

**VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2012**

Mayor Porcino opened the September 18, 2012 Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Present:	Mayor Deputy Mayor/Trustee Trustee Trustee	Peter Porcino Gary Malone (arrived at 8:30 p.m.) Larry J. Nardecchia Nicole Minore
	Village Manager Village Attorney Recording Secretary	George Calvi Robert J. Ponzini Lorraine McSpedon
Absent:	Village Clerk	Barbara Berardi

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE – TRUSTEE BEVERLY LEVINE**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Tr. Minore: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves the minutes of the September 4, 2012 regular meeting, as submitted. **Seconded by Tr. Nardecchia and passed.**

**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 from the General Fund totaled \$199,483.75; from the Trust & Agency Fund: \$60,197 and from the Capital Fund \$139.80.

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

From the General Fund: \$199,483.75; from the Trust & Agency Fund: \$60,197 and from the Capital Fund: \$139.80. **Seconded by Tr. Minore and passed.**

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

**MANAGER'S REPORT  
FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012  
PREPARED BY GEORGE F. CALVI**

**WEATHER:** Starting with the weather, if you are still out of power owing to today's high winds, please make sure that you have notified Con Edison at [800 752-6633](tel:8007526633). Despite what the recorded message requests, you do not have to dig out your account number from a bill. However, you do have to make that call otherwise you could be over-looked during the restoration of power. Lastly, the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management advises us that a tornado watch is in effect through 11:00 pm this evening. It's best to stay in touch with your local news stations.

**TRUSTEE LEVINE:** As the Mayor mentioned earlier in the Moment of Silence for Trustee Beverly Levine, a memorial service was held at Edward's Funeral Home on Saturday which was followed by a gathering of family and friends at Pascone Park at the Gazebo. It was an exceptionally beautiful day, and the park was in pristine condition. I wish to thank our Highway Foreman Rick Thompson, our Deputy Highway Foreman Patrick Lindsay, Highway Employee Rob Wootten, and Parks Supervisor Trish Lacy in their roles in ensuring that the park was in condition to receive the family of Trustee Levine and their friends, particularly on the morning after the film crews evacuated the park. It is my intention to prepare an article in memory of Trustee Levine for the December edition of the Ardsley Villager.

**ARDSLEY SCHOOLS:** In case you haven't heard, the Ardsley School District is now broadcasting its meetings on cable television. The Board of Education meetings are being broadcast on Cablevision Channel 75 and Verizon Channel 32. These meetings are not being broadcast live. For example the Board of Education meeting held on Tuesday, September 11 was broadcast on September 14 and again on September 17. Ideally, the meetings will be broadcast live someday so residents from home can participate in the discussions. Nevertheless, School Supt. Lauren Allan and the Ardsley School Trustees should be applauded for finally getting the meetings on the air. A big thank you to our own George Malone who assisted them with the process. For information regarding future scheduling of board meetings, please call the Central Office of the Board of Education at 693-6300.

**CUB SCOUTS:** Ardsley Cub Scout Pack 3 is inviting first through fifth grade boys and their families to an informative meeting at the Concord Road School cafeteria tomorrow night at 7:00 pm. Cub Scouting is a home- and neighborhood-centered program designed to support and encourage quality family involvement for boys. At the meeting learn about what they do, when they meet, who the leaders are, what it costs, how Cub Scouting is organized, and lots more. If you are interested but cannot make it to the meeting or need more information, please contact: Rich Okrasinski -- Cubmaster at [\(914\) 674-4425](tel:9146744425) or Sheri Marchi -- Pack Committee Chairperson at [\(914\) 479-5440](tel:9144795440)

**FILM ACTIVITY, TRAFFIC, & CONSTRUCTION:** If you got stuck in traffic this past week my sincere apologies. I learned decades ago during an internship in Scarsdale that when contemplating the erection of a fence 50% of the neighbors will stand up to voice their approval, and 50% will stand up opposing it. If we were to listen to the naysayers every time we attempted to accomplish something different in this community, absolutely nothing would ever get done.

This was not the first time that Ardsley has hosted a film company. 20th Century Fox filmed “Young Adult” with Charlize Theron, here two years ago, an episode of Law & Order was filmed at Mina’s restaurant before that, and there have been numerous commercials. The issuance of film permits are a routine matter in the Office of the Village Clerk no different than the issuance of parking permits or death certificates. The only thing different for this film permit as opposed to its predecessors was the immensity and logistics of the production which I will be the first to admit took us entirely by surprise. What was explained to us during several meetings with my office, the Police Department, the Highway Department and the Office of the Village Clerk, and what was shared on paper was incredibly understated. Moreover, the slow down in traffic along Route 9A had less to do with periodic road closures and more to do with rubberneckers slowing down to see what was going on.

Nevertheless, the film crews acted in a very responsible professional way. They responded to requests for meetings with the merchants, and responded to my many telephone calls during filming. When I asked that they vacate Pascone Park at midnight on Friday so that it could be prepared for a memorial service the next morning, they complied. Many people in the community, particularly our youth, and many of our adults, were absolutely thrilled to catch glimpses of their favorite film stars, particularly Leo DiCaprio and Jonah Hill, and of course director, Martin Scorsese. Based on the telephone calls we received in our offices, the positive remarks far outweighed the negative remarks.

As for the negative remarks I have to ask myself just how inconvenienced were motorists, more than usual. I have been stuck in traffic on Ashford and 9A at all hours of the day, and any given day of the week. Nevertheless, to test the waters, I made it my business to drive through those intersections a couple of times during the filming. Yes, it was slow. Yes, it was annoying. But when I looked at my watch how much time did I lose getting from point A to point B, 5 minutes? 7? Regardless what some people have said, I still remain firmly in the belief that this was a good thing for the community.

More importantly, it was a dress rehearsal. Though I haven’t received the full schedule yet, in about three weeks, there will be periodic lane closures on the Ashford Avenue bridge to make temporary repairs. The delays generated will make the inconveniences of this past week look like a picnic in the park. Next spring Route 9A will be widened from Ashford Avenue to Heatherdell Road to accommodate a new lane. That construction could last for about four to five months. And in two years the County is expected to reconstruct the bridge altogether. That will probably take about 2 years. My point in sharing this litany with you is that we need to keep these things in perspective. Will the

Village approve film permits again in the future, yes. Will the Village approve film permits for the downtown again? I dare say we would have to take a very long and hard look at that. Frankly, what we have learned is that owing to the limited ways in getting in and out of the downtown area, the merchants can't handle it, perhaps their ledgers can't handle it, and a number of residents can't handle it. All I can say is, God bless them all, and God bless my eardrums, when those major construction projects commence.

**ASVAC CELEBRATES 50 YEARS:** Lastly, this coming Saturday, the Ardsley Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corp, fondly known as ASVAC, will be holding its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party at the Ardsley Country Club in Dobbs Ferry. Though we will save the speeches and proclamations for the event, I wish to take this opportunity thank all the members of the ambulance corp., past and present, for the wonderful service they provide to the community. You have been a wonderful asset to the community for five decades, and I offer you my best wishes in the decades to come.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Chief Florkowski delivered the fire department report for the month of August.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Chief Califano delivered the police department report for the month of August.

**BUILDING REPORT**

Tr. Nardecchia delivered the building department report for the month of August.

**8:15 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING – To consider a proposal for a revision of the sanitation and recycling schedules including frequency of collections.**

Mayor Porcino read the legal notice.

Mayor Porcino explained that the original proposal considered regarded the switching to once a week garbage collection and increasing recycling collection. Due to the many concerns voiced by the Highway Department, this proposal was eliminated. The suggestion was made to maintain a second pick-up during the week by moving the Thursday pick-up to Friday, so there will be one Village-wide pick-up on Friday. The goal is to reduce the amount of garbage being put out and to increase recycling.

Mayor Porcino reminded the residents that many more items are now recyclable and encouraged them to increase their recycling efforts.

Ms. Patricia Hoffman's e-mail was read which questioned whether or not there was a fee attached to recycling items. Mayor Porcino responded that there was no fee for recycled items. The goal is to reduce the number of trips taken by the garbage trucks which, hopefully, will result in less work for the sanitation department. Mayor Porcino responded to Ms. Hoffman's concern regarding the potential of increased rodents due to delayed garbage pick up by assuring her that no delays were expected. Ms. Hoffman questioned the frequency of restaurant pick-ups and was advised that the Village restaurants will continue to receive 5-day a week garbage pick up.

Mr. Art Schulman, Columbia Road, called in to the meeting and questioned the fact that if pick up is changed to once per week, the weight of the garbage will be twice as much. Mayor Porcino explained that once per week pick up was not being considered at this time, but the goal is to reduce the amount of garbage and increase recycling. Mr. Schulman stated that he prefers twice per week pick up and suggested a recycling campaign be considered in order to educate residents on the merits of recycling.

Tr. Malone arrived at 8:30 p.m. and Mayor Porcino mentioned to him that the Environmental Committee may want to consider enacting an educational project to enlighten the residents as to which items are now recyclable.

Tr. Nardecchia mentioned that recycling containers may be needed by some residents. Mayor Porcino felt that there should be a charge for the containers.

Theresa DelGrosso, 41 Victoria Road, was interested in obtaining a new recycling bin. Mayor Porcino questioned Ms. DelGrosso if she would be offended if she were asked to pay \$5.00 for a new bin. Ms. DelGrosso responded that she would not be offended.

The public information meeting was put over until 8:15 p.m. for the next meeting, which will take place on October 1, 2012.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:****IV. COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:****Mayor Porcino:**

- 1) Announced the election of the new Chairman of the Board of Governors of ASVAC – Steve Gratzon
- 2) Announced ASVAC's upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
- 3) Mentioned the House of Sports' soft opening.
- 4) The Ardsley Market will be opening September 29, 2012.
- 5) Mentioned the upcoming construction projects on Route 9A.
- 6) A Happy New Year was wished to all Jewish residents.

**Tr. Nardecchia:**

- 1) Attended the meeting for the Ashford Avenue bridge pre-construction.
- 2) Attended Recreation Commission meeting.
- 3) Met with the recreation supervisor and Mr. Calvi regarding Community Center policy.
- 4) Working on flagpole plantings in Bicentennial Park.
- 5) Announced the Senior's program events.

**Tr. Malone:**

- 1) Attended a meeting of the Environmental Task Force.

**Tr. Minore:**

- 1) Reminded all residents of Ardsley Day which is October 14, 2012 and invited anyone who is interested to the next meeting on September 19.
- 2) Has frequented a few new businesses in Ardsley.
- 3) Took a clinic at House of Sports.

**V. VISITOR'S**

Mr. Armen Boyajian, 23 Grandview Avenue, suggested purchasing a new garbage truck for picking up both garbage and recycling materials.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**DISCUSSION  
REVISITING MODEL ORDINANCE  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Attorney Ponzini gave an overview of the Affordable Housing ordinance and suggested that the specifics be discussed with the Board in private. Suggestions or comments can be sent to Attorney Ponzini via e-mail and he will respond with a final draft which may have little or no changes. A public hearing can be called for at the next meeting if the draft is acceptable.

Mayor Porcino stated that the County comments included whether or not there was a conflict between our workforce housing and the affordable housing ordinance; whether Ardsley should be incentivizing or creating additional affordable units and that Ardsley should be streamlining and prioritizing the project.

Mr. Tony Hoeltzel, Director, Community Housing Resource Center, offered his services to the Village.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Judy Stein and Ms. Stacy Katch presented themselves to the Board and explained the desire of the Girl Scouts to place a Peace Pole on the S. E. corner of Ashford Avenue and Route 9A.

**RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF INSTALLATION OF  
GIRL SCOUTS PEACE POLE**

**Tr. Malone: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby approves of the installation of a Girl Scout Peace Pole at Silliman Park. **Seconded by Tr. Minore and passed unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM FUNDS –  
VANGUARD INVESTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013**

**Tr. Minore: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby authorizes the Village Manager to invest \$41,300 in the Vanguard 500 Index Fund, \$11,800 in the Vanguard International Index Fund, and \$5,900 in the Vanguard Small Cap Fund for the Village's Volunteer Fire Fighter Length of Service Award Program also known as LOSAP. **Seconded by Tr. Nardecchia and passed unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**

**Tr. Nardecchia: Resolved**, that the Village Board of the Village of Ardsley hereby adjourns the regular meeting of September 18, 2012 at 9:13 p.m. **Seconded by Tr. Minore and passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine McSpedon, Recording Secretary