

Village Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
January 5, 2006  
7:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Briarcliff Manor, New York was held in the Village of Briarcliff Manor Village Hall, at 1111 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor, New York of the 5<sup>th</sup> of January commencing at 7:30 p.m.

**Present**

William J. Vescio, Mayor  
David Venditti, Deputy Mayor  
Elsie Smith, Trustee  
Donald Wilde, Trustee  
Gayle Waxenberg, Trustee

**Also Present**

Michael Blau, Village Manager  
Ingrid Richards, Assistant Village Manager  
Clinton Smith, Village Counsel

**Absent**

Stephanie Ippoliti, Village Clerk

**Continuation of Public Hearing – Amendment to Chapter 220, Zoning**

Upon motion by Trustee Wilde, seconded by Deputy Mayor Venditti the Board, voted unanimously to continue the hearing to January 19, 2006.

**Public Hearing - Local Law to Donate Police Cruisers and Fire truck**

Upon motion by Trustee Wilde, seconded by Trustee Waxenberg, the Board voted unanimously to open the public hearing.

Mayor Vescio stated he would provide the Village Manager with some names of trucking companies that may be able to transport the vehicles.

Upon motion by Trustee Waxenberg, seconded by Deputy Mayor Venditti, the Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Venditti, seconded by Trustee Smith, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees does hereby adopt the Local Law to Provide for the Donation of Surplus Police Vehicles by the Village of Briarcliff Manor for Hurricane Katrina Relief.

Upon motion by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Wilde, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees does hereby adopt the Local Law to Provide for the Donation of a Surplus Fire Truck by the Village of Briarcliff Manor for Hurricane Katrina Relief.

### **Board of Trustees Announcements**

Trustee Waxenberg reported the following:

- The Todd Lane Bridge was open and to be fully completed by the spring.
- The Master Plan continued to be underway. Neighborhood meetings were scheduled in January and February. The Board of Trustees would be present at each of the meetings.
- A Land Preservation committee was being formed to preserve open green space. Information would be posted on the scroll and website and any residents interested should apply.
- The Capital Budget process is underway.
- A committee has been formed to address space needs for the municipal building. A meeting will be held on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Lothrop Associates will be addressing the space needs of the library.
- An article was published in the New York Times that wasn't factual. Trustee Waxenberg read aloud a rebuttal letter written by the Board of Trustees that was published in the Journal News and the Gazette.

### **Village Managers Report**

Village Manager Blau reported the following:

- A six month budget analysis had been completed.
- Emergency water pumps were on target for February and water would be available at that time at the rate of \$1000 per million gallons.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Ellen Melnick of North State Road stated the article in the New York Times presented a side of the bulk housing law the Board was trying to address. She further stated whatever the Board did to this law people will always want variances. She stated she didn't see the Boards concern for the neighbors of the houses being built. She stated she would apologize if she was wrong and that it wasn't proper for Mayor Vescio to profit off of a law he was pushing through.

She stated to hand it over to the Ethics Board to see if it is or isn't a conflict of interest.

Mr. Richard Sider of 82 Long Hill Road East stated heavy construction was allowed in the Village from 8:00am through 7:00pm everyday except Sundays and Federal Holidays. He asked if fines or summonses were given to offenders. He stated there was excessive noise, dirt and dust from blasting that was never discussed publicly. He was concerned about possible new fissures in his foundation and the constant noise throughout his house. He stated the road hasn't been repaired properly. He asked the Board to limit heavy construction on Saturdays and asked that a construction schedule be delivered to all neighbors affected by the construction.

Mayor Vescio asked if the Code Enforcement officer addresses those concerns.

Deputy Mayor Venditti asked if it was common to allow construction to continue to 7:00pm throughout the County.

Village Manager Blau stated the Code Enforcement officer goes out to sites with a noise meter and will issue a summons if there is a violation of the law. He further stated there is a maximum fine allowed by the state.

### **Appointment of Police Officers**

Upon motion by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Wilde, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that Michael Porricelli, 333 North State Road, Briarcliff Manor, New York is hereby appointed to the position of Police Officer effective January 9, 2006, to be paid at the Academy Rate of \$26,000. The appointment is hereby made from Civil Service List number 67-782.

Upon motion by Trustee Wilde, seconded by Trustee Waxenberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that William Bassett, III, 19 Meadow Road, Briarcliff Manor, New York is hereby appointed to the position of Police Officer effective January 9, 2006, to be paid at the Academy Rate of \$26,000. The appointment is hereby made from Civil Service List number 67-782.

Mayor Vescio congratulated and welcomed the new Police Officers to the Village.

### **Budget Amendment – Police Department**

Upon motion by Trustee Waxenberg, seconded by Deputy Mayor Venditti, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 is hereby amended as follows:

Increase Appropriation – Police Department, Equipment - Technology Funds (A3120.201.4390) by \$9,941.10

Increase Revenue – Miscellaneous Revenue Town/County (A0101.2771) by \$9,941.10

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 is hereby amended as follows:

Create Appropriation – Police Department, Radio Purchase (A3120.202) by \$9,454.62

Increase Revenue – Miscellaneous Revenue Town/County (A0101.2771) by \$9,454.62

**Authorize Village Manager to Execute Agreements**

**a. Westchester County – Stop DWI Program**

Deputy Mayor Venditti asked if the Village currently engaged in DWI patrols without using overtime.

Village Manager Blau stated the Police Department currently did DWI patrols without a special overtime detail. He further stated the Chief wanted to participate but had staffing issues in the past.

Mayor Vescio asked the Village Manager to do an analysis on how much the program would additionally cost and how often the Village would participate in the program.

Village Manager Blau stated he would do an analysis and report back to the Board.

Ms. Melnick stated a consultant reviewed the Police Department and 85% of the time they don't have much to do. She asked why they would need to do overtime for this program.

Deputy Mayor Venditti stated the Board had the same questions.

Mr. Mort Berger of 2 Elizabeth Court asked why the Police Department had been understaffed for so long. He further asked if it was due to sick leave or not enough officers.

Mayor Vescio stated that both sick leave and not enough officers were the problem. He stated the problem was being aggressively pursued.

**b. Key Bank – Lease/Purchase Agreement for Phone System**

Village Manager Blau explained the problems with the current phone system to the Board. He further stated the Assistant Village Manager did a wonderful job and found an efficient and cost effective new phone system.

Trustee Wilde asked how long before the new system would be implemented.

Assistant Village Manager Richards stated it would be approximately two months.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Venditti, seconded by Trustee Smith, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution subject to Village Counsel giving a formal opinion letter:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute a Lease/Purchase Agreement with Key Government Finance, Inc. of Superior, Colorado for the purchase of a telephone system.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Wilde, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 15, 2005 as amended.

**Board of Trustees Announcements**

Mayor Vescio stated the Board would be discussing the reduction of the speed limit in the downtown area. He further stated drivers needed to slow down especially on rainy days and in the evening hours.

Trustee Waxenberg stated the next neighborhood meeting would be held January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Youth Center for the Scarborough Station area.

Ms. Berger asked under what circumstances the Ethics Board met. She further asked who referred Ethics matters to the Ethics Board.

Mayor Vescio stated at least two members of the Board of Trustees needed to refer an issue to the Ethics Board. He further stated the Ethics Board was revising the Ethics Law and the Board of Trustees received a draft copy earlier that week.

Ms. Berger stated the Board of Trustees might want to consider letting the Ethics Board make a decision regarding the conflict of interest one way or the other.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion by Trustee Wilde, seconded by Trustee Waxenberg, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Christine Dennett