

Mayor Porcino opened the April 2, 2012 Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Present:	Mayor	Peter Porcino
	Deputy Mayor/Trustee	Gary Malone
	Trustee	Larry J. Nardecchia
	Trustee	Nicole Minore
	Trustee	Beverly A. Levine
	Village Manager	George Calvi
	Village Attorney	Robert J. Ponzini
	Village Clerk	Barbara Berardi
	Recording Secretary	Lorraine McSpedon

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**8:00 P.M. – SWEARING IN TWO VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS – KEVIN AMATO AND ROBERTO AYALA**

Mayor Porcino swore in the above fire fighters.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Tr. Malone: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the minutes of the regular meeting of March 19, 2012 as submitted. **Seconded by Tr. Levine and passed unanimously.**

**III. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**LEGAL REPORT:** Attorney Ponzini had nothing to report.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Mr. Calvi read the Treasurer’s Report on behalf of Marion DeMaio.

The bills for the past two weeks are as follows:

From the General Fund: \$37,957.42; from the Trust & Agency Fund: \$2,977.05 and from the Capital Fund: \$0.

**Tr. Nardecchia: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Treasurer to pay the following:

From the General Fund: \$37,957.42; from the Trust & Agency Fund: \$2,977.05. **Seconded by Tr. Levine and passed unanimously.**

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Calvi reported the following:

**VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT  
FOR MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012  
PREPARED BY GEORGE F. CALVI**

**PARADE:** Ardsley Little League will hold its annual opening day parade on Saturday, April 21 at 1:00 pm. The parade will kick off from the Concord Elementary School, proceed eastward up the hill and down Heatherdell Road to McDowell Park where ceremonies will be held. Letters of invitation to all dignitaries should be in the mail some time this week.

**GOOD FRIDAY & PASSOVER:** Residents are reminded that Good Friday is this week so there will be no trash collection. All sectors of the Village will have their trash picked up on Thursday. Thus, please be diligent and get your trash out Wednesday evening before you retire, otherwise you may be staring at your trash cans until Monday! By the way Good Friday and the first evening of Passover fall on the same day this year so on behalf of all the staff I like to wish you all a very Happy Passover and a very Happy Easter weekend!

**PRIMARY:** The New York presidential primary has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 24. Polls will be open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm at the Ardsley Community Center and St. Barnabas Episcopal Church from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm. For information please telephone the Greenburgh Town Clerk's office at 993-1501.

**GOLD STAR AWARD:** On Saturday, I attended the annual Gold Star Award ceremony at the County Center in White Plains. The Gold Star Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can receive. I'm proud to say, my daughter, Erica, was one of the recipients along with 128 other young ladies from several counties in the lower Hudson Valley. However, I was also pleased to witness the Gold Star Award being awarded to five young ladies from Ardsley. They include: Rachel Greenwald, Rachel Flamm, Katelyn Woehrle, and Diana Voght, all of Troop 2798. Their troop leader is Alison Bergman who was also my daughter's sponsor. The fifth young lady was Allison Wainer who although I couldn't learn of her Troop number, I did learn she played in the band in the recent high school production of Little Shop of Horrors. It was a very well orchestrated event that coincidentally corresponded with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Scouting and where I learned a lot of interesting things including that keynote speaker State Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins was once a Brownie! Congratulations to all our local Girl Scouts!

**PERSONNEL:** The Village Clerk will be placing the last three aforementioned items on the community calendar in the village's website, [www.ardsleyvillage.com](http://www.ardsleyvillage.com), if she hasn't done so already.

In accordance with the civil service rules and regulations of the Westchester County Department of Human resources, the Village Manager, at the recommendation of our Skate Park Leader, hereby makes the following re-appointments:

Joe Zacchio, 529 Almena Avenue, Ardsley, New York 10502

Eric Diamond, 616 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, New York 10502

Shayne Oglesby, 63 Secor Road, Ardsley, New York 10502

Harley deLange, 15 Orlando Avenue, Ardsley, New York 10502

Remy Stern, 100 Woodlands Avenue, White Plains, New York 10607

Cody Stern, 100 Woodlands Avenue, White Plains, New York 10607

Ben Lau, 45 Briary Road, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

Andrew Versace, 25 Lewis Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

Gabriel Natale, 87 Bellewood Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

Josh Eng Morris, 35 Boulder Ridge Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583

George Constantonides, 338 Sprain Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583

Eli Chesey, 45 Clements Place, Hartsdale, New York 10530

All of these seasonal workers have worked for the Village before. Their term is March 17, 2012 to December 1, 2012, and their salary is \$7.25 per hour (minimum wage). Having worked for us in previous season all have complete paperwork on file in the Office of the Village Treasurer.

**ANNUAL BUDGET MESSAGE:**

**PROPOSED BUDGET AT A GLANCE:**

Appropriations (Spending): \$10, 256, 760 up \$385,172 or up 3.9%

Est. Revenues: \$2,115,482 up \$1,265 or less than 1%

Appropriated Surplus –0–

Tax Levy: \$8,412,278 up \$383,907 or up 4.9%

Tax Base or Assessment Roll: \$30,925,284 down \$242,803 or less than 1%

Proposed Tax Rate: \$263.17 / \$1000 or 5.77% Increase

The estimated unreserved surplus as of 5/31/11 for the General Fund is \$885,749. The estimated reserved surplus as of 5/31/11 is \$336,698. The fiscal year 2012-13 Tentative Budget proposes to compensate the governing board of the Village of Ardsley as follows: Mayor \$4,800.00 and Members of the Board of Trustees \$2,400.00 each. The preceding information is required by NYS law. This data must be a component not only of the Village Manager's budget message but the notice of public hearing on the budget in the media.

The Village of Ardsley's property tax rate would rise 5.77% under the proposed budget released last Tuesday, March 20 in comparison with the 4.38% adopted last year, the 3.76% increase adopted in 2010-2011, the 1.74% increase adopted for fiscal year 2009-2010, the 2.74% increase adopted for fiscal year 2008-2009, and the 3.06% increase adopted in 2007-2008. The upward tic in the tax increase for this and last year has been in part due to the ever shrinking assessment roll which has been buffeted by increasingly successful residential property tax grievances, [178 in this past year alone], commercial certioraris [4], and overly generous assessed value reductions bestowed upon utility companies by the State's Public Service Commission. This is the fifth straight year the Village is experiencing a drop in its assessment roll after many years of growth. Unless this hemorrhaging is stemmed, this community and others like it will be in very serious trouble in the years to come. At this juncture, it should be noted that as of October 2011, the Village of Ardsley is no longer in the assessment business. The Village gave up its status as an assessment unit, and transferred all responsibilities for grievances, SCARS, and exemptions to the Town of Greenburgh Assessor's office. Consequently, the position of Village Assessor no longer exists and the related appropriations are no longer part of this budget.

This year's proposed budget is basically a maintenance budget. The proposed budget ensures that most services are maintained. However, no new services are being created and no services are being enhanced. No large capital projects are proposed.

When our financial fortune improves consideration needs to be given for the acquisition or replacement of the following items:

- a) purchase of a new \$16,000 John Deere tractor;
- b) purchase of 2 new two ton pickup trucks for \$66,000;
- c) purchase of 2 new dump trucks for \$130,000;
- d) replacement of the King Street bridge estimated at \$200,000;
- e) construction of a Pascone Park drainage system estimated at \$62, 0000;
- f) purchase of a \$8000 asphalt curb machine;
- g) purchase of a \$4000 tire changing machine;
- h) purchase of new storage trailer at \$8,000;
- i) purchase of a wood chipper at \$30,000;

All of the above items were requested by our DPW Foreman at a capital projects work session on January 30. None are contained in the proposed budget. Moreover, the above list does not include the long awaited Damascus drainage project at an estimated cost of \$195,000, provided by our consulting engineer in January 2012, and a much smaller drainage project on the south side of Ashford Avenue across from Fairmont Street – cost not estimated yet.

At the same capital projects work session, our Parks Supervisor suggested the reconstruction of the Pascone Park tennis courts which have been in need of serious rehabilitation for a very long time to the tune of \$200,000. She has also suggested a new \$15,000 chain link fence around the Pascone Park soccer field, funds for the Pascone Park restrooms at the snack bar; and upgrades for the aging Community Center.

Of course, if anticipated revenues exceed projections during the course of the fiscal year, if grants become available, if monies come from a generous donor, or if the Board is comfortable in adding more debt to the debt service schedule some of the above mentioned acquisitions or projects could be green-lighted. In fact, owing to a generous donor, renovations will be completed some time this summer to upgrade a number of features to the Community Center.

Many of the department operating budgets are at last year's spending levels or less. Specifically, spending for the Board of Trustees, the Mayor, the Village Manager, the Auditors, the Treasurer, Law, Building, Central Garage, Building & Plumbing Inspection, Registrar of Vital Statistics, Street Maintenance, Snow Removal, Street Lighting, Senior Programs, Parks, Community Center, Village Historian, Celebrations, CATV Committee, Zoning, Environmental Control, Sanitary Sewers, Storm Sewers, Street Cleaning, Community Beautification, Shade Trees, and Debt Interest.

It is important to note that the Refuse and Garbage department's appropriations are slightly higher this year. You may recall that last year I chose to leave vacant and defer for one year the hiring of a Laborer I along with the ancillary benefits. This past year an hourly employee, who originally started as a seasonal summer employee, has been filling this position. He has done a phenomenal job, and the Highway Foreman and I are proposing that he be made a full-time employee this year. The numbers in the budget proposal for that department reflect this desire, as do the numbers in the employee benefits section. His transition from hourly to full-time employee halves the seasonal part-time appropriations line.

The major items driving this year's tax rate increase are State Pension costs, Medical Insurance premiums, Workers Compensation, and Hydrant fees.

For the second year in a row AARP and other publications say that the New York State Retirement System has been the strongest and most well funded public pension system in the country throughout out the recession which commenced in 2008. Our own State Comptroller keeps touting that fact. Yet, the bill for the annual retirement costs for non-union and Teamster employees has been increased by \$51,991 or 17.5%. Projected Police retirement costs will also increase by \$133,764 or a whopping 27%. There is a major disconnect here. The establishment of a new Tier 5 last June, and the establishment of a new Tier 6 last month are steps in the right direction. However, tangible results of these actions will only materialize years from now despite what the spin doctors in Albany would have you believe. Their projections are based on the belief that as new employees leave they will be paying into the system at a higher rate. However, that thinking is severely flawed. Few can afford to retire, and few are actually hiring. Hence, no savings in the foreseeable future. Yes, there's always death, but with work forces in contraction mode, even those workers may not be replaced. The State Comptroller and the State Legislature need to go back to the drawing board, analyze what is wrong with the current system, make corrections that will have an impact in the near future even if that means making an amendment to the State Constitution, and stand up once and for all to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader by not exempting New York City workers from every effort to save money that is imposed on the rest of the state.

Salary increases for the DPW Teamster Union members are not included in the public works appropriations personnel lines. Their five year old contract expires on June 1, 2012, and negotiations will commence sometime in the next month or so. I wish I could report on a PBA settlement. The PBA, which represents the police rank and file from Patrolmen to Lieutenants, has been without a contract since May 31, 2010. Although a settlement is imminent, as of this writing, a memorandum of agreement has not been consummated. An extremely modest salary increase has been proposed for the remaining 11 full time non-union employees, and the several part-time employees but is subject to the discretion of the Village Board.

This year's spending plan has been developed along with a close eye on the health of the local economy. Signs of economic distress are evident everywhere though there are some reassuring bright spots. A new veterinary office, Jeza Animal Hospital has been approved for the Village Green next door to a relatively new Sushi restaurant. A restaurant, to be called Socratic Dialogue, has been approved for the former Captain Video store in the Astoria Federal Shopping Center. A state of the art Sports Center has been approved for Elm Street at the former Selecto site and is under construction. . . . I wish them all much success!

Encouraging progress of sorts has been made with the development of 22 affordable housing units on the site of the former Water Wheel restaurant. A proposal to construct 12 high end single family homes between Cross Road and Ashford Avenue is back on the boards after an extended dormancy. A proposal for 5 single family homes at the end of Fairmont Avenue South is wending its way through the approval process, and 5 units, two of which are affordable, have been approved on Route 9A just south of Colony Street. A recent arrival is a proposal to construct 2 or 3 single family homes on Heatherdell Road just east of the Stonegate condominiums. Building permit fee estimates have exceeded their annual expectations three quarters of the way into the fiscal year most promisingly due to the construction of a major new sports facility on Elm Street. Soberly, all of these reassurances could be blown out of the water should events in the Persian Gulf spin out of control, specifically Iran closing the Strait of Hormuz to western oil tankers, driving the cost of gasoline and diesel to new record heights, and making everything that is dependent on trucking deliveries prohibitively expensive.

I have opted not to appropriate any monies from the Fund Balance for the proposed budget. The Fund Balance, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, generally should only be used to address large unforeseen expenditures during the course of a fiscal year or to offset unrealized revenue estimates.

The proposed General Fund spending plan would add \$258.48 to the annual Village tax bill of the owner of a typical home assessed at \$18,000. The typical Village tax bill would be \$4,737.06. For a home assessed at \$21,000 the tax bill would increase by \$287.20 to \$5,263.40.

Statutorily, the public hearing on the 2012-13 Tentative Village Budget must be scheduled by April 15. The public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, April 16 during the regularly scheduled Village Board meeting when residents customarily attend. Also statutorily, the Board must adopt a budget in its final form on or before May 1. The Village Board is planning to vote on the 2012-13 Village Budget on Monday, April 30 during a special meeting. Public work sessions to review the budget were scheduled for 8:00 pm, Monday, March 26, Tuesday, April 3, Tuesday, April 10, Wednesday, April 18, and Tuesday, April 24, if this last date is necessary at all.

Tax bills should be in mailboxes by Thursday, May 31, 2012. The first installment will be payable without penalty until the end of the business day on Monday, July 2. The second installment will become payable on December 1, and due without penalty until the end of the business day on Monday, December 31, 2012.

Copies of the proposed budget are available in the Office of the Village Clerk for public inspection. A special thank you to those department heads who held the line in their operating budgets, cut spending, or deferred purchasing of large items to next year and beyond. A big thank you particularly to Village Treasurer Marion DeMaio who devoted countless hours in assisting the Village Manager in crafting this proposed budget, a big thank you to Dipika Patel in the Tax Office who generated numerous expenditure reports, and a big thank you to our Village Clerk Barbara Berardi who had the privilege of entering all the data into the Excel sheets many times over. Her patience, perseverance, and tolerance of the Village Manager's quirks and badgering during the budget process is most highly appreciated!

Respectfully,

George F. Calvi  
Village Manager

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1) Gave an overview of the budget.
- 2) Attended a meeting of the Ridge Hill Municipal Intersections Committee.
- 3) Attended the Greenburgh Women's History Month Award Presentation.
- 4) Attended the Village Officials Committee meeting.
- 5) The Parks and Recreation brochure has been mailed out.
- 6) Received a response from the County regarding the northbound ramp on the Saw Mill River Parkway.
- 7) Expressed his condolences regarding the death of Tyler **Rush**, son of an Elmsford Village Trustee.



**IV. COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:**

**Tr. Minore:**

- 1) Allison Masgroggiacomio will be attending next month's meeting to present the Annual Youth Council update.
- 2) Attended the SAYF Coalition meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 3) A Town Hall meeting is being planned regarding party hosting and laws for parents of teenagers.
- 4) New anti-drug posters are being created.
- 5) Received a second bid for the Ardsley website.
- 6) A date for Ardsley Day is now being finalized.

**Tr. Nardecchia:**

- 1) Attended the budget meeting last week.
- 2) The Recreation Committee had a meeting last week and another will be held tomorrow night.
- 3) Announced that all of the fields in Pascone Park are closed for play.
- 4) Reminded residents that permits must be obtained from the Recreation Department for the use of the fields.
- 5) The Seniors will be having a breakfast next week. An egg chef is needed.
- 6) The primary dates were announced. As of next year, Ardsley will be in Congressional District #16; incumbent is Eliot Engl.
- 7) Gave the statistics of the lack of rainfall for the first three months of the year and predicted a drought emergency if things don't change.

**Tr. Malone:**

- 1) Attended a meeting of the River Town Tourism Board.
- 2) Participated in an on-line presentation of the Reverse 911 program.

**Tr. Levine:**

- 1) The Historical Society's next meeting is Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. in the Library. The topic will be "The Water Wheel, Romance and Drama."
- 2) ASVAC numbers for February and March are as follows:

February:	Total:	40
	Day:	27
	Evening:	8
	Night:	4
	Mutual Aide:	3

March:	Total:	50
	Day:	34
	Evening:	11
	Night:	5
	Mutual Aide:	3

- 3) Attended the Women's History Month Awards meeting.

**V. VISITOR'S**

Chief Coulehan thanked the Village Board for the pleasure of working with them for the past two years as fire chief.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS****RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE VOTE ON THE  
FINAL 2012-2013 VILLAGE BUDGET**

**Trustee Malone:** Resolved, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby schedules a special meeting for the for the purpose of voting to adopt the Final 2012-2013 Village Budget for Monday, April 30, 2012 at 8:00 pm. **Seconded by Trustee Levine and passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION TO AWARD SALE OF A 1988 HAHN LTI FIRE TRUCK  
(\$47,900)**

**Trustee Minore:** Whereas on March 5, 2012 the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees authorized the Village Clerk to advertise a Notice to Bidders for the sale of a 1988 Hahn LTI fire truck; and

Whereas, in addition to placing a Notice to Bidders in the local newspapers, direct solicitations were made by Fire Department personnel to various fire districts,

Be it resolved, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby awards the sale of a 1988 Hahn LTI fire truck to the Croton Falls Fire District located in Croton Falls, New York for the sum of \$47,900. **Seconded by Trustee Levine and passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE  
APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED SITE PLAN FOR ELM STREET SPORTS  
GROUP LLC 1 ELM STREET, ARDSLEY, NEW YORK**

**Trustee Levine: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby schedules a public hearing on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 8:30 p.m. to amend the site plan for Elm Street Sports Group, LLC, 1 Elm Street, Ardsley, New York. **Seconded by Trustee Malone and passed unanimously.**

**VII: NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE COLONIAL COURT FOR  
HARMONIES FOR HUMANITY**

**Trustee Nardecchia: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the request to close Colonial Court (South) in the Village Green on Sunday, May 20, 2012 [with rain date June 3] from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm to enable the Ardsley High School chapter of Amnesty International to hold its annual Harmonies for Humanity event . **Seconded by Trustee Minore and passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY AND THE POLICE  
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2017**

**Trustee Minore: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Agreement, dated April 2, 2012, regarding a labor settlement for a contract between the Village of Ardsley and the Police Benevolent Association for the years June 1, 2010 and May 31, 2017. **Trustee Nardecchia and passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION RE ATTENDANCE OF MANAGER AT NYSCCMA  
CONFERENCE IN SYRACUSE**

**Trustee Malone: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Manager to attend the annual New York State City County Management Association Conference to be held in Syracuse, New York from May 20 through May 23, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$748.60. **Seconded by Trustee Levine and passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY 2012-2013 VILLAGE BUDGET TO ENGAGE  
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT SCANNING SERVICES FOR BUILDING  
DEPARTMENT RECORDS (\$14,940)**

**Trustee Levine: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Treasurer to modify the 2011-2012 Village Budget by transferring the amount of \$14,940 from Fund Balance to Building Inspection account code line item 3620.400 for electronic document scanning services provided by General Code of Rochester, New York to produce laser fiche and DVD imaging of all the building department records. **Seconded by Trustee Malone and passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING DONATIONS TO THE VILLAGE AND  
LITTLE LEAGUE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO MCDOWELL PARK**

**Trustee Nardecchia: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby graciously acknowledges and approves the Parks & Recreation Commission's recommendation to accept the generous donation and installation by Ardsley Little League of a small playground gym behind Field One in McDowell Park, valued between \$27,000 to \$28,000, to replace an older one removed several years ago;

**Be it further resolved,** that the Board graciously acknowledges the installation of new batting cages in McDowell Park next to Field 3, valued between \$35,000 and \$38,000, donated to the Little League by the William R. Bidel Broken Wings Foundation. **Seconded by Trustee Levine and passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR INSTALLATION  
OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM (SOLAR PANELS)  
AT THE ARDSLEY FIRE HOUSE**

**Trustee Minore:** Resolved that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Clerk to advertise a Notice to Bidders for the installation of a photovoltaic system (a.k.a. solar panels) at the Ardsley Fire House located at 505 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, New York.

**Be it further resolved,** that bid proposal forms are obtainable at the Office of the Village Clerk located at 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, New York for a non-refundable deposit of \$30.00. Sealed proposals will be received in the Office of the Village Clerk until 2:00 pm, April 23, 2012 when they will be opened and reviewed. **Seconded by Nardecchia and passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PLACING LITTLE LEAGUE  
SPONSORSHIP BANNERS/SIGNS AT BALL FIELDS**

**Trustee Malone: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the placement of Little League Sponsorship Banners/Signs, throughout the spring season, on the outfield fences at the McDowell Park ball fields. **Seconded by Trustee Minore and passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**

**Tr. Nardecchia: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby adjourns the regular meeting of Monday, April 2, 2012, at 9:10 p.m. **Seconded by Tr. Levine and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine McSpedon