

**VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016**

Present:	Mayor	Peter R. Porcino
	Deputy Mayor/Trustee	Nancy Kaboolian
	Trustee	Mollie Monti
	Trustee	Andy DiJusto
	Village Manager	Meredith A. Robson
	Village Clerk	Barbara A. Berardi
	Village Attorney	Robert J. Ponzini
	Recording Secretary	Donna Fusco
Absent:	Trustee	Gary Malone

Mayor Porcino called to order the Regular Meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**PRESENTATION BY JUDGE SCHWARTZ REGARDING RETIREMENT OF COURT CLERK**

Of Pat Basini Upon Her Retirement

The fine reputation the Ardsley Justice Court has developed and maintained in large part is due to the exemplary service and dedication that Patricia Basini has provided the Village of Ardsley over the past 40 years. Now Pat is about to retire from her position as Court Clerk, effective March 31st.

I am privileged to serve as Village Justice and to have worked with Pat for the last 34 years, and I was fortunate to have been a Village Trustee when a vacancy arose in the office of Court Clerk and she was appointed on April 5, 1976 to serve with my predecessor, Village Justice August G. Maron, Jr.

When one thinks of local courts, inevitably it is the judges who are thought of. However, all part-time village or town court justices in Westchester County serve full-time courts because even when the judge is not sitting, the court itself is open for business every weekday and some evenings as well, and it is the court clerk who is often the first to hear the questions and complaints of the public and counsel, mostly polite, but at times impatient, apprehensive and demanding.

The judge enters the building, dons the robes, walks into the courtroom, all rise at attention, and ascends the bench, surrounded by clerks and court officer, striving to dispense justice, with gavel aside. However, it is the court clerk, at her or his desk or sitting up at the bench, with much

more to do than processing paperwork, who is also charged with the administration of justice. And it is the perception that the people--whom both the judge and the court clerk serve--take away from their experience in the courthouse that is often as important to the American system of justice as the result of their particular cases.

The best of judges are made to look better by the best of court clerks. Whatever my own reputation, it has been enhanced by Pat Basini. I know that I have been the envy of many of my judicial colleagues in that regard. She and I have always worked well together because we respect each other's separate and distinct responsibilities, effort, judgment and commitment.

Over a span of forty years, there has never been less than a perfect audit, internal or outside, in Ardsley's court. Never any monies unaccounted for nor cases unduly delayed or papers lost. Pat has always been prepared, meticulous, well groomed, efficient, courteous, attentive, helpful and reluctant to share the spotlight. Even when her name was misspelled, as has happened many times, I never heard her complain.

She has served the Court, the public, the administration of justice and her own community, the Village of Ardsley, with great patience and perseverance during the tenure of no less than 9 village mayors, 4 village managers, countless police officers, assistant district attorneys and village prosecutors, and she has aided many acting village justices. Sadly, I have often felt that her efforts have gone unnoticed in some quarters and that she has not received the recognition, appreciation and rewards that she should have received from the Village. And now she is retiring.

As I was writing this, I was thinking of a present that would be meaningful to bestow upon Pat for my deep affection and for my gratitude for what she has meant to me both professionally as a judge and personally as a human being. My wife and I had already picked out a personal gift that we intend to give to her next week. Then suddenly, it occurred to me that I have something very appropriate to leave to her because it symbolizes the personification of fairness, integrity and justice which Patricia Basini has for 40 years brought to her position as Ardsley Village Court Clerk, and so I also intend to hand over to Pat upon her retirement, my ceremonial gavel.

Pat, just promise me that you won't use it on your husband, Tom. Otherwise, I'll be seeing you in court, again, all too soon. It's symbolic.

Godspeed.

Walter Schwartz

Ardsley Village Justice

March 21, 2016

**I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXIT SIGNS**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting – March 7, 2016

**Trustee DiJusto: RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Monday, March 7, 2016 as submitted.

**Seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously. Deputy Mayor/Trustee Kaboolian abstained due to her absence at the March 7, 2016 meeting.**

**III. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Fire Chief, Stephen Kaskawits, reported the following activities for February:

- 30 Calls for Month
- 122.42 Training Hours
- 30 Maintenance Hours
- 24.00 NYS Training Hours

Other activities attended by Fire Department –

- 2/6/16 – Firefighters attended annual seminar in Elmsford
- 2/8/16 – Apparatus committee inspected new engine in Long Island
- 2/11/16 – Firefighters completed annual medicals
- 2/24/16 – Chiefs Attended Monthly Battalion meeting in Elmsford

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Police Chief, Emil Califano, reported the following activities for February:

- Court fine and fees - \$18,874
- Property Lost or Stolen - \$0
- 114 Parking summonses issued
- 66 UTT summonses issued
- 3 Appearance ticket issued
- 11 Arrests
- 219 Blotters

Other activities attended by Officers –

Training

- 3 SWAT Officers 48 hours

- 13 Officers attended an 8 hour training block for Patrol response to Active Shooter

#### Community Policing

- Installed 5 car seats and issued 2
- Attended Safety Meeting for the school district
- Attended Westchester Safe Kids Meeting
- Attended Valentines Party for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders AMS
- Attended Youth Council Meeting
- Attended Ardsley SAYF Coalition Meeting
- Attended NYS Safe Kids Meeting
- Attended Mountain Bike Club Meeting
- Attended Westchester County YO Meeting
- Attended Drug Free Community Training / DC SAYF Coalition

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Trustee Kaboolian read the Building Inspector's report on behalf of Larry Tomasso for the following activities for February:

- 11 Building permits
- 6 Application fees
- 9 Certificates of Occupancy
- 2 Plumbing permits
- 3 Electrical permits
- 1 Letter of Compliance
- 1 Miscellaneous

Total received - \$7,320.50

#### Other activities –

- 56 Building inspections
- 15 Zoning inspections
- 0 Fire inspection
- 7 Violation notices
- 1 Warning notice
- 0 Appearance tickets

Larry Tomasso attended one day of required in-service training this month

#### **LEGAL REPORT:**

Village Attorney Ponzini stated other than the draft agreement that did not make it quite to the finish line, he has had other meetings with the Village Manager on certain other matters and any other reports that he had has been submitted in Memorandum Form and there is one item that he wants to report on that real estate issue that we had and he is available for Executive Session if necessary.

## MANAGER'S REPORT:

### VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT FOR MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016

1. **ASHFORD AVE BRIDGE:** Rather than continue to insert all of the alerts in this report at each meeting, I will just encourage everyone to sign up for our electronic alerts via our website and monitor all bridge news directly from the County at:  
[www.westchestergov.com/subscribe](http://www.westchestergov.com/subscribe)  
[www.westchestergov.com/ashfordavenuebridge](http://www.westchestergov.com/ashfordavenuebridge)
2. **9A Project Update:** We are working on recent issues related to DOT approval of the Suez water main across 9A and will provide updates as soon as we can. This project will be delayed until at least the second week of April.
3. **Sale of Fire Apparatus:** We reached an agreement to sell the 1992 Beck Pumper for \$25,500 to another community in Westchester County.
4. **Purchase of Fire Apparatus:** Our new fire truck has arrived! The fire department is busy switching over gear from the old one to the new one.
5. **2016/17 Budget:** The 2016-17 Tentative Budget is complete and available on our website or through the Village Clerk's Office.
6. **Apple Motel Motor Inn:** Just an FYI that the Apple Motel Motor Inn at 775 Saw Mill River Road has withdrawn their application for a proposed second story addition.
7. **Village Offices:** Village offices will be closed on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. All recyclables will be collected on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> and garbage collection will be done for the entire Village on Thursday.
8. **Appointments:** Last but not least, I am happy to report that both the Court Clerk position and the part time Assistant Court Clerk position have successfully been filled. Judge Schwartz and I enlisted the help of Pat Basini and we reviewed resumes, went through the interview process and came to a joint decision on our next Court Clerk! Anissa Slade will be joining us on March 28<sup>th</sup> and will work with Pat Basini for Pat's last week before beginning her much deserved retirement. Pat has been with the Village for nearly 40 years and has performed her duties with distinction. She will be greatly missed! We wish her well on the next chapter ... I am also pleased to report that Bijal Das joined us on March 14<sup>th</sup> as the Assistant Court Clerk in anticipation of Lois Duggan's retirement after 14 years. Lois has also been an integral part of the Court and she, too, will be sorely missed! We wish her the best! We welcome our newest staff members and also extend our best wishes to them as they begin their careers with the Village.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Village Manager, Robson read the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Marion DeMaio:

Ms. Robson stated the bills for the past two weeks totaled as follows: From the General Fund: \$129,994.25; from the Trust & Agency Fund: \$158.58 and from the Capital Fund: \$5,282.80.

**Trustee Monti: RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Treasurer to make the following payments: From the General Fund: \$129,994.25; from the Trust & Agency Fund: \$158.58 and from the Capital Fund: \$5,282.80. **Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.**

#### **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- People should have received their tax assessment letters by now and there are instructions with the letter to make an informal appointment with assessor's office; I did get an email from people that are complaining about scheduling those appointments; it is in Greenburgh; we have not control over that; let the Mayor or the Village Manager know if they are having any problems
- Sent an email about being careful on how we travel over our roads; a resident on Riverview sent a photo of a car tipped over that was hit by another car; please be vigilant; police were out giving out tickets for running stop signs

#### **COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:**

##### **TRUSTEE DIJUSTO:**

- Nothing to report

##### **TRUSTEE MONTI:**

- Nothing to report

##### **TRUSTEE KABOOLIAN:**

- Nothing to report

#### **IV. VISITORS**

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Consider a resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with the Village Ardsley and Ardsley Little Athletic Association.

**This resolution was tabled to the next meeting of April 4, 2016.**

Mayor Porcino stated that the two issues are the number of evenings and how late the games will be allowed to played

Ms. Robson stated that for the fall there will be no later games; in the spring there would be nine later games on Friday night and five later games that could be played on other days during the week. The summer latest games will run to 9:00 p.m. Out of all the game changes, there would be 14 in total

Juliet Collins, 3 Jordan Lane, Ardsley, NY appeared and stated that she read the draft and stated that she is concerned about the five weeknight games until 10:00 p.m. and asked if maybe they could be until 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Porcino stated that the other concern raised is whether other people could use the field and stated that only the Little League can use the field. This is an agreement between the Village and the Little League and it does not extend beyond that.

Ms. Collins is also concerned about how many lights will be installed, how they are going to face, the layout of the lighting situation and asked if the lights going to face Jordan Lane

Connie Gallo, 9 Jordan Lane, Ardsley, NY appeared and thanked everyone for their consideration regarding no Sunday games and stated that she was concerned about 10:00 p.m. during the week

Lucy Gratzon, President of the Little League and Steve Gratzon, Vice- President of the Little League appeared;

Mayor Porcino asked Ms. Gratzon if the schedule in the agreement was what she envisioned would be optimal for the Little League. Lucy stated that she and the Little League had no clue that there would be opposition to 10:00 p.m. games. Lucy stated that all the emails and lawyers surfaced and complaints and arguments began; Lucy stated a draft was presented and the Board was very disappointed because it is a big financial commitment for the Little League; Lucy stated that being limited to 14 games up to 10:00 p.m. is not appropriate. Lucy stated that having the lights would be a great plus so the games would not get timed out and stated they are counting games and it feels like being under a game restraint. Lucy further stated that the games listed for the fall is limited. The original want for the lights was to have room for extra games especially during the spring season

Mayor Porcino asked if anyone objects to the games ending at 8:00 p.m. and Ms. Collins objected to the fall season which goes up to November. Summer season is only until 9:00 p.m. and the maximum of 20 games up until 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Gratzon felt there were too many restrictions. She contemplates that summer games will go from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Trustee DiJusto stated that the Little League should be able to do 6-8 and 8-10 in the summer.

Mayor Porcino asked Ms. Gratzon how many games she would need to go until 10:00 in the summer and Ms. Gratzon replied 20 games.

Mr. Gratzon stated that the Friday nights will be 10 this season but might wind up with 11 Fridays.

Mayor Porcino stated the he threw out an idea to the Village Manager that we are writing a contract for 15 years and putting lots of things that may not work for everybody and he would like to put down some numbers and give some flexibility but we are going to give everyone a chance to come in here around this time next year and stated that it will make sense to do this for a couple of years because maybe this year has beautiful weather and the next year it will not be nice weather. We have a two year experiment to find out if it is working; we are giving the Little League some leeway but stated that he wants to see how this works out.

Connie Gallo asked about practices and Lucy Gratzon said that no practices will be held with the lights.

Sue Woodrow, 505 Heatherdell Road, Ardsley, NY stated that she has a problem with giving carte blanche till 10:00 at night to the Little League. She wants the children to play but states that 10:00 is late.

Mayor Porcino wrote a compromise proposal which he thinks is rational and reasonable and stated that they will fine tune the schedule and the dates that are being approved and then they will put in language that is subject to review and public comment in 12 months and in 24 months and proceed on that basis. Mayor asked Village Manager, Robson to work with Lucy Gratzon on the schedule.

Village Attorney, Ponzini said to Ms. Collins to check with the Village Manager as to when this matter will be on the agenda.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider a resolution to temporarily close Colonial Court for Harmonies for Humanity

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

**Trustee DiJusto: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the request to close Colonial Court (South) in the Village Green on Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to enable the Ardsley High School chapter of Amnesty

International to hold its annual Harmonies for Humanity event. **Seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously.**

2. Consider a resolution for Home Rule request concerning a local hotel/motel occupancy tax – Senate Bill No. S6872

**RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER  
HOME RULE REQUEST CONCERNING A LOCAL HOTEL/MOTEL OCCUPANCY  
TAX  
SENATE BILL NO. S6872**

**Trustee Monti: RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves a Home Rule Request for Senate Bill no. S6872 entitled “AN ACT to amend the tax law, in relation to authorizing the town of Greenburgh to adopt a local law to impose a hotel/motel occupancy tax for hotels not located in a village; authorizing specified villages in the towns of Greenburgh and Mount Pleasant to adopt a local law to impose a hotel/motel occupancy tax in such villages; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.”

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Clerk to certify a Home Rule Request form and forward the required copies to the New York State Assembly. **Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.**

3. Consider a resolution to amend Section 210-N Fees Miscellaneous of the Ardsley Village Code amending fees for the rental of the Community Center

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 210-N FEES: MISCELLANEOUS OF THE  
ARDSLEY VILLAGE CODE AMENDING FEES FOR THE RENTAL OF THE  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Trustee Kaboolian: RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby amends Section 210-N Fees: Miscellaneous of the Ardsley Village Code to consider amending fees for the rental of the Community Center to allow for the addition following fees for two (2) hour meeting blocks. **Seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously.**

Section A210-N Community Center rental fees:

- (a) For residents: \$50 for two (2) hour meeting
  - (b) For non-residents: \$75 for two (2) hour meeting
4. Consider a resolution to remove certain recreation fees from the Village Code and

authorize the Village Manger to set recreation program fees

**RESOLUTION TO REMOVE CERTAIN RECREATION FEES FROM THE VILLAGE CODE AND AUTHORIZE THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO SET RECREATION PROGRAM FEES**

**Trustee Monti: WHEREAS**, recreational program fees and offerings vary widely depending on the nature of the instructor expertise, length of program, materials needed for the program; and

**WHEREAS**, allowing for adjustments to recreational programs and costs throughout the year, as needed, provides for the greatest public benefit;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Manager, in consultation with the Recreation Supervisor, to set program fees in such a manner as to make annual program revenues at least cover the cost of the provision of these services;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all recreational program fees, not including fees for use of public lands and facilities, are hereby removed from the code to allow for an improved administrative process for determining appropriate program fees. **Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.**

**VII. CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Brief Executive Session to discuss a legal matter

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

**Trustee Kaboolian: RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby adjourns the regular meeting of Monday, March 21, 2016 at 9:35 p.m. **Seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously.**

**IX. NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:** Monday, April 4, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fusco  
Recording Secretary