

DRAFT OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BRONXVILLE HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2006 AT THE BRONXVILLE LIBRARY, 201 PONDFIELD ROAD, BRONXVILLE, N.Y.

PRESENT:	Mary C. Marvin	Mayor
	Glenn D. Bellitto	
	Robert S. Underhill	
	Anne W. Poorman	
	William H. Barton, Jr.	Trustees
ALSO PRESENT:	Ned W. Branthover	Village Counsel
	Harold Porr III	Village Administrator
	Rocco Circosta	Superintendent of Public Works
	Brian M. Downey	Chief of Police
	Vincent Pici, P.E.	Superintendent of Buildings
	Robert J. Fels	Village Treasurer
	William J. Murphy	Parking Commissioner

WORK SESSION

Mayor Marvin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (In attendance were Mayor Marvin, Trustees Bellitto, Underhill, Poorman and Barton, Administrator H. Porr III, and Treasurer Fels.) Those present reviewed agenda items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Trustee Barton and second by Trustee Bellitto, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:38 p.m. to discuss police personnel and contract negotiations and other personnel issues.

On motion by Trustee Bellitto and second by Trustee Underhill, the Board voted unanimously to leave executive session at 8:04 p.m.

Mayor Marvin opened the public session of the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

PRESENTATION – State Senator Jeff Klein

New York State Senator Jeff Klein spoke about local bills that he sponsored that will benefit the Village of Bronxville. He helped in obtaining grant money from the State for a parking study and he was also instrumental in procuring state funding for the school district. Senator Klein announced that he was kicking off an “Eastchester Day” luncheon on Wednesday at the Eastchester Fire Headquarters and invited local officials and community leaders representing the grant beneficiary organizations to get together to celebrate.

PRESENTATION – Eastchester Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

Mary Smith, Chair of the Eastchester Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities, announced the start of “Disabilities Awareness Week” on October 14th with the Southeast Consortium benefit to be held at Lake Isle. In conjunction with Disabilities Awareness Week, October 14th - 21st, a presentation about the Southeast Consortium will be running on local cable stations which will address emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities.

The regular meeting was recessed to go to a public hearing, and reopened at 8:25 p.m.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Marvin said it’s so nice to be back home in the Bronxville Library. She

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thanked the Town of Eastchester and the Bronxville School for going above and beyond in accommodating all the various Village meetings, and said we are very appreciative.

Mayor Marvin thanked Library Director Jane Marino, Library Board Chairman Gene Piper, and facilities chair Vicki Manley, who together with Mr. Porr and our Superintendent of Buildings Vincent Pici really worked as a team and so expeditiously to get us all back in the Library in truly record time.

Mayor Marvin reported that renovation of Village Hall is progressing extremely well – walls are being sheet rocked and slate has been delivered for the roof which will be going on this week. She said we are looking at a March 1 completion date, which we are most pleased about.

Mayor Marvin said she wrote a recent column for the newspaper on the revaluation, which is also posted on the Village web site and gives all the important dates from now until the filing of the final tax roll with the State on April 1, 2007. To capsulize, the next event is a public meeting on October 26 from 7 to 9 p.m., when the entire concept of valuation will be discussed in anticipation of the tentative assessment notices being mailed on November 15. There will be presentations followed by time for public questions, and it will be televised and played on Cable Channel 74. We will also have a second public meeting on November 13 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. prior to our monthly Board of Trustees meeting to discuss the Homestead Option exclusively, followed by the regular public meeting at 8:30 instead of 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Marvin reported that she and Trustee Bellitto attended the inaugural meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee on September 19th. She said the meeting was incredibly positive and productive. They discussed issues particular to certain neighborhoods and also Village-wide issues. The next step is to prioritize and plan a course of action, but she said we have already acted on some of the smaller issues like tree trimming and pot holes.

Mayor Marvin reported that she attended a meeting that Assemblywoman Paulin called with the elected officials in her district and Con Ed officials to discuss ways to improve their service. As a result of the meeting and the concerns and issues raised, Con Ed has agreed to:

- 1) Implement a much more aggressive tree trimming program.
- 2) Improve their Voice Response System by including better instructions. In essence, if you were calling from your cell phone because you had no phone, your address wasn't registered on the grid unless you keyed in your home phone number.
- 3) When warranted by the severity of the storm, Con Ed will assign a municipal liaison and a repair crew to the affected communities so we would have some control over the speed of the work and where the emergencies were, etc.

The question was raised about burying lines. Con Edison quoted a cost of \$5 Billion to bury the existing, aged lines and \$40 Billion to install a new underground system in the county and this did not include phone or cable wiring. Mayor Marvin thanked Assemblywoman Paulin for getting everyone together, and said it was a really productive meeting.

Mayor Marvin said she spoke today with the government liaison for Metro-North in response to a letter sent to her by Mr. Kroulas and the Parkway Road Association. As a result, Metro-North is coordinating with our Public Works Department to do a joint cleanup, and they will be repainting the walkway from the Kraft Avenue lot and limiting the late night horn blowing as much as possible, so we are making progress.

Mayor Marvin said she felt the need to comment on Sagamore Road parking because after reading a letter to the editor and watching the Planning Board meeting, she realized how much misinformation is out there. She said we have made no decisions about temporary parking during the construction of the Kensington project. We are looking at all the options out there, with our goal of having the least impact on the residents of Sagamore Road. Re-striping of Sagamore Road was done recently and added additional parking spaces, but she said this initiative only served to confuse and meld the two different initiatives.

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Mayor Marvin said that Christ Church will not lose parking for their church services. We realize residents need unloading locations and areas for visitors and helpers. We are looking at everything, but nothing has been decided because it wouldn't be implemented until spring at the earliest. Any decision or plan will come from the Trustees and we are in the process of meeting with residents to get their input. Mayor Marvin said she has committed to attending meetings with residents of 64 Sagamore and 25 Sagamore Road and will speak with any residents or groups.

Reporting on other events since the September meeting, Mayor Marvin said the Village collaborated with Lawrence Hospital for Breast Cancer Awareness Month which is October, so you will see that the fountain lights are pink as a reminder. Mayor Marvin took part in a wonderful ceremony at the Hospital announcing this event as well as the Dr. Jean Petrek walk for Breast Cancer.

Mayor Marvin reported that the Village newsletter was mailed last week and she videotaped a new segment of the Cable TV show "One Square Mile" to share Village news and events. She thanked Peter North and Nancy Vittorini for their help.

Mayor Marvin said she took part in the opening of the beautiful new wing of the Concordia Library with its new media room, art gallery and board room. She gave a mini State of the Village at the Boulder Ledge Garden Club meeting. She spoke at the dedication of the Blue Star Mothers plaque at the Women's Club. The Mayor also attended the Junior League Community Advisory Board meeting with other community leaders to discuss cooperative initiatives.

Mayor Marvin said she was pleased to report that we have come to an agreement with our police department that was negotiated in house and avoids going to arbitration. She believes it signals an era of good will and cooperation.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Bellitto reported that we held the first meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee on September 19th. The group will focus on quality of life issues. Members will also be communicating pressing local needs. He said the next committee meeting will be in mid December and all members of the community are invited to attend.

As the Trustee liaison to the police, Trustee Bellitto said he was delighted with the successful resolution to the police contract. In the final analysis, he thinks that all parties decided to consider what would be fair to all, and we have found common ground. He said a new contract is a win/win for both taxpayers and for the police officers. A strong relationship with the police will help build a stronger community. First and foremost, he thanked Mayor Marvin for her support. He also thanked the negotiating team, Mr. Porr, Attorneys Terry O'Neil and Chris Kurtz. On the PBA side he thanked PBA President Joseph Panzarino and their attorney Chris Harold and Sergeant Richard Bunyan. Trustee Bellitto also thanked the Board of Trustees for being so supportive to the Mayor. He said this is a real turning point in the Village's relationship with the PBA.

As he has mentioned in the past, Trustee Bellitto said he would like to see a Bronxville Police Awards Ceremony that highlights particular achievements as well as the everyday work of officers. He also hopes to see larger resident attendance at the annual PBA Ball to show support for the police. Trustee Bellitto noted that the Village hired two new police officers during the last few months and we have two more openings to fill. He would like to have promotional opportunities among the officer ranks and also pursue the possibility of having the police department nationally accredited.

Trustee Bellitto stated that in November the Board of Trustees will make a decision on adoption of the Homestead option. He urged everyone to attend the meeting on November 13th.

Trustee Bellitto reported that the first meeting of the Parking Committee was held on September 26th. The committee which includes merchants on the west side and on the east side,

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and also residents, will be looking at several different issues. One topic is how to make our parking meter enforcement more customer friendly. The Village is considering parking consultant proposals. On Wednesday night they will be meeting with Parking Commissioner Murphy.

Trustee Poorman said we are thrilled to receive a \$25,000 grant from the state for a parking study. She reported that over the summer Trustee Bellitto, Mr. Poor and she met with parking consultants. She said one firm seemed to be particularly savvy in the areas of on-street enforcement and things such as capital rates and turnover rates and the other is more experienced about back office operations. Because each firm seemed particularly talented in one of two areas, we decided to ask if the two of them would work together. We did in fact receive their formal proposals. We have asked them to combine their individual proposals into one. Trustee Poorman pointed out that this study will address parking and traffic flow in the central business district. It doesn't address temporary parking during the Kensington project. She thinks we can learn a lot and it will dovetail with our parking committee.

Trustee Poorman said she met with several Village residents, most of them members of the Bronxville Beautification Council, who are interested in maintaining our downtown. Their ideas range from hanging baskets and planters, which would be undertaken by the Beautification Council, to unifying the plantings and seeing that they are maintained. One idea that came out of that meeting was a long term capital improvement idea to complete the renovation of the downtown sidewalks. She said that under Mayor Nancy Hand restoration of the downtown sidewalks had begun, but for some reason, the endeavor was never fully completed. She noted that in many areas the sidewalks are not attractive and are in need of repair. Trustee Poorman believes that the landlords would have an interest in the project and having a model that unifies the Village. In terms of dollars to the Village, she said this is not a big ticket item, because the owners pay a portion of the cost.

Trustee Underhill reported that following up on last month's meeting with the auditors, they had suggested that the Village undertake an audit/critique of the technology and processes that we use to support our finance function in the Village. He said the Finance Committee discussed it at length, and we asked our auditors to present us with a proposal to undertake such a study. We have received a proposal from them and over the ensuing weeks he and Treasurer Fels will be reviewing it to make sure it takes care of our needs.

Trustee Barton extended thanks to the other trustees and especially Trustee Bellitto in negotiating the police contract and for his diligent effort in making this happen.

Trustee Barton said he heard that the Sidewalk Sale was very successful. By all reports there was a good turnout. He reported that the Antiques Fair was a moderate success. He reminded residents that the Farmers Market will be open until the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Trustee Barton reported on the Cable Committee and said he is disappointed that we have been unable to find a leader for this committee. He appealed again to the community for someone to come forward and take the leadership of this committee. He pointed out that this is a joint Village/School committee, and said we will have a new studio room in the new Village Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Marvin pointed out an error in the spelling of Lisa Connors' name in the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11th. It was also noted that the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 18th should reflect that Mr. Thomas Wolff, a resident, was in attendance.

On motion of Trustee Poorman, seconded by Trustee Bellitto, the Board approved the minutes of the the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2006, and the Special Meeting of September 18, 2006, as amended.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Department reports were presented by Chief of Police Downey, Superintendent of Buildings Pici, Superintendent of Public Works Circosta, Village Treasurer Fels, Parking Commissioner Murphy, and Village Administrator Porr.

RESOLUTION – Bids for Police Uniforms

On motion of Trustee Barton, seconded by Trustee Poorman, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustees rejects all bids for 2006-2007 Police Uniform Contract Specifications, which were deemed unresponsive to specifications, and received from the following companies: New England Sportswear, 495 Main Street Armonk, NY 10504; and Rosen's Uniforms, 230 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206.

RESOLUTION – Surplus Equipment Auction

Superintendent of Public Works Circosta said that we have been informed that on Saturday, October 28, 2006, the Village of Scarsdale is holding a public vehicle auction. He requested that the Board of Trustees declare the following vehicle as surplus and that this vehicle be auctioned at the above time and date.

The surplus vehicle is as listed below:

2003 Ford Crown Victoria	2FAFP71W63X112721
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On motion of Trustee Bellitto, seconded by Trustee Poorman, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Works has reviewed the attached list of equipment, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has requested that the Village Board of Trustees declare this equipment as "SURPLUS" in order to properly dispose of at Public Auction,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bronxville hereby declares this list of equipment as "SURPLUS" and authorizes the Superintendent to sell at Public Auction.

RESOLUTION – Intermunicipal Agreement for Disposal of Solid Waste and Recyclables

On motion of Trustee Barton, seconded by Trustee Underhill, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Village of Bronxville is presently a participant in the Westchester County Waste Disposal District, and

WHEREAS, the present Agreement has expired on August 14, 2006, but being honored by the County of Westchester, and

WHEREAS, the County of Westchester has prepared a new agreement for all the participants of the Solid Waste District that commences August 14, 2006 through October 21, 2009, and

WHEREAS, the County of Westchester has established the tipping fee for solid waste at an amount of \$24.32/ton through the end of 2006 and thence an amount of \$25.00/ton from January 1, 2007 through October 21, 2009;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bronxville hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement between the Village of Bronxville and the County of Westchester for the purposes of Solid Waste Disposal and Disposal of Recyclable Materials.

RESOLUTION – PBA Police Contract

Village Administrator Porr said he was very happy to have a small part in working with Mayor Marvin and Trustee Bellitto in negotiating an agreement with the police.

On motion of Trustee Bellitto, seconded by Trustee Underhill, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bronxville hereby authorizes the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Agreement between the Village of Bronxville and the Bronxville Police Taylor Act Committee for a three year period commencing June 1, 2005 through May 31, 2008, as outlined in the attached document.

RESOLUTION – Authorizing Contract with Paul B. Bergins as Tax Certiorari Counsel

On motion of Trustee Poorman, seconded by Trustee Bellitto, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to sign a contract with Paul B. Bergins, Attorney at Law, 6 Chester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601, to undertake tax certiorari counsel work on behalf of the Village of Bronxville at a regular fee of \$200 per hour plus necessary out-of-pocket disbursements.

RESOLUTION – Scheduling a Public Hearing on the Homestead Option

On motion of Trustee Barton, seconded by Trustee Underhill, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The Village of Bronxville Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing to solicit public comments on possible use of the Homestead Option as part of the Village revaluation project. The Public Hearing will be held in the Yeager Room of the Bronxville Public Library, 201 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY on November 13, 2006 at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Marvin announced that the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will start at 8:30 p.m. on November 13th, instead of 8:00 p.m. Prior to the Board Meeting that evening there will be public meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to discuss the Homestead Option exclusively.

RESOLUTION to Schedule a Public Hearing – Senior Citizens Property Tax Exemption

On motion of Trustee Bellitto, seconded by Trustee Underhill, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustees schedules a public hearing in the Yeager Room at Bronxville Library at the regular meeting of the Village of Bronxville Board of Trustees scheduled for Monday, November 13, 2006 at 8:30 p.m., to hear and consider comments to amend Chapter 268 of the Code of the Village of Bronxville, Article II, to provide for an increase in the income levels to be eligible for a Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption (schedule attached).

RESOLUTION – Authorizing Tax Certiorari Settlement

On motion of Trustee Poorman, seconded by Trustee Barton, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

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WHEREAS, petitions having been filed by the property owner below, challenging real property tax assessments on the Village's Final Assessment Roll with respect to the following parcel:

<u>Property Owner</u>	<u>Address Description</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
One Cedar St. Condominium	Section 3, Block 1, Lot 1 One Cedar Street	2000-2004

WHEREAS, petitioner's court challenges are now pending in the Supreme Court, Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, the Village and the property owners have reached a mutually agreeable resolution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby authorizes the Village attorney to execute the following settlement on behalf of the Village and School reducing the assessments to no less than the following amounts:

Year	Assessment	Revised Assessment	Reduction
2000	266,400	200,000	66,400
2001	266,400	185,000	81,400
2002	266,400	175,000	91,400
2003	266,400	165,000	101,400
2004	266,400	150,000	116,400

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dorothy Brennan, Kensington Road, commented on the Bronxville Women's Club attaining State Historic status and receiving two honors. She thanked the Women's Club who contributed funds to build a ramp at the Bronxville Cabin. Mrs. Brennan said she was very pleased with the handicapped ramp and said Rocco Circosta and his men did a very good job. She said she had two calls today, one from a woman who was having a children's party and asked if the cabin was accessible for a child in a wheel chair. The other call was from Lawrence Hospital who will be giving out flu shots at the cabin and they asked her if it was handicapped accessible. She said she was very happy that she was able to accommodate them.

Betsy Harding, Homesdale Road, stated that in the column Mayor Marvin wrote for the newspapers on revaluation that one of the dates could be misleading. She said it states that on February 27th the Board of Assessment Review will meet. She said Grievance Day is set by State statute and is always held on the third Tuesday in February. She doubted the Board had the power to extend it. She said people would have to get their papers in by February 20th.

Mayor Marvin responded that Ms. Harding was correct, that grievance papers have to be filed by the legal date, which is February 20th, and said she would add this date to the list of dates on the assessment schedule.

Ms. Harding congratulated the Board on negotiating a police contract. She asked about the hiring practices for new police officers. Chief Downey explained the procedure for hiring police officers from the civil service list from the County. There was some discussion on this subject.

Thomas Wolff, Pondfield Road, said he had some concerns with regard to the minutes that were approved for the meeting on September 18, 2006, and the amendments made to the local law with regard to the Kensington project.

Mayor Marvin responded that she received a letter from Mr. Wolff expressing his concerns on this matter and she had the Village's attorney look into the matter and answer some of his concerns. She invited Mr. Wolff to come to her office so they could discuss his concerns.

James Kroulas, Parkway Road, said he would like some clarification on the dates on the revaluation schedule. He asked if it was correct that residents are not going to have in their possession the data mailers, the initial valuations, prior to the two meetings on revaluation. He asked if everyone could have a facsimile of what they would receive.

Mayor Marvin said the first meeting is to explain how your property is going to be valued so when you get the data mailer you will understand it. Once you get the data mailer you are welcome to call us. Mayor Marvin explained that we couldn't use the public meeting to have everyone come and talk about their particular property.

Mr. Kroulas said that with the Election Day holiday coming up, was there any decision made on changing the garbage pickup schedule. Mayor Marvin responded that we are still talking about that and the Board is certainly aware of the inequities. She said we are still figuring how to balance the recycling needs and the problem of residents on the Monday/Thursday schedule losing a garbage pickup day.

Mr. Kroulas had some questions about the Board meeting on September 18th and said it wasn't clear to him what the meeting was going to be about. He thought the Board was just going to accept the environmental impact findings and then have a public meeting on the zoning law. He said he knew that a public hearing was held in July. Mr. Kroulas expressed some concerns, such as the setbacks, the number of units and the number of stories for the Kensington project.

Mayor Marvin said she would be happy to meet with Mr. Kroulas to discuss his concerns.

Betsy Harding expressed a concern about the proposed local law increasing the income limit for the senior citizen tax exemption.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

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Harold Porr III, Village Clerk