



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

December 03, 2024, at 7:00 PM

432 Route 306, Wesley Hills, NY 10952

Phone: 845-354-0400 | Fax: 845-354-4097

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marshall Katz, Mayor
Milton Schwartz, Deputy Mayor
Yisroel Cherns, Trustee
Joseph Mause, Trustee (Zoom)
Tova Krull, Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Camille Guido - Downey, Village Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Katz opened the meeting at 7 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Katz noted that Benjamin Selig will not be in attendance as he is traveling to Florida and unable to attend.

Mayor Katz also stated that Trustee Mause is observing the meeting via Zoom, but will not be allowed to vote on any items.

ITEM #1

RESOLUTION NO. 117-24

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Cherns made a motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2024, seconded by Trustee Krull. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #2

PUBLIC HEARINGS - A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 210 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF WESLEY HILLS IN RELATION TO VEHICLE & TRAFFIC

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to open the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Krull. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

No one from the public wished to speak.

Trustee Cherns made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Krull. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #3

RESOLUTION NO. 118-24

RESOLUTION APPROVING LOCAL LAW 2 OF 2024 - A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 210 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF WESLEY HILLS IN RELATION TO VEHICLE & TRAFFIC

Trustee Cherns made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Krull:

RESOLVED, that the proposed Local Law entitled, “A Local Law Amending Section 210 of the Code of the Village of Wesley Hills in Relation to Vehicle & Traffic,” a copy of which is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, is hereby approved, and enacted as Local Law No. 2 of 2024.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

TOWN OF RAMAPO POLICE

Town of Ramapo Police Officer Callinan was present, and the Village Board discussed the following topics:

- There is a large amount of traffic on Grandview Ave at the intersection of Route 306 that is generated from the schools. If the Police could assist with traffic control at the 4PM dismissal the Board feels that would help.
- The Village is still receiving calls about the frat house on Astor. Our Code and County Health Department are scheduled to inspect it soon. If the Police can still patrol the area for noise complaints and issue overnight parking tickets if necessary, that will send a message.

Board Members thanked Officer Callinan for his service.

ITEM #4

DISCUSSION: WILDER ROAD SIDEWALKS ENGINEER SELECTION COMMITTEE

Mayor Katz stated that Trustee Mause, Trustee Schwartz, Village Clerk and himself reviewed the RFQ's that were received and completed the ranking sheet. The top two ranking engineering companies are Tectonic and Creighton & Manning. Mayor Katz directed the Village Clerk to schedule interviews with both companies and the Trustees.

ITEM #5

RESOLUTION NO. 119-24

DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION: GREG SIKORSKY CHILDREN'S PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Trustee Cherns made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Schwartz:

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills has decided to beautify the Greg Sikorsky Children's Park by making several improvements, and

WHEREAS, based on the cost schedule provided by Brooker Engineer dated November 8, 2024, the Board of Trustees wishes to expend the total amount of \$56,342.00 out of the parkland account, and

WHEREAS, the remaining funds needed to complete the improvements are to be expended from the Village's reserves account, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk-Treasurer is authorized to fund the costs associated with the improvements to the Greg Sikorsky Children's Park from the parkland account in the amount of \$56,342.00 and further fund the balance of the project out of the Village's reserves account.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #6

RESOLUTION NO. 120-24

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED AND INCREASED STATE AID FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Krull:

WHEREAS, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

WHEREAS, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

WHEREAS, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

WHEREAS, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and

WHEREAS, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing, and other municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #7

RESOLUTION NO. 121-24

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 AGREEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES, HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND STORM DRAIN MAINTENANCE BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RAMAPO AND THE VILLAGE OF WESLEY HILLS

Trustee Krull made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Schwartz:

RESOLVED, that the proposed agreement between the Town of Ramapo and the Village of Wesley Hills for snow removal services, highway maintenance and storm drain maintenance for 2025, a copy of which is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, is hereby accepted, and approved and the Mayor's execution of same on behalf of the Village of Wesley Hills is hereby authorized nunc pro tunc.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #8

RESOLUTION NO. 122-24

RESOLUTION APPROVING ABSTRACTS OF AUDITED CLAIMS

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Krull:

RESOLVED, that the general fund claims, #22,197 through #22,570 in the aggregate amount of \$323,253.66 as set forth in Abstract #12/24 dated December 3, 2024, a copy of which abstract of audited claims is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, are hereby approved.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #9

RESOLUTION NO. 123-24

RESOLUTION APPROVING TRANSFER OF FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the transfers in the aggregate amount of \$350,000.00 as set forth in Abstract #12/24 dated December 3, 2024, a copy of which abstract of audited claims is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, are hereby approved.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #10 – MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Katz stated that he attended a meeting with Supervisor Spect, Mona Montal, Trustee Krull and the Village Clerk on November 15 and the following items were discussed:

- Willow Tree Road sidewalk - The Village is happy to have the Town construct a sidewalk on the south side of Willow Tree from the roundabout to Dike Drive. The supervisor will provide a formal letter indicating that the Town will undertake this project. The Village will use this letter to advise our Design Engineer to alter the plans for the Village's sidewalk to terminate and connect it (via a crosswalk) to the Town's sidewalk. We will also use this letter to hopefully end the court cases currently ongoing against Village from the 2 homeowners on the north side of Willow Tree who are opposing our sidewalk project.
- Other sidewalk projects on County Roads- Ms. Montal indicated her involvement with the County concerning the \$30M they have put aside for sidewalk projects on County Road. The Village would be interested in the following in order of most to least important:
 - Grandview from Forshay as far as possible towards 202
 - McNamara from New Hempstead to Pomona Road
 - Lime Kiln
 - Wilder from Lime Kiln as far as possible towards 202
- Grandview / 306 intersection - Discussed need for a left turn lane (or at a minimum and exclusive left turn signal) to deal with traffic especially when YSV Girls school is starting or letting out which causes major backups. Ms. Montal thought YSV was supposed to provide this as part of their recent expansion project – but it did not happen.
- 202/Spook Rock/Lime Kiln intersection/Sky Meadow Drive extension between 202 and Spook Rock - Discussed how nothing has happened since the County committed to starting the process for this project with SEQRA ... at the meeting we had in August 2023. Ms. Montal indicated that the Town might take over this project to get it moving along.
- Willow Tree Park - The Village is looking for a general cleanup / refresh of the existing park grounds, pathways, and fishing pier. The Village is looking for the Town to remove the silt from the lake to increase its capacity as well as to refurbish the dam to make it possible to lower water levels in anticipation of heavy rains. This will have the effect of mitigating damage to downstream properties and reduce flooding that occurs on Grandview and results in washouts of the shoulders. The Town will actively seek grant funds for this project which may be found in flood mitigation grants among other sources. Concerning Willow Tree Park upgrades, the Village will survey residents and help to organize a meeting for residents and the Town to discuss what our residents would like to see in the park (active, passive, courts, baseball fields, playgrounds...). We will arrange some time in January for the meeting. The Village agreed in principle to help fund some of the improvements.
- Monsey FD – Grandview/306 satellite location – Ms. Montal does not believe that this is needed if she can get the County to redraw fire district lines or reorganize how fire districts are managed countywide. The Village expects that the Monsey FD will soon be applying for approval and will need to respond and deal with their application, so this is becoming something that we need to deal with urgently. Till now the Village Board has been in favor of this satellite location as the response times from the Grove St. location are not great. But if the lines are redrawn and Hillcrest starts responding from their 306 location, our opinion may change.

Sidewalk Funding – Lawler

Mayor Katz stated that securing this funding is moving forward, and he receives regular updates on the progress that the Town has made to authorize the funding.

VILLAGE CLERK/TREASURER'S REPORT

Camille Guido-Downey reported the following:

The December 16th blood drive has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. A new date will be in January 2025. Village Holiday Party will be December 17 from 1-4 at Village Hall. Paving is completed. Training has taken place on the electronic ticketing system and December 13th will be our go live date. Tree work is complete at the Village Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Krull. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, and Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Camille Guido-Downey