

MEETINGS TO DATE 20
NO. OF REGULARS: 20

**VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF DEPEW
MARCH 10, 2014**

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

ON A MOTION BY, Trustee Pecora, and seconded by Trustee Hammer, the February 24, 2014 Village Board Minutes were approved.

ON A MOTION BY, Trustee Kucewicz, and seconded by Trustee Nolder, the March 6, 2014 Planning Board Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Paul Sprada – 58 Argus – what is the parcel on Ridgeway? He was told a vacant piece of land next to the creek that is 80 ft by 290 ft.

Teresa Caracciolo - 3033 George Urban - Inquired as to what service do the Cheektowaga residents pay for that the Lancaster side of Depew do not.

Mayor explained that on the Cheektowaga side the Village residents pay for police services that they do not receive. Trustee Nolder explained that this is possible due to a law from 1961. They both explained that the Village has been negotiating ever year with the Town of Cheektowaga to increase the credit they give Depew residents on the Cheektowaga side of the Village.

Anita Peterson – 54 Babbette – inquired if there was discussion on consolidation or merging the police and DPW. Since there was a study done on the Fire Dept she wanted to know if there was a study on these two departments. Inquired that rec ice time was taken away from residents.

Mayor explained that they have not looked at consolidating or merging them. There were 4 positions cut from the DPW to save money and the Police are down 2 positions. He also explained that recreation pays for itself and Friday night public skate was removed as it was a congregation spot for kids that were not skating.

Gabrielle Miller – 61 Olmstead – said that the Board was not at the latest Boys & Girls Club Fundraiser. She did not want to see Police, Fire or DPW cut but would cut the senior center and recreation. Those two departments don't affect every person. She questioned the money but into the ice rink when we have 15 year old fire equipment. She also questioned the Mayor's secretary being in the budget and getting a raise.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2014-2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Mayor stated the levy is \$9,341,619 with an increase of 1.6% which is under the cap. This is a bare bones budget and all the fat has been trimmed out of it by eliminating positions at DPW and police. There are costs for Zurbrick Rd not addressed in this budget and the Mayor is hoping that County Executive Poloncarz, who campaigned on Zurbrick Rd, comes through with funding for the repair of the road.

Senator Kennedy, Higgins and Collins have not been around to help. EC Legislators Ted Morton and Terry McCracken have helped. Mayor asked the audience to reach out to their elected officials to help the Village. Transit Rd corridor is a nightmare. Industrial Park on Transit can't be built due to the condition of the roads and bridges. Gallivans office, Mitch Martin, responds to calls from the Board. Former Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak had \$50,000 promised to the Village of Depew for a dehumidifier and ball diamond enhancements and that is tied up in the Dormitory Authority.

Governor Cuomo's mandates and Tax Freeze plans to eliminate the Villages does not help the Village. Paul Sprada – 58 Argus – Transit Rd is a disgrace to the Village. Wanted to know if we could go after the railroads. Erie County is one of the 12th highest taxed places in NYS. He stated that public works has done an exceptional job.

Trustee Pecora explained that the Board has tried contacting the railroads and they don't respond. They are under federal control and do what they want. The Board is out there representing the residents.

Mayor asked Julie, Depew Bee Editor, to do a whole article on the Transit Rd corridor.

Kevin Peterson – 54 Babbette – wanted to know why the snow removal overtime went up. Administrator told him that most of the snow removal, salting is occurring on overtime.

Gabrielle Miller – 61 Olmstead – Said Trustee Nolder said the garbage costs would go down and if we could get a matching grant for recycle totes and return some money to taxpayers.

Trustee Nolder – explained that we don't have the total tonnage reports as it has not been a year for the totes and he will into matching grant.

ON A MOTION BY Trustee Hammer, seconded by Trustee Kucewicz the public hearing was closed at 7:25 pm.

**VILLAGE OF DEPEW
MARCH 10, 2014**

ADOPT 2014-2015 BUDGET

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the Budget for the Village of Depew for the fiscal year 2014/2015 is hereby **ADOPTED** with a tax rate of \$ 19.226469 per thousand for residents on the Cheektowaga portion of Depew and \$11.920411 per thousand for residents on the Lancaster portion of Depew.

The following resolution was seconded by Trustee Nolder, 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 LOCAL MATCH – INFLOW AND INFILTRATION STUDY

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Depew received a grant for Wastewater Engineering Study for \$30,000 from the Environmental Facilities Corp and DEC,

WHEREAS, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, 285 Delaware Ave Suite 500, Buffalo NY 14202, will be the engineer of record for the study costing \$ 24,500.00. The required match is 20%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED that the Village of Depew Board of Trustees authorizes and appropriates a minimum of 20% local match as required by the Engineering Planning Grant Program for the Village of Depew Wastewater Engineering Study project. Under the Engineering Planning Grant Program, this local match must be at least 20% of the total project cost. The maximum local share appropriated subject to any changes agreed to by the Board of Trustees shall not exceed \$8000.00 based upon a total estimated maximum project cost of \$38,000.00. The Village Administrator may increase this local match through the use of in kind services without further approval from the Village of Depew Board of Trustees.

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 SALE OF VACANT LAND – RIDGEWAY ST

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

Be It Resolved, the Village Administrator is authorized to advertise for the sale of vacant land on Ridgeway St. Parcel size is 80 ft x 290 ft. Parcel was previously declared surplus property and did have an appraisal on it.

The foregoing 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

VILLAGE OF DEPEW
MARCH 10, 2014

**AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR SALE OF VACANT LAND –
RIDGEWAY ST**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Administrator is authorized to advertise for the sale of vacant land on Ridgeway St. Parcel size is 80 ft x 290 ft. Parcel was previously declared surplus property and did have an appraisal on it.

The foregoing 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

OPPOSITION TO GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO'S TAX FREEZE

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

WHEREAS, Andrew Cuomo as Attorney General made it clear that he intends to reduce the layers of government that exist in New York State by forcing the "Citizens Empowerment Act" through both houses of the New York State Legislature with little or no public or legislative discussion targeting village government and promoting dissolution of Villages, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly and Senate with little regard for community dialogue or in house debate surrendered to the Governor's bullying and voted to approve the Citizen's Empowerment Act, and

WHEREAS, As Governor, Andrew Cuomo continues to create legislation that is intended to create fiscal hardship on Villages and local government by capping property taxes at less than 2%, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly and Senate again with little regard for community dialogue or in house floor debate surrendered to the Governor's bullying and voted to approve the Property Tax Cap, and

WHEREAS, the Property Tax Cap has reduced local revenues with no increase in AM funding to municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the "Tax Freeze" is a temporary program that does not provide relief from unfunded NY State mandates which annually increase the cost of local government services and further contributes to the tax burden on residents, and

WHEREAS, Reduced tax revenues eventually will make it necessary to reduce locally delivered services or exceed the imposed tax cap, and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo is proposing, in his 2014-15 budget, to impose further punitive legislation upon local government under the proposed "Tax Freeze", and

WHEREAS, The "Tax Freeze" requires consolidation of municipal services, and

WHEREAS, Many local municipalities affected have consolidated many municipal services and have little or no opportunity to further consolidate, and

WHEREAS, The "Tax Freeze" if enacted will promote additional fiscal hardship upon local government and especially upon Villages that have previously consolidated services, and

WHEREAS, Compliance with Governor Cuomo's continuing assault upon Village property tax revenue will eventually put Village governments in fiscal distress.

**VILLAGE OF DEPEW
MARCH 10, 2014**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Depew Board of Trustees opposes the Tax Freeze legislation included in Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposed 2014-2015 New York State Budget, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Depew Board of Trustees encourages the Senate and Assembly members to delete the punitive legislation known as the "Tax Freeze" from the Governor's proposed budget.

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

PERMISSION – MEMBERSHIP – DEPEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, membership is hereby granted to the following in the Depew Fire Department pending the passing of their physical:

CAYUGA HOSE CO #3

Paul Schnitzer 4745 Broadway Depew NY 14043
Erin Schnitzer 4745 Broadway Depew NY 14043
Thomas Kiebalá 141 Borden Rd Apt 1 Depew NY 14043

The foregoing 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

TREE/TRIMMING REMOVAL:

EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS: General – Jennifer Freeman, Recreation – Hannah Steffen

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Hammer, offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption
The Village Administrator is authorized to levy the unpaid snow removal invoices for Zorbas and Brennan Brennan DDS onto their 14-15 Village tax bill.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Kucewicz, and carried.

CARRIED.

UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS None

PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS –

Paul Sprada – 58 Argus – Depew library has there been anything more on the sale of that? Does the Village receive any money from it and would it ever be a library again.

Mayor said there have been no communications on it. Property is tax exempt and it would not be a library again. Village Attorney Aquino said the building is being appraised and the Town has contracted with a broker to sell it. Once a contract is entered into the Town would contact the Village.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

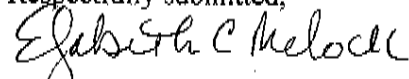
ON A MOTION BY Trustee Pecora, seconded by Trustee Kucewicz, the following claims are to be paid: General \$ 165,304.66, Sewer \$1,901.87, the motion was **CARRIED.**

VILLAGE OF DEPEW
MARCH 10, 2014

ADJOURNMENT-

ON A MOTION BY Trustee Hammer, seconded by Trustee Nolder, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm in memory of Mike Wierzbowski and Jeff Stribing and the parking ban ends March 15th. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth C. Melock
Village Administrator