

MARCH 28, 2011

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Called to Order at 8PM**

**Present: TRUSTEE ECKLOND
TRUSTEE GORMAN
TRUSTEE QUIGLEY
TRUSTEE GIORDANO
MAYOR FITZPATRICK**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Eleanor Fitzpatrick.

Mayor Fitzpatrick opened the meeting to the public.

Billy Visci, on behalf of Local 456, wished the Mayor well on his future endeavors as well as to extend best wishes to the newly elected Mayor Steve Ecklund.

Former Eastchester Councilwoman, Christine Doherty Doody, praised the Mayor for his independent style and her hopes that he will continue in some form of public service.

Supt. of Public Works, Frank DiMarco, praised both Mayor Fitzpatrick and Trustee Gorman for their work and dedication to the Village.

Pat Murtaugh on behalf of himself and the Irish American Social Club, extended best wishes to Mayor Fitzpatrick and Clare and then referred to the Village as a "Jewel" community.

Pat Keegan brought best wishes on behalf of Congresswoman Lowey.

Building Inspector, Bill Williams, said that during this Mayor tenure close to 100 illegal apartments were closed.

Chief John Costanzo thanked the Mayor and Clare for giving their time and for the many strides that were accomplished.

Library Director, Debra Coppola, Treasurer, John Pintos, Village Attorney, John Cavallaro and Village Clerk, Susan Ciamarra, all said they enjoyed working with both Mayor Fitzpatrick and Trustee Gorman and wished them the very best.

Trustee, Thomas Giordano, praised the Mayor for all his work.

Trustee, Stephen Quigley, praised the positive environmental work done by Trustee Gorman and is impressed with the Mayor's common sense approach. He then read a

statement submitted by Jeff Zuckerman, husband of Trustee Gorman.

From Jeff Zuckerman who is out of town and could not be here tonight for this occasion . . . Jeff has asked me to read these words: *Clare's husband who has served Tuckahoe in various capacities, currently as the Chairman of the Tuckahoe Housing Authority,*

- Being as close as anyone could be for the past four years to both Clare and John, I witnessed first hand their hard work and extraordinary dedication to only one thing . . . making Tuckahoe a great place to live for all of us. Night after night and weekend after weekend these two often put work and families aside to do what they promised us they would do.

- Clare never stopped updating the Village's remarkable web site which has become a model for other municipalities to copy.

- For two months leading up to the Tuckahoe Challenge, our annual road race, Clare would work tirelessly soliciting sponsors and entrants, as well as ordering T-shirts, medals, trophies and anything else required to make that event the huge success it always was.

- Clare was also the driving force behind and attended every meeting of Tuckahoe's Environmental Committee and Tree Committee; again models for other municipalities to copy.

- John Fitzpatrick was, quite simply, the consummate thinker and dreamer who could not and would not stop imagining what "could be" for the village he loves. The amount of legislation he proposed and shepherded into becoming law may never be equaled in a four-year period again. Never did we spend an evening together when the conversation did not end up with all of the "what ifs" for Tuckahoe. Many, many villagers cannot believe he is walking away while still so very popular and yet his bold, out-of-the-box thinking naturally garnered some detractors. He would have had it no other way; of that I am sure. Because I know, that he knows, if everyone just loves you, you're probably not exploring all of the possibilities for local government. When you actually engage in such exploration some feathers get ruffled, but authentic and genuine progress becomes a guaranteed by-product of such efforts.

- So I thank you both for helping to leave the Village better than the way you found it and for bringing us together. I shudder to think of the acrimony that reigned when you guys came into office. That has all changed and every resident of Tuckahoe is better for it.

- Finally, I look forward to having my wife around again. These past four years have taken Clare away for literally thousands of hours. Although absurdly popular and loved in Tuckahoe, this was a most unfortunate time in my family's history for her to run a political campaign. Her dedication and love for the village she grew up in is simply boundless, and she leaves a void on the Board which I have no idea how it can be filled. What I do know, however, is that the void in our home will be filled starting tomorrow.

Mayor Elect, Steven Ecklund, thanked Mayor Fitzpatrick and Clare Gorman for their hard work, dedication and fairness. He presented each of them with a plaque and proclamation.

Clare gave a sincere thanks to everyone and read a statement.

It has been a pleasure serving as Village Trustee these past 4 years. I feel so much has been accomplished. I have been a part of the everyday decision making that goes on as well as the usual meetings and I have been deeply involved in other areas as well. I have been the Board liaison for two new committees (Tree and Environmental) that were put in place by Mayor Fitzpatrick. So much great work has come from these two committees including protection of trees, an anti-littering commercial, closely working with Frank DiMarco (a great addition to the Village) on environmental issues, complete tree inventory of public trees using GPS, educating the public on recycling and other programs, and more). Both of these committees are comprised of residents who are interested in these issues and several who bring great expertise to the table. I have been the liaison to the Library Board on and off over the last 4 years (libraries are near and dear to my heart). From these and some of my other experiences as a Trustee and also from watching the work of the Planning, Zoning, Sign and Awning and THA Boards I have been so impressed by the level of commitment and interest shown by so many of our residents.

I am also very proud of our ever evolving website. It is now a viable resource for anyone. In fact at least two people told me that they looked and purchased houses in Tuckahoe due in large part to our website. I have personally maintained the website monthly calendar of meetings and events, uploaded all the minutes of all of the Boards, and have been the point person with the webmaster making sure things are added and deleted in a timely manner. Thank you to those in the community who notified me when links were not working properly so we could get those fixed quickly. This kind of help is always needed and appreciated.

Over the past four years I believe we have done a good job in keeping budget increases as low as possible without affecting services. Each budget cycle we spent hours and hours combing through the budget line by line looking for all possible places to cut. There really is no fat in the Tuckahoe budget.

Serving on the Village Board requires the help and support of so many people. Whether it is the drafting of legislation or answering legal questions, or getting answers about how things work in the building dept. or the Clerk's office, or help with keeping an eye on the tax rate as well as maintaining services, or questions regarding trees and recycling and other DPW matters, or police interviews, promotions, and other police matters - there are an enormous number of people to thank. Thank you to all of the dept. heads (Sue Ciamarra, John Pintos, John Cavallaro, Chief Costanzo, Frank DeMarco, Bill Williams). Thanks to Jackie Ferretti and Camille DiSalvo in the clerk's office who help so many people each day. Special thanks to Camille our Deputy Clerk who answered my calls each week when I had questions or I was just checking in. Thank you to Mary Ann McCann who is there at the frontlines of the Building Dept. each day. Thank you to Mike Seminara who was always there when I called and special thanks for mediating between residents and businesses -- it makes it so much easier when we can work with both parties to come to a reasonable solution that works for

everyone and Mike you have done that more than once. Thank you to Marc and Elliot who also were always there when I needed help. Whether it was helping me pick up packages the Girl Scouts had collected so we could send them to our Troops at Camp Bucca or help with the Tuckahoe Challenge Road Race. Thank you to Nicky Cacciola the person you get when you call Chief Costanzo and is always helpful. Thanks to our Court – Judges Fuller and O’Toole and Maureen and Pat who most people see when they have to pay a ticket (be nice to them). Thanks to John D’Arco at the Community Center. Thank you to our Library Director, Debbie Coppola and her entire staff who work tirelessly to give patrons of the library great service. I also want to thank Barbara Stires and the all of the Seniors at the Senior Center – it has been a pleasure being the liaison to this vital group of wonderful people. Thank you to all of our DPW workers and police officers for helping to make Tuckahoe a great place to live. Special thanks to my husband, Jeff, who has been always so supportive of me.

One of the most pleasurable parts of being a Trustee has been meeting so many residents for the first time and reconnecting with so many others – some I went to school with and others who knew my parents. I will see you around the Village.

Thank you.

Mayor Fitzpatrick thanked the residents, his outside bosses, his family, the departments, and the boards. He ended the meeting saying, “Thank you for the honor of being your mayor. Good night Tuckahoe.”

There being no further business, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Susan Ciamarra, Village Clerk