



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

August 06, 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
Tova Krull, Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Benjamin Selig, Village Attorney
Camille Guido - Downey, Village Clerk-Treasurer

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

ITEM #1

RESOLUTION #78-24

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Cherns made a motion to approve the minutes of July 2, 2024, seconded by Trustee Schwartz. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, Trustee Mause, Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #2

DISCUSSION: AMENDMENT TO VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 210-VEHICLES & TRAFFIC

Mayor Katz stated that Trustee Mause asked the Village Board to review this section of the Code for accuracy and further if the Board wanted to increase the parking fines.

Trustee Mause stated that he wants to ensure that the Village reviews this section especially if we are considering a new parking ticket program.

Ben Selig stated that he has reached out to NYCOM for more information and will report back soon.

ITEM #3

DISCUSSION: JUSTICE COURT PASSPORT ELECTRONIC SERVICES

Mayor Katz stated that as we have discussed previously, this system is an electronic parking ticket system. The monthly cost is \$2,000 and there is a one-time fee of \$1,300 for the machine. The contract is for 3 years.

Board Member stated that we can discuss this further when we discuss if we need to amend Chapter 210.

ITEM #4

RESOLUTION #79-24

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ELECTRONIC RECORDS

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills maintains all digitally created records in their native digital format for the legally proscribed retention period of the record, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills shall maintain all digital records adhering to the guidelines set forth in the Regulations of the Commission of Education Part 185.8 and,

WHEREAS, that the Village of Wesley Hills determined that copies of records in other formats, including paper, shall be deemed convenience copies and disposed of when no longer needed for reference or other administrative purposes, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills will maintain all digital records as the official copy.

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

ITEM #5

RESOLUTION #80-24

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF ESCROW - 1 COTTONWOOD LANE

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

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2023, the Village Engineer recommended that David & Rifka Rotenberg post the sum of \$17,500.00 with the Village of Wesley Hills to be held in escrow for the completion of the single-family home located at 1 Cottonwood Lane, and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2023, Pomona Enterprise Corp, on behalf of the homeowner posted said \$17,500.00, and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2024, the Village Engineer submitted an approval letter for the release of the escrow funds in the amount of \$17,500.00, and

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk of the Village of Wesley Hills is hereby directed to refund the sum of \$17,500.00 less the sum of \$250.00 to be retained by the Village of Wesley Hills as and for an administration fee and \$865.00 for outstanding Building Department fees resulting in a net refund to be paid to the aforesaid Pomona Enterprise Corp in the amount of \$16,385.00.

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

ITEM #6
RESOLUTION APPROVING JUSTICE COURT AUDIT

RESOLUTION #81-24

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

RESOLVED, that the Justice Court Audit of the Village Accountant for 2023-2024 is hereby approved and a copy of which is made apart of the Minutes of this Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said document be forwarded to the New York State Office of Court Administration.

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

ITEM #7
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE END OF YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT

RESOLUTION #82-24

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

WHEREAS, the Village Accountant of the Village of Wesley Hills has prepared the attached end of year budget amendment, which includes funds that are encumbered and reallocation of funds for the end of year, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills August 2024 Budget Amendment which includes funds that are encumbered and reallocation of funds for the end of year for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2024, as prepared by the Village Accountant of the Village of Wesley Hills be and the same is hereby approved and accepted.

Discussion:

Mayor Katz, Board Members and Village Clerk Treasurer discussed the budget amendment.

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

ITEM #8
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PLACEMENT OF STOP SIGNS AT CHARLOTTE DRIVE & DEERWOOD ROAD

RESOLUTION #83-24

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley has received several complaints from residents expressing their frustration with vehicles speeding and not yielding to traffic at the intersection of Charlotte Drive and Deerwood Road; and

WHEREAS, the Village Engineer has performed a review stating that in order to safely facilitate traffic through the intersection, they are recommending a 4-way stop sign be installed in the locations noted on the plan dated August 1, 2024, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills approves the installation of stop signs, other associated signage, and street painting in the location noted on the plan prepared by the Village Engineer dated August 1, 2024, a copy of which is made a part of the minutes of this Board, is hereby approved and the Village Clerk Treasurer is authorized to contract with the Town of Ramapo Highway Department for installation of same.

Discussion:

Mayor Katz questioned if the Board wanted to call the public to a meeting to discuss the need. Trustee Mause stated that he is very familiar with the residents in the area, and they are all in favor. Trustee Schwartz stated that based on the Village Engineer's memo we should install the signs.

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

ITEM #9

RESOLUTION #84-24

RESOLUTION APPROVING ABSTRACTS OF AUDITED CLAIMS

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

RESOLVED, that the general fund claims #22,132 through #22,240 in the aggregate amount of \$120,867.13 as set forth in Abstract #8/24 dated August 6, 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, Trustee Mause, Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #10

RESOLUTION #85-24

RESOLUTION APPROVING TRANSFER OF FUNDS

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

RESOLVED, that the transfers in the aggregate amount of \$775,000 as set forth in Abstract #8/24 dated August 6, 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, Trustee Mause, Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #86-24

RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ON NEW YORK STATE ROUTE 202

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

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Wesley Hills has received concerns about the speed limit on New York State Route 202, and

WHEREAS, the residents have voiced concerns over vehicles and commercial vehicles not abiding by the posted speed limit in the Village of Wesley Hills causing a public safety issue, and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Bais Yaakov of Ramapo School, the Viola School, the entrance to Kakiat Park and the numerous intersecting roads, many areas along this stretch of 202 contain houses with driveways exiting onto this fast-moving road, and

WHEREAS, people trying to enter the road from all these connections face the prospect of having to commit to and reach highway speeds with no on-ramps in a very short time frame, and

WHEREAS, the accident history of this road surely supports the need for a speed limit that recognizes the numerous locations that traffic enters the road, and

WHEREAS, this area also covers the oddly configured intersection of Lime Kiln Road, Spook Rock Road, and Route 202, a major accident location that the Village has been working with New York State to address for years, and

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Wesley Hills fully supports any efforts to reduce the speed limit on State Route 202 in the areas where it borders the Village as well as outside that area in the stretch from the intersection of State Route 306 to Viola Road, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Wesley Hills request that the Village Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Wesley Hills send a certified copy of this resolution to the New York State Department of Transportation.

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

ITEM #11 - MAYOR'S REPORTS

Greg Sikorsky Park

Mayor Katz stated that he has received several requests (benches, shade, equipment, replacement structures, etc.) over the years to improve the park and he would like for Board Members to step up and form a committee to review the needs of the park. Trustee Mause, Trustee Schwartz and Trustee Krull volunteered. Board Members requested the plan for the Village park be sent to them along with whatever requests have been received. Mayor Katz also stated that the Village will need to construct a new path to connect with the path installed in the new subdivision behind the park.

Rockland Green

Mayor Katz stated that Rockland Green has negotiated the bid received for the Village's garbage service. The breakdown is:

First year starting in January 2025 – 0% increase.

Second, third & fourth year – 4.8 % increase

Fifth year – no increase.

Mayor Katz stated that Donato Marangi is selling the business to Interstate Waste Service and our service terms will remain the same.

Phone System

The Village has installed a fully cloud based system with Nextiva.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Mayor Katz stated that he received an update from Javier Barrios of Good Energy. The State has changed the program and any CCA bid must be within 5% of a calculated average price over a specified period. Good Energy is currently going out to bid for electric prices for the Village to start at the end of our current contract (January 2025). Mayor Katz will report back with numbers when they are available. There is currently no opportunity for a program for gas as the prices per CCF is too high and cannot get a fixed rate that meets the State requirements

Willow Tree Road Speed Bumps

The Town of Ramapo Highway Department has installed speed bumps on Willow Tree Road and the Village received a complaint. Mayor Katz stated that this is a trial solution to control truck traffic and speeding on the roadway. Board Members stated that they would like to see a speed table installed opposed to the bump as a permanent solution should the Town wish. Mayor Katz stated that only two of the three speed bumps were installed.

East Willow Tree/McNamara Road Intersection Realignment

Mayor Katz stated that the Village is waiting for Weston & Sampson to report back with the realignment plan.

Upcoming Meetings:

August 20 Workshop Meeting

September 3 Regular Meeting

September 17 Workshop Meeting

ITEM #11 – VILLAGE CLERK TREASURER’S REPORTS

The Village collected 97% of our taxes and there is \$30,711.12 outstanding. Residents have until 10/31/24 to pay. New fire/burglar alarm equipment has been installed and we are being monitored by Clarkstown Fire & Safety. The Holland Lane Drainage Improvement project has started, and we are expecting it to be completed by next week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Cherns made a motion to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation, seconded by Trustee Schwartz. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, Trustee Mause, Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

No action was taken during the executive session.

Trustee schwartz made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Trustee Cherns. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee Schwartz, Trustee Cherns, Trustee Mause, Trustee Krull. This motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Camille Guido-Downey