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INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF THOMASTON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES - VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
DECEMBER 13, 2021
7:30 P.M.

P R E S E N T :

STEVEN WEINBERG, MAYOR

JAMES E. SHARKEY, DEPUTY MAYOR

JILL MONOSON, TRUSTEE

TO-ON PANG, TRUSTEE

BURTON S. WESTON, TRUSTEE

DENISE KNOWLAND, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

JENNIFER DEVLIN
COURT REPORTER

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Hi. My name is Steve
2 Weinberg, Mayor of the Village of Thomaston.
3 We are calling to order the Board of Trustees
4 meeting for Tuesday, December 13th via
5 videoconference. It's now 7:34. I'm
6 required to make the following statement:

7 Due to public health and safety concerns
8 related to COVID-19, and pursuant to New York
9 State law, this meeting of the Board of
10 Trustees is not being held in person. The
11 meeting is being held by videoconferencing.
12 The meeting will be recorded, and a
13 transcription will be provided at a later
14 date.

15 The public has opportunity to observe the
16 meeting live online and to submit comments
17 pursuant to instructions given on the Village
18 website and in the meeting notice.

19 The Village Administrator will now call
20 the roll for attendance at this meeting by
21 members of the board and relevant Village
22 staff.

23 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
24 Mayor Sharkey. Deputy Mayor Sharkey.

1 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Here. Excuse me.

2 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
3 Monoson.

4 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Here.

5 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
6 Pang.

7 TRUSTEE PANG: Here.

8 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
9 Weston.

10 TRUSTEE WESTON: Here.

11 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
12 Weinberg.

13 MAYOR WEINBERG: Here.

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: And
15 Denise M. Knowland, Village Administrator,
16 here.

17 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Do we have a
18 quorum?

19 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: A quorum
20 of the Board is in attendance, and we can
21 begin the business of the meeting.

22 * * * * *

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: Ben, would you like to
24 read the first resolution for the adoption of

1 the minutes?

2 TRUSTEE PANG: Sure.

3 RESOLUTION 21-120.

4 RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board
5 of Trustees meeting held on November 16,
6 2021, are hereby approved and accepted as
7 presented. And it is further

8 RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board
9 of Review meeting held on November 16, 2021,
10 are hereby approved and accepted as
11 presented. And it is further

12 RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board
13 of Trustees meeting held on December 1, 2021,
14 are hereby approved and accepted as
15 presented.

16 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Is there a second
17 to the motion?

18 TRUSTEE MONOSON: I'll second.

19 MAYOR WEINBERG: Are there any comments
20 or corrections regarding the three minutes
21 that were referred to in the resolution?

22 TRUSTEE WESTON: No.

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: Hearing none, call the
24 question.

1 Denise, please call the roll.

2 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
3 Mayor Sharkey.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.

5 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
6 Monoson.

7 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.

8 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
9 Pang.

10 TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.

11 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
12 Weston.

13 TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
15 Weinberg.

16 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

17 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five
18 votes in favor, zero opposed. The motion is
19 adopted.

20 * * * * *

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Jill, would you
22 like to be the movant for the Budget
23 Modification?

24 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Sure. You said "Jill,"

1 right, not "Jim"?

2 MAYOR WEINBERG: I did.

3 TRUSTEE MONOSON: They sound the same.

4 RESOLVED, that the following 2021/2022
5 Budget Modifications as of December 13, 2021,
6 are hereby accepted as presented under the --
7 do you want me to read line by line?

8 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure.

9 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Okay. So under the
10 subcategory of "Appropriations." Subcategory
11 A1325.2, which is "Equipment," the adopted
12 amount for 2021-2022 was \$7,000. The
13 proposed modification as of today December,
14 13, 2021, is \$6,250, which results in a
15 difference of a decrease of \$750.

16 The next adjustment is subcategory
17 A1325.4c, which is "Legal Notices." The
18 adopted amount for 2021-2022 was \$1,250. The
19 proposed modification as of today, December
20 13, 2021, is \$2,000, resulting in an increase
21 of \$750.

22 The next item is subcategory A5110.4i.
23 And that is -- and that is under the
24 "Engineering" category. And the adopted

1 amount in 2021-2022 was \$25,000. The
2 proposed modification is \$19,000, resulting
3 in a decrease of \$6,000.

4 The final item under "Appropriations" is
5 item A7520.4, which is the category of
6 "Historical Property Contract Expense." The
7 adopted amount for 2021-2022 was zero
8 dollars. The proposed modification of
9 December 13, 2021 is \$6,000, resulting in an
10 increase of \$6,000.

11 So if you net out the columns with the
12 differences, it's a net of zero because they
13 all canceled each other out.

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

15 The village auditors have always
16 recommended that when there is going to be an
17 increase of a line item other than what has
18 been proposed, rather than wait until the end
19 of the fiscal year to make the adjustments in
20 the budget, it is better to make adjustments
21 to the budget for each individual line item
22 to make sure that you're not running a
23 deficit on any line item that you have an
24 expenditure to move money from where there is

1 a little extra money to the closest line item
2 for that description of that expense that
3 you're incurring to make sure that there is
4 money in the budget that covers the expense
5 on that line item, and to do it as an ongoing
6 basis throughout the year. And that's been
7 the village's practice.

8 Is there a second?

9 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: I'll make the
10 second.

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Are there any
12 questions or comments?

13 TRUSTEE WESTON: No.

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Hearing none,
15 Denise, call the question.

16 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Okay.
17 Deputy Mayor Sharkey.

18 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.

19 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
20 Monoson.

21 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.

22 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
23 Pang.

24 TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.

1 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
2 Weston.

3 TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

4 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
5 Weinberg.

6 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

7 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five
8 votes in favor, zero opposed. The motion is
9 adopted.

10 * * * * *

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: The next item on the
12 agenda is tentative budget for the 2022/2023
13 fiscal year. I would like to make the
14 following report for the tentative village
15 budget for the fiscal year 2022 to 2023,
16 which commences March 1, 2022. Obviously
17 this budget is subject to further
18 developments and will be discussed today.
19 And also the purpose is to basically approve
20 the tentative budget. It's only a draft
21 budget. And to then utilize -- and then to
22 schedule a public hearing where we will
23 discuss the budget before adopting it.

24 I am pleased to report that in 2022/2023

1 year the attached budget actually provides
2 for a reduction in the village tax rate from
3 34.495 per hundred to 32.770 per hundred.
4 This translates to a 5 percent reduction in
5 taxes for all property owners, provided that
6 their assessed value has not increased since
7 2021/2022 due to new construction or
8 additions that are assessable.

9 Also included is a reduction in the fire
10 tax rate from 14.489 per hundred to 13.230
11 per hundred, due to surplus which is partly
12 the result of overcharges for the fire
13 hydrants and a lower than expected contract
14 for fire and ambulance services for
15 properties north of the Long Island Railroad
16 tracks.

17 Fortunately the village has worked very
18 hard on controlling its expenditures. And by
19 doing so, this year we can have a tax
20 reduction of 5 percent. The village
21 continues to be debt free. There is no new
22 borrowing in the proposed budget.

23 The village expects to receive ARPA funds
24 from the federal government in the amount of

1 \$133,271 in 2022/2023, as reflected in the
2 budget.

3 The applied cash surplus/reserves of
4 \$273,040 is largely comprised of accumulated
5 fund balance due to careful budgeting and
6 reduced spending during 2021 -- during
7 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, which is being used
8 to reduce taxes for all village residents.

9 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the village
10 held off on planned road work in 2020/2021
11 and 2021/2022 as described in item No. 3.

12 Looking ahead to the next fiscal year,
13 the village is most likely going to replace a
14 street sweeper and a sander. That is both at
15 an estimated cost of \$310,000, and a portion
16 of which cost may be offset by the village's
17 CHIPS apportionment.

18 For the roads that we're planning, a
19 capital project for drainage improvement and
20 paving on Crescent Road, Lincoln Road and
21 Windsor Road as well as a paving project for
22 a portion of Colonial Road at an approximate
23 cost of \$450,000, the cost of which will be
24 offset by a \$50,000 grant from New York State

1 Senator Anna Kaplan which we expect to
2 receive in 2022/2023. We finally have the
3 grant application number for that grant, so
4 we can now proceed. And that grant we
5 applied for for the drainage improvement and
6 paving work on Crescent Road. And now we can
7 proceed with the work -- with that work.

8 Last year unfortunately in terms of
9 purchasing street trees, there's been a poor
10 quality of street trees to choose from. So
11 the village did not plant any "wire friendly"
12 trees along the streets within the village.
13 We would like the village to resume tree
14 planting and continue beautification efforts
15 in 2022/2023.

16 At the present time there is no borrowing
17 that's anticipated to cover these costs.
18 These estimates are subject to change,
19 including reduction in the event that the
20 assessed value in the village is materially
21 reduced or if there is a significant increase
22 in operating expenses.

23 And we have other financial information.
24 While appropriating a portion of the

1 village's accumulated savings to reduce taxes
2 and pay for capital expenditures such as road
3 renovations, vehicles and equipment, an
4 adequate amount of the general reserve needs
5 to be retained to meet unspecific
6 contingencies, most notably future storms and
7 tax certiorari claims.

8 The goal, which we believe is fully
9 achievable, is to maintain a high level of
10 service to our residents while maintaining no
11 or minimal tax increases. Obviously this
12 year we're exceeding that goal. The village
13 has no debt and expects to have sufficient
14 resources to continue the maintenance of the
15 roads and vehicle replacement schedule within
16 the next year.

17 Are there any comments or questions from
18 the Board regarding the tentative budget?

19 TRUSTEE WESTON: A couple of questions,
20 Steve, if I could.

21 The cost of the road improvements that
22 we're undertaking in 2022/2023, a portion of
23 that I assume is accumulated funds from
24 deferral of the projects that we budgeted for

1 in '20 and '21?

2 MAYOR WEINBERG: Yes.

3 TRUSTEE WESTON: Is that correct?

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: That is correct.

5 TRUSTEE WESTON: And a portion covered by
6 the federal grant?

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: Not the federal grant.

8 The --

9 (Audio distortion.)

10 TRUSTEE WESTON: Okay.

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: Absolutely.

12 TRUSTEE WESTON: Because it's a half
13 million dollar appropriation at the end of
14 the day --

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure.

16 TRUSTEE WESTON: -- that we didn't budget
17 for last year.

18 And what is the estimated reserve that
19 we're seeking to maintain, at least from a
20 budgeting standpoint this year?

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry, Burt. Can
22 you clarify your question? A reserve as to
23 what, or do you mean a surplus?

24 TRUSTEE WESTON: A surplus. Yes.

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Well, it's not that you
2 run a surplus in your budget, but there are
3 contingencies in a budget that will result in
4 a surplus. And my recommendation is that you
5 need a \$400,000 reserve --

6 TRUSTEE WESTON: Okay.

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: -- in that category. As
8 we know from Ida, Sandy -- name any storm you
9 want to name -- you can get the job done, but
10 you need to have cash in the bank to pay the
11 contractor immediately. You wait a year or
12 two to get it back from FEMA and from the
13 state. That only works if you have the
14 resources to be able to do that. That's the
15 kind of capital outlay you're going to need
16 to do to take care of downed trees or cleared
17 damage, storm damage, based upon prior
18 experience.

19 TRUSTEE WESTON: Um-hum.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: Any other comments or
21 questions on the budget, on the tentative
22 budget?

23 TRUSTEE PANG: Yes, I do. I think it's a
24 great achievement from the Mayor and the

1 staff to achieve this phenomenal result.
2 Everything is going up except our village
3 tax.

4 But I do have question. Item No. 3. The
5 village expect to receive ARPA funds. Is
6 that part of the infrastructure bill, that
7 \$1.5 trillion that was passed by Congress,
8 what, a kind couple of months ago? Is that
9 part of it?

10 MAYOR WEINBERG: No. I don't believe it
11 is. Denise, please correct me if I'm wrong.
12 This is part of the COVID relief bill that
13 Congress passed --

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Right.

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: -- as oppose to the
16 infrastructure bill. And this is to offset
17 state and local governments if they had a
18 decrease in revenue from fees or other
19 effects of COVID that have affected or
20 impacted negatively the administration. In
21 our case, the village government.

22 TRUSTEE PANG: Got it. Got it.

23 So are we expecting to receive more
24 federal funds from that infrastructure bill,

1 that \$1.3 trillion bill.

2 MAYOR WEINBERG: I think it's a great
3 question. I think we can certainly -- if I
4 can take a step further from you on your
5 suggestion. I think we can certainly call
6 our congressmen and ask and find out. That's
7 a great idea.

8 Based upon my experience, typically
9 federal grants are very difficult to obtain.
10 We'll pursue it. We'll track it down.
11 Typically they have a lot of administrative
12 work that must be done in order to make
13 application for it and a lot of additional
14 project costs.

15 There's additional engineering and
16 consulting costs that are often involved in
17 order to not only obtain the grant, but
18 utilize the implementation of the grant in
19 the project that sometimes winds up costing
20 more than the grant itself.

21 So I think it's a great idea. So let's
22 ask. Let's see how it shakes out in this
23 case as to whether it would be a benefit to
24 the village or possibly a negative cost

1 effect to the village.

2 TRUSTEE PANG: Right.

3 TRUSTEE WESTON: Just as a follow up.
4 There is an additional grant that we're
5 seeking that State Senator Kaplan has offered
6 that we are seeking for additional road
7 infrastructure work. So we are seeking
8 another \$50,000 grant. We'll see if we can
9 get a number on -- you know, a grant number
10 in time in order to apply that to this
11 project or a future project. So we are
12 pursuing that as well.

13 TRUSTEE PANG: Thank you for the update.
14 I do have one more question. I know we just
15 -- what, negotiated a contract with the
16 garbage company, Metal Cart incorporation
17 (phonetic) or whatever.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: Meadow Carting.

19 TRUSTEE PANG: I notice that there is a
20 reduced level of service in the sense that in
21 the fall I usually rake the leaves myself. I
22 bag the leaves and I put them on my driveway.
23 And in the past they were picked up,
24 whatever, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday,

1 whenever they picked them up. But this year
2 they only picked them up on Thursday and --

3 MAYOR WEINBERG: What?

4 TRUSTEE PANG: I'm sorry.

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry. I didn't
6 want to interrupt. Go ahead. Please finish.

7 TRUSTEE PANG: As you know, the
8 Thanksgiving Day is on Thursday, so they did
9 not pick it up. And they did not pick up on
10 the following Saturday either. So it has to
11 wait until the following Thursday. And by
12 that time I accumulated about 10 bags of
13 leaves.

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Right.

15 TRUSTEE PANG: And I think they only took
16 five.

17 MAYOR WEINBERG: Right.

18 TRUSTEE PANG: So the other five is
19 pickup just this past Thursday.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay.

21 TRUSTEE PANG: I know that -- I think --
22 I'm aware that there's a limitation. Meaning
23 in the past I think I saw it on the book that
24 they only supposed to pick up, let's say,

1 three bags of leaves every week. But in the
2 past, you know, they would pick up whatever
3 you have, six, seven. But now they're kind
4 of following the rules. Is it -- that's part
5 of the negotiations that we have with the --
6 with that company?

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: No. No. Not at all.
8 We did not negotiate that with them. We did
9 not negotiate for a reduction in service.
10 And I'm sorry that you're telling me this for
11 the first time. I -- call me on Thanksgiving
12 Day. Because we would have taken care of it
13 right away. We make one phone call and it's
14 resolved. What we had arranged on
15 Thanksgiving was for the recycling pickup on
16 Friday, which they did do. They should have
17 taken it then.

18 I think you're right. I think in years
19 past whenever you put out the leaves they
20 took it on any day, not one particular day.
21 So I hadn't noticed a difference this year.
22 We will call them first thing tomorrow and
23 get -- get that resolved.

24 TRUSTEE PANG: I actually take a look at

1 village website. I think there is a garbage
2 company -- I mean garbage pickup schedule on
3 the village website.

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: Right.

5 TRUSTEE PANG: The leaves are only pick
6 up on Thursday.

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay.

8 TRUSTEE PANG: So I wasn't sure if there
9 is something new or --

10 MAYOR WEINBERG: It was not something
11 that was newly negotiated. It's possible
12 that was always in the contract and -- I'm
13 sorry. Denise, did you have an update on
14 that?

15 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I will
16 have to check the contract. But this is not
17 the first contract. We've had several in a
18 row with Meadow Carting. That -- what Mr.
19 Pang is referring to is the garbage schedule
20 and collection rules that's been in place for
21 many, many years. They may have done it at
22 some point and stopped doing it and they were
23 taking it all the time. But I would have to
24 review the contract and see if it

1 specifically states that Wednesday -- it
2 would be Wednesday if your normal pickup is
3 Wednesday or Thursday except your normal
4 schedule. So we will have to look into that
5 tomorrow.

6 MAYOR WEINBERG: We'll check the contract
7 and we'll talk to them. They've generally
8 been very responsive.

9 TRUSTEE PANG: Right.

10 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay.

11 TRUSTEE PANG: So. I'm sorry. I just
12 have one more final comment.

13 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure.

14 TRUSTEE PANG: I think to reduce the
15 budget or the tax rate by 5 percent is great,
16 but the potential issue I can see is if, you
17 know, you want to increase in the future, we
18 can only increase 2 percent per year.

19 MAYOR WEINBERG: No. You're -- well, go
20 ahead. I'll explain. But go ahead.

21 TRUSTEE PANG: I know that there's, you
22 know, a calculation that you can do. It's
23 not exactly 2 percent, but --

24 MAYOR WEINBERG: Right.

1 TRUSTEE PANG: -- from what I understand
2 maybe a little bit more than 2 percent.
3 Maybe 2.2 or 2.5, but not 5 percent. Let's
4 say if next year we have something that, you
5 know, we found that inflation is a lot, we
6 have to increase the tax rate, we cannot
7 raise 5 percent. We can probably 2.5 percent
8 or something like. That's my understanding.

9 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. It might actually
10 be less. It's not that we're limited to the
11 cap. It's generally strongly encouraged to
12 stay within the cap, so your perception is
13 correct. You -- there are circumstances if
14 we had unexpected expenses where you can vote
15 to exceed the cap if you had to do a 3 or --
16 a 3 percent increase.

17 Candidly I'm proposing 5 percent from the
18 standpoint that I think we will be fine for
19 the year and fine for next year. You're
20 right. You're absolutely right in that we --
21 you know, we never know what could happen.
22 You know, an unexpected storm. We're trying
23 to take advantage of that, you know,
24 contingency. What if God forbid we have two

1 unexpected storms, three unexpected storms?

2 So I am -- we're happy to discuss -- you
3 know, this is my proposal. We can certainly
4 discuss it and review it at the hearing. I
5 also -- as I said, I think it would be
6 unlikely that we would have to do so. But if
7 it needs to go up a little bit and -- if it
8 had to go up more than what the cap allows,
9 you can exceed the cap.

10 TRUSTEE PANG: Right. I understand you
11 -- in order to exceed the cap it needs some
12 special approval or like two-thirds of the
13 residents vote for it or something like that?

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Denise, I don't believe
15 that's the case? I don't believe it goes out
16 to a public referendum, but we'll certainly
17 check and look into that.

18 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: To
19 exceed the tax cap? No. If you want to
20 exceed the cap, no. It's not a referendum.
21 It's a local law we have to pass. Each year
22 you do it. A number of villages do it. I've
23 seen it published in the paper. It's just a
24 public hearing and a local law.

1 TRUSTEE PANG: Got it. Thank you.

2 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Um-hum.

3 MAYOR WEINBERG: Burt, did you have
4 another question?

5 TRUSTEE WESTON: No. Just clearing my
6 throat.

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Did anyone else
8 on the Board have a question?

9 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Yes, I do. It's a
10 quick one.

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure.

12 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Under "transportation."
13 I know obviously we have the Superintendent
14 of Public Works and all the laborers, the
15 full time and the part time. I noticed a new
16 one that says "substitute." Did we decide
17 that we needed an extra person?

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: Denise.

19 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Yes.
20 Yes. The superintendent had requested to --
21 we've had that position before. We haven't
22 had it this past year. Some of the part-time
23 people can't always work because they have
24 other jobs. And he was finding that he had

1 sometimes a shortage. So these are people
2 that are sort of on-call people to sort of
3 come in and fill in if need be. We also had
4 one of the part-time regular employees
5 without -- for medical leave --

6 TRUSTEE MONOSON: So they get paid --

7 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: -- for
8 an extended period of time -- on an hourly
9 basis and called in as needed.

10 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Just wondering, because
11 I didn't see it the past few years.

12 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Right.
13 Right. We had it in the past, but not for
14 several few years.

15 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Thank you.

16 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: You're
17 welcome.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. I see -- any
19 other comments or questions from the Board?

20 TRUSTEE WESTON: No.

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. On the tentative
22 budget are there any questions from the
23 public?

24 Denise, did you want to unmute for a

1 moment?

2 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Okay.

3 Let's see.

4 TRUSTEE WESTON: Mr. Halpern has his hand
5 raised.

6 MAYOR WEINBERG: I see that.

7 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: So Mr.
8 Halpern, let me find Mr. Halpern.

9 MAYOR WEINBERG: Yeah.

10 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I think
11 you can unmute yourself.

12 MR. HALPERN: Okay. Does everyone hear
13 me?

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Yeah. We do.

15 MR. HALPERN: Okay. Terrific. I have a
16 question with regard to the -- going back to
17 the Tower Ford issue and the Landmark public
18 hearing on January the 4th. There was a
19 question about 2 or 3 weeks ago by several
20 members of the public to adjourn that public
21 hearing date given the short time period that
22 was allotted with regard to I understand that
23 the village has authorized consultation.
24 There's also a request by the public to hire

1 their own consultant.

2 And the issue is that the timeframe, the
3 artificial timeframe set by the village does
4 not allow enough time for there to be proper
5 and due consideration, including the public's
6 own consultation -- consultant reviewing the
7 materials. So that's why we, among for other
8 reasons, requested an adjournment. And we
9 haven't heard a response yet from the
10 village.

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: The village wouldn't
12 give a response to that. That is the
13 Landmarks Commission. The Landmarks
14 Commission sets their own schedule. They --
15 the village doesn't set that date. The Board
16 doesn't set that date. I do not set that
17 date. That was the date that was set in
18 anticipation that they would have the report.
19 I think what was -- I did observe the
20 Landmarks Commission meeting.

21 I do not speak for the Landmarks
22 Commission. I will not speak for the
23 Landmarks Commission. They will proceed with
24 scheduling and reviewing the issue as they

1 see -- deem fit and deem necessary. They did
2 state that they would continue the meeting if
3 need be and consider all the evidence that
4 the consultant wishes to present or the -- I
5 think that they -- I believe they were
6 considering -- again, I do not speak for
7 them. But I think they were considering
8 hearing whatever evidence the public wanted
9 to present by whomever the village wanted to
10 present their evidence, be it other
11 consultants.

12 So I had the impression listening to them
13 that they would certainly take the time to
14 listen to all the evidence. But again I want
15 to be very, very clear. That's obviously,
16 you know, a decision that's going to be made
17 and a schedule that's going to be made and
18 followed by the Landmarks Preservation
19 Commission.

20 MR. HALPERN: Yeah. Just to that end --

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry. But in case
22 other people have a comment. Also this is
23 not just a general public forum. But we were
24 talking about the budget and talking about

1 questions about the budget.

2 MR. HALPERN: Well, the relevance is that
3 part of the budget included a budget for the
4 village's consultant. And so I thought it
5 was relevant that the timing of basically
6 getting an expedited consultation review and
7 the expense associated with that is relevant
8 to the budget discussion here and further
9 supporting the reason why there should be an
10 adjournment.

11 But also like I said, that the village's
12 own -- meaning the public's own consultation
13 and consultant that they've hired has the
14 right to weigh in on this obviously pretty
15 important topic in our village.

16 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Thank you.

17 Sandy, you had a question.

18 MR. CAPLAN: Yes. Is it okay to ask a
19 question about the budget?

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure. Absolutely. And
21 again, we are going to have a public hearing.
22 This is not the public hearing. But before
23 we vote to schedule to set the schedule for
24 the tentative budget, I would like the Board

1 to have the input of the public.

2 MR. CAPLAN: My question is -- it wasn't
3 clear. When all is said and done, was your
4 plan to reduce the tax rate to the homeowners
5 by 5 percent for this coming fiscal year?

6 MAYOR WEINBERG: It's not just
7 homeowners. It affects apartment buildings
8 as well. Every tax paying entity in the
9 village.

10 MR. CAPLAN: Yeah. Doesn't matter.
11 Homeowners, apartments, when you do plan to
12 reduce the tax rate?

13 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: No.

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: It's a little more
15 technical, Sandy. I'm sorry, Denise. Go
16 ahead, so it's stated correctly please.

17 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: We
18 didn't reduce the tax rate by 5 percent. The
19 tax rate reduction was 1.725 percent. The
20 effect should be approximately 5 percent off
21 of your bill. But there is a tax rate and
22 then there's your tax base.

23 MR. CAPLAN: Yeah. Okay. What my
24 question was, before you I lived in another

1 village -- I can say it was Russell Gardens
2 -- they did the same exact thing that you're
3 doing right now. They said we have extra
4 money and we're going to reduce taxes by "X"
5 amount. And we went through the whole thing
6 just like now. We can afford it. Nothing is
7 going to happen. We want to give the money
8 back. Everything exactly what you're saying
9 now.

10 And loandbehold extra expenses came up.
11 They reduced the taxes. And then going
12 forward extra expenses came up. I don't
13 recall if it was money that had to go out or
14 whatever it was. So they had to increase the
15 taxes again above what was reduced. And of
16 course that started a brouhaha. Everybody
17 attending the meetings, they were yelling and
18 screaming. They had forgotten taxes were
19 reduced.

20 So my question is: Instead of reducing
21 taxes, are you allowed to just take this
22 money and put it into some sort of reserve
23 fund for future use to avoid this kind of
24 thing happening? Even though everyone agreed

1 it wasn't going to happen, we're under
2 control, something happened and expenses went
3 way up. And they had to raise the taxes when
4 they could have just raised them less because
5 they had reduced them and caused a big
6 problem. So that was my question to you.

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: That's a great question.
8 Reserve funds are typically for capital
9 expenditures. Period. They're not for
10 emergency expenditures. They're not --
11 they're not -- at which obviously when you're
12 dealing with an emergency they're not -- you
13 know, they're not capital improvements to the
14 village. They're clearing roads, clearing
15 the streets, clearing trees. Those are not
16 capital expenditures.

17 So no. It's a great idea. It's not the
18 type of thing that we're -- where you can
19 just put it into a separate reserve fund.
20 But it's something we can look into. It may
21 not be that you can call it a reserve fund.
22 We can look into -- your suggestion if we can
23 call it something else.

24 MR. CAPLAN: "Reserve" is a technicality.

1 My point is whether the money had to be given
2 back now, which for a homeowner is probably
3 not going to be that much. But reducing it
4 now and maybe you have to raise them later
5 because something else happened and this
6 money that you reduced is out of everybody's
7 minds. That's all that I'm asking.

8 MAYOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry, Sandy. The
9 issue is well stated. And we can discuss it
10 at the public hearing. And if -- again, this
11 was the proposal. I think it's conservative.
12 I think we're okay with it. But, you know,
13 like anything that I propose, I'm happy to
14 listen to the public. And I reserve judgment
15 and I reserve what the ultimate decision will
16 be.

17 So if the answer is -- if the answer is
18 let's hear what the public has to say about
19 it, as a board we'll think about it. And if
20 the answer is, we want to do less of a
21 decrease or we want to continue the policy of
22 just no decreases because we think that's
23 even more prudent, you know, the issue is on
24 the table. Let's discuss it and decide it on

1 the merits.

2 MR. CAPLAN: So then any public
3 listening, they can think about it and pick
4 it up at the next meeting?

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure.

6 Okay. Nancy Sherman. Nancy, are you
7 there? Can you unmute yourself?

8 MS. SHERMAN: Good evening. My question
9 is in follow up to Mr. Halpern's inquiry.
10 And it's specifically he indicated that he --
11 that a request had been sent to the village
12 to adjourn the January 4th meeting to enable
13 the public to have time to have its own
14 expert review the reports of the consultant
15 with respect to the -- with respect to
16 landmarking Tower Ford.

17 So my question is. You, Mr. Mayor,
18 indicated that that was not the proper entity
19 to request an adjournment from. So have you
20 forwarded or has somebody in your office
21 forwarded that request to the Landmarks
22 Commission?

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: Denise, do you know?

24 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Yes. My

1 husband forwarded to the Landmarks
2 Commission.

3 MS. SHERMAN: And when was that
4 forwarded?

5 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I do not
6 have it in front of me right now.

7 MS. SHERMAN: When you say it was
8 forwarded to the landmarking commission,
9 would that have been to Mr. Stern?

10 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: To the
11 board, to the board, the entire board.

12 MS. SHERMAN: To the entire board. Okay.

13 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: If you
14 recall from the meeting, Mr. Stern said they
15 were going forward with the meeting on the
16 4th. That's when they will be reviewing the
17 consultant's proposal. And that might be the
18 first of more than one meeting. So they're
19 not going to review it until they have a
20 meeting. So that's the first. That's the
21 beginning of the process with the consultant.

22 MS. SHERMAN: So just so I'm clear, there
23 is a meeting of the commission on January
24 4th, but that's not the public hearing,

1 correct?

2 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: It's a
3 public meeting. The code for the Landmarks
4 Commission, the meetings are public meetings.
5 They're not public hearings. None of them
6 are public hearings. There will be public --
7 the public certainly will be allowed to
8 comment on that.

9 MS. SHERMAN: And will the village also
10 be paying the Mayor to set up the Zoom call
11 again for this meeting and also to sit in on
12 it and monitor it?

13 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: The
14 Mayor has nothing to do with it.

15 MS. SHERMAN: I take it back. Pay the
16 Village Attorney to sit and --

17 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: The
18 Village Attorney will attend the meeting.

19 MS. SHERMAN: So the Village Attorney
20 attends all Landmarks Commission meetings?

21 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Yes.

22 MS. SHERMAN: Can the village indicate
23 its reasoning for that?

24 MAYOR WEINBERG: Can we -- this is not --

1 we're talking about the tentative budget.
2 This isn't even the public hearing for the
3 tentative budget. This is simply to set the
4 hearing date for the tentative budget and
5 what the Board should consider about setting
6 the hearing date for the tentative budget.
7 So let's move on and let's cover the rest of
8 the business purpose, okay.

9 MS. SHERMAN: Well, I do think it has
10 expenses that the village is incurring for
11 the Village Attorney.

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: The -- Ms. Sherman, the
13 Landmarks Commission will obviously make its
14 determination based upon the consultants and
15 the professionals that it needs to weigh the
16 application. And we're just not going to
17 have a debate at a public meeting that's not
18 a public hearing about how they should do it,
19 what their thinking is and what the
20 justification is, whether the Village
21 Attorney should be there or not be there at
22 each public meeting. Okay. Thank you.

23 Miss -- I'm sorry. Olivia Pinsley, you
24 did have your hand up, but you took it down.

1 Did you have a question or you -- or your
2 question was answered? Okay. We'll come
3 back. Maybe she had to step away.

4 There's someone else by the name of Alka
5 who had a question.

6 MS. JAIN: Yes. Hi. Good evening.

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: Good evening.

8 MS. JAIN: I have a question -- two
9 questions actually regarding this tentative
10 budget. Firstly I know you said earlier that
11 we had a problem with trees and the tree
12 planting.

13 MAYOR WEINBERG: Yes.

14 MS. JAIN: So I wanted to ask that, you
15 know, I have three trees outside my house
16 that were taken down last year. And I'm not
17 able to request new trees because they still
18 haven't ground down the trees. They still
19 haven't done the grinding of the tree stumps.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. If you can give
21 us -- if you can call. What is the address,
22 please? And give -- please give the village
23 hall a call tomorrow and we'll follow up on
24 your request.

1 MS. JAIN: I've already emailed Denise.

2 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay.

3 MS. JAIN: 23 Brompton Road. And I was
4 told that the request was given to the
5 landscaping team, but nothing's been
6 happening since the summer. But these trees
7 actually went down: two of them this year
8 and one of them last year.

9 MAYOR WEINBERG: And are these village
10 trees in the village --

11 MS. JAIN: Yeah, on the sidewalk.

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay.

13 MS. JAIN: So that's my first question.

14 Then the second question is also about
15 the budget. And that's more to do with -- I
16 was looking at the detailed expenses and
17 vouchers that were submitted.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: Yes.

19 MS. JAIN: I wanted to try and
20 understand. Are we planning for a monthly
21 expenditure for lawyer bills for \$14,000
22 every month?

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: We hope it won't be
24 \$14,000 every month. We'll see how it is

1 obviously.

2 MS. JAIN: So this past month was just
3 unusual, or this is -- what is it we spend so
4 much money on for lawyer's fees?

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: Well, there's multiple
6 things.

7 Denise, can you elaborate a little bit?

8 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: It's --
9 some of that was incurred for the Zoning
10 Board of Appeals, of which we will be -- we
11 will get money reimbursed from the applicants
12 for that. So that's -- we've had numerous
13 ZBA meetings. Some of it is for the work the
14 Village Attorney has done for the Landmarks
15 Commission, for the Board of Trustees.
16 That's the normal cost that we have. And it
17 depends on --

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: So there are multiple
19 sources.

20 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Right.

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. We don't
22 anticipate --

23 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Some of
24 it is reimbursable -- whatever is for the

1 Zoning Board of Appeals, that's reimbursable
2 by the applicant who provides a deposit when
3 they file their application.

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: And, Denise, please have
5 Benny call me tomorrow on 23 Brompton so we
6 can take care of that and get an answer as to
7 when that will be taken care of.

8 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I'll
9 make a notation.

10 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Thank you.

11 Well, I will be the movant on the motion.

12 RESOLVED, that the tentative budget for
13 the 2022/2023 fiscal year is hereby approved
14 in the form presented to the Board at this
15 meeting. And it is further

16 RESOLVED, that a public hearing on the
17 proposed budget for 2021/2022 fiscal year --
18 well --

19 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: We have
20 to correct that.

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: RESOLVED, that a public
22 hearing on the proposed budget for the
23 2022/2023 fiscal year is hereby scheduled for
24 Monday, January 10, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

1 TRUSTEE PANG: January 10, 2022.

2 MAYOR WEINBERG: Thank you.

3 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Oh.

4 2022. Sorry.

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: We're going to start
6 this again where there is no confusion.

7 By motion of Steve Weinberg.

8 RESOLVED, that the tentative budget for
9 the 2022/2023 fiscal year is hereby approved
10 in the form presented to the Board at this
11 meeting. And it is further

12 RESOLVED, that a public hearing on the
13 proposed budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year
14 is hereby scheduled for Monday, January 10,
15 2022, at 7:30 p.m., and that the Village
16 Administrator shall provide the notice of
17 such public hearing as required by law.

18 Is there a second?

19 TRUSTEE MONOSON: I'll second.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: I think we had the
21 discussion before, but is there any further
22 discussion by the Board?

23 (There was no response.)

24 MAYOR WEINBERG: Hearing none, Denise,

1 please call the roll.

2 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
3 Mayor Sharkey.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.

5 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
6 Monoson.

7 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.

8 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
9 Pang.

10 TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.

11 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
12 Weston.

13 TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
15 Weinberg. I'm sorry. I didn't hear you,
16 Mayor.

17 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

18 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five
19 votes in favor, zero opposed. The motion is
20 adopted.

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Thank you.

22 * * * * *

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: The next item on the
24 agenda is the 2013 Freightliner dump truck

1 with Henderson plow.

2 I'm very pleased to report we had put
3 this on the -- it's very critical, very
4 important. Our Public Works Department
5 maintains its equipment and does an
6 excellent, excellent job. And it also works
7 very hard at keeping its equipment in good
8 condition so that we can get maximum resale
9 value.

10 This particular dump truck happened to
11 have a little surface rust. Truly was just
12 that, which was cleaned -- which was easily
13 -- could be cleaned off. I think when --
14 Denise, when was the first time it was put up
15 for auction?

16 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: A year
17 ago: November of 2020.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: What a difference a year
19 makes.

20 I think we were -- received a bid less
21 than what we were hoping to obtain for it and
22 that we wanted to apply to the new dump
23 truck. The dump trucks are used for --
24 obviously for plowing in the village. And

1 what we -- I think the bid was \$30,000, which
2 was lower than expected by far. So we
3 decided not to sell it.

4 Well, unfortunately a year later with
5 equipment being hard to come by we're still
6 waiting for a vehicle to be delivered. Many
7 people cannot wait for a vehicle to be
8 delivered. And it was put for auction. And,
9 Denise, what was the final price?

10 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: \$60,000
11 even.

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. So we would like
13 to propose a motion that

14 RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees
15 accepts the offer of Bobby Gerhart by a
16 GovDeals.com online auction in the amount of
17 \$60,000 for the sale of a 2013 Freightliner
18 dump truck with Henderson plow.

19 TRUSTEE MONOSON: When do we expect that
20 we're going to get the one that we're waiting
21 for?

22 TRUSTEE PANG: That's my question.

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: Perfect. Great
24 question. Denise, I think we took delivery?

1 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Just to
2 clarify. The Freightliner, the replacement
3 Freightliner was delivered last year. What
4 we're waiting for is the truck we ordered
5 more recently. And that has an estimated
6 wait of 300 days. That was the F550 truck.

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: Which is a different
8 truck than the dump truck.

9 TRUSTEE MONOSON: So we replaced the one
10 we're selling?

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: Correct. We're ahead
12 the game. We're not behind the 8 ball.

13 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Okay. Okay. Just
14 checking.

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: Tom, does that answer
16 your question? Ben, does that answer your
17 question?

18 TRUSTEE PANG: Yes.

19 MAYOR WEINBERG: Anyone else have a
20 question about the Freightliner dump truck?

21 TRUSTEE WESTON: No.

22 MAYOR WEINBERG: Is there a second?

23 TRUSTEE WESTON: I'll second.

24 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Second.

1 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I
2 recognize Burt Weston as the second.

3 TRUSTEE MONOSON: That's fine.

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Very good.

5 Denise, call -- unless there's any
6 discussion with the Board, Denise, please
7 call the roll.

8 Ben, was there something else?

9 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
10 Mayor Sharkey.

11 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry, Denise.

13 Ben, your light went on. Was there
14 something else?

15 TRUSTEE PANG: No. Nothing from me.

16 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Denise, call the
17 roll.

18 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I heard
19 an "aye" from Mr. Sharkey already.

20 Trustee Monoson.

21 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.

22 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
23 Pang.

24 TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.

1 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
2 Weston.

3 TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

4 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
5 Weinberg.

6 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

7 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five
8 votes in favor, zero opposed. The motion is
9 adopted.

10 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay.

11 * * * * *

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: On the Public Works
13 report. The Public Works Department
14 continues to continue with street sweeping.
15 Hopefully I think they're getting to the end
16 of the fall cleanup. Lawn maintenance,
17 streetlight repair, cracked sealing. I'm
18 hoping -- Denise, I don't know. Were they
19 able to get out today? I was hoping with the
20 warm weather --

21 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I'm not
22 certain.

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: I was hoping with the
24 warm weather that they're able to do some

1 cracked sealing for the next couple of days.
2 Tree trimming, branches, fall cleanup. A
3 resident request regarding a streetlight. We
4 will follow up on the resident request at
5 Brompton.

6 Upcoming work. You will see why I'm
7 laughing. Cracked sealing may continue if we
8 have a mild day. That's the good news. The
9 bad. He put down "snow removal" with a
10 question mark. That's why I was laughing.
11 Thank you, Benny, for that. Obviously always
12 storm cleanup, tree trimming, lawn
13 maintenance and sweeping if needed.

14 * * * * *

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. We have a couple
16 of deposit refunds.

17 Burt, can you read those?

18 TRUSTEE WESTON: Sure.

19 RESOLVED, that the refunds of deposits in
20 the aggregate amount of \$692.44, as itemized
21 on the abstract, one payable to David Yamins
22 at 180 Schenck, which is a deposit refund of
23 an unused portion of Zoning Board deposit of
24 \$322.35; and one to Aaron Halpern at 10

1 Brompton Road, an unused portion of a Zoning
2 Board deposit refund for \$370.09.

3 We would -- resolve to approve for the
4 disbursement from the Trust and Agency Fund.

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: Was there -- is there a
6 second?

7 TRUSTEE PANG: I'll second.

8 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Any comments or
9 questions from the Board?

10 TRUSTEE PANG: No.

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Is there any
12 comments or questions from the public? Is
13 there a hand? Some -- Mr. Halpern, did you
14 -- Aaron, did you have a question about the
15 deposit refunds?

16 TRUSTEE WESTON: I don't think the hands
17 were lowered from before.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: I'm assuming not. And
19 is that -- okay. No discussion or question
20 from the Board?

21 (There was no response.)

22 MAYOR WEINBERG: Denise, please call the
23 roll.

24 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy

1 Mayor Sharkey.

2 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.

3 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
4 Monoson.

5 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.

6 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
7 Pang.

8 TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.

9 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
10 Weston.

11 TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

12 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
13 Weinberg.

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

15 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five
16 votes in favor, zero opposed. The motion is
17 adopted.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay.

19 It goes in and out on the screen. Andrew
20 Cronson. I'm sorry I mispronounced. I
21 apologize.

22 MR. CRONSON: Not a problem. Thank you.

23 Just a brief question I had just before
24 on the sale of equipment.

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure. I'm sorry I
2 didn't see your hand.

3 MR. CRONSON: Not a problem. Thank you
4 for recognizing me.

5 I notice that you mention it was sold on
6 GovDeals, which is a surplus site that anyone
7 from the public can purchase from. What sort
8 of policies are there in place to make sure
9 there's no conflict of interest between a
10 village selling surplus and whoever the
11 buyers may be?

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure.

13 Denise?

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I don't
15 know the answer to that at the moment.

16 MAYOR WEINBERG: I mean, one, we would
17 always check the name and entity of the buyer
18 as to whether or not anyone on the Board has
19 any relationship with that entity or whether
20 or not the superintendent of Public Works has
21 any relationship with that entity.

22 These have always been third parties that
23 -- in which nobody has any business interest
24 or relationship with, and have been anywhere

1 from Long Island up to upstate New York.

2 Occasionally --

3 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor

4 Weinberg --

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry.

6 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: No. I'm

7 sorry.

8 MAYOR WEINBERG: I was just going to add,

9 Denise, occasionally we get a return

10 sometimes on GovDeals.com, a return buyer

11 because they know the village's reputation

12 for maintaining the equipment. But that's

13 certainly not a conflict of interest.

14 I'm sorry, Denise. What were you going

15 to say?

16 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Just to

17 note. Auctions that are placed on

18 GovDeals.com, we do not see who the bidders

19 are until the bid is won. So it's an

20 anonymous kind of bidding until you -- if

21 you're the winning bidder.

22 Second, the buyer on GovDeals.com paid a

23 12 percent premium over the bid price to

24 GovDeals. It doesn't seem that would be an

1 advantage to someone who was looking to get a
2 good deal to pay the 12 percent. And it
3 doesn't really, you know, make sense that
4 there's going to be some kind of collusion on
5 that, because they would be paying more than
6 they would if they bought it directly from
7 the village. We have sold other vehicles
8 directly from the village when other
9 municipalities have expressed interest and
10 know that our trucks are usually in good
11 shape, late model vehicles.

12 So this is purely, you know, a public
13 biz. We have no -- we cannot ban a bidder or
14 eliminate a bidder or -- there's nothing the
15 village can do. It runs on its own operation
16 until the last minute when the high bid is --
17 and the auction is over. Then we get -- we
18 can get the information on the person who is
19 the bidder.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: It's a blind process.
21 And all we can do is reject the bid if it's
22 not at the level we set.

23 MR. CRONSON: Thank you for
24 clarification.

1 MAYOR WEINBERG: No. That's great. Good
2 question. Thank you.

3 * * * * *

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: All right. To the
5 vouchers.

6 Jim, would you do the honors?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Resolution 21-125.

8 RESOLVED, that the vouchers in the
9 aggregate amount of \$215,864.32 (as itemized
10 on the Abstract of Vouchers dated Monday,
11 December 13, 2021), are hereby approved for
12 payment, all allocated to the General Fund.

13 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Perfect.

14 MAYOR WEINBERG: Is there a second?

15 TRUSTEE MONOSON: I'll second.

16 MAYOR WEINBERG: All right. A copy of
17 the approved voucher list is attached to
18 these minutes.

19 Any questions, comments, discussion?

20 TRUSTEE PANG: I didn't see the detailed
21 voucher, the voucher details. For No. 3435
22 -- no, not 3435. 3439, that Salerno
23 Brokerage Corporation. That's \$55,000.
24 That's the insurance policy?

1 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: That's
2 the insurance policy renewal.

3 TRUSTEE PANG: I'm sorry. Can you remind
4 me again what insurance policy we talking
5 about?

6 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: That's
7 the whole package. It's all the coverages
8 for the village for the entire year. It's
9 the automotive, the --

10 TRUSTEE WESTON: Liability.

11 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: --
12 liability insurance.

13 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Health insurance?

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: No.
15 Health insurance is separate. We pay that to
16 the state.

17 MAYOR WEINBERG: Denise, the crime
18 coverage? The computer fraud coverage?

19 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Right.
20 Right. And it's the coverage we have like
21 when we have the storms. It's when we have
22 damages to buildings and the parking lot and
23 the village hall.

24 MAYOR WEINBERG: The general liability

1 coverage.

2 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND:
3 Everything. It's all your liability: Inland
4 Marine it's called, some of that.

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: It also -- I believe it
6 also includes any personal injury claims, all
7 the personal injury claims. Am I right or
8 wrong about that, Denise --

9 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I
10 believe it does cover that.

11 MAYOR WEINBERG: -- under the CGL
12 liability.

13 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: The only
14 thing that's separate is the Workers'
15 Compensation policy, which that renews in
16 June.

17 MAYOR WEINBERG: Of course.

18 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: We
19 always do that in June. December we always
20 have the full package from the Salerno
21 Brokerage.

22 MAYOR WEINBERG: And this is the annual
23 rate, Denise?

24 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Yes.

1 This is for the year.

2 MAYOR WEINBERG: Yup. Yup.

3 TRUSTEE PANG: Okay. Thank you.

4 MAYOR WEINBERG: Anyone have any other
5 questions on the vouchers?

6 Nancy, did you have another question on
7 the vouchers?

8 MS. SHERMAN: Yes, I do. I have a couple
9 of questions. They're just some small
10 charges, but I've seen this a couple of --
11 you know, on several different vouchers.
12 I've seen a charge for "Fine Detailing."

13 MAYOR WEINBERG: That's the cleaning
14 service for the village.

15 MS. SHERMAN: That's the cleaning
16 service? Oh, I thought it was a car
17 detailing service.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: It's a cute name.

19 MS. SHERMAN: So we're part of the
20 Manhasset/Lakeville Water District, correct?

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: Well --

22 TRUSTEE WESTON: We're both.

23 MS. SHERMAN: Are we also part of --

24 MAYOR WEINBERG: We're a part of

1 Manhasset/Lakeville Water and Fire District.
2 And there is a part of the village that is
3 part of the Vigilant Fire District. There is
4 a part of the village that's a part of The
5 Water Authority of Great Neck North.

6 MS. SHERMAN: Okay. Thank you. You've
7 answered my question.

8 And just one more question going back to
9 the village attorney's bill. Is any portion
10 of that bill going to be reimbursed by the
11 developer going forward?

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: Yes. Yes.

13 MS. SHERMAN: Do you know how much that
14 is offhand approximately?

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: It's something in the
16 range of \$15,000. Is that right, Denise?

17 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Yes.

18 MS. SHERMAN: \$15,000. So then that
19 \$13,000, \$14,000 bill will be paid in full by
20 the developer?

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: No. I can't say that,
22 because there are different things on the
23 bill. But any part of it that relates to the
24 \$15,000 gets reimbursed. Every bill has

1 different parts and --

2 MS. SHERMAN: So any work that -- I just
3 want to be clear. Any work that was done by
4 the Village Attorney with respect to any
5 litigation involving Tower Ford would be paid
6 for by the developer; is that correct?

7 TRUSTEE WESTON: Litigation?

8 MAYOR WEINBERG: I'm sorry.

9 TRUSTEE WESTON: With respect to the
10 litigation was the question?

11 MS. SHERMAN: Yes.

12 MAYOR WEINBERG: With respect to the
13 application, yes. The litigation, I don't
14 know.

15 MS. SHERMAN: Well, the litigation is
16 with respect to the application, so --

17 MAYOR WEINBERG: You asked how much was
18 reimbursed. I can tell you how much was
19 reimbursed. Now you're asking a different
20 question and --

21 MS. SHERMAN: You can answer the first
22 question. How much was reimbursed?

23 MAYOR WEINBERG: The \$15,000 is the
24 amount -- I already said is the amount being

1 reimbursed.

2 MS. SHERMAN: \$15,000 is for total
3 expenses, right, towards Tower Ford
4 development?

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: Denise, does that
6 include -- I think -- I'm not sure. We would
7 have to check that. I think that's the
8 attorneys and -- is that just attorney fees,
9 Denise, or does that also include consultant
10 fees?

11 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: The
12 consultants that were used up until the point
13 before the application was withdrawn. Yes,
14 that's included, attorney's fees.

15 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay.

16 MS. SHERMAN: So only the attorney's fee
17 before the application was withdrawn?

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: No. That's not what we
19 said. The attorney -- well, the attorney
20 fees -- yes, before the application was
21 withdrawn.

22 MS. SHERMAN: And the developer is not
23 responsible for the Village Attorney's fee
24 after -- as a result of the developer's

1 application?

2 MAYOR WEINBERG: We'll have to review
3 that. Okay.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. SHERMAN: Now, is that bill available
6 to be viewed by the public?

7 TRUSTEE WESTON: What?

8 MS. SHERMAN: The bill.

9 MAYOR WEINBERG: We'll have to check with
10 the Village Attorney.

11 Okay. Thank you.

12 All right. Do we have -- do we have any
13 other questions on the vouchers? Okay.
14 Seeing none, I'm assuming -- Mr. Cronson,
15 Andrew, I'm assuming --

16 MR. CRONSON: I have one more question,
17 if I might ask.

18 MAYOR WEINBERG: Sure.

19 MR. CRONSON: I'm not trying to question
20 the authority or the presence of the Village
21 Attorney, but do you know how much the cost
22 was for the attorney to appear at the most
23 recent landmark hearing and how much you're
24 planning on budgeting for the attorney's

1 presence at these meetings?

2 MAYOR WEINBERG: We'll have to get --
3 well, it's already in the budget. We'll have
4 to get back to you on that as to what the
5 cost was.

6 Denise, do you know what the cost was for
7 the last --

8 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: I do not
9 know. No. Not off the top of my head. I'm
10 sorry.

11 TRUSTEE PANG: I think in general the
12 Village Attorney charges, what, \$300 an hour?

13 MAYOR WEINBERG: It might be slightly
14 less. It is a discounted rate.

15 TRUSTEE PANG: Right. So if let's say
16 the Village Attorney spend 2 hours in last
17 Landmarks Commission, it will be, you know, 2
18 times 300 -- about \$300. Maybe \$270 or
19 something like that.

20 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Denise, do we
21 still need to vote on the vouchers?

22 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Yes. We
23 do need to vote on the vouchers.

24 MAYOR WEINBERG: Just want to remember

1 where we were.

2 Any other discussion or comments by the
3 Board.

4 (There was no response.)

5 MAYOR WEINBERG: Hearing none, Denise,
6 please call the roll.

7 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
8 Mayor Sharkey.

9 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.

10 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
11 Monoson.

12 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.

13 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
14 Pang.

15 TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.

16 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
17 Weston.

18 TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

19 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
20 Weinberg.

21 MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

22 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five
23 votes in favor, zero opposed. The motion is
24 adopted.

* * * * *

1
2 MAYOR WEINBERG: Okay. Is there a motion
3 to adjourn?

4 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: I'll make the
5 motion.

6 TRUSTEE PANG: I'll second.

7 MAYOR WEINBERG: Any discussion?

8 (There was no response.)

9 MAYOR WEINBERG: Denise, please call the
10 roll.

11 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Deputy
12 Mayor Sharkey.

13 DEPUTY MAYOR SHARKEY: Aye.

14 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
15 Monoson.

16 TRUSTEE MONOSON: Aye.

17 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
18 Pang.

19 TRUSTEE PANG: Aye.

20 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Trustee
21 Weston.

22 TRUSTEE WESTON: Aye.

23 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Mayor
24 Weinberg.

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MAYOR WEINBERG: Aye.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR KNOWLAND: Five
votes in favor, zero opposed. The motion is
adopted.

The meeting is now closed.

(Time noted: 8:42 p.m.)

* * *

CERTIFIED THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE
TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES OF THIS HEARING AS TRANSCRIBED
FROM AN AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING, DONE TO THE BEST OF MY
ABILITY.

JENNIFER DEVLIN
Court Reporter