

MEETINGS TO DATE 2  
NO. OF REGULARS: 1

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF DEPEW  
APRIL 8, 2013**

ROLL CALL: Trustee Hammer  
Trustee Nolder  
Trustee Pecora  
Trustee Kucewicz  
Mayor Hoffman

**ON A MOTION BY**, Trustee Hammer, and seconded by Trustee Nolder, the April 1, 2013 Village Board Minutes were approved.

**ON A MOTION BY**, Trustee Kucewicz, and seconded by Trustee Pecora, the April 4, 2013 Planning Board Minutes were approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Phil Torgalski – 37 Banko Dr – concerned about the lids coming off the totes. Spoke about ones on Lydia Lane in Cheektowaga – lids were all off.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TENTATIVE BUDGET –**

Irv Reinig – 380 Columbia – read attached letter (at end of the minutes)

On a motion by Trustee Pecora, seconded by Trustee Kucewicz the public hearing was closed at 7:08pm.

**APPOINT LABORER - DPW**

Pursuant to Section 4-400 of Village Law, I Mayor Steven Hoffman, do hereby appoint Jeff Morgan 7 Conner Dr., Depew, New York, for the position of Laborer II at the Department of Public Works effective April 9, 2013 at a salary of \$22.29 per hour.

The forgoing nomination was acted upon in the following manner by the Board of Trustees:

Trustee Hammer – Yes  
Trustee Nolder – Yes  
Trustee Pecora – Yes  
Trustee Kucewicz – No – see below \*  
Mayor Hoffman – Yes

\* Trustee Kucewicz stated that his vote is not about Mr. Morgan, with the budget we have he does not want positions funded by fund balance and we are being handcuffed by NY State.

**AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING TOTES**

Trustee Nolder, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**Be It Resolved**, the Village Administrator is authorized to advertise for a public hearing. The public hearing will be held on Monday April 22, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers. The purpose of this hearing is to provide residents with information regarding Village garbage totes and recycle totes.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Pecora and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hammer – Yes  
Trustee Nolder – Yes  
Trustee Pecora – Yes  
Trustee Kucewicz – Yes  
Mayor Hoffman – Yes

**AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING CHAPTER 198 REVISIONS – WASTE CONTROL**

Trustee Hammer, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**Be It Resolved**, the Village Administrator is authorized to advertise for a public hearing. The public hearing will be held on Monday April 22, 2013 at 7:01 pm in the Council Chambers. The purpose of this hearing is to modify the existing Village Code in regards to garbage totes and recycle totes.

**VILLAGE OF DEPEW  
APRIL 8, 2013**

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Kucewicz and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hammer – Yes  
Trustee Nolder – Yes  
Trustee Pecora – Yes  
Trustee Kucewicz – Yes  
Mayor Hoffman – Yes

**MODIFY 2012/2013 BUDGET**

Trustee Nolder, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Administrator is hereby authorized to modify the 2012/2013 Budget in the following manner:

See attached spreadsheet with budget transfers.

The following resolution was seconded by Trustee Hammer, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hammer – Yes  
Trustee Nolder – Yes  
Trustee Pecora – Yes  
Trustee Kucewicz – Yes  
Mayor Hoffman – Yes

**PERMISSION – MEMBERSHIP – DEPEW FIRE EXPLORER POST**

Trustee Pecora, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, membership is hereby granted to the following in the Depew Fire Explorer Post pending the passing of his physicals:

**AETNA HOSE**

Tyler Martin 78 S. Bellevue Ave Depew NY 14043

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Kucewicz, and duly put to a roll call vote which resulted in the following:

Trustee Hammer – Yes  
Trustee Nolder – Yes  
Trustee Pecora – Yes  
Trustee Kucewicz – Yes  
Mayor Hoffman – Yes

**TREE/TRIMMING REMOVAL:**

**EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS:** DPW – Justin Sergi, Douglas Gawron, Joseph Farey, Brian Esford, Marc Schneider; Recreation – Allyson Yelich, Thomas Fritton, Jillian Mazurek

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:** Building Dept March 2013

**ON A MOTION BY**, Trustee Kucewicz, seconded by Trustee Hammer, the department head report was accepted as presented.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None

**UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS –**

None

VILLAGE OF DEPEW  
APRIL 8, 2013

**PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS –**

Joan Priebe – 15 Howard – totes are they the same or different sizes. Wanted to know if there was going to be a meeting with the Lee St residents.

Phil Torgalski – 37 Banko Dr – abandoned house on Banko, what is going on with it. CEO Fischione is trying to get the bank involved.

Mitch Martin from Senator Gallivan's office was present if anyone had any questions.

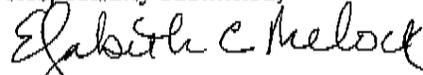
**CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

**ON A MOTION BY** Trustee Pecora, seconded by Trustee Kucewicz, the following claims are to be paid: General \$70,178.02 Sewer \$1200.00, the motion was **CARRIED**.

**ADJOURNMENT-**

**ON A MOTION BY** Trustee Nolder, seconded by Trustee Hammer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm in memory of William Twarozek, who recently passed away – longtime employee of the Dept of Public Works. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth C. Melock  
Village Administrator

**Irvine G. Reinig II**  
**380 Columbia Avenue**  
**Depew, NY 14043**

**Telephone: (716) 681-2587**

April 8, 2013

Mayor Hoffman and Board of Trustees  
Village of Depew  
Municipal Building  
85 Manitou Street  
Depew, NY 14043

Re: Tentative 2013-14 Depew Budget

Dear Mayor and Trustees:

The Village of Depew is in decline. Taxes are some of the highest taxes in Western New York and village growth is stagnant. In the past 10 years (since 2003), Depew Government spending has gone from \$9.27 million to \$14.22 million (tentative 2013-14 budget), a 53.3% increase. Depew taxes have gone from \$4.88 million to the proposed level of \$8.80 million, an 80.3% increase. Hence, the taxpayers have been unduly burdened by the ever increasing cost of village government while those in charge continue to cater to special interest groups.

The Village of Depew debt was \$1.87 million in 2003. Today village debt is about \$6 million. That is an increase of over \$4 million or three times as much debt. Also, Depew government will have to continue to have to pay for mandated sewer improvements and for the Depew Landfill cleanup which could cost in excess of \$13 million.

The politicians in Depew have paid for the ever increasing cost of village government by continually raising taxes, raising fees, and increasing village debt. They act like the taxpayers are a bottomless pit. They refuse to face reality that the tax base is not sufficient to pay for village government as it exists today in a cost effective manner.

For example, based on property tax rates in Lancaster and proposed tax rates in Depew for 2013, excluding sewer taxes, a property owner assessed at \$150,000 in the Village of Depew, Town of Lancaster will pay \$2,180 in combined village and town taxes in 2013. A property owner assessed at \$150,000 in the Town of Lancaster outside the villages paid \$1,341 in town taxes. Thus, that property owner in Depew is paying \$839 more per year or ~~67%~~<sup>62%</sup> more in combined village and town taxes. See Attachment 1.

The Tentative 2013-14 Depew Budget includes more spending, more taxes, and more fees. It is outrageous and unacceptable. The tentative budget, excluding sewer taxes, includes all time high spending at \$14.22 million, up approximately \$1.14 million from the 2012-13 Budget. Property taxes are going up from \$8.36 million in 2012-13 to \$8.80 million in 2013-14, a \$440,000 increase or an average increase of 5%. This surely is not in line with the spirit of the New York State Law that caps

*Tentative 2013-14 Depew Budget*

*I. Reinig II, 4/8/13*

property taxes at 2%. In addition, embedded in the budget is a Garbage Tote Fee of \$720,000. This additional fee will also be added to the taxpayer's bill. Thus, the actual increase for taxes and fees to the taxpayer in 2013 will be \$1.16 million or an increase of approximately 13.9%. This is unacceptable.

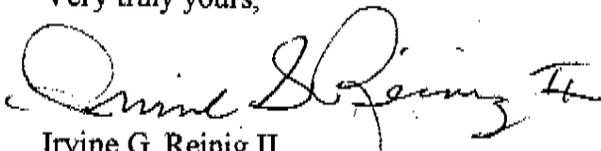
The tentative budget is not even a balanced budget. Expenditures exceed income by \$900,000. That difference is being made up by appropriating money from the General Fund to balance the budget; money that could be used to pay down current debt or put in reserve for future impending costs stated above or needed equipment such as replacement of fire engines.

Depew has little growth potential to offset higher future costs of village government. High taxes are a disincentive for business development and growth. Thus, we can continue to see higher and higher taxes as Depew continues to decline. As homes continue to age, property values will continue to appreciate at a much lower rate or even decrease in value. We are seeing that happen in several areas of Depew where property values are going down, thus putting more tax burden on areas like Northeast Depew where home values have maintained value.

The solution starts with you rejecting this tentative budget. As I have stated to you previously, with no growth you need to cut spending, and consolidate service; thus downsize village government. For example, consolidation of the police department could reduce village taxes by over 30%. The elected officials have had years to fix the problem and make Depew a viable entity. Nothing has been done. It has been the status quo. There is no long range plan for the Village of Depew, a needed component to running a cost effective government and something I have been requesting of Depew officials for the past 10 years. With no long range plan and no balanced budget, there has been no accountability for those in charge.

There may have been a need for Depew government many years ago, but today it is nothing but a heavy tax burden. Thus ultimately, dissolution of Depew government still makes the most sense for taxpayers.

Very truly yours,



Irvine G. Reinig II  
Depew Resident for 37 Years

Attachment 1 – Comparison of Property Taxes for 2013

**Comparison of Property Taxes for 2013** (excluding Sewer)

Based on Tentative Budget provided by Village of Depew for Tax Year 2013-14 and Town of Lancaster for Tax Year 2013.

Includes only village and town taxes. Does not include school and county taxes and excludes sewer taxes.

**A) Property Located in Village of Depew, Town of Lancaster**

Village Tax Rate = \$12.127047 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value  
where Assessed Value = Town of Lancaster Assessed Value

Town Tax Rate (General Fund & Highway Fund) = \$2.409547 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value  
where Assessed Value = 100% Full Market Value

**B) Property Located in Town of Lancaster Outside Villages**

General & Special Districts Ad Valorem Tax Rate = \$7.887894 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value  
where Assessed Value = 100% Full Market Value

Special Districts per Unit Charge:

Water = \$1.00

Refuse = \$155.65

**Analysis of Sample Tax Bills**

**Assumption 1:**

**Property - Single Family Residence**

**Assessed Value = \$100,000**

**1) Property located in Village of Depew, Town of Lancaster**

Village Tax =  $\$12.127 \times \$100,000 / \$1,000 =$

Town Tax (Gen. & Highway) =  $\$2.409 \times \$100,000 / \$1,000 =$

Total Taxes =

\$1,212

\$241

\$1,453

**2) Property Located in the Town of Lancaster Outside Villages**

General & Special Districts Ad Valorem Tax =

$\$7.89 \times \$100,000 / \$1,000 =$

Refuse + Water =

Total Taxes =

\$789

\$157

\$946

**Assumption 2:**

**Property - Single Family Residence**

**Assessed Value = \$150,000**

**1) Property located in Village of Depew, Town of Lancaster**

Village Tax = $\$12.127 \times \$150,000 / \$1,000 =$	<b>\$1,819</b>
Town Tax (Gen. & Highway) = $\$2.409 \times \$150,000 / \$1,000 =$	<b><u>\$361</u></b>
<b>Total Taxes =</b>	<b>\$2,180</b>

**2) Property Located in the Town of Lancaster Outside Villages**

General & Special Districts Ad Valorem Tax =	
$\$7.89 \times \$150,000 / \$1,000 =$	<b>\$1,184</b>
Refuse + Water =	<b><u>\$157</u></b>
<b>Total Taxes =</b>	<b>\$1,341</b>

**Assumption 3:**

**Property - Single Family Residence**

**Assessed Value = \$200,000**

**1) Property located in Village of Depew, Town of Lancaster**

Village Tax = $\$12.127 \times \$200,000 / \$1,000 =$	<b>\$2,425</b>
Town Tax (Gen. & Highway) = $\$2.409 \times \$200,000 / \$1,000 =$	<b><u>\$482</u></b>
<b>Total Taxes =</b>	<b>\$2,907</b>

**2) Property Located in the Town of Lancaster Outside Villages**

General & Special Districts Ad Valorem Tax =	
$\$7.89 \times \$200,000 / \$1,000 =$	<b>\$1,578</b>
Refuse + Water =	<b><u>\$157</u></b>
<b>Total Taxes =</b>	<b>\$1,735</b>

THUS:

**For Property Assessed at \$100,000**

Village + Town Property Taxes in the Village of Depew, Town of Lancaster are about **53% higher** (\$1,453 vs. \$946) than Property Taxes in the Town of Lancaster outside of the Villages.

**For Property Assessed at \$150,000**

Village + Town Property Taxes in the Village of Depew, Town of Lancaster are about **62% higher** (\$2,180 vs. \$1,341) than Property Taxes in the Town of Lancaster outside of the Villages.

**For Property Assessed at \$200,000**

Village + Town Property Taxes in the Village of Depew, Town of Lancaster are about **67% higher** (\$2,907 vs. \$1,735) than Property Taxes in the Town of Lancaster outside of the Villages.

**Comparison of Taxes for 2013 Based on Depew's Tentative Budget**

Property Assessment	Depew Taxes (Combined Village & Town)	Lancaster Taxes Outside Villages	Tax Difference
\$100,000	\$1,453	\$946	\$507
\$150,000	\$2,180	\$1,341	\$839
\$200,000	\$2,907	\$1,735	\$1,172

**Comparison of Taxes for 2013 Based on Depew's Tentative Budget**

