

**April 28, 2014**

Special Meeting/Budget Adoption  
Called to Order at 8:00PM

PRESENT:

TRUSTEE Giordano

TRUSTEE Quigley

TRUSTEE Luisi

TRUSTEE Alfasi

MAYOR Ecklund

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

Town Councilman Joe Dooley highlighted the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Town Celebration. The Gala will be held at the Siwanoy Country Club on May 30<sup>th</sup>; a festival at Lake Isle on June 21<sup>st</sup>; ceremonial activities on June 24<sup>th</sup> and Historical Trolley Tours on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **RESOLUTION #1 – Adopting budget for Fiscal Year June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015**

The Mayor read the following statement:

This year's budget process was a little smoother than the past few years.

Some of this can be attributed to the hard work & choices we've made over the past few years and some can be attributed to an improving economy.

But most of all, what we are seeing is a very positive shift in the desirability of our community. Tuckahoe has been discovered as a very safe and desirable place to live and raise a family.

The tremendous investment we are witnessing at both ends of the Village are proof to me that there's a recognition of these great qualities we possess - and now other people see this as well.

In this year's budget process we met 8 times, mostly on Saturdays.

We posted our tentative Budget on March 20<sup>th</sup> which had a 5.44% increase in the tax levy. We continued to work on the budget and have brought this number down to 1.47% which keeps us below the NYS Tax Cap for the Third straight year in a row.

The increase of 1.47% means that an average single family homeowner will see their Village property tax bill increase by \$108 per year.

This year with the property tax freeze having been adopted by the State, what we will now do is adopt local legislation repealing the property tax cap override. This means that the State should be sending a refund check back to the average single family homeowner for this \$108 so we have a zero tax increase.

Some of the significant highlights in this budget are;

1. We have for the first time in four years given a raise of 2% to our employees who are not covered under a collective bargaining agreement.
2. We have created the position of Village Administrator and have contingency funding available for this position after we have gone through the hiring search & selection process.

On the Revenue side of our Balance Sheet we have increases of;

5% increase in our Sales Tax Receipts

25% increase in our rents here at Village Hall due to the multi-year structuring of the Andrus Lease which has a large increase in this year.

We continue to see an increase in our Building Dept. fees due not only to the larger developments coming in, but there's an increase of the one & two family home improvement projects – where people are now finding it affordable to make these investments in their own properties.

We have made some minor changes to parking fines to bring us in line with our neighboring communities, but we are not increasing commuter parking lot fees this year.

We have seen already and anticipate over the next budget year a very large jump in fees associated with programs at the Community Center, thanks to our new Recreation Attendant John Galluzzi.

On the Expense side of our Balance Sheet we are realizing increases in:

The overall Police Budget has increased by only 1.57%

We have eliminated the United Water Fire Hydrant Rental Cost since United Water will now be required to collect these fees on their own.

The NYS Retirement bill is going up by about 3%

-and- this year we are picking up some additional debt payment expenses due to Bond Repayments So all in all this is a well thought out and manageable budget.

Trustee Giordano said that a couple of things continue to be challenging one of which is tax certs. Some aging DPW equipment needs to be replaced. We need a capital revenue plan. Three significant developments in the village are very beneficial. It's nice to give a raise to non CBA employees.

Trustee Quigley said the budget process is a very painstaking but congenial process. We are able to maintain the high level of services in the village. We have increased library hours. Trustee Quigley thanked mayor Ecklund and John Pintos.

Trustee Luisi read the following:

The 2014-2015 budget represents the hard work of this Village Board in conjunction with its department heads in once again presenting the taxpayers of Tuckahoe with a budget under the 1.64% tax cap. This has been done without compromising the safety and security of its residents or without a reduction in essential services. Most importantly, the budget was not balanced on the backs of our Village's dedicated work force.

We were able to continue our commitment to the Police and DPW departments in maintaining a fleet of vehicles that reduced our repair expenditures to a reasonable rate. Our Police Department will still be provided with the funds so that all of its members receive the most up to date training and equipment. The infrastructure and roads of the Village will continue to be maintained by our DPW despite this past harsh winter. The Library has been allocated sufficient funds to return its Saturday hours to a full day schedule. The Community Center continues to flourish with new programs with many more planned for the coming year. For me, one of the most significant line items in this budget was the ability of this Board to acknowledge the hard work of our non-union employees who have worked for several years without a pay increase. We anticipate sales tax, mortgage tax and building permit revenue to increase as a result of an upswing in the economy as well as the many projects being undertaken in the village in 2014-2015. We are also fortunate that this year's pension and health care costs have finally leveled off manageable to single digit increases.

This Board will not sit back on its laurels because the Village is sailing on smooth seas. Going forward, we will remain committed to preserving the integrity and financial health of the Village, so that all of our residents and business will continue to prosper and flourish.

Trustee Alfasi congratulated the members of the board and Janette Hayes remarking that keeping us below the tax cap should make us all celebrate.

John Pintos said the budget is the culmination of a lot of hard work. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. The pension is flattening out. We have achieved services at a level that has been expected of us.

Trustee Giordano made a motion to adopt resolution #1; motion was seconded by Trustee Quigley and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

## **RESOLUTION #2**

### **A RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDING THE VILLAGE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF TUCKAHOE TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER THERETO, ENTITLED, "VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR"**

At a special meeting of the Village Board of the Village of Tuckahoe, New York (the "Village Board") held at Village Hall, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, New York on April 28, 2014.

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board wishes to conduct a public hearing relating to amending the Village Code of the Village of Tuckahoe and creating a new chapter thereto entitled, "Village Administrator,"

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

**Section 1.** That in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a public hearing shall be held on the 12th day of May 2014, at 8:00 o'clock p.m., at Village Hall, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, New York, at which hearing parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard and at which time and place it shall be determined by the said Village Board whether the Village Code of the Village of Tuckahoe shall be amended to create the position of Village Administrator and in connection therewith creating a new chapter to said Village Code entitled, "Village Administrator."

**Section 2.** That the notice of the time and place of such public hearing shall be published by the Village Clerk in the manner provided by applicable law.

**Section 3.** That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mayor Ecklund explained that the administrator will respond to and hold accountable all village offices on a daily basis and report to and meet with the mayor and trustees on a fairly regular basis. The administrator will oversee and maintain daily accountability of department heads and be in a position to respond to their needs on an hourly basis. We want to protect the administrative stability of the functions of the village. The administrator will oversee and control operations of the village and make sure that we meet all of the deadline requirements and will take charge of a whole host of projects and policy procedures and changes that can only be implemented,

carried through, and monitored by an administrator. Tuckahoe is one of if not the only village in Westchester County without a village administrator. Having an administrator was a recommendation from the CBA. The Mayor thanked David Scalzo for the recommendation. Trustee Giordano made a motion to adopt resolution #2; motion was seconded by Trustee Alfasi and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

**RESOLUTION #3** - authorizing the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Agreement with Donald P. Marra, Municipal Consultant of 30 Maplewood Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522 for search and consultant services in connection with the search, interview and the hiring processes for a Village Administrator at a cost not to exceed \$6,900.00. Trustee Quigley made a motion to adopt resolution #3; motion was seconded by Trustee Giordano and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

**RESOLUTION #4 -A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A HOME RULE MESSAGE/REQUEST TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE IN SUPPORT OF A VILLAGE OF TUCKAHOE HOTEL/MOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX**

At a special meeting of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Tuckahoe, New York (the "Village Board") held at Village Hall, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, New York on April 28, 2014.

WHEREAS, the Village Board supports the concept of the adoption of State legislation to impose a room "occupancy tax" on persons occupying any hotel or motel for hire in the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Tuckahoe is supportive of the adoption of Hotel Occupancy Tax legislation authorizing the Village of Tuckahoe to adopt a local law to impose a hotel/motel occupancy tax for hotels and motels located in the Village of Tuckahoe; and

WHEREAS, since the Village of Tuckahoe does not have the authority to enact such legislation by local law, the Village of Tuckahoe must request that the State act on the matter through the adoption of a Home Rule Request; and

WHEREAS, the Home Rule Request from the Village of Tuckahoe shall, among other things, state in the portion of the document marked "Explanation" the following:

During these difficult economic times, municipalities need additional non-property tax sources of revenue to fund basic services to keep their communities safe and properly serviced. This legislation will assist the Village of Tuckahoe to fund necessary services.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

Section 1. That the Village Board does hereby adopt a Home Rule Request asking the State Legislature to adopt an Assembly Bill and Senate Bill authorizing the Village of Tuckahoe to adopt a local law to impose a hotel/motel occupancy tax for hotels and motels located in the Village of Tuckahoe.

Section 2. That this Home Rule Message/Request shall take effect immediately.

Trustee Luisi made a motion to adopt resolution #4; motion was seconded by Trustee Quigley and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

**RESOLUTION #5** -A Resolution authorizing the advertising of public bids in connection with the Fisher Avenue Lot Construction Project-2014. Trustee Giordano made a motion to adopt resolution #5; motion was seconded by Trustee Luisi and upon roll call, motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

There being no further business, the unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30AM.

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Susan Ciamarra, Village Clerk