



## MINUTES

### Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

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**8:00 PM - Monday, April 3, 2023**

Meeting Held In-Person & Zoom Platform

Present: Mayor	Nancy Kaboolian
Deputy Mayor/Trustee	Andy Di Justo
Trustee	Asha Bencosme
Trustee	Steve Edelstein
Trustee	Craig Weitz
Village Manager	Joseph Cerretani
Village Clerk	Ann Marie Rocco

Absent: Village Attorney Robert J. Ponzini

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-ROLL CALL**

- 1.1 The Regular Meeting of the Village of Ardsley Board of Trustees was held on April 3, 2023 at Village Hall, Court Facility, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY 10502.

Mayor Kaboolian called to order the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Mayor Nancy Kaboolian

Deputy Mayor/Trustee Andy Di Justo

Trustee Asha Bencosme

Trustee Steve Edelstein

Trustee Craig Weitz

Also present were: Village Manager, Joseph Cerretani, and Village Clerk, Ann Marie Rocco. Village Attorney, Robert J. Ponzini was absent.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING** In the Matter of Discussing the Proposed Application to Convert Two Vacant Stores into a Deli located at 472 Ashford Avenue for YC Ardsley Deli, LLC.

- 2.1 Mayor Kaboolian opened the Public Hearing at 8:01 p.m. in the matter of discussing the proposed application to convert two vacant stores into a Deli located at 472 Ashford Avenue and read the notice into the record:

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. or soon thereafter at Village Hall-Court Room Facility, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY 10502 to discuss the proposed application to convert the two vacant stores located at 472 Ashford Avenue into a deli.

Please check the calendar on the Village website for meeting details at [www.ardsleyvillage.com](http://www.ardsleyvillage.com) or email the Village Clerk at [arocco@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:arocco@ardsleyvillage.com).

All residents and taxpayers are invited to attend and be heard. The meeting will be able to be seen live on Channel 75 (Cablevision) or Channel 32/35 (Verizon). Members of the public can also listen to the meeting via Zoom platform by dialing via phone+1 929 205 6099, Meeting ID: 838 7851 4568 Passcode: 178460.

Further details on this application is available at the Clerk's office, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY during normal office hours Monday through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Written comments may be sent to the Village Clerk at [arocco@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:arocco@ardsleyvillage.com) or sent via regular mail to 507 Ashford Ave, Ardsley, NY 10502. All comments will be shared with the Board of Trustees and questions will be answered as quickly as possible.

All residents and taxpayers are invited to attend.

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

Ann Marie Rocco  
Village Clerk  
Dated: March 24, 2023

Architect, Mr. Philip Fruchter, AIA presented the alterations of the two stores. One store will be the deli/store area and the smaller store will be a dry food market. The cash register will be on one side of the store. There will be approximately six employees working and the hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday 11am-9pm and Friday through Sunday 11am-10pm. The basements will be utilized as storage.

Moved by Trustee Bencosme, Seconded by Trustee Edelstein and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing be closed in the matter of the proposed application to convert two vacant stores into a Deli located at 472 Ashford Avenue at 8:41 p.m.**

Carried by the following votes: 4-0-1

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: Trustee Weitz

**3. PUBLIC HEARING To Set Sewer Rents in the Village Pursuant to Section 165 of the Village Code**

- 3.1 Mayor Kaboolian opened the Public Hearing at 8:01 p.m. in the matter of setting sewer rents in the Village pursuant to section 165 of the Village Code and read the Public Notice into the record:

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley will hold a public hearing Monday, April 3, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. or soon thereafter at Village Hall-Court Room, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY to discuss adoption of a resolution setting sewer rents in the Village pursuant to Chapter 165 of the Village Code in the amount not to exceed \$2.124/CCF for the year 2023-2024.

Please check the calendar on the Village website for meeting details at [www.ardsleyvillage.com](http://www.ardsleyvillage.com) or email the Village Clerk at [arocco@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:arocco@ardsleyvillage.com).

All residents and taxpayers are invited to attend and be heard. The meeting will be able to be seen live on Channel 75 (Cablevision) or Channel 32/35 (Verizon). Members of the public can also listen to the meeting via Zoom platform by dialing via phone+1 929 205 6099, Meeting ID: 838 7851 4568 Passcode: 178460.

Further details on sewer rents are available at the Clerk's office, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY during normal office hours Monday through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Written comments may be sent to the Village Clerk at [arocco@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:arocco@ardsleyvillage.com) and the Village Manager at [jcerretani@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:jcerretani@ardsleyvillage.com), or sent via regular mail to 507 Ashford Ave, Ardsley, NY 10502. All comments will be shared with the Board of Trustees and questions will be answered as quickly as possible.

All residents and taxpayers are invited to attend.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE**

**VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY, NEW YORK**  
**Ann Marie Rocco**  
**Village Clerk**  
**Dated: March 24, 2023**

Mayor Kaboolian explained that the sewer rent rate will remain the same for 2023/2024.

Moved by Trustee Edelstein, Seconded by Trustee Bencosme and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing be closed in the matter of setting sewer rents in the Village pursuant to section 165 of the Village Code at 8:43 p.m.**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustees Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

**4. PUBLIC HEARING** In the Matter of the Tentative Budget for the Village of Ardsley for the Fiscal Year Beginning June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024

4. Mayor Kaboolian opened the Public Hearing at 8:01 p.m. in the matter of the
- 1 Tentative Budget for the Village of Ardsley for Fiscal Year Beginning June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024:

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that a Public Hearing will be held before the Village of Ardsley Board of Trustees in person at Village Hall-Court Room Facility, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, New York on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. or soon thereafter for the purpose of considering the Tentative Budget for the Village of Ardsley, New York for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024.

The Tentative Budget is posted on the Village's website at [www.ardsleyvillage.com](http://www.ardsleyvillage.com) and is available for review at the Office of the Village Clerk, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY during regular office hours Monday through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Please check the calendar on the Village website for meeting details at [www.ardsleyvillage.com](http://www.ardsleyvillage.com) or email the Village Clerk at [arocco@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:arocco@ardsleyvillage.com). All residents and taxpayers are invited to attend and be heard. The meeting will be able to be seen live on Channel 75 (Cablevision) or Channel 32/35 (Verizon). Members of the public can also listen to the meeting via Zoom platform by

dialing via phone+1 929 205 6099, Meeting ID: 838 7851 4568 Passcode: 178460.

By order of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley, New York.

Ann Marie Rocco

Village Clerk

Dated: March 24, 2023

Village of Ardsley				
2023 - 2024 Tentative Budget Multi-Fund Summary				
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE FOLLOWING SUM COMPRISING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE YEAR 2023 - 2024 IS HEREBY APPROVED TO MEET THE VILLAGE'S TENTATIVE BUDGETARY NEEDS FOR THE YEAR 2023 - 2024				
Date:	March 17, 2023			
		General Fund	Sewer Fund	Library Fund
Appropriations		\$17,526,157	\$391,735	\$671,967
				Total
less:				
Total Revenue		\$3,708,655	\$391,735	\$671,967
				\$4,772,357
Balance of Appropriations for Tax Levy		\$13,817,502	\$0	\$0
				\$13,817,502
less:				
Tax Levy		\$13,817,502		
Add: Estimated Uncollectible Tax Levy		\$0		
Deduct: Estimated Collectible Delinquent Taxes		\$0		
Deduct: Appropriation from Debt Reserve		\$0		
Deduct: Appropriation from Fund Balance		\$0		
Adjusted Tax Levy		\$13,817,502		
	Allowable levy at tax cap	\$12,556,630		
	Excess Levy Per Tax Cap	\$1,260,872		
	2023-24 Tax Rate		10.76	
Assessed Values				
3/1/2023		\$1,280,588,283		

Mayor Kaboolian received the following email regarding the budget:

1. Postage and telephone costs seem high. What can be done to reduce postage as the rate continues to escalate?
2. All discretionary longevity pay should be discontinued given the large tax increase proposed here. This is a relic from another era.- **Mayor Kaboolian explained that when we negotiate for a collective bargaining agreement longevity is discussed and we try to keep them to a minimum. There is very limited flexibility with longevity payment.**
3. To the extent the Village incurs any charges for SWAT, that should be eliminated.- **Village Manager, Cerretani explained that currently do not have any trained SWAT officers due to retirement.**
4. What is the justification for the Library increases? This needs a better explanation.
5. Addyman Square rehab - is this being done solely by a grant? What is planned?

Unless I missed it, what percentage of Village property is tax exempt? Are all tax exempt properties being analyzed for this classification? We know in the past the Town Assessor has failed in this regard.-**Mayor Kaboolian added approximately 8% of the total assessed value is tax exempt.**

Otherwise, a nice job.  
Gary S. Rappaport  
Ardsley NY

Moved by Trustee DiJusto , Seconded by Trustee Weitz and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing be continued in the matter of the Tentative Budget for the Village of Ardsley for the Fiscal Year Beginning June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023 to the next Board of Trustees meeting of April 17, 2023 at 8:53 p.m.**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

## **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

### **5.1 March 20, 2023 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Trustee DiJusto, Seconded by Trustee Weitz and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 20, 2023 as submitted.**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

## **6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **1. LEGAL**

1.a Village Attorney, Robert Ponzini was absent.

### **2. MANAGER**

2.a Village Manager, Joseph Cerretani read the following report:

**2023-2024 VILLAGE BUDGET:** Tonight there is a Public Hearing on the 2023-2024 Village Budget. We have had two public budget work sessions, one on Wednesday March 22 and one on Monday, March 27. I will be able to address any questions by the Board or members of the public this evening. I wish to extend thanks to all Department Heads and staff in their work during the budget preparation process, with Special Thanks to Leslie Tillotson and Charles Hessler for their efforts and assistance.

**NEW DPW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT:** Foundations and footings are 100% complete at this time. We anticipate by the end of the week, all buildings will be backfilled to subgrade, which will allow all trades to start the underground work inside the buildings. Water main into the building will be complete by the end of the week. As of now, we estimate delivery of the steel for the building structure by the end of the month. From there, the project will really start to take shape. We will have the Construction Manager for the project, Calgi Construction Management, present a formal update on the Project to the Village Board at the April 17 Board Meeting.

**OFFICE/DEPARTMENT CLOSURES:** All Village Offices, including the Justice Court, the Library, the Community Center, and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, April 7, 2023 in observance of Good Friday. The refuse and recycling collection will be as follows:

- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023-THERE WILL BE DOUBLE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES.
- THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023-THERE WILL BE REFUSE COLLECTION FOR THE ENTIRE VILLAGE.
- FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 NO REFUSE COLLECTION.

There is a new sanitation calendar available up on the Village website. Please visit [www.ardsleyvillage.com](http://www.ardsleyvillage.com) for more details.

**ICAP GRANT:** The Village has been awarded a grant under the Justice Court Assistance Program in the amount of \$14,918 for improvements to the Court Room. These improvements include new chairs, new carpeting, 2 new air purifiers and painting. Special thanks to Court Clerk Anissa Slade for her hard work in obtaining this grant.

**RESIGNATION OF CHARLES HESSLER:** I have had the privilege of having Charles Hessler as my assistant for the last year and half since I came on board with the Village. He has been an invaluable resource, not only to me, but to this community. He has submitted his letter of resignation and will be advancing his career in a neighboring community. I can't thank him enough for his hard work, dedication to the profession, and eagerness to provide assistance wherever its needed, without hesitation. I know he will continue to set an example in his career in municipal management and I sincerely wish him the best.

2.b Village Manager, Joseph Cerretani - 2023-2024 Budget Presentation:

- On the 2023-2024 Tentative Budget there is a recommendation for \$17,521,357.00 of which \$14,087,702 is proposed from the tax levy.
- The proposed rate is 10.76 per thousand which represents a 5.06% increase over last year.
- Estimated impact on the average tax bill for a home of \$800,000 in value is an increase of \$416.00. For a house assessed at \$1,000,000 the estimated increase is \$520.00.
- Over 60% of this increase is related to the additional bond issuance to finish the Highway Garage and increase in healthcare cost.
- We have had approximately 25% of our work force retire and the Village of obligated to make those payments.
- Without the specific line items mention with the debt service and increased to health insurance, the proposed budget would have been come in \$52,000 under the tax cap.

### 3. ABSTRACT REPORT

3.a April 3, 2023 Abstract Report

Village Treasurer, Leslie Tillotson read the April 3, 2023 Abstract Report as follows:  
From the General Fund: \$113,517.50 from the Trust & Agency Fund:\$4,167.79 and from the Capital Fund: \$22,232.16 Sewer Fund: \$4,320.00.

Moved by Trustee Weitz, Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Treasurer to make the following payments: From the General Fund: \$113,517.50 from the Trust & Agency Fund: \$4,167.79 from the Capital Fund: \$22,232.16 and Sewer Fund:\$4,320.00**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

### 4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.a Mayor Kaboolian announced the following:

- Recognized the school district for adding the new holidays to the school calendar: Diwali, Lunar New Year & Ed Al Fitr.
- Attended the Pioneer games at the High School.



- Easter Egg hunt was successful and thanked the Recreation & Police Department for putting this event together.
- Met with DOT representative this week along with the Village Manager regarding the 9A intersection.
- Rivertown Chamber is hosting a Ardsley Day on October 1st. More details to follow on this event.

Mayor Kaboolian read the following statement:

Please join me in wishing Charles Hessler much success in his next endeavor. Charles has served as the Confidential Secretary to the Village Manager for the past 3 years. He has helped shepherd the Village through the Comprehensive Plan, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Sewer Fee and Mapping Project, the start of the Branding and Marketing Project and the new Highway Garage. He has recently been involved in drafting and submitting grant requests. He has been instrumental in helping organize the many events hosted by the Village including, the Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee events, the 125th Anniversary celebration and the Welcome Back Ardsley Event.

Charles approached everything he did with a collaborative positive attitude. He was always prepared to offer thoughtful informative suggestions and advice. He always had the best interests of the Village in mind. His work ethic and professionalism has been a motivation for all of us. His guidance, good humor, knowledge, and dedication will be sincerely missed.

On behalf of myself, the Board of Trustees, and the Village of Ardsley we thank you for all that you have done for us, and we wish you good health and happiness in your next position.

## **5. COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS**

5.a Trustee DiJusto announced the following:

- Met with our Highway Foreman David DiGregorio regarding the electrical work at the new Highway Garage.
- Attended the Easter Egg Hunt that was very well attended. It was a fun event!

Trustee Weitz announced the following:

- Thanked Charles for all his hard work and wished him all the best.
- Thanked Village Manager, Cerretani and Treasurer Leslie Tillotson for all their work on the budget.

Trustee Bencosme announced the following:

- I had the opportunity to attend a Climate Action Conference, organized by Sustainable Hudson Valley, last Friday at SUNY Orange in Newburgh with Eda Kapsis, who is the Vice Chair of Ardsley's Climate Advisory Committee. It was sobering to be there and continue to learn that we are a third of the way through this decisive decade where we must cut emissions and drawdown the large amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere but are far off from taking the necessary actions to mitigate the extreme tipping points we have set the Earth's systems on. Nevertheless, in spite of the collective weight we all felt, it was uplifting to be among folks who are committed to transformation & regeneration while prioritizing equity.
- I am proud to live in New York which in 2019 passed the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (also referred to as the CLCPA), which at the time was one of the most ambitious climate legislations in the country. Bills have been introduced in both the Senate and the House, that will dilute emissions reporting and undermine the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. If you care about climate please pay attention to what's going on, communicate with your house leaders and representatives.
- I do want to note here though that the CLCPA dictates action at the state level and primarily provides recommendations for municipalities, due to home rule. That being said, there are bills such as the All-Electric Buildings Act that is making its way through the state legislature that will ban gas hook-ups in new construction in NY starting in 2024 for buildings under seven stories and by 2027 for larger projects (this has already been adopted in NYC). I recognize that the cost of living has gone up across the board but I encourage both our community and our local government to consider that climate actions & policy can make economic sense when we consider the impacts to public health, biodiversity and future generations, among many other things.
- The Climate Advisory Committee will be postponing this month's meeting as they consider some of the takeaways from this conference and will provide an update on when they will next meet which will be sometime in early June. Please stay tuned for the details.
- There is a GridRewards challenge happening right now. Download the free GridRewards app that is an energy-demand response system that the utility will use to notify you during extreme heat events to power down. In exchange for powering down when prompted, you can earn cash rewards. Deadline to sign-up for this summer is April 28th.

Trustee Edelstein announced the following:

- Multicultural, Diversity & Inclusion Committee will be hosting the Holi event on Sunday, April 23rd from 1pm-4pm at Pascone Park.
- We have set up a virtual comment box regarding the Parks Master Plan on our website: [www.ardsleyvillage.com](http://www.ardsleyvillage.com). The Parks Plan will be completed by May.
- Thanked Charles for all his work he has done for the Village and wished him the best.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 7.1 Consider a Resolution Granting Permission to Convert the Two Vacant Stores Located at 472 Ashford Avenue into a Deli

Moved by Trustee Bencosme, Seconded by Trustee Edelstein and passed unanimously.

### **RESOLVED,**

**that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the proposed change of use to convert the two vacant stores at 472 Ashford Avenue into a deli as presented by the applicant subject to the following conditions.**

**Any approvals should contain the following provisions:**

- 1. The applicant must provide plans for the remainder of the build-out showing full compliance with the NYS Building Code.**
- 2. The applicant must obtain the required permits prior to commencing construction for the build-out.**
- 3. The applicant must obtain a sign permit and BAR approval for all proposed signage.**
- 4. The hours of operation and number of employees are identified/confirmed as follows:**
  - There will be approximately six (6) employees.**
  - Monday through Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**
  - Friday, Saturday & Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**
- 5. The business owner or property owner must install a key box (Knox Box) on the building in a location approved by the Ardsley Fire Chief, and the business owner must provide keys to be placed in the key box.**
- 6. Employees shall be required to obtain parking permits.**

Carried by the following votes: 4-0-1

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: Trustee Weitz

- 7.2 Consider a Resolution Establishing Sewer Rent Rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Moved by Trustee Edelstein, Seconded by Trustee Bencosme and passed unanimously.

**WHEREAS, the Village Manager has provided the proposed sewer rent rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to the Board of Trustees, that being \$2.124/CCF of water consumption; and**

**WHEREAS, as required by law, the Board has conducted a public hearing on April 3, 2023 wherein all interested parties were given an opportunity to be heard; and**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley hereby establishes the sewer rent rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 at \$2.124/CCF of water consumption.**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 8.1 Consider a Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Sign Special Counsel Retainer Agreement for Verizon Cable Franchise Renewal Negotiation

Moved by Trustee DiJusto, Seconded by Trustee Weitz and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Manager to execute the proposed retainer agreement for special counsel services for a Cable Television Franchise Renewal Negotiation with McCarthy Fingar, LLP located at 711 Westchester Avenue, Suite 405, White Plains, NY 10604**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

- 8.2 Consider a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and/or Village Manager to Sign Teamsters Local 456 I.B.T Collective Bargaining Agreement

Moved by Trustee Weitz, Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.

**WHEREAS, the Village of Ardsley ("Village") and Local 456, International Brotherhood of Teamsters ("Teamsters") engaged in good-faith negotiations to arrive at a successor contract to their collective bargaining agreement that expired on May 31, 2022; and**

**WHEREAS, the Village and Teamsters arrived at an agreement for a successor contract in the form of the attached March, 2023 Stipulation of Agreement, executed by the Village Manager on March 22, 2023 ("Agreement"); and**

**WHEREAS, the Village has been notified by the Teamsters' representative that the Agreement was successfully ratified by the Teamsters' membership,**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees hereby approves and ratifies the attached Agreement executed by the Village Manager on March 22, 2023, including all terms set forth herein.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a new collective bargaining agreement consistent with the terms of the prior collective bargaining agreement and Agreement when such document has been prepared and finalized.**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

8.3 Consider a Resolution in Opposition to the Discharge of Contaminated Water into the Hudson River

Moved by Trustee Bencosme, Seconded by Trustee Edelstein and passed unanimously AS AMENDED

**WHEREAS, Holtec International, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant has announced its intention to release water from onsite radioactive fuel waste pools into the Hudson River;  
and**

**WHEREAS, to date there has been no specific reporting of the radionuclide contents of this water which is heavily contaminated from the storage of the nuclear fuel waste; and**

**WHEREAS, pre-release filtration to remove these isotopes has been presented as a solution to reduce the content of these carcinogenic contaminants to a level "as low as reasonably achievable;" and**

**WHEREAS, the National Academy of Science has indicated that there is no verifiable safe level of these isotopes when they are ingested or inhaled; and**

**WHEREAS, such pre-release treatment would not remove tritium, also carcinogenic, from the water; and**

**WHEREAS, any contaminants in the Hudson River present the risk of entering the food chain; and**

**WHEREAS, the Hudson River is an estuary that flows from south to north as well as from north to south and seven communities upriver source drinking water from the Hudson River Estuary and its tributaries (namely members of the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council representing the City of Poughkeepsie, Village of Rhinebeck and the Towns of Esopus, Hyde Park, Lloyd, Poughkeepsie and Rhinebeck); and**

**WHEREAS, the river also serves as a source of recreational activities and represents an economic resource that will be endangered by this action; and**

**WHEREAS, tritium has a half-life of only 12.3 years, and therefore the contaminated water can be reasonably stored in enclosed tanks on site without interfering with the decommissioning of the waste pools, affording time to study alternative waste solutions or uses for the tritium; and**

**WHEREAS, New York State Senator Peter Harckham and New York State Assemblymember Dana Levenberg have introduced legislation (Senate Bill S.5181 and Assembly Bill A.5338, respectively) which would ban release of radioactive waste into the Waters of the State, including the Hudson River, by Holtec International or any other successor to the decommissioning from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Ardsley opposes the plan to release over a million gallons of contaminated water from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant site into the Hudson River, and be it further,**

**RESOLVED, that the Village Ardsley hereby urges the New York State Senate and Assembly to adopt the aforementioned bills S.5181 and A.5338, and urges the Governor to sign such legislation, and be it further,**

**RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to send copies of this resolution to the following individuals/agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, NYS Dept. of Health, NYS Decommissioning Oversight Board, NYS Public Service Commission, Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, State Senator Peter Harckham, State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, State Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, State Assemblymember Mary Jane Shimsky, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, Congressman Jamaal Bowman, and the Westchester County Board of Legislators.**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

#### 8.4 Consider a Resolution to Amend Non-Union Personnel Policy

Moved by Trustee Edelstein, Seconded by Trustee Bencosme and passed unanimously.

**WHEREAS, Village policies have not recently been updated; and**

**WHEREAS, updated policies are critical to effective Village operations; and**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby replaces the Non-Union Personnel Policy effective immediately.**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

9.1 Mayor Kaboolian received the following email on March 21, 2023:

Dear Ardsley Leaders,

I am a 25+ years resident of Ardsley and serve as a District Leader on the Ardsley Democratic Committee (ADC).

As a member of the ADC, I serve on the sub-committee in charge of creating our by-laws - something the committee has lacked for many years, but is greatly in need of, in order to maintain integrity within the committee, attract new members and create stability.

In creating our by-laws, we are trying to determine how best to handle conflicts of interest and just who can serve as a district leader. District Leaders are truly the foot soldiers of our democracy. We put in the often tedious work of endorsing local candidates and then getting petitions signed to ensure our candidate's place on the ballot. This work can be undermined when conflicts of interest exist, and when the Ardsley District Leaders give the appearance of a closed club, in a backroom (cigars optional) electing themselves to public office.

As a District Leader and member of ADC, I want us to appear - and act - at all times above reproach and we can't always count on voluntary recusal on some votes and endorsements to cover these grey areas. We continue to grapple with issues such as *should elected officials serve as District Leaders?* We know that in some other districts, they do but in others, they don't. *Should elected officials be able to hold office, Chair, VP, etc in the ADC* - if they do - would that be an undue influence? *Should anyone who receives money from The Village of Ardsley as*

*payment for work, be permitted to serve on ADC?* Does that represent a conflict of interest?

In many of our neighboring towns and villages, these questions can be easily resolved by looking towards the town's Code of Ethics. As Ardsley does not have such a code - we are left without sufficient guidance to conduct political business in a way that is clear, ethical, and can stand up to any form of scrutiny. Again, our goal is to grow the ADC and create more involvement for non- District Leaders. Without guidance and assurance that we are operating under an overriding Code of Ethics, it makes it difficult to be open, transparent, and free of conflicts.

I strongly urge the Board to adopt a Code of Ethics.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rochelle Stolzenberg  
Ardsley, NY 10502

Mayor Kaboolian explained that there will be further discussion on this topic moving forward.

## **10. VISITORS**

## **11. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION-NONE**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

### **12.1 Adjournment**

Moved by Trustee Weitz, Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley Hereby adjourns the regular meeting of Monday, April 3, 2023 at 8:54 p.m.**

Carried by the following votes: 5-0-0

Ayes: Mayor Kaboolian, Trustee DiJusto, Trustee Weitz, Trustee Bencosme & Trustee Edelstein

Nays: None

Abstained: None

## **13. UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- 4/4/23 Board of Architectural Review Meeting 8:00 pm
- 4/5/23 Senior Citizen Pizza Bingo 12:00 pm
- 4/6/23 Climate Action Committee Meeting 7:00 pm



- 4/6/23 Senior Citizen Strength Training 10:00 am
- 4/7/23 ALL VILLAGE OFFICE CLOSED-GOOD FRIDAY
- 4/10/23 Multicultural, Diversity, & Inclusion Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
- 4/10/23 Planning Board Meeting 8:00 pm
- 4/11/23 Recreation Commission Meeting 5:30 pm
- 4/12/23 Senior Citizen Painting Class 12:00 pm
- 4/12/23 Homework Helpers 3:00 pm
- 4/13/23 Senior Citizen Strength Training 10:00 am
- 4/14/23 Middle School Hangout 3:00 pm
- 4/15/23 Ardsley Little League Opening Day!
- 4/23/23 \*Save the Date\* 2023 HOLI EVENT 1:00 pm
- 4/26/23 Senior Citizen Flower Making 12:00 pm
- 4/26/23 Zoning Board Meeting 8:00 pm
- 4/27/23 Library Board Meeting 7:30 pm
- 4/27/23 Senior Strength Training 10:00 am
- 4/29/23 Midcentury Melodies -Ardsley Library 6:00 pm

#### **14. NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

- 4/12/23 Board of Trustees Work Session 7:30 pm
- 4/17/23 Board of Trustees Legislative Meeting 8:00 pm

#### **15. CORRESPONDENCE**

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Village Clerk, Ann Marie Rocco

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Date: