

Board of Trustees
Village of Tarrytown
Regular Meeting No. 11
One Depot Plaza
Tarrytown NY 10591
April 18, 2022
7:00 p.m.

PRESENT in person: Mayor Brown presiding; Trustees: Kim, McGovern, Rinaldi and Mitchell; Village Administrator Slingerland; Village Attorney Zalantis; Village Treasurer Hart; Village Clerk Gilligan and Deputy Village Clerk Fasman

REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 P.M.

The meeting began with the Pledge to the Flag.

BOARD MISCELLANEOUS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Trustee Kim reported that TEAC will be sponsoring a series of cleanups on Saturday in honor of Earth Day. There will also be a clothing and housewares swap on Sunday at Patriots Park from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Trustee Rinaldi reported that one of the Placemaking Committees first projects is a call to artists for ideas on a mural on the Taste of China building. There is a link on the Village website under News and Announcements with the information, and the deadline to apply is May 31st. The mural is to be a welcome to Tarrytown themed and we are looking for ideas incorporating different points of interests in the Village. We are very excited to see the proposals.

Deputy Mayor McGovern reported that Recreation Department just finished up a busy month with the Easter Egg Hunt this past weekend, and we are now gearing up for the summer season. Registration is open for camp, the pool and the fitness center. All of the information can be found on the Village's website, and we encourage you to sign up early. Deputy Mayor McGovern also thanked TEAC for the cleanup this past weekend which was very well organized, very well run, and everyone did a great job.

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There will be an executive session at the end of tonight's meeting to discuss personnel. There was a discussion about the possibility of calling for a Public Hearing on a Local Law regarding changes to Zoom that were approved by the State and it should be ready by next week. The Governor did extend zoom until May 15th, 2022.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Administrator Slingerland reported that New York State declared the Tarrytown Music Hall as a place of historic designation. It's a wonderful recognition for an important part of the Village and our downtown area. There will also be a Blood Drive this Wednesday at the Senior Center from 10:00 to 3:00 pm. If you are a first time donor you can find out more information at redcrossblood.org. Each donation can save three lives. Time slots are filling up quickly.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A LOCAL LAW TO GRANT TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VETERANS PURSUANT TO NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE IX, NEW YORK MUNICIPAL HOME RULE LAW § 10, AND REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW 458-A AND 458-B.

Mayor Brown reported that the New York State Legislature has just approved an increase in the tax exemptions for Veterans. Tarrytown would like to adopt the exemption for our Veterans.

Deputy Mayor McGovern motioned to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Trustee Kim.

There were no public comments.

Deputy Mayor McGovern made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Trustee Kim.

The following resolution was approved on a motion made by Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi and unanimously carried. Approved: 5-0

WHEREAS by local law adopted on November 21, 2016, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown terminated its status as an assessing unit for Village real property taxes; and

WHEREAS the Village Board the Board of Trustees wishes to provide property tax exemption options to qualified applicants in the Village pursuant to NY Real Property Tax Law § 458-a (entitled “Veterans, alternative exemption”) and NY Real Property Tax Law § 458-b (entitled “Exemption for Cold War veterans”); and

WHEREAS, a notice of public hearing was published in the Journal News on April 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on the proposed action on April 18, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown is the only agency which has approval authority over the Proposed Action and is therefore the Lead Agency for the Proposed Action, and determines that pursuant to Article 617.5 this is a Type II action and therefore no further action is required under SEQRA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby adopt Local Law No. 5 of 2022.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ONLY ON ITEMS LISTED ON THE AGENDA, OTHER THAN PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS. SPEAKERS SHALL HAVE THREE (3) MINUTES EACH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dolf Beil from White Plains spoke about the proposed dredging at the Tarrytown Boat Club, and the monetary quotes the Village received about five years ago, as well as the cost difference between then and now. A two million dredge on a twelve million general capital budget for five years accounts for sixteen percent of a five year capital budget. Sixteen percent of a five year expenditure that is urgently needed and we are just sitting on it with nothing else budgeted for the waterfront. A full copy of Mr. Beil’s presentation can be found attached to these minutes.

Administrator Slingerland responded that the State had been asked during the construction of the new bridge whether they could do some dredging at the waterfront to help open up the marina. He was not here at the time those conversations took place, but it never happened. New York State had set aside \$300,000 for a grant for dredging but the way the grant was written, the Village would have to spend three million to receive the \$300,000. The Board at that time thought that it would be an unfair allocation of resources to spend \$300,000 and leverage \$2.7 million worth of work on the Villages parks. At that time the grant was repurposed, we did not receive \$300,000, and the grant money that was received was utilized to stabilize some shoreline bulkheads that had erosion issues and other problems. Trustee Rinaldi inquired if the grant money that was received was more of a 50/50 match and Administrator Slingerland confirmed that is was more of a 50/50 match. Administrator Slingerland continued by stating that the costs could be two million dollars or if we just did the channel to and from the fire dock it could cost \$200,000 or \$300,000. The quotes that were submitted were unusable because it would have to be put out to public bid, properly permitted, designed by an engineer and submitted to the Army Corps. Of Engineers and the DEC. We have no idea of the real cost. Mayor Brown noted that the dredging would not be just for the fireboat, but also for the Tarrytown Marina and to some extent the Washington

Irving Boat Club. It is money in the budget not spent or borrowed for at this point. It’s more like a place holder to allow us to consider dredging.

Mr. Beil reminded the Board of Trustees that his original request was to just change the name in the budget to something like waterfront improvements. He has repeatedly asked for just a word change to reflect what has been said this evening, and has been turned down. Mayor Brown stated that she understands where Mr. Beil is coming from, but she has to defer to the professionals who are involved in the budget. It is accurate enough for our budget purposes and she doesn’t think it’s a big change or what the change does practically. Administrator Slingerland stated that the Village would not dredge an area that would have a specific benefit for a private entity. If the Village was going to dredge, it would be for municipal purposes. Mayor Brown stated that the Village is not trying to hide anything, it is just wording. It came up because the fireboat is the reason why we looked at it in the first place. Mr. Beil noted that this interchange was far more productive than anything else he has been able to achieve. The Comprehensive Plan calls for quarterly symposiums on significant items. He requests the Board to please convene a symposium on this subject. Mayor Brown noted that there has been public hearings open on the budget for three meetings. While she agrees that a symposium might be needed for the dredging, the budget is not that. The Village is trying to get some planning students from Cornell who work with adaptive building, and we are trying to get them to come to Tarrytown and help us do exactly what we have been talking about. If plans are put forth for the area it will go before the Planning Board and this will be the time we talk about what we want to see and do at the waterfront.

BUDGET RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION APRIL 18, 2022

Administrator Slingerland provided a recap of the Budget to answer some questions raised during the budget hearing and review. This budget is compliant with the NYS 2% Tax Cap, starting with a 2.00% CPI, an Allowable Levy Growth Factor adjustment of 1.02, and a Tax Base Growth Factor of 1.0151.

Administrator Slingerland noted that there is a slight increase in the Library budget and in real property taxes. The end result is that the levy is now \$18,937.076. That’s a 2.96% tax levy increase. What is allowable under that tax cap is quite a bit more. The new tax rate per \$1000.00 of assessed value is \$8.28.

The Board of Trustees also thanked James Hart who is retiring this week for all of his work and dedication to the Village. Mayor Brown thanked all of the Department Heads for trying to keep all of the expenses down as best as they can. We are keeping the quality of life here high with great services from our DPW, Recreation, Police and Fire Departments.

BUDGET ADOPTION RESOLUTIONS FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

- A. Budget amendment resolution
- B. Budget Adoption Resolution,
- C. Tax Levy Rate Resolution,
- D. Levy of Additional Taxes upon Termination of Exempt Status, and

A. Tentative Budget Amendment resolution:

On the motion of Trustee Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

Summary of Changes to 2022-2023 Tentative Budget (rvsd 4-13-2022)					
<u>Changes in Appropriations</u>					
<u>Page #</u>	<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Change</u>
		Public Health –			
1	A.4010.450	Neighborhood House	\$6,800	\$8,000	+\$1,200
		Celebrations– Miscellaneous			
		other (Events, concerts) –			
		specific amt for Historic			
2	A.7550.450	Society	\$19,000	\$20,812	+\$1,812
3	L.7410.151	Wages for PT emps, Library	\$150,000	\$165,000	+\$15,000
4	L.1990.450	Contingency, Library	\$20,000	\$25,000	+\$5,000

5	L.9030.800	Social Security, Library employees	\$70,297	\$71,444	\$1,147
				Total chgs.	+\$24,159
<u>Changes in Revenues</u>					
1	A.1001	Real Property Taxes	\$18,928,659	\$18,937,076	+\$8,417
<u>Changes - Appropriation of Fund Balances:</u>					
<u>Page #</u>	<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Change</u>
1	L-Fund Balance	Library Fund Balance	\$70,000	\$81,000	\$11,000

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following changes to the Village of Tarrytown Fiscal Year 6/1/2022-5/31/2023 appropriations, expenditures, revenues, and appropriations of fund balances, are enacted as follows:

Note: The above changes resulted in the following changes to the overall budget.

- The Library total expenditure changes of \$21,147, reduced by \$11,000 in additional Library Fund Balance appropriations to \$10,147 impacted Tarrytown’s tax levy by only \$5,405, based on the share agreement with Sleepy Hollow.
- Total Tax levy increased to \$18,937,076.
- New Tax Levy Percentage increase is 2.96%, which is compliant with the NYS Cap
- New Tax Rate per \$1,000 in assessed value of a property \$8.2809

B. Budget Adoption Resolution

B RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JUNE 1, 2022 AND ENDING MAY 31, 2023

On the motion of Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown held Public Hearings on the Tentative Budget 2022-2023 on March 21 and April 4, 2022, at 7 p.m. and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon; and

WHEREAS, during the budget process, changes were made to the budget, which are reflected in the Tentative Budget Amendment Resolution, which was adopted prior to this one.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, as amended and set forth below, is hereby adopted and the Village Board of Trustees authorizes the appropriation of funding for the objects and purposes specified, including the amounts set forth required for the payment of principal and interest on indebtedness, in the following amounts:

ADOPTED BUDGET

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Water Fund</u>	<u>Library Fund</u>	<u>Sewer Fund</u>
Appropriations	\$35,398,302	\$27,619,463	\$5,715,040	\$1,843,121	\$220,677
LESS: Estimated Revenues	\$15,605,226	\$7,907,387	\$5,715,040	\$1,762,121	\$220,677

APPROP. CASH SURPLUS	\$856,000	\$775,000	- 0 -	\$81,000	- 0 -
TRANSFER FROM WATER TO GEN. FUND			\$200,000		
TOTAL NON-PROPERTY TAX REVENUES & SURPLUS	\$16,461,226	\$8,682,387	\$5,715,040	\$1,843,121	\$220,677
BALANCE OF APPROPRIATIONS TO BE RAISED BY REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY	\$18,937,076	\$18,937,076			

Total General Fund Appropriations: \$ 27,619,463
Total Appropriations to be raised by Real Estate Tax Levy: \$ 18,937,076
Taxable Assessed Value: \$ 2,286,841,969
Tax Rate per Thousand Dollars of Value (M) \$8.2809

C. FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 TAX LEVY AND WARRANT

On the motion of Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Kim, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

WHEREAS, the budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2022, has been duly adopted and filed with the Village Clerk, and it has been thereby determined that the sum of \$27,619,463 will be necessary to meet the obligations of the Village, and there has been duly credited against said sum estimated revenues and appropriated fund balance that total \$8,682,387 leaving \$18,937,076 to be raised by the property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, it appears from the Assessment Roll established by the Greenburgh Assessor in 2021, updated in March, 2022 for taxes for the fiscal year June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023 that the total assessed valuation of real property in the Village is \$2,286,841,969.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the tax rate for the Village of Tarrytown for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2022 is fixed at the rate of \$8.2809 on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation for properties in the Village of Tarrytown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sum of \$18,937,076 shall be the taxes set for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2022 and is hereby levied on the taxable property in the Village of Tarrytown and that the Village Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to extend and carry out upon the roll the amount to be collected from each of the persons named thereon, and the respective amounts of said tax roll against each parcel of taxable property set forth thereon are hereby levied upon each parcel of taxable property respectively which said levy includes items shown on the budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2022.

D. Levy of Additional Taxes upon Termination of Exempt Status:

On the motion of Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Assessor and Village Receiver of Taxes during the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2022 are authorized to levy and collect additional Village taxes upon termination of exempt status of real property in accordance with provisions of Section 494 of the Real Property Tax Law.

AGREEMENT RENEWAL FOR LICENSE OF SPACE TO THE GREENBURGH DRUG AND ALCOHOL TASK FORCE

On the motion of Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Kim, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

WHEREAS, the Towns of Greenburgh and North Castle, and the Villages of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Elmsford, Hastings, Irvington, Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown agree to cooperate in an Intermunicipal Agreement for the Drug and Alcohol Task Force, and provide indemnification, representation, warranties, and covenants to the other participating Municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby authorize the Village Administrator to take the necessary and appropriate actions to execute and submit the Agreement of License of space between the Village of Tarrytown and the participating communities for the space to be used by the Greenburgh Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CLOSURE OF VILLAGE OFFICES ON MAY 20, 2022 FOR RECORDS MANAGEMENT

On the motion of Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Trustee Kim, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the closure of Village offices on Friday, May 20, 2022, so that Village staff can dedicate themselves to the organization, retention and disposal of Village records pursuant to the Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-01).

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT WITH SUNRISE DEVELOPMENT, INC. FOR SEWER REPAIRS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SITE PLAN APPROVAL FOR THE SUNRISE SENIOR CARE FACILITY

On the motion of Trustee Rinaldi, seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

WHEREAS as part of the site plan approval for an 85 Unit Assisted Living/Memory Care Facility at 99 White Plains Road, Sunrise Development, Inc. agreed to make repairs to public sewer lines along Route 9 which would be impacted by the new facility; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that these repairs be made before the New York State DOT performs their scheduled repaving work along Route 9, so that the repairs may be finalized before the road repaving is done; and

WHEREAS the contractor must obtain and provide proof of all necessary liability and worker's compensation insurance policies throughout the course of the repair work, naming the Village of Tarrytown as additionally insured, with the proviso that the Village must retain final approval on all completed sewer repair work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Village Administrator to execute a contract with Sunrise Development, Inc., for sewer repairs along Route 9 / South Broadway in conjunction with the requirements stated in the site plan approval for the Sunrise Senior Care Facility.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR LEGISLATIVE AID FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT AND EVALUATION ON THE TARRYTOWN PORTIONS OF THE H-BRIDGE.

On the motion of Trustee Kim, seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown hereby authorize the Village Administrator to complete, execute and submit a grant application for

legislative funding streams available through the auspices of Congressman Mondaire Jones, for funding to support the preparation of a comprehensive engineering evaluation of the H-Bridge to determine the best courses of action for either its full rehabilitation, or replacement, depending on the findings of qualified professional engineers, and authorizes the Village of Tarrytown to provide the necessary matching funds for such a project.

APPOINTMENT OF SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN PARKS DEPARTMENT

On the motion of Trustee Mitchell, seconded by Deputy Mayor McGovern, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby appoint David Rivera to the seasonal position of Laborer - Parks Department at an hourly rate of \$18 per hour effective May 16, 2022 and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby appoint Matt Cova to the seasonal position of Laborer - Parks Department at an hourly rate of \$16.50 per hour effective May 23, 2022.

APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE PLACEMAKING COMMITTEE

On the motion of Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby appoint Melissa Arango as a member of the Tarrytown Placemaking Committee for a term to expire in December of 2022.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF APRIL 4TH, 2022

On the motion of Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Rinaldi, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, April 4th, 2022 as submitted by the Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF APRIL 8TH, 2022

On the motion of Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Kim, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve the minutes of the Special Board of Trustees Meeting held on Friday, April 8th, 2022 as submitted by the Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF THE ACTION ITEM MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION OF APRIL 13TH, 2022

On the motion of Trustee Rinaldi, seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve the action item minutes of the Board of Trustees Work Session held on Wednesday, April 13th, 2022 as submitted by the Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AUDITED VOUCHERS

On the motion of Deputy Mayor McGovern, seconded by Trustee Mitchell, the following resolution is hereby approved: Aye; 5 No; 0 Abstain; 0

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tarrytown does hereby approve Abstract No. 19 of Audited Vouchers in the total amount of \$450,488.70 as presented by the Village Treasurer, to be paid in the following amounts:

General	\$	292,217.44
Water	\$	78,280.75
Sewer Fund	\$	0.00
Capital	\$	70,666.13
Library	\$	5,864.54
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>3,459.84</u>
Total	\$	450,488.70

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA. SPEAKERS HAVE THREE (3) MINUTES BEFORE YIELDING TO THE NEXT SPEAKER

John Stiloski from Wildey Street asked why the memorial sign that was placed on a fence was removed and not returned. Mayor Brown replied that the sign was not authorized to be placed there and was removed by the Village Administrator. It was not returned because we did not know who it belonged to. Mr. Stiloski noted that the sign was in honor of Detective Ojito. He then inquired how many signs has the Village Administrator removed over the years. Mayor Brown replied she is not aware how many signs were hung unauthorized over the years. Mr. Stiloski asked if permission is needed to hang signs on Village property, and Mayor Brown confirmed that permission is needed. Mr. Stiloski continued by stating that he feels the Village is telling people how to grieve now. The flags go up, the signs come down, now they are in charge of grieving too. Attorney Zalantis reminded everyone that this portion of the meeting is for the public to speak, it is not a question and answer session. Mr. Stiloski continued by stating that the sign was in honor of a fallen police officer which had his name, badge number and police shield on it, and the Village felt the need to take it down. Why? If that if the way you treat your deceased police officers it is not good. There are signs all over this town. It's them and us, that's the way it is in this town. There is no we the people. When unfounded hate accusations were made in the Village a press release was never put out saying they were unfounded.

Tina Bellino from Martling Ave felt that the removal of the sign honoring Detective Ojito was very disrespectful to his memory, but also to his widow, his daughters, and his community. She wishes to remind everyone that the Board is there to represent every single person in this Village. It appears too many that you represent one demographic only. Why else would the banner be removed in such an egregious manner? Why does the Board state permission did wasn't granted? Since someone purchased the banner, why was the police department unable to record the Village Administrator removing the banner? The Code of Ethics that must be signed by each and every one of you hasn't been violated? Rather than employing grace and decorum, the election of this board has divided our beloved diverse community. The smugness from the last meeting implied wrongness of supporting our Police and Fire Departments. Instead of hearing different points of view, a unilateral decision was made which is an abuse of power. She would like to see something more permanent honoring Jose's service such as a bench or tree. Show the community you realize the error of this reprehensible sleight to Jose and his family.

Scott Weaver Jr. from Spring St is baffled how they need permission to put up a memorial sign for a fallen Detective. At the last meeting we were told we could get the sign back at the appropriate time. Who told you what the appropriate time would be? If you wanted the sign taken down, come to us and say you have a problem with it. You come when no one is there and rip it off the fence. It's an extremely cowardly move. We are still mourning Jose's loss, and this just makes it worse.

Verity Van Tassel Richards from Benedict Ave. is confused as to why people are bringing up the removal of a sign on Village property. It seems that they could have just approached the Village and had a friendly conversation. She is wondering what the agenda is of the people who showed up here in mass. The sign was put on Village property. It was taken down several days after the memorial service for the person it honored. The sign was held onto by the Village Administrators office which is open every weekday except holidays to her understanding. Anyone who owns the property could have stopped by and picked it up. Her family has served in both law enforcement and the military, and she would never be so bold as to say that someone who took down my sign is telling me how to grieve. When her Aunt was killed by a drunk driver (not in Tarrytown), her memorial was taken down and she was surprised, but she didn't take it as a way of telling her how to grieve. She cannot imagine not being in charge of her own grief. Ms. Van Tassel Richards thinks it is shameful that people are trying to turn this into something that it is clearly not.

Pat Derivan from Franklin Courts stated that we put the sign up and there was no agenda. His sudden passing left us shocked and grieving. We put something together that honored his public service as a Police officer, a Firefighter, and EMS. The members of the fire company did not feel that they needed to call the Village and ask for permission to hang a sign. We were doing the right thing for a Village employee who served everyone with a smile on his face. He sees signs up all over the Village. Was it a problem because it was a blue line flag next to it? You could have called the Fire Department and told us we needed permission. We could have worked this out in other ways. Mayor Brown asked Mr. Derivan that if the Village had called and asked that the sign and/or flags that are in violation of Village policies be taken down, would they have done so? Mr. Derivan asked what policies. Mayor Brown replied that the Village has policies for what is on our flags, on village vehicles, and on village buildings. We have a policy dating back to 2020 that only American Flags can be flown on Village property as to be content neutral. This serves the overall best interests of Tarrytown because some symbols can be misunderstood. Knowing the rules, Mayor Brown asked Mr. Derivan if he would now take down the flags if asked to do so. Mr. Derivan stated that the flags Mayor Brown is referring to are sanctioned by the Federal Government. They are allowed and are not hate flags. If you wrote a policy against a federal guideline, that is pretty interesting. The flags we fly are in honor of our fallen that we keep dear to our heart for all of their service, and it doesn't seem like they get the respect they deserve. Mayor Brown noted that the flags are misunderstood. Mr. Derivan noted it is not their fault because we educate people on the flags. Mayor Brown reiterated that at this point the flags are still misunderstood, and the Village has a policy regarding flags. She asked if he would respect the policy. Mayor Brown concluded by stating that we are all still grieving the loss of Detective Ojito, and it's a big loss to the Village. We don't intend to tell anyone on how to grieve, nor do we wish to be told how to grieve. Mr. Derivan then inquired about a policy regarding take home Village vehicles. Shouldn't they have the Village Seal and name on them? They should have representation on the vehicle so we know who you are. Administrator Slingerland stated that all Village vehicles have official license plates. Mr. Derivan believes that the policy is to have lettering on all Village vehicles. Who looks at license plates? We are worried about policies, but only certain policies. Administrator Slingerland replied he has never seen a village policy regarding take home vehicles have lettering on them. Mr. Derivan noted that all previous vehicles have had lettering on them. Mayor Brown said she would look into it.

Miguel Valle is a 45 year volunteer with the Village and Detective Ojito was his cousin. He worked for Tarrytown for 25 years and was a proud employee. In regards to the banner, why didn't anyone approach the family to inquire about permission? Mayor Brown replied an email was received from Mr. Stiloski asking if the sign could be put back up. We worked with the Police Department and the sign was put back up. Mr. Valle then spoke about how proud he was when he saw the sign and it helped him go through the grieving process. Mayor Brown stated that she is very sorry for his and his family's loss.

Clarice Pollack had some questions about the dredging. She asked if it will happen in at least three years. Administrator Slingerland stated that yes that is how it is listed in the Capital Budget. She asked how long the Village has needed to do this and how much of a priority is it? Administrator Slingerland noted that the Board is concerned about spending tax payer money on it. Ms. Pollack suggests that the Board approach the taxpayers. She's

sure that if it was put to a referendum the taxpayers would be more than willing to pay to dredge to assist the fireboat. Mayor Brown replied that Ms. Pollack may be right, as the Fire Department has brought this issue up every year and if lives are at stake it might have to be pushed up. We are trying to make the fire boat work while keeping taxes down. Administrator Slingerland said that it would be a maintenance capital project and a referendum is not needed. Mayor Brown said that talks will continue about this, and if the Fire Department presents this as a do or die issue it might need to be accelerated. Administrator Slingerland reported it could take a while to get the project going as the Village would have to work with the DEC, Army Corps of Engineers and that process takes a minimum of several months. Ms. Pollack then spoke on behalf of the Tarrytown Senior and thanked Joe Arduino for the time and effort he put in assisting the seniors over the years. Thank you for all of your assistance Joe.

Miguel Valle informed the Board that with low tide all of the muck from the water gets sucked up into the motors. The motors can cost \$10,000. The boat also can get damaged from sitting in silt and rocking. The longer we wait to dredge, more silt will be sucked into the motors and more damage will be done to the fire boat. Deputy Mayor McGovern asked if we could park the boat by the County Fire Boat. Mr. Valle said that the water level is about the same. The County Fire Boat has similar issues. Administrator Slingerland asked if we extended the dock will it help, and Mr. Valle said it will buy us some time but it's not a permanent option.

On a motion made by Trustee Mitchell, and seconded by Deputy Mayor McGovern the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm to go into Executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trustee Mitchell, and seconded by Deputy Mayor McGovern the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm to go into Executive session

Kristine Gilligan
Village Clerk

