

June 11, 2018

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Called to Order at 8:00PM

The meeting opened with the salute to the flag and Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Giordano-absent

Trustee Luisi

Trustee Andino

Trustee Lang

Mayor Ecklund

APPOINTMENTS

PRESENTATIONS

Mary Ciamarra representing the Rotary Club of Eastchester explained their part helping to finance the pocket park in Crestwood

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Trustee Luisi made a motion approval of Minutes of meeting of May 7, 2018; motion was seconded by Trustee Lang and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.

FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTIONS

- 1) Trustee Luisi made a motion authorizing the use of Washington Street and Union Place for the Tuckahoe Housing Authority annual Family Day on August 18th (rain date August 19th) motion was seconded by Trustee Andino and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.
- 2) Trustee Luisi made a motion authorizing a donation in the amount of \$3,000 to the Westchester Italian Cultural Center for the 10th edition of the Italian Film Festival, Cinema Sotto Le Stelle and street closures for said events on July 12th, 19th and 26th motion was seconded by Trustee Lang and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.
- 3) Trustee Luisi made a motion authorizing the use of Depot Square on July 21st for a Summer Fair to promote local businesses/ merchants hosted by the Eastchester Tuckahoe Chamber of Commerce motion was seconded by Trustee Andino and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.

- 4) Trustee Andino made a motion authorizing the installation of a crosswalk on Rose Avenue in the vicinity of the entrance to the new field being constructed by Concordia College as per their Planning Board approval, subject to the installation requirements set forth by the Tuckahoe Police Department and applicable state laws motion was seconded by Trustee Lang and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.
- 5) Trustee Lang made a motion authorizing the intent to participate in the Waste/Recycle shared service program for the development of a Waste and Recycling Website and Phone App proposed by Sustainable Westchester subject to final review of the service agreement motion was seconded by Trustee Luisi and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.
- 6) Trustee Giordano made a motion authorizing the Mayor to execute an Online Auction Contract with Auctions International, Inc for use of their online auctioning site for surplus municipal equipment motion was seconded by Trustee Andino and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.
- 7) Trustee Andino made a motion authorizing the setting of a public hearing for July 16, 2018 to consider a proposed local law creating a 'Do Not Knock' registry motion was seconded by Trustee Lang and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.
- 8) Trustee Andino made a motion authorizing the setting of a public hearing for July 16, 2018 to consider a proposed local law amending the zoning code of the village of Tuckahoe to exclude living space in the basement from the Floor Area ratio (FAR) motion was seconded by Trustee Luisi and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.
- 9) Trustee Luisi made a motion authorizing the setting of a public hearing for July 16, 2018 to consider a proposed local law authorizing the Board to adopt of budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2019 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in GML section 3-c motion was seconded by Trustee Lang and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.
- 10) Trustee Luisi made a motion authorizing an agreement with the Community Fund of Bronxville-Eastchester-Tuckahoe, Inc. for a grant in the amount of \$8,000 for the operation of the Tuckahoe Trolley motion was seconded by Trustee Andino and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.
- 11) Mayor Ecklund made a motion authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with the County of Westchester for the purposes of undertaking a Community Development Program motion was seconded by Trustee Lang and upon roll call was OPPOSED by a vote 4-0. Mayor Ecklund said the last time the CDBG grant program was stalled because of the HUD lawsuit against the County and the requirement that the Village relinquish local Zoning control by accepting the federal Model Ordinance. The program in past years provided the Village with

needed funding for County and Federally identified low mod areas of the Village and we applied for sewer relining, park renovations and sidewalks. The new program continues to carry restrictive language for us to again potentially relinquish control of local zoning. We had a conference call with the program director and asked what the potential program opportunity is for the Village and understood that the program is a much smaller now. The pool of money is greatly reduced, and we do not have any low mod target areas as we used to. We checked to see if the THA was applying in this cycle as we did not want to prevent them from doing so but we were informed that they are not applying this cycle. Mayor Ecklund is opposed.

Trustee Luisi said that since the amount of money will be substantially smaller he is opposed.

Deputy Mayor Giordano sent the following statement:

THOUGHTS ON JOINING URBAN COUNTY COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH WESTCHESTER COUNTY

I would like to first apologize to our residents for not being able to be present for this evening's meeting, but I am caught in pressing business on the west coast. I did want to share my thoughts regarding the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") program, and the county's request that Tuckahoe join other municipalities and sign an Urban County Cooperation Agreement as part of a county-controlled consortium to collectively apply for CDBG funding. While I am wholly in favor of initiatives that benefit our village and community, especially those initiatives that stand to benefit those who are most in need, my support is first dependent on the response to the following question: At what cost does this benefit come?

In the case of the Cooperation Agreement and CBDG funding, the costs are high, and are twofold: (1) we must cede control to the county over what funding our village applies for; and (2) by ceding this control, we allow the Federal government to impose terms, conditions and restrictions upon our municipality that accompany this funding, with which we are required to comply.

History has taught us that the enforcement of these CBDG terms, conditions and restrictions can result in significant harm and costs of their own.

Recall the case of the lawsuit by HUD against Westchester County on behalf of the advocacy group the Anti-Discrimination Center of Metro New York. In that 2006 lawsuit, ceding control and accepting government CBDG funds had costly consequences for the County and all of us as taxpayers, and such consequences could have been disastrous. The claim made by this whistleblower group, and thereafter enforced by HUD against the County, was that these HUD CBD grants required that the recipient municipalities "Affirmatively Further Fair Housing", and that since the county and the municipalities had failed to satisfy this condition for receiving CBDG funds, significant reparations had to be made.

Under Andy Spano, then County Executive, the County settled HUD's and the Anti-Discrimination Center's claim against Westchester County by agreeing to pay \$21,600,000 to HUD; \$8,400,000 to US Government (\$7.5 million to the anti-Discrimination Center; 900K to the US Govt.). The Anti-Discrimination Center's counsel was paid \$2,500,000. \$30,000,000 of County funds were set aside for land acquisition, infrastructure improvement, construction, acquisition or other necessary direct costs of development of new affordable housing units. The Monitor appointed to oversee the settlement and its consultants were paid millions of dollars as well.

Through use of \$51,600,000, the County had 7 years to develop 750 new Affordable AFFH Units.

But the Anti Defamation League wanted more than just money's best: it wanted to take control of Tuckahoe's local zoning laws and replace them with new provisions dictated by HUD and the Monitor under the influence of the Anti-Defamation Center. Craig Gurian, Executive Director of the Anti-Discrimination Center said the following;

"just as a matter of planning and market and policy, the bang for the buck that you get, doesn't come from the units [which number is only 750] . .

.The bang for the buck is that these units are the leading edge or confronting zoning barriers that had not previously been confronted" In other words, the real potential for impact here is the major changes to zoning that have previously prevented affordable units from being built" - these changes to the exclusionary regulations, in opening up the real estate and development market, "is going to set private developers - for profit and not-for-profit - loose" in the development of affordable units."

Ultimately the Anti-Defamation League, HUD and the Monitor did not prevail, and our ability to self-govern was protected. However, I do not want to facilitate the opening of another window for the Federal government or an advocacy group to try and wrest control of the creation and enforcement zoning or planning laws from the members of this community - where control of these laws rightly belongs.

I have been advised that the Tuckahoe Housing Authority will not be applying for such CDB grants in this upcoming grant cycle. Thus, in light of the dangers described, there does not appear to be even a potential funding benefit to Tuckahoe on the horizon.

For these reasons, to protect our municipality from outside control, and preserve our autonomy, and because there is no real funding benefit to our village at this time, I am opposed to Tuckahoe agreeing to sign the Urban Cooperation Agreement and join the county organization, and urge my esteemed fellow trustees to vote accordingly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Giordano

12) Trustee Andino made a motion authorizing the acceptance of an \$8,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Eastchester for improvements to the 'pocket-park' in the vicinity of the Crestwood Train Station motion was seconded by Trustee Lang and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.

13) Trustee Andino made a motion Approving Vouchers in the amount of \$209,055.47

Abstract #40 for \$97,701.00

Abstract #41 for \$101,984.67

Abstract #42 for \$4,432.67

T&A for May for \$4,937.13

The three largest invoices paid were:

\$14,098 Senior Citizens Council for FY17/18 budget

\$10,495.12 for Vindian for Police Uniforms

\$9,826.75 for NY Power Authority for the month of April.

motion was seconded by Trustee Lang and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.

- 14) Trustee Andino made a motion authorizing the use of Sylvan Avenue for a block party on July 7, 2018 from noon till midnight motion was seconded by Trustee Lang and upon roll call was carried by a vote 4-0.

DISCUSSION

Gary Gjertsen explained the steps for a potential restriction of stadium or field lighting

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS TO THE BOARD

POLICE- Chief Costanzo said the ICS carnival was last weekend and there were no problems or issues. He congratulated new officer Bryan Madan. May 25th was the DARE graduation thank you to Evan Piasta Chief Costanzo asked the board to consider removing the traffic signal on the corner of Marbledale and Fisher.

DPW- Frank DiMarco thanked the Rotary Club and remarked that Con Edison is still working on Midland and plans are underway to resurface the basketball court, and replacing backboards and hoops.

RECREATION- John Galluzzi reminded all that Fireworks are July 14th rain date July 15th.

Village Clerk- Camille DiSalvo said that property tax bills were mailed. Payment may be made by July 2nd without penalty.

Village Attorney- Gary Gjertsen gave updates on Zoning and Planning.

Village Administrator- David Burke met with the MTA who want to improve the Crestwood Train Station and incorporate artwork.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mayor Ecklund announced the following:

Discussion Panel with Our Mayors – June 18th @ 6pm

It should be an interesting night Mayors Ecklund, Fitzpatrick, Martino, D’Agostino and White will be on the panel.

Tuckahoe Summertime Fireworks – July 14th @ 7pm

Village Board Meeting – July 16th @ 8pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER REPORTS

► TRUSTEE Giordano- absent

► TRUSTEE Luisi thanked the Chief regarding signage at the crosswalks. He gave an update on Tuckahoe Seniors activities and thanked the Bronxville High School students for visiting the Seniors. He thanked the History Committee for their work on Memorial Day.

► TRUSTEE Andino gave an update on Library events and read one of the Poetry contest winners poem.

► TRUSTEE Lang remarked that Slam Dunk was successful and the Memorial Day event was great

► MAYOR Ecklund was proud to have Erin Gerken as Mayor for a Day. Mayor Ecklund met with

the hotel contractor to see status.

SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

John Lee would like to reexamine placing a speed hump on Oak Ave.

Susan Ciamarra on behalf of the Beautification Committee is pleased to partner with the Rotary to beautify the Crestwood pocket park

Anthony Lore asked if the Fire Department is notified when there are block parties. Chief Costanzo confirmed yes. He also complained that people put out trash on Friday evening.

Mike Dardano wants all political parties to promote the Chamber event.

Nick Naber asked to have the timing of the traffic signal on Main Street looked at.

Anthony Fiore asked if overtime parking could be allowed during Mass for St. Anthony.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:35pm.

Camille DiSalvo, Village Clerk