

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF
MAMARONECK HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COURTROOM AT
VILLAGE HALL, MAMARONECK, NEW YORK

PRESENT:	Mayor	Kathleen Savolt
	Trustees	Toni Pergola Ryan John M. Hofstetter Randi Robinowitz
	Village Manager	Leonard M. Verrastro
	Village Attorney	Janet Insardi
	Police Chief	Edward Flynn
	Clerk-Treasurer	Agostino A. Fusco
ABSENT:		Thomas A. Murphy

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mamaroneck on the 14th day of April, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as all parties can be heard, at the municipal building located at 169 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Mamaroneck, New York, to consider the Village of Mamaroneck Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the Tentative Budget is on file with the Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Mamaroneck.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that at said public hearing, all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK, NEW YORK

Agostino A. Fusco
Clerk-Treasurer

Dated: April 9, 2008

On motion of Trustee Ryan, seconded by Trustee Hofstetter:

RESOLVED that the Public Hearing on the Village of Mamaroneck Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009 is hereby open for discussion.

Ayes:	Robinowitz, Hofstetter, Ryan, Savolt
Nays:	None
Absent:	Murphy

Village Manager Verrastro stated that as Budget Officer for the Village of Mamaroneck, the tentative 2008-2009 budget was filed with the Board of Trustees on March 20, 2008 as required by Village Law. The preparation was a collaborative effort of the Department Heads, Clerk-Treasurer and Village Manager. The development of the tentative budget commenced in January 2008, when each department received their budget worksheets and prepared a proposed budget for his/her respective departments, which included operation and

capital requests. The tentative budget has been modified from the original requests, in an effort to produce a fiscally responsible budget for Village operations and for the residents.

The taxable assessed valuation for the fiscal year is \$76,981,575, a decrease of \$279,140 from the previous fiscal year. This is primarily due to decreases as a result of tax certiorari settlements reached during the year.

The tentative budget for 2008-2009 includes General Fund appropriations of \$29,024,140 and estimated revenues of \$7,398,800. Appropriations in the tentative budget increased by 6.85% from the 2007-2008 Adopted budget, and the estimated revenues increased by 1.70%.

The increase of approximately \$123,464 in estimated revenues is due to a projected increase of \$35,000 for Sales Tax Distribution, which the Village anticipates to receive from the County. \$20,000 in additional parking meter fees, \$40,000 in additional interest earnings, \$25,000 for a projected increase in Mortgage tax distributions and \$30,000 in additional antenna rental fees also contributed to the increase.

The tentative appropriation and estimated revenue figures result in a tax levy of \$21,375,340 generating a proposed tax rate of \$277.67 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, an increase of \$17.54 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This proposed tax rate represents a 6.74% tax rate increase, which computes to an annual increase of \$263.00 for an average home assessed at \$15,000.

Mayor Savolt stated that in the past, legal fees have been paid from the Fund Balance and with the Village Attorney now being an employee; the Village is seeing a decrease in legal expenses budgeted. She asked Mr. Verrastro if there has been enough budgeted for legal expenses so that it will not have to come from the Fund Balance. Mr. Verrastro stated that the amount paid in contractual legal expenses has been reduced with the hiring of a full time attorney and monies have been put in the contingency account to cover any outside legal fees, not provided for in the budget. The Mayor also asked how much was taken from the Fund Balance to pay for the past fiscal year's legal fees, which were not budgeted for. Mr. Verrastro stated that a \$250,000 transfer was recently approved and that he will be coming back to the Board for another transfer of approximately \$300,000 to cover attorney bills. Mayor Savolt wanted to assure the residents that we are budgeting appropriately for legal fees and will not be transferring monies during the year. She also wanted residents to understand that the amount in the Fund Balance has been brought down due to the payment of legal fees that were not appropriately budgeted, instead of raising revenue to pay these fees. Mr. Verrastro is projecting our Fund Balance to be \$1.5 million, when it should be \$2.5 million. The State Comptroller recommends having between 5 and 10 percent of the Village's budget in Fund Balance. The Village of Mamaroneck is currently under the recommended amount.

Mr. Ron Trucchio appeared to ask about the projected sales tax. In light to the economic environment, is it prudent to expect an increase in sales tax. Mr. Verrastro stated that revenues have been growing. It may be from gas and oil prices. However, he is not projecting growth. The amount projected for next year is the amount already received this year. Mr. Trucchio asked if an amount of 63% for personnel services and benefits is in line with other municipalities. Mr. Verrastro informed him that most municipalities are between 60 and 66% as this is a people intensive business. Mr. Trucchio read that a labor attorney is being hired to handle the latest police department lawsuit. He asked if this person will be an employee. Mr. Verrastro stated that this is a contracted attorney specializing in labor issues. Mayor Savolt stated that there are still things in the pipeline

that need to be addressed and the Village will always contract attorneys to handle specialized cases. This budget does represent a decrease of approximately \$100,000 in legal expenses from past years. Mayor Savolt also reminded residents to please fill out their census information when received, as sales tax is distributed on a per capita basis.

Mayor Savolt informed the residents that the budget needs to be adopted by May 1, 2008. Budget meetings are being held, where each department's budget is gone through line item by line item. These meetings are public and are being held in the Courtroom. The Board is scheduled to vote on the budget at the April 28 meeting.

Mr. Trucchio again appeared to ask if it would be possible to charge residents a permit fee to install a satellite dish on their home, as a way to generate additional funds and it is also an aesthetic detriment to the Village as some buildings have 3-4 on their building. The Board agreed to look into this.

Trustee Hofstetter asked what is included in the bonding for next year. Clerk-Treasurer Fusco stated that a portion of both the Firehouse and Water Treatment Plant buy downs are included in next year's budget.

Mayor Savolt stated that the debt service is up by 7% and that there are three major settlements well as the new Firehouse included in this. The Mayor asked what the debt service would be if we did not have the settlements included. Village Manager Verrastro stated that the debt service would have been down for the year if it were not for the settlements. Mayor Savolt also stated that the debt service as a percentage of the budget has gone down.

On motion of Trustee Robinowitz, seconded by Trustee Hofstetter:

RESOLVED that the Public Hearing on the Village of Mamaroneck Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009 is hereby closed.

Ayes: Robinowitz, Hofstetter, Ryan, Savolt
Nays: None
Absent: Murphy

PREPARED BY:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

SALLY J. ROBERTS,
SECRETARY

AGOSTINO A. FUSCO,
CLERK-TREASURER