**VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014**

Present: Mayor Peter Porcino

Deputy Mayor/Trustee Gary Malone

Trustee Nancy Kaboolian

Trustee Mollie Monti

Trustee Andy DiJusto

Village Manager George Calvi

Village Clerk Barbara Berardi

Village Attorney Robert J. Ponzini

Recording Secretary Donna Fusco

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

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

**SWEARING IN NEW ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE – E. JOHN MOREHOUSE**

At this time Mayor Porcino swore in newly appointed Acting Village Justice E. John Morehouse in the presence of his wife Ellen Morehouse.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting – August 4, 2014

**Trustee Malone: RESOLVED,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Monday, August 4, 2014 as submitted. **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian and passed unanimously.**

1. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**LEGAL REPORT:**

Judge Ponzini had nothing to report other than those items that may have been submitted in memorandum form and stated that he is available for Executive Session if necessary.

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**MANAGER’S REPORT:**

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**VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT**

**FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014**

**PREPARED BY GEORGE F. CALVI**

1.  **SUMMER ROAD RESURFACING**:  Well, the resurfacing of Ashford Avenue and Heatherdell Road is thankfully behind us.  This work was necessitated for the most part by the conditions that Mother Nature bestowed upon us last winter.  Knowing that the resurfacing of two major arterials in two consecutive weeks could prove difficult, the Village chose to mill and resurface those roads during the traditionally two lightest traffic days of the year, the two weeks before Labor Day, before the schools opened for a new scholastic year, and before the autumn leaves started falling.  And thankfully the traffic was light.

Knowing that there would still be some people in the Village during this time, the Village did its best to communicate its plans with updates via the Village-wide email blast, an initial first class mailing to all residents of the two impacted roads,  followed up with hand-delivered flyers the night by DPW personnel before each milling or paving of segments of the roads.  Notices were also sent to News12, the Journal News, and WFAS, and an email blast was issued by the school district.  Other than knocking on every door in the village there was not much more that could be done to get the word out.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish to acknowledge the many residents who contacted our offices and thanked us profusely for finally eliminating the horrendous road conditions they had to live with since last winter.  Though the striping hasn't yet arrived, though it will soon, I can say the two roads look phenomenal!

On the other hand, I was deeply disappointed to hear reports from both our DPW staff and the clerical staff of the epithets hurled at them by motorists who in most cases were briefly inconvenienced using words that frankly cannot be repeated in polite company.

We don't know the identity of all the motorists who felt so compelled or entitled to use such language, but I am deeply disappointed to learn that some of those people were our own village residents, the same residents who are daily serviced by our staff in collecting their garbage, picking up their leaf bags, plowing their roads, clearing storm debris, issuing parking permits and processing various applications.

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Could the work have been handled better? It's anyone's guess. Possibly.  Could communications have been greater?  Hard to say.  We have had an email distribution system for several years now.  It is 2014 after all.  This is the number one way the Village now communicates with its residents.  Most adults are computer literate, and if they are not, they have friends and relatives who are.  If you haven't subscribed yet to the email blasts, **what are you waiting for?**

Our DPW and clerical staff do their best every day to service the needs of this Village.  If one feels they are not operating up to par, let us know, and we will deal with it.  However, if one is going to communicate with our staff, please use language that can be printed on the front page of the Rivertowns Enterprise.  Again, I am sure we are talking about a very distinct minority in our community, and if you know any members of this distinct minority, please get the word out to them, that the Village staff deserves better.

If one was truly greatly inconvenienced on one of the several milling or paving days, on behalf of the Village, I offer you my sincerest apologies.

2.  **IN OTHER BUSINESS**:

-- the Mayor and the Village Manager will be meeting with their counterparts from the other five villages of Greenburgh and the Village of Sleepy Hollow on Thursday in Tarrytown to discuss matters of mutual concern;

--  the annual street festival known as Ardsley Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 21 on Center Street.  No doubt there will be more details about this special event on the email distribution system shortly;

-- in case you haven't noticed the affordable housing is rising along Route 9A.  Check our website for details on how you or a friend can register for the lottery that will be conducted metropolitan area-wide.  On September 8, the Village Manager and Rosemarie Noonan along with incoming Manager Meredith Robson, participating via teleconference, will be discussing how Westchester County can assist us in the distribution of the five work force housing units for first responders and other local workers and volunteers;

-- on August 14th representatives of Greenburgh and Ardsley met in Greenburgh Town Hall to hear a status report of the forthcoming widening of Route 9A between Ashford Avenue and Heatherdell Road funded by the Ridge Hill settlement, a project that is more and more looking like it will be done next spring;

-- speaking of construction, the bids for the rehabilitation of the Ashford Avenue bridge are still

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on schedule to be released in December with work tentatively commencing on the 30 month project in spring 2015;

-- at the last village board meeting a resident expressed his displeasure at all the double wood in the village.  For the uninitiated, double wood is a term describing a situation where a new utility pole is existing next to an old utility pole.  This sorry state of affairs occurs when one utility company, usually Con Ed, transfers its wires, and then leaves the task of removing the old pole to Verizon.  The problem is  that Verizon is very lax in relocating its wires.

Back in August 2011, young resident Sam Geiger inventoried and photographed all the  double wood scenarios in the Village finding a grand total of 45.  Though both utility companies have been notified on more than one occasion, to my knowledge only two sets of double wood have been eliminated.  With the knowledge that there have been changes at the top at both utility companies in the last few years, we will attempt once again to persuade the powers-that-be to remove these eyesores.

-- in case you see yellow ribbons around the village and in Pascone Park they are the work of Margie Brennan's Girl Scout troop 2890 in honor of 9/11.  We have been assured by Ms. Brennan that the ribbons will be taken down the weekend of September 20-21

-- speaking of 9/11, on Thursday, September 11, the Ardsley Fire Department will be gathering in front of the firehouse for remembrances.  At 8:46 am they will ring a bell indicating when the first plane hit the World Trade Towers to be followed by a moment of silence.  At 9:03 am, a second bell will be rung indicating when the second plane hit the World Trade Towers followed by a moment of silence.  Thereafter, all in attendance will proceed down to Fire Fighter Park where a wreath will be laid at the plaque honoring William Pohlman, Ardsley resident, fire fighter, and former Acting Village Justice, who perished on that ignoble day back in 2001.

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

Mr. Calvi stated the bills totaled as follows: General Fund: $195,572.55; Trust & Agency Fund: $9,557.23; and from the Capital Fund: $44,240.22.

**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: $195,572.55; From the Trust & Agency Fund: $9,557.23; and from the Capital Fund: $44,240.22. **Seconded by Trustee Malone and passed unanimously.**

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**MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

* Attended last Ardsley Day Meeting
* Ardsley Day is taking place in the entire downtown area on Sunday 9/21
* Attended meeting of the Ridge Hill Intersection Committee
* There is a new planning commissioner, Garrett Duquesne; Thomas Madden stepped down
* We were promised a timeline
* Mentioned widening of 9A project sometime in mid-2015
* Mayor and the Board spend most of the summer interviewing for the Village Manager position; thanked the Board for all their participation, cooperation and input
* Meredith Robson (formerly City Manager of Beacon) was chosen to be the next Village Manager and she will start toward the end of October and she will take over when George Calvi retires on 11/30/14
* Work session with Board presently dealing with storm water runoff and its effect on several properties to the northwest quadrant of the village
* Met with consulting engineer and will address those issues
* Spent time on the hiring of a new acting justice; spoke to at least five (5) candidates
* Consulted with present Acting Village Justice and selected Mr. Morehouse primarily for his background and character

**COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:**

**TRUSTEE DIJUSTO:**

* Attended Greenburgh meeting for the Ridge Hill Committee and visited the property

**TRUSTEE MONTI:**

* 9/2/14 was the first day of school in the Village of Ardsley

**TRUSTEE MALONE:**

* Nothing to report

**TRUSTEE KABOOLIAN:**

* 9/2 – Open house for garden club; If you want to join, call Linda Keil at (914) 693-6840
* 9/3 – Bring your own lunch day for seniors
* 9/10 – Trip to Katonah for sculpture garden
* 9/21 – Ardsley Day with two cooking contests; one chili contest and one chocolate chip contest
* 9/24 – PBA barbecue

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1. **VISITORS**

**Visitor**: Patrick Lindsay Deputy Foreman Dept of Public Works. Patrick Lindsay read the following to the Board:

I have been employed by the Village for the last 26 years, and in my time here we have repaved Ashford ave twice and heatherdell rd in sections a few times. My purpose for addressing you tonight is to stand up for the employees that serve in our department. This past week during the recent repave of Ashford Ave and Heatherdell Rd our employees were treated horribly. They were cursed at told they were “stupid” “Morons” “idiots”. Granted not everyone was this way but enough to make me come here tonight on their behalf. Aside from the fact that our staff is limited in size as we set up detours and redirected traffic the best we could, along with completing tasks that need to get done on a daily bases IE Garbage collection and recycling. Our guys did the very best they could with all that needed to get done. On Friday even the foreman and I were at intersections at different points during the day to flag traffic. Two of the employees that were out there every day are part time help. Along with the traffic we need to leave someone with the paving crew in case something comes up IE resident questions manhole issues and such. In my opinion I think it’s despicable the way our employees were spoken to. These guys take pride in the work they do with very little thanks and a surprisingly high number of complaints. I would just like to say to them Thank You! Thank you for dealing with the residents and those passing through who don’t appreciate what we are doing without losing your cool! The residents of Ardsley might not know it but they are lucky to have a crew of guys like we do that care so much about what they do.

**Visitor:** Hon. Walter Schwartz read the following to the Board:

I’m here tonight as Ardsley Village Historian to pay tribute to two very special persons:  one who is retiring and one who has passed away.

 The retiree, Victoria DeNardo, whom I have always known as Vicki, never actually resided in the Village of Ardsley.  However, both in her geography and in her life, she has always been the closest thing to a Village resident so perhaps the Board of Trustees might consider awarding here an honorary Ardsley birth certificate upon her retirement.  From time she was born some years ago, Ardsley has been in her blood and in her family bloodline.  Long before there was a bridge over the Thruway connecting Dobbs Ferry and Ardsley, and long before there was a Thruway—I don’t know about the Saw Mill Parkway—Vicki had her own road map to Ardsley.

 She attended all of Ardsley’s schools, developed many lifelong friends here, and worked both in the Village and for the Village over a great many years.  Her presence in the Village office, while fulfilling whatever duties that were assigned to her and offering a smile and assistance to anyone who popped in to pick up a certificate, pay a bill or just to ask a question, has provided just the

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right example that public service should provide.  I will miss observing Vickie’s style, her skill, her classy outfits and her dedication on the other side of the hallway. But in here well-earned retirement, I expect to see Victoria DeNardo walking stylishly across the bridge into the Village of Ardsley for many more years to come.

 Last week, I was thinking about Bob Levine, a trusted colleague, leader, advisor, friend and good citizen for many years during the long period he resided on Eastern Drive in Ardsley.  About 1995, Bob and his talented and supportive wife, Betty, moved permanently to their summer home in the beautiful rolling hills of Northwest, CT where they continued their civic activity for the benefit of their adoptive community.

 This weekend, I learned that Bob passed away a year ago at the age of 81, leaving broken hearted people for beyond his immediate family.  As a human being and as a lawyer, Bob was decent, courageous and honorable.  He was one of the best things to happen to Ardsley and the legal system as I know it.  He was active in any number of worthwhile endeavors here, including the library, served as Chairman of the Ardsley Zoning Board and as Assistant Judge in the Ardsley Courtroom for several years.  He was Harvard Law School graduate and a scholar who was modest in his accomplishments.  Until I happened upon his obituary, I did not know that following the murder of three civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1965, he joined President Kennedy’s Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and was sent to that state to investigate legal practices and the disenfranchisement of African American voters in the South.

 Here at home in the late 1960’s, Bob co-founded Westchester Legal Services to provide legal assistance for poor and low-income individuals.  He and I, along with two former Village Trustees, worked together in 1973 when a group of Ardsley residents were denied parking rights at the Ardsley-on-Hudson train station.  Bob became our lead counsel and I was privileged just to carry his brief case into the Irvington courtroom four times over the ensuing period of eight months.  That’s where both of us learned valuable lessons we never forgot about local justice.

 Bob encouraged my independent candidacy for Village Trustee 40 years ago.  And I had the benefit of his wise counsel, knowledge, experience and kindness when he was appointed Acting Village Justice in 1992, where we fought together for fairness, justice and security in the village courtroom.

 Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with all of you this evening.

**Visitor:** Frank Doherty who resides at 533 Almena Avenue in Ardsley attended the meeting and was inquiring about the Ridge Hill timeline. Mr. Calvi will forward a copy of an email to Frank Doherty; Mr. Calvi sent an email to Thomas Madden and lastly, Mr. Calvi stated that he will ask the treasurer for a statement.

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1. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Resolution approving for Police Officer, Anthony Vacca to attend NY State Juvenile Training Conference in Syracuse NY (Tracking Purpose Only)

**RESOLUTION APPROVING ATTENDANCE FOR POLICE OFFICER, ANTHONY VACCA TO ATTEND THE NY STATE JUVENILE TRAINING CONFERENCE IN SYRACUSE NY FROM AUGUST 25TH, 2014 - AUGUST 29TH, 2014  (For Tracking Purposes Only)**

**Trustee DiJusto: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves of the attendance of Officer Anthony Vacca  to attend  the New York State Juvenile Training Conference at a cost not to exceed $754.00 for lodging plus miscellaneous expenses.  Such costs to be fully borne by funds from the Ardsley SAYF Coalition’s Drugs Free Communities grant. **Seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution to consider bids for infrastructure improvements for former Waterwheel Site/Affordable Housing Project

**RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER BIDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR FORMER WATER WHEEL SITE / AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT**

**Trustee Monti: Whereas** on August 4 the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley authorized the Village Clerk to advertise a Re-Notice to Bidders seeking proposals for construction work in connection with the former Ardsley Water Wheel infrastructure improvements / affordable housing project, and

Whereas, on  August 9, 2014 the Village Manager, in the presence of the Village Clerk, County Planner Anthony Zaino, Woodard & Curran Engineer Hugh Greechan, and several observers, opened six bids; and

Whereas, Mr. Greechan and Mr. Zaino recommend to the Village Board that the apparent low bidder be accepted;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby awards the bid for infrastructure improvements at the former Water Wheel site / affordable housing project to Landi Contracting, Inc., 13 Bradhurst Avenue, Hawthorne, New York 10532 in the amount of $611,760.00 plus Alternate A in the amount of $100,000, and plus Alternate B in the amount of $15,940. **Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously**.

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1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. Resolution to grant permission to erect Village Garage Sale Banner

**RESOLUTION TO GRANT PERMISSION TO ERECT VILLAGE GARAGE SALE BANNER**

**Trustee Malone: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby grants permission for the Ardsley Parks & Recreation Department to erect a banner on the split-rail fence in the jug handle of McCormick Drive at Pascone Park, and a second banner on the guardrail at the southwest corner of Ashford Avenue and Route 9A from September 22nd  to October 20th to promote the Annual Village Garage Sale scheduled for October 18th with rain date scheduled for October 25. **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution acknowledging Village Manager’s execution of Organic Waste Agreement with City of Yonkers

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING VILLAGE MANAGER'S EXECUTION OF ORGANIC WASTE AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF YONKERS**

**Trustee DiJusto: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby acknowledges the action of the Village Manager who signed an agreement with the City of Yonkers on August 15, 2014 for the disposal of organic waste defined as grass, leaves, brush, and wood at a fee of $6.00 per cubic yard for a period of three years with the option for Ardsley to renew for two one year periods thereafter.  Such agreement may be terminated by either party with 30 days written notice to the other party. **Seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution authorizing Village Manager to execute temporary transfer of property rights on Elm Street parcel

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF PROPERTY RIGHTS ON ELM STREET PARCEL**

**Trustee Kaboolian: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley authorizes the Village Manager to sign an agreement with the Westchester County Department of Public Works and Transportation located at 148 Martine Avenue - Suite 518, White Plains, New York 10601 for the temporary transfer of property rights (i.e. a work easement) of a 100 x 47 foot parcel on

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the west side of Elm Street (actually located in the Village of Dobbs Ferry) for a fee of $19,200.00 to be used as a staging area for the duration of the Ashford Avenue Bridge rehabilitation project estimated to be thirty months.

Be it further resolved that this transfer is contingent upon review and approval of all transfer documents by the Village Attorney.  **Seconded by Trustee Malone and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution providing one day peddling waiver for Ardsley merchants to set up tables in front of their stores on Ardsley

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING ONE DAY PEDDLING WAIVER FOR ARDSLEY MERCHANTS TO SET UP TABLES IN FRONT OF THEIR STORE ON ARDSLEY DAY**

**Trustee Monti: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby provides for a one day exception, pursuant to Section 200-83E of the Ardsley Village Code, for a bona fide Ardsley merchants to peddle their ware on the central business district sidewalks for the September 21 event to be known as “Ardsley Day”. **Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution granting permission to Cub Scouts to erect recruitment banner and signs – 2014

**RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO CUB SCOUTS TO ERECT RECRUITMENT BANNER AND SIGNS – 2014**

**Trustee Malone: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby grants permission to Ardsley Cub Scout Pack 3 to erect a recruitment banner on the guardrail at the corner of Ashford Avenue Route 9A from September 9, 2014 through September 22, 2014;

Be it further resolved, that smaller recruitment signs be permitted at established locations for the same period of time. **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution to Modify the 2013-2014 Village Budget

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2013 - 2014 VILLAGE BUDGET**

**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

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from Fund Balance the amount of $62,571.61 to the following appropriation line items:

3120.133  Police Longevity       $34,705.65

3410.453  Hydrant Rental          $27,865.96

**Seconded by Trustee Malone and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution accepting resignation of Confidential Secretary to the Village Manager Victoria DeNardo

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE VILLAGE MANAGER VICTORIA DENARDO**

**Trustee DiJusto: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby accepts, with regret, the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Confidential Secretary to the Village Manager Victoria Denardo residing at 405 Ashford Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522, effective Monday, August 25, 2014. **Seconded by Trustee Monti and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution appointing new Acting Village Justice – E. John Morehouse

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING NEW ACTING VILLAGE JUSTICE - E. JOHN MOREHOUSE**

**Trustee Malone: Resolved,** that the Mayor of the Village of Ardsley hereby makes the interim appointment of E. John Morehouse residing at 26 Eastern Drive, Ardsley, New York 10502 to the position of Acting Village Justice, at the annual salary of $5,000, effective immediately through Monday, December 1, 2014. **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution appointing new Village Manager – Meredith S. Robson

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING NEW VILLAGE MANAGER - MEREDITH S. ROBSON**

**Trustee Monti: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby appoints Meredith S. Robson residing at 42 Mimosa Circle, Ridgefield, Connecticut as temporary Village Manager, effective Monday, October 20, 2014,

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Be it further resolved that Meredith S. Robson is appointed Village Manager effective

December 1, 2014 subject to a probationary period of not less than 12 weeks to a maximum of 52 weeks, at the annual salary of $153,000. **Seconded by Trustee DiJusto and passed unanimously.**

1. Resolution regarding employment contract with new Village Manager – Meredith Robson

**RESOLUTION  REGARDING EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH NEW VILLAGE MANAGER - MEREDITH ROBSON**

**Trustee Malone: Resolved,** that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute an employment agreement with incoming Village Manager Meredith Robson residing at 42 Mimosa Circle, Ridgefield, Connecticut for a one year term commencing October 20, 2014, and renewable for each year thereafter at the annual Reorganization Meeting. **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian 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, September 2, 2014 at 9:01 p.m. **Seconded by Trustee Kaboolian and passed unanimously.**

1. **NEXT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING:** Monday, September 15, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fusco

Recording Secretary

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