THE BOARD

DPW- Frank DiMarco, via zoom, spoke about holiday tree pick up.

LIBRARY- Swadesh gave an overview of upcoming events.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR- David Burke spoke about the intern's responsibilities and the traffic light upgrades

VILLAGE ATTORNEY- Gary Gjertsen spoke regarding the Ward House.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mayor announced

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER REPORTS

► TRUSTEE Engelbert

Tuckahoe History Committee

- Presentations for February, dates TBA: Crestwood Historical Society and Tuckahoe Library
- New Historian's Corner - In February, Nick will begin sharing a five min. Historical snapshot of locations throughout Tuckahoe at the Monthly Village Board Meetings.
- Meeting with the Westchester County Historical Roundtable.
- Developing New Tuckahoe History Committee website.
- Completing digitization of final Historical binders. 178 binders scanned to date. Transferring all archived photos and binders to cloud storage.
- Facebook - Total reach for December was 7,304, with 1,754 post engagement. There were two posts in December: The 120th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Village of Tuckahoe on December 8th and a holiday tribute to Epstein's Clothing Store, which closed in 2020. Both posts were widely shared and commented on, with the Village Anniversary garnering 14 shares. Please check out our FB page. You do not have to have a FB login to view the posts.
- We continue to collect articles and photos. If you have any historic items you would like to share with us, please contact tuckahoearchive@gmail.com.
- The History Committee meets on Wednesday's from 9:30-12:00 at the Village Hall. Contact information is available on the Village Website.

Tuckahoe Community Center

- The level of activity at the Tuckahoe Community Center has increased 30% year on year - particularly the party line. I would like to thank John Gallucci personally for his incredible dedication to residents of Tuckahoe and his commitment to "answer the phone."
- In the vein, please make sure to book your birthday parties, baptisms, and baby showers early as the calendar gets filled.
- A big month ahead for soccer, basketball, the "cornhole games," and cheer practice.
- I would encourage folks to mark their calendars for 4Ever Rallying 4 Regina - a blood drive organized by Rita Mastroberardino from 8-5pm on February 4. Walk ins are welcome or sign up by calling 1-800-688-0900.

Tuckahoe Public Library

- How about our students! For those of you old enough to remember home ec classes, it seems unthinkable that there was a wait list for a sewing class.

- But here's the thing - the role of the Library has changed and is changing, and I am incredibly impressed with how our library team has stayed ahead of this trend in ways large and small.
- The Friends of the Public Library met this past Wednesday and if you haven't renewed your membership, please do so - and save them the stamp. This can be done online from the Library website.
- A spotlight on one of the programs - I was going to do "Modern Cloth Diapering on Saturday at 10am - but then thought that next week there are bi-lingual story times on Tuesday in Mandarin celebrating Chinese New Year and on Friday in Spanish - both at 11am.

► DEPUTY MAYOR Howell

Zoning and Planning

Zoning Meeting will be held January 11th. Work Session at 6:30 pm followed by meeting.

118 Sagamore Road.....Area Variance

Area variance for new gazebo

22 Wallace Avenue.....Area Variance

Area Variance for a finish basement

2 Grant/136 Sagamore.....Area Variance

Reduce number of parking spaces

Planning Board meeting will be held January 17th at 7 pm. Working session was held January 3rd.

12 Fisher Avenue.....Return

Site plan for outdoor seating and dining area

5 Fisher Avenue..... Site Plan

Site plan for a new business (Old Pure Food and Drink)

The Historical Preservation Commission meeting date TBD

Community

Eastchester Schools

The next scheduled Board of Education regular session will be Tuesday, January 10th at 7:30 pm.

Committee on Preschool Education and Committee on Special Education make annual recommendations to BOE. Work meeting will be January 24. Currently there is an open board position and applications have been submitted to fill the position.

January 11 at 7 pm Eastchester SEPTA hosts a meeting "Recreation and Activities for Individuals with Special Needs". This will be available via ZOOM.

January 27 at 7 pm EHS Gym the Harlem Wizards vs Eastchester All Stars

NYCOM

- Calling to reinvest state tax revenue into municipal governments as a means to decrease local tax burden and allow growth of population base similar to the aid recently awarded to public schools.
- Dedicated Funding for Local Water and Sewer Infrastructure similar to Local State and Highway Programs which are based on the municipality's burden. Right now aid is awarded for emergency situations.
- Allow Public Safety Considerations in Bail Determinations. When Bail reform first proposed we worked with state legislators to address gaps in reform. Further refinements are needed to provide ability of judges who are setting bail to consider some other offenses as eligible for bail

and allow judges to consider an expanded list of criteria in determining the “dangerousness” of an individual to the community.

- Provide state support for EMS service providers.
- Reform Civil Service Law expand candidates eligible for appointment and require ability for continuous recruitment

January 16th Martin Luther King Birthday is celebrated as a community volunteer day. Consider celebrating all year long on the Planning and Zoning boards.

► TRUSTEE Taylor

The Tuckahoe Housing Authority tenants would like to thank the Housing Authority and the Tenant Association for the Toy Drive that helped make their Christmas a better holiday. Eastchester Community Action Partnership, ECAP, had their year end campaign to raise \$20,000. And they didn’t do as well as that had in the two previous years. Anyone who would like to help ECAP can call the director Denise Chin at 914-337-7768. In 2022 ECAP distributed 47,000 pounds of food through their food bank to those in need.

Thank you to Andrew, Justin and Sanvi on their MLK presentation.

Thank you to the Beautification Committee and the DPW for how great the Village looked for the holidays.

► TRUSTEE Kronen

Jennifer Vetromile resigned as the director of the Tuckahoe Seniors at the end of December. We will miss her greatly. On behalf of everyone here, I want to thank her for her more than 10 years of service to the community. In that time, Jennifer grew the program, she created a lifeline during the pandemic for dozens of seniors, and kept us one of the only operating centers in the County. She worked tirelessly to get grant money and donations and worked hand in hand with different village departments to coordinate events like the Bazaar and Jewelry sale. We wish her nothing but the best in her chapter. The board would also like to welcome Ms. Lisa Scaramuzzo- Jones as the new director of the Tuckahoe Seniors. Lisa comes from a long background in non-profits. She is warm, enthusiastic and welcoming. I have no doubt she will make a great addition to the community and the center. We wish her the best of luck.

In December The DPW held a toy drive at their headquarters. This was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Claudio Santana, Joe Tavalilla and the other members of the DPW. We were able to offer 35 families in Tuckahoe some extra gifts for their children for the holiday. A big thanks to Joe, Claudio, Deputy Mayor Howell, Trustee Taylor, and Kenyatta Cooper, resident coordinator at 100 Columbus for their hard work in coordinating and distributing.

Please don’t forget the Beautification Committee with donations for spring plantings.

► MAYOR Andino

**Tuckahoe Board of Trustees Meeting
Year in Review
January 9, 2023**

LEGISLATION

- In May 2022, we formed the **Tuckahoe Historic Preservation Task Force** (now the Historic Preservation Commission), under the leadership of Jennie Steinhagen. In August, the first application for historic landmarking was presented and passed for the Ward House. As you heard from our Village attorney, we are currently in litigation surrounding issues with this landmarking so it's important to note that while we are committed to ensuring our history is preserved, in doing so we may be presented with challenges along the way.
- In December, a landmarking application submitted to the Commission for the Washington Hotel
- In July, the village board of trustees adopted Local Law on Affordable Housing mandating any new development in Tuckahoe to include 10% of its units be affordable housing.
- In April, a bee keeping ordinance was passed
- In November, a referendum passed to move Village elections from March to November (with a vote of 1,839 in favor and to 510 opposed)
- In February, the board adopted The Declaration of Human Rights

NEW HIRES/BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Dept. of Public Works (DPW)

- Christopher Mahoney and Daryl Gray as a Sanitation Laborers

Police Dept. – Received re-accreditation by the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services. The accreditation program, comprised of 110 standards aids police departments in evaluating and improving its overall performance. It provides a formal recognition that an accredited agency meets or exceeds general expectations of quality service and our Dept met or exceeded those standards and we proud of this accomplishment.

- Hired Officers Daniel and Brandon Belles, Jalen LaBoy and Robert J. Lalli (4)
- New Volunteer Board/Committee Members
 - Heather Rinaldi, Lauren Poretta & Henry Suarez (Ad-Hoc) members of the Zoning Board (3)
 - Zakeenah Smith and Andy Rento the Assessment Board
 - Laura Guarascio to the Sign and Awning Board
 - Karen Cashman to the Library Board

Interns

- Village Board hosted three high school interns (2 from Eastchester HS and one from Tuckahoe HS)

Capital Projects:

One key role of local government is to ensure that residents' quality of life is protected through great services (DPW, police, paved roads, etc.) This past year, the following capital projects were completed:

- Village Hall & Community Center HVAC Imp
- Community Center restroom renovations (thank you to Shelley Mayer for granting \$245k for completion of project))
- Court Upgrades
- Road Resurfacing
- Tennis Court Upgrades
- Main Street Playgroup re-design and re-opening
- Old Stone Mill Monument completed
- Charging Stations installed – 17 stations; 34 charging ports
- Tuckahoe Station upgrades (MTA – continuing)
- Traffic Light signal upgrades

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Sales Tax – budgeted 1.3M came in at 1.7M (unprecedented amount of sales tax)
- Hotel Tax – budgeted at 100K came in at 165K and is a good indication of robust activity in the village and high occupancy
- Departmental Income – fees (clerk, police fees, parking & meter fees) came in lower than budgeted at 1.1M to actual \$987 (>\$125k)
- Licenses/permits – original budget was \$524k increase to \$690k, but actual surpassed budget by (\$269k) and came in at \$959k
- American Rescue and Recovery Act – awarded \$669k, first payment of \$336k came in in 2022

Revenue

2022	2021
14.7M (ARPA, Sales, Hotel)	\$12.9M (\$198K less than 2022)

Expenditures – original and final and then actual vs. final is \$31,424, which is a pretty tight budget and is a demonstration of good planning and prudent fiscal responsibility

Fund Balance (rainy day fund/savings) - \$2,569,046 (18%)

Additional Funding

- Library Construction grant from Amy Paulin (Assemblywoman) - \$500k and State Senator Shelley Mayer (\$100k)
- Tuckahoe Challenge Road Race, led by Deputy Mayor, Renee Howell, raised \$30,000 with nearly 500 participants

All of these funds are crucial to maintaining the quality of life residents have become used to and we are able to accomplish this while keeping taxes in check.

Robust Village Sponsored Community Events

DPW Day

TESC sponsored a clean-up day

Senior Bazaar

THA Family Day as well as several block parties

Creepy Candy Crawl

Black History Month and Juneteenth Celebration

Return of the Easter Egg Hunt

120th Anniversary Celebration - Fireworks, Yoga in the Park, Craft Tables for Kids, Story Time

History Trolley Tour

Hoops Festival

Police Night Out & Cone with a Cop

Movie Night at the Park (3 for kids and one date night movie night)

Tuckahoe Kids Table (Hudson Axelbaum raised \$1500 for community)

Honored Veterans with a beautiful event highlighting several veterans at the community center – a special thank you to Trustee Cara Kronen and Josh Gaccione to organizing

Winter Festival (Free short term parking to encourage local shopping)

*Thank you to Generoso Pope Foundation for donating its space for us to host the Westchester Municipal Officers Association meeting in December.

Response to Covid-19 – three vaccine clinics held in January, April and October 2022 to more than 150 people and we distributed Covid tests, hand sanitizer and masks to more than 200 residents

New Businesses

- Feb - Ribbon cutting for Lotus Threads
- March - Ribbon Cutting for Prana Yoga
- July - Ribbon cutting for Zero Otto Nove
- Upcoming Ribbon Cutting – Buleria Tapas 106 Main Street on Thursday, Jan 12 @5Pm

Additional info:

- Closed on contract negotiations with TPD and DPW
- We added Juneteenth, which is now a Federal Holiday, as a holiday for Village employees
- Continue work with legislators and USACE on flood mitigation

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES for their work throughout the year:

- Planning Board – Antonio Leo
- Zoning Board – Tom Ringwald
- Sign & Awning Board – Laura Raffiani
- Tuckahoe Environmental and Sustainability Committee (TESC) – Donald Crosby
- Beautification Committee – Sue Ciamarra
- History Committee – Nick Zanzano
- Library Board – Ginger Crosby
- Historic Preservation Commission – Jennie Steinhagen

Thank you to the many volunteers who help throughout the year, including our youth whom we presented with youth service awards last year, all of the village staff who make Tuckahoe a great place to live, work and play and to the Board of Trustees who give selflessly to make our community a more vibrant place everyday.

What's Ahead

- Comprehensive Master Plan
- Sewer & Traffic Light Infrastructure upgrades
- Library Re-Design (Thank you Amy Paulin for \$500k and Shelley Mayer for \$100k)
- Continued work to mitigate against flooding

SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Rita Mastroberardino spoke about the February 4th Blood Drive

Anthony Lore is upset that the Senate took \$32,000. Raises each.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM

Camille DiSalvo, Village Clerk