

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting  
Village of Kensington, 2 Nassau Drive, Great Neck, NY  
September 16, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Mayor Susan Lopatkin

Trustees: Darren Kaplan, Alina Kaplan, Jeffrey Greener, Phil Bornstein

Mayor Lopatkin brought the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 8:00pm, seconded by Trustee Bornstein, all in favor.

Mayor Lopatkin made a motion to approve the July board minutes, seconded by Trustee Bornstein, all in favor.

Mayor Lopatkin spoke with our Accountants regarding our Financial statements. We added another \$200K of surplus to our general fund because our expenses were less than we budgeted and our revenue was higher than we budgeted. In the total of 1.7 million, of that amount, around 1.1 million is unrestricted. We allocated \$300K to our 2020/2021 Budget last year. We still have 30K in our Parkland fund, subdivision money from 41 Beverly and \$250K that we put aside for the potential cost of the next Police Officer retiring. Our cash position is about 30% of our total budget, the higher end of where we need to be. Mayor Lopatkin stated that we are in very good financial shape.

Mayor Lopatkin made a motion to approve the Audit report, seconded by Trustee Hendler, all in favor.

Mayor Lopatkin proceeded the meeting by opening two closed bids for our 2014 Ford Interceptor Police vehicle. The starting bid was \$2000.00

Bid 1: \$2395.00 Natalka Fallon

Bid 2: \$2500.00 Maria D'Amelio

Mayor Lopatkin made a motion to award Maria D'Amelio from the Nassau County Auxiliary Police Dept the 2014 Ford Interceptor, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kaplan, all in favor.

## **Mayors Update:**

Mayor Lopatkin discussed the legislation which the board introduced regarding bamboo. Mayor Lopatkin received numerous emails from concerned residents regarding the proposed bamboo legislation. These residents either had their own bamboo or it had spread from a neighbor's yard and they are happy with it. Mayor Lopatkin asked the board for their input as to whether or not to go forward with the legislation. After a brief discussion of the Board, it was determined that they are not going to go forward and legislate anything on bamboo.

PSEG will be coming to the Village to trim trees away from the wires in the reserve strips.

The Village hired a Thomas Donato of Michael Haberman Associates, Inc. to do an analysis on the new 2020/2021 Nassau County tax roll and the impact it would have on the Village residents. Based on this analysis, a direct adoption of the Nassau County values would prove to be devastating to the residents of the Village. Per the report, over 43% of the tested parcels would be impacted by large increases in tax responsibility. These differences could be caused by incorrect data within the County assessment inventory due to building permits that have not been posted or substantial differences in valuation methodology. Based on this analysis, Mayor Lopatkin suggested that we should not use this roll. Instead we will evaluate the option of using the same tax roll as last year and hiring the tax company to reassess new construction and properties with building permits from the last two years. The board agreed with this decision.

## **Tree Commissioner Update:**

Trustee Hendler spoke about Village trees. After the most recent storm, there were many residents calling about trees and asking if they were Village trees or not and also for maintenance/removal. Trustee Hendler made calls to other Villages to find out how many Villages take care of Village trees or are they the responsibility of the homeowner. There is only one Village that enacted a law that put the responsibility back to the homeowner for the Village trees. The board concluded to leave everything as is at this time.

On motion of Mayor Lopatkin, seconded by Trustee Hendler accept the Police and Treasurers reports.

On the motion of Mayor Lopatkin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Kaplan, the meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.