**VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014**

Present: Mayor Peter Porcino

Deputy Mayor/Trustee Gary Malone

Trustee Nancy Kaboolian

Trustee Mollie Monti

Trustee Andy DiJusto

Village Clerk Barbara Berardi

Village Attorney Robert J. Ponzini

Recording Secretary Donna Fusco

Absent: Village Manager George Calvi

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

1. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXIT SIGNS**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

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

* 20 Calls for the month
* 117.50 Maintenance hours
* 97.5 Drill training hours

Other activities attended by Officers and Firefighters

* 4/5 – Officers and Firefighters participated in the Little League Parade
* 4/12 – Performed a Stand-By at Elmsford Fire Department
* 4/26 – Provided a tour for the girl scouts
* 4/30 – Chiefs attended the Battalion 14 meeting at the Fairview FD

Mayor Porcino inquired about the St. Andrew’s fire explosion and Chief Kaskawits replied that it will be on next month’s activity report and stated that they are waiting for a cause and origin and that Westchester County is doing the investigation.

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**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

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

* Court fine and fees - $17,221
* Property Lost or Stolen - $2,569
* 109 Parking summonses issued
* 88 UTT summonses issued
* 1 Appearance ticket issued

Other activities attended by Officers –

* 48 hours of SWAT training
* Installed 8 car seats issued 2 performed a child seat safety check event with Dobbs Ferry PD
* Ardsley High School and Middle School wellness fair
* Student assistance meeting
* 2 prison trips with High School criminal justice class
* Attended Ardsley High School battle of the grades
* Provided a donation to the Ardsley Little League
* Provided a donation to the Ardsley Education foundation
* Attended the PTA Jenkins Award ceremony at AHS
* Attended Coalition Meeting
* Attended a presentation at Cedar Wood Hall smart approach against marijuana

The Chief spoke about the 10 month drug investigation that started with a routine call in the Village that become one of the biggest investigations that they were ever involved in. The Chief stated that the statistics:

The take down went down about a week and a half ago and involved 250 law enforcement agents; they executed 30 search warrants at 24 different locations. The locations were in the Bronx, Yonkers, Wappingers Falls, Hopewell Junction. 1.6 million dollars in cash was seized as well as 10 handguns, 1 bullet proof vest, 5 kilos of cocaine, 40 pounds of marijuana and six (6) vehicles. The agencies that assisted were the DA’s Office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, U. S. Attorney General’s Office, FBI, DEA, Department of Homeland Security and the NYPD. It was a very lengthy investigation with 100 hours on phone taps. It was a good take down and hopefully, will stop the flow of marijuana and cocaine.

Mayor Porcino asked who in the Ardsley Police Department was involved in that. Chief Califano stated that Detective Sheeley was the major investigator in the case and it started with a routine call where it just kept escalating and it involved all the members of the Greenburgh Task Force. The investigation is still ongoing. Mayor Porcino extended his congratulations to Chief Califano.

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1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting – May 5, 2014

Special Meeting – May 6, 2014

**Trustee Malone: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Monday, May 5, 2014 as submitted. **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian and passed unanimously.**

**Trustee Malone: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the minutes of Special Meeting of Monday, May 6, 2014 as submitted. **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian and passed unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Discussion regarding House Numerals. Trustee DiJusto stated that it all started with the ride along that he took with the Police Department and noticed that the house numerals could not be seen at night and some during the day. He looked at the original code and saw that there was no real guidelines to it and spoke to the building inspector, police department and fire department and they said it would be a lot better if some new code could be brought about to make the numerals be seen on the houses. The building inspector, Larry Tomasso and Trustee DiJusto came up with a new code that the building inspector put into code talk. Chapter 68 was a provision prior which stated the numerals must be at least 4 inches in height. The proposed penalties remain the same and will be carried over. They proposed putting contrasting colors and added provisions to have numbers somewhere down to the beginning of the driveway.

Chief Califano stated that from an enforcement standpoint, it would be a major task to get everybody in compliance. He suggested that on a call to call basis they can make the Police Officer aware and we can track it that way. The Mayor suggested that we do a mailing to make the resident aware and he also stated that he would like to do it voluntarily first. Building Inspector Tomasso stated that Manager Calvi did provide eight (8) Newsletter Articles over the past six (6) years to get the residents to voluntarily upgrade their numbers. Mayor Porcino concluded that he would be in favor of voluntary first.

1. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**LEGAL REPORT:**

Judge Ponzini had nothing to report just some items that I am working on with the Village Manager who is in Cooperstown.

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**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Mrs. Berardi read the Treasurer’s Report on behalf of Marion

DeMaio.

Mrs. Berardi stated the bills for the past two weeks totaled as follows: General Fund: $74,545.85; Trust & Agency Fund: There was not Trust & Agency; and from the Capital Fund: $58,007.30.

**Trustee Kaboolian: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Treasurer to make the following payments: From the General Fund: $74,545.85; From the Trust & Agency Fund: $58,007.30; and from the Capital Fund: $58,007.30. **Seconded by Trustee Malone and passed unanimously.**

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Building Inspector, Larry Tomasso, reported the following activities for April:

* 12 Building permits
* 16 Application fees
* 7 Certificates of Occupancy
* 10 Plumbing permits
* 6 Electrical permits
* 6 Letters of Compliance

Total received - $8,529.00

Other activities –

* 69 Building inspections
* 17 Zoning inspections
* 10 Violation notices
* 2 Warning notices

Larry Tomasso and Tom DeMaio each attended one day of required in-service training.

Mayor Porcino read the Manager’s Report on behalf of George Calvi.

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VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT

FOR MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014

PREPARED BY GEORGE F. CALVI

 1. **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE:** Residents are reminded Ardsley's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, sponsored by American Legion Post 458,  will take place Monday, May 26th at Pascone Park (the parade steps off at 10AM sharp from Park Avenue heading east on Ashford Avenue). Veterans and citizens will spend a few moments remembering the 14 young graduates of Ardsley High School who made the supreme sacrifice. Ardsley's Fire Department will again be cooking breakfast for all veterans from 8:30 to 9:30AM at the firehouse. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at the firehouse at 10AM.

 2.  **MEMORIAL DAY CLOSINGS**:  With the Village's observance of Memorial Day, all Village offices, including the Library, the Community Center, and the DPW shall be closed.  Since there will be no trash collection on Monday, the entire Village will have its trash collected on Tuesday, May 27.

 3.  **PERSONNEL**:  In accordance with the civil service rules of the Westchester County Department of Human Resources, the following is hereby entered into the official minutes:

 The Village Manager, upon the recommendation of our Storm Water Assistant, hereby appoints Brian Evans, residing at 148 Northfield Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522 as Storm Water Intern for the period June 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 at the hourly salary of $8.00

 Note from our Storm Water Assistant Lorraine Kuhn :  After 3 years of excellent service,  Erica Cheung, Stormwater Intern, is graduating Ardsley High School and going on to college.  We thank her for service to the Village, and wish her all the best.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**8:30 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING –** For the purpose of receiving comments regarding the 2014 Village Stormwater Annual Report.

Mayor Porcino read the notice into the record.

**Open Public Hearing**

Lorraine Kuhn reads Presentation and displayed the Presentation on the Screen.

**Public Comments**

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Mayor Porcino asked if there were any comments from the public. There were no comments.

**Close Public Hearing**

Trustee DiJusto moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously.

**MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

* Attended Flower Show
* Attended First Meeting of Ardsley Day Committee
* Chief Califano mentioned the drug arrests and I want to thank the officers for their hard work and participation
* Chief Kaskawits mentioned the fire in Hastings where it sounds like we were very fortunate to have no serious injuries. I want to thank our volunteers.
* Lorraine Kuhn mentioned contact with the Village Alert which can be accessed on the Village website and you can sign up on the website. We post important information, changes in schedule and other things going on in the Village.
* Budget Message for the coming year as follows:

2014- 2015 BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

* Overview
* The Ardsley Board of Trustees adopted the 2014-15 budget on Monday evening, April 28, 2014. The total anticipated appropriations (expenditures) for the coming year are $11,665,254. That represents a 7.39% increase over last year’s budgeted appropriations, but is offset in part by $2,407, 036 in anticipated revenues, representing a 7.9% increase in revenues from the prior year. The net increase in appropriations less revenues from year to year comes to $684,540. The increase in estimated appropriations is significantly lower when compared with our actual expenditures for last year (as opposed to our original budgeted projections for last year) since we had several extraordinary expenditures in this past year that were not anticipated in last year’s original budget. The largest of these was an additional $275,000 in pension contributions required by the New York State Comptroller in excess of the Comptroller’s original estimate.
* We continue to experience an erosion in our tax base due mainly to a hangover from the recession which saw property values decline significantly. The New York State office that sets our ratio of assessed value to market value failed to keep pace with the reduction in market values, resulting in a staggering increase in successful tax challenges, and

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* unfairly skewing taxes for everyone. It also resulted in some unfavorable tax adjustments in favor of commercial properties. We are hopeful that with property values firming up, and New York State catching up to valuation adjustments, these tax challenges will dwindle down to a handful. You should also be aware by now that the Town of Greenburgh has commenced its town-wide property revaluation, which should result in a drastic drop in tax challenges. (The goal of the revaluation is not to increase the overall tax burden. It is to spread that burden more fairly based on current market valuations.) The results of the revaluation will not go into effect until the 2017 tax year.
* The net increase in our appropriations, coupled with the decrease in our tax base, means that we need to raise our tax rate to cover the shortfall. The tax rate will increase by 8.87%. The new tax rate will be $307.23 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The average tax bill in the Village will increase by $450.54.
* Increases in Appropriations
* There were many factors driving the increase in appropriations. These are the major ones.
* --Payroll: Compensation increased by 3% under our labor contracts, although this number was offset by a continuing increase in employee contributions to their health care coverage, which now totals 1.5% of salary.
* --Pension Contributions: Pension contributions have been the biggest driver of budget increases for several years now. Despite the State Comptroller’s pronouncements that the New York State pension funds are sound, and despite the large gains in the stock market, we still have been experiencing 15-20% increases each year in our required pension contributions, which means hundreds of thousands of dollars added to our budget yearly.
* --Related Employee Costs: Other employee costs, including social security, workers compensation, medical and dental insurance, increased by approximately $70,000.
* --Equipment Purchases: We expensed the purchase of a police cruiser, which will cost $41,000, rather than borrow for this cost. We also expect to make substantial purchases in equipment for our beleaguered DPW/Sanitation Department, some of which will be expensed, but most of which will go into our capital budget. The DPW has patiently waited for replacements for trucks and equipment that in some cases are decades old. But the time has come to address these needs as their ability to do their jobs is being imperiled by breakdowns and long waits for repairs. We will also be replacing our phone

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* system and e-mail system as our existing equipment has outlived its usefulness, and is no longer up to the tasks they were designed for, let alone the increasing reliance on these technologies to carry out the Village functions.
* --We will also be making a substantial contribution to our road repair budget this year. This is another budget item that has suffered from deferral, and the condition of our roads attests to the need for extensive repaving throughout the Village.
* --We will be replacing much of our street lighting with LED lights. While this will require an upfront outlay, the Village will see an immediate reduction in energy costs.
* --The only addition to our personnel will be one-half of a children’s librarian. We are restoring the full-time position of children’s librarian in light of the increased needs of the library, particularly as they service our neighbors in Elmsford under a contractual agreement signed several years ago.
* --Clarifying that last point, while we will not technically be adding to our roster of employees, our long time Village Manager, George Calvi, has announced that he will be retiring at the end of November. We have contractual commitments to George for unused sick days and vacation which will be paid out of next year’s budget. And we will be hiring a new manager. Given the demands of the position and the astounding depth of knowledge and information stored mainly in the recesses of George’s mind, we plan to have a new manager in place at least a month or two before George walks out the door, allowing George to impart all that stored up information to the new manager. This will require double payments for the manager position during this period of overlap.
* Solidifying our Financial Footing
* While we witnessed substantial increases in budget costs for this coming fiscal year, we believe that the Village is on sounder financial footing as we look beyond next year. We believe the tax base has stabilized and the State has moved closer to an appropriate assessment ratio. Revaluation will bring some equity to the housing assessments and reduce tax grievances. After several years of double-digit increases in our pension contributions, the next year’s figures appear to be in line with historical numbers, and we may even experience a decrease. Increases in employee salaries will be smaller and their contributions towards health care will increase again. We have allocated considerable monies to meet capital needs in this year’s budget, which should allow for smaller allocations in the next few years.

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* We will continue to look for ways to save money, including sharing and consolidating services where appropriate. Ultimately our goal is to continue to deliver high quality services at reasonable cost to the taxpayers, preserving Village life and making the Village a desirable place to live and raise a family.

**COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:**

**TRUSTEE DIJUSTO:**

* 5/7 – Attended Garden Club flower display at St. Barnabas
* 5/9 – Lorraine Kuhn and I met with NYS Thurway Authority to discuss old Ashford Avenue Bridge
* Walked the flood zone area and talked about the changing for the wetlands behind Starbucks
* Attended Firemen’s carnival
* Worked with Larry Tomasso all week to change house numerals code

**TRUSTEE MONTI:**

* Attended flower show with children
* Attended Firemen’s carnival with family

**TRUSTEE MALONE:**

* Nothing to report

**TRUSTEE KABOOLIAN:**

* Attended flower show; the seniors were taken over there by bus from assisted living
* 5/21 – Larry’s pancake breakfast for seniors down at the community center
* Attended first Ardsley Day Committee Meeting

1. **VISITORS**

No visitors

* Received telephone call but could not hear.
* Caller called again to thank Andy regarding the house numerals and made suggestions on how to reach out to Village residents

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1. **OLD BUSINESS**
2. Resolution adopting the 2014 Annual Stormwater Report

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2014 STORMWATER ANNUAL REPORT**

**Trustee DiJusto: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby adopts the 2014 Stormwater Annual Report. **Seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously.**

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

2. Resolution regarding Fund Balance Transfer – Year end Appropriations

**RESOLUTION REGARDING FUND BALANCE TRANSFER - YEAR END APPROPRIATIONS**

**Trustee Monti: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby modifies the 2013 / 2014 Village budget by transferring the amount of $164,195.00 from the Fund Balance to appropriations line item: **Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.**

1420.468 Law-Litigation                                                       $16,414

1640.426  Central Garage - Motor Vehicle Repair                  17,888

1640.481  Central Garage - Diesel & Gasoline                        40,000

1964.462  Special Items - Certiorari                                          8,932

5142.101  Snow Removal - Overtime                                      32,415

5142.490  Snow Removal - Salt                                               40,295

5182.490  Street Lighting                                                           8,151

3. Annual Resolution Enabling Village Treasurer to make necessary transfers within the General Fund

**ANNUAL RESOLUTION ENABLING VILLAGE TREASURER TO MAKE NECESSARY TRANSFERS WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND**

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**Trustee Malone: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Treasurer to make all the necessary transfers in the 2013-2014 Village budget, with the exception of the Contingency line item and the surplus accounts **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian and passed unanimously.**

4. Annual Resolution to Modify the 2013-2014 Village Budget to reconcile

**ANNUAL RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2013-2014 VILLAGE BUDGET TO RECONCILE UNDERSPENT & OVERSPENT APPROPRIATION LINE ITEMS IN THE GENERAL FUND**

**Trustee Kaboolian: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Treasurer to modify the 2013-2014 Village Budget by transferring the aggregate amount of $39,600 from the following accounts: **Seconded by Trustee Malone and passed unanimously.**

9010.801  Employment Retirement System (ERS)           $33,480.00

8160.460  Refuse:  Organics                                                  6,120.00

Into the following accounts to cover a shortfall:

9730.600  Debt Service:  Principal                                     $39,600.00

5. Resolution to Modify 2013-2014 Village Budget to cover invoices for Rivertowns Square Litigation ($5,723.81)

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY 2013-2014 VILLAGE BUDGET TO COVER INVOICES FOR RIVERTOWNS SQUARE LITIGATION ($5,723.81)**

**Trustee DiJusto: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Treasurer to modify the 2013-2014 Village Budget to transfer the amount of $5,723.81 from Fund Balance to appropriations line item 1420.468 to cover invoices for litigation in connection with Rivertowns Square. **Seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously.**

6.Warrant from Village Treasurer to Collect and Receive Taxes (Executed by Mayor Porcino)

**WARRANT TO TREASURER TO COLLECT AND RECEIVE TAXES**

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The Board was presented with a proposed warrant and tax roll for the collection of taxes by the Village Treasurer, and a motion for its approval was duly seconded and unanimously passed.

Warrant from Village Treasurer to Collect and Receive Taxes

**Warrant was executed by Mayor Porcino on the record**

7. Resolution to hire consultant for professional services to seek a successor to the Village Manager

**RESOLUTION TO HIRE CONSULTANT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO SEEK A NEW VILLAGE MANAGER**

**Trustee Monti: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute a contract with Donald P. Marra, Consultant with offices located at 30 Maplewood Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522 for a professional services agreement to assist in the search for a new Village Manager for the Village of Ardsley.

Be it further resolved that the fee for such services is $13,000.00. **Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.**

1. **CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** No Executive Session.
2. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

**Trustee Malone: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby adjourns the regular meeting of Monday, May 19, 2014 at 9:32 p.m. **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian and passed unanimously/**

1. **NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:** Monday, June 2, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fusco

Recording Secretary

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