

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF
BRONXVILLE HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2011 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, 200 PONDFIELD
ROAD, BRONXVILLE, N.Y.

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PRESENT: Mary C. Marvin Mayor
Robert S. Underhill Trustees
William H. Barton, Jr.
Anne W. Poorman
Donald M. Gray

ALSO PRESENT: Harold Porr III Village Administrator
James Staudt Village Attorney

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WORK SESSION & EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Marvin called the meeting to order at 6:36PM and in attendance were Mayor Marvin, Trustee Underhill, Trustee Barton, Trustee Poorman, Village Administrator Harold Porr, Village Attorney James Staudt and Superintendent of Public Works Rocco Circosta.

Village Administrator, Harold Porr, reviewed the meeting agenda.

Superintendent of Public Works, Rocco Circosta, briefed Trustees on snow and ice activity and related costs.

At 7:12PM, on motion of Trustee Underhill, second by Trustee Poorman, the Trustees entered Executive Session to discuss personnel matters in the Department of Public Works, labor contract negotiations with the PBA and to discuss real estate matters.

At 8PM on motion of Trustee Barton, second by Trustee Gray, the Trustees re-opened the work session.

The Trustees entered into the public session at 8:03PM.

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Mayor Marvin opened meeting at 8:07PM.

John Collins was happy to announce the Eastchester Irish American Social Club 7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to take place on Sunday, March 13th, 2011, at 3:00 P.M., at which the Grand Marshal will be Liz Ahern and the honoree Anne Henry. The parade will feature 11 Irish pipe bands, marching bands, school bands, a police motorcycle brigade, antique cars, Irish dancers and musicians from over fifty community groups. The parade route will start at Immaculate Conception Church, proceed north on Route 22, through Eastchester, and end at Lake Isle Country Club.

MAYOR'S REPORT

I would like to welcome our new colleague, Don Gray, for an encore appearance as a Village Trustee.

We are just so glad you are here to join a team of really dedicated and hardworking Trustees. Thanks for stepping up – we are counting on your experience and big picture view as we enter a very tough budget cycle.

Speaking of which, we will have an additional public workshop tomorrow night at 7PM here at Village Hall to discuss mainly the financial challenges facing us in the upcoming budget.

Just as a reminder, we always have an open public workshop prior to every one of our Village Board meetings at 6:30PM before commencing this 8PM meeting. All are invited to attend.

Since our last meeting, it has all been about snow and money with a little ice thrown in.

Deputy Mayor Underhill will discuss the Finance Committee meeting held last week, but I want to welcome and thank our new committee member, Leighton Welch, for

joining the team. This committee has given us invaluable, expert advice as we navigate some very tough times.

And I know, Trustee Barton will discuss the efforts of our Department of Public Works to deal with the unprecedented number of storms and unfortunately the costs associated with the clean-up.

I just want to thank our Department of Public Works staff for the incredible job they do. Not a day goes by without a Villager e-mailing comments on the amazing effort they put out on behalf of all of us. So, thank you to all the gentlemen at Public Works for a job well done.

Mr. Porr, Lt. Bunyan and I met with members of the Bronxville School including Dr. Hudson, Chairman of the School Board, Mr. Rugani and Dr. Kehoe to discuss subjects of important and mutual interest including flooding and parking. We had a very productive meeting and agreed we should meet quarterly to share information and concerns.

We are also focusing on our lighting issues throughout the Village and working to find grant monies to help us upgrade while at the same time not having the entire project rest on the shoulders of the taxpayer.

Our contract negotiations continue with the library staff and will be starting imminently with our police department followed by our Department of Public Works staff. Contracts expire for police and Department of Public Works employees in May.

The Village's 2011 Tentative Assessment Roll is on our Village home page as a pop-up as well as on the Assessor's page. Should you desire to contest your current assessment, the form to do so is available for downloading on our Village website or available by stopping in at Village Hall. Grievance Night as set by New York State is February 15th. Ours will be conducted at Village Hall from 6PM until 10PM.

As a side bar, last year we did have the lowest COD or level of inequity in the entire County. Ours was 6%. We also had the lowest number of grievances per capita of any Westchester community.

I would like to thank the Reformed Church for offering Congregational Hall for the beautiful inter-community celebration of Martin Luther King by hosting the annual breakfast. A record number of 275 folks attended and it was a wonderful three community – Tuckahoe, Eastchester and Bronxville – collaboration and connection.

And finally, I was privileged to judge a national poetry contest at our high school. Over 30 children entered and three now go on to regional competition. Resident Ellen de St. Phalle helped to spearhead this and thanks to everyone involved. Poetry has really taken off at our school - just another aspect that makes it such a special school.

So to our new Deputy Mayor, Robert Underhill, and thank you for agreeing to assume this job.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Underhill reported that the Finance Committee met on January 28, 2011. They heard the challenges and opportunities that the Village is facing. The three points discussed were: budget challenges faced and how to address them, creating a strategy to maintain overall fund balance, and major real estate issues in the Village.

Trustee Underhill encouraged residents to come to the special meeting on February 8th where they will discuss long term strategies for the Village, how to maintain the quality of life and to keep taxes at a moderate level.

Trustee Barton reported on the Department of Public Works which is 50% above their snow budget. There is nothing that can be done about this and the Trustees will find money in other areas of the budget to cover these costs. The salt supply is in good shape. There are pot holes building up and they should be reported to the Department of Public Works. Also, the traffic light at Kraft Avenue and Cedar Street will be installed once the weather cooperates – in the spring.

Chamber – Trustee Barton reported that he is the new liaison for the Chamber of Commerce. Things downtown are improving. There are four Winter Farmer's Markets scheduled and the first one was very successful.

Trustee Poorman reported on the police department. In January, there were 2 felonies and 4 misdemeanors.

Parking – summonses were down and there were three days of no meter enforcement due to the snow.

Library – Trustee Poorman reported that tax forms are available to residents if they need them.

Trustee Gray commented that it was good to be back on the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Poorman, second by Trustee Barton, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 10, 2011 as drafted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION - SETTING PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #1 - 2011 TO ADD LOCATIONS WHERE PARKING IS PROHIBITED IN THE VILLAGE OF BRONXVILLE, NY

On motion of Trustee Underhill, second by Trustee Gray, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Village of Bronxville (the “Village”) requested Village Counsel to draft a local law amending the Traffic and Vehicle Law of the Village, Chapter 290, adding locations where parking is prohibited; and

WHEREAS, having received proposed Local Law # 1-2011, the Board is prepared to hold a public hearing on such proposed law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A public hearing on proposed Local Law # 1-2011 will be held on March 14, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. at Village Hall located at 200 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY.
2. The Village Board directs that all requisite notices be published in accordance applicable laws and regulations.

RESOLUTION - SETTING PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #2 – 2011 MODIFYING EXISTING LAND USE REGULATIONS ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

On motion of Trustee Barton, second by Trustee Underhill, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Village of Bronxville (the “Village”) requested Village Counsel to draft a local law amending the Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Law of the Village, Chapter 257 to improve stormwater control practices; and

WHEREAS, having received proposed Local Law # 2 - 2011, the Board is prepared to hold a public hearing on such proposed law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A public hearing on proposed Local Law # 2 - 2011 will be held on March 14, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. at Village Hall located at 200 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY.
2. The Village Board directs that all requisite notices be published in accordance applicable laws and regulations.

RESOLUTION – APPROVING USE OF PARKING SPACE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL

On motion of Trustee Underhill, second by Trustee Gray, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustees approves the use of a parking permit in a Village lot by the Senior Citizens Council commencing July 1, 2011, as per the attached request.

RESOLUTION - RECONCILIATION TAX, WARRANT & COLLECTIONS

On motion of Trustee Poorman, second by Trustee Underhill, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees accepts the Reconciliation of Uncollected Taxes as of January 31, 2011 as prepared by the Village Treasurer.

Trustee Barton asked if by approving this resolution the Trustees were accepting this reconciliation.

Village Administrator, Harold Porr, responded that by approving the resolution the Board is accepting the report/accounting submitted by the Village Treasurer.

Trustee Underhill asked if this was discretionary.

Village Administrator, Harold Porr, said it was not.

RESOLUTION - TAX LIEN SALE

On motion of Trustee Underhill, second by Trustee Barton, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bronxville, that the Village Treasurer be authorized to advertise and sell tax liens for the fiscal year 2010-2011 on March 16, 2011 as shown in the account of unpaid taxes and in accordance with Article 14, Title 3 of the Real Property Tax Law (Section 1455), and that the advertisement of the notice required by law be inserted in The Journal News, the official newspaper of the Village, and that said notice shall be published once a week for three consecutive weeks and the last date for publication shall be made on or before the 11th day of March 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said notice shall be substantially the following:

VILLAGE OF BRONXVILLE
Statement of Real Estate upon which
taxes for the year 2010-2011 are unpaid, and
NOTICE OF TAX SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 14, Title 3 of the Real Property Tax Law (Section 1455).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the taxes for the year 2010-2011 of the Village of Bronxville are unpaid on the real estate described as shown on a tax list filed with the Village Clerk.

The description of each parcel of said real estate is designated by Section, Block and Lot numbers as shown on the Assessment Map of the Village of Bronxville, Town of Eastchester, Westchester County, New York, which roll and map are on file in the office of the Village Clerk at 200 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, New York.

A list of parcels of real estate on which the taxes remain unpaid for 2010-2011, as of January 31, 2011, will be available in the Treasurer's office.

RESOLUTION - ENTERING INTO INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

On motion of Trustee Poorman, second by Trustee Gray, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Village of Bronxville is part of a regional Storm Water Consortium consisting of 15 municipalities in Westchester County, and

WHEREAS, this Consortium has filed and received a Storm Water Grant from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation in the amount of \$210,000.00, for the purpose of locating and mapping catch basins within the participating municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Sleepy Hollow has taken the lead role in administering these grants in accordance with the attached Inter-Municipal Agreement and Work Plans;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into this Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Village of Sleepy Hollow for the purposes of administering this Grant.

RESOLUTION - Appointing Member of the Board of Assessment Review

On motion of Trustee Underhill, second by Trustee Barton, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bronxville hereby appoints Robert Shearer to the Village of Bronxville Board of Assessment Review for a five year term commencing on the 1st day of October 2010.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Nicky Bender, a student, asked the Trustees what the Village was doing about all of the burglaries.

Mayor Marvin responded that the police have unmarked cars and plain clothes officers around. The police have identified someone through a thumbprint and some blood but he remains at large.

Megan McKinley, 6 Crampton Road, inquired how aggressive the Trustees will be in the budget process considering the overrun in the snow budget and wanting to keep the fund balance high.

Trustee Underhill responded that it is important to maintain a healthy fund balance but that it is more important to budget accurately rather than aggressively. He expects the Trustees will approach the budget conservatively. He commented that higher taxes could result rather than allowing deterioration of the fund balance. Right now we are at a 12-14% range in the balance.

Ms. McKinley wanted to know what percentage was needed for a AAA rating.

Village Administrator, Harold Porr, responded around 20% is preferable.

Mayor Marvin said the idea is to constantly build on the fund balance and not to lose the bond rating.

Trustee Underhill said that the Village looks good compared to others.

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There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43PM by motion of Trustee Poorman, second by Trustee Gray.

Harold Porr III,
Village Administrator/Village
Clerk