



VILLAGE OF SUFFERN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025
7:00 P.M.

Present: Michael F. Curley, Mayor
Jo Meegan-Corrigan, Deputy Mayor
Steven Alpert, Trustee
Clarke Osborn, Trustee
Angela Hogue, Trustee
Melissa B. Reimer, Village Clerk
Gregg Smith, Village Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Curley called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for the loss of Rob Menschel, a very close friend of Trustee Alpert.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

A Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

A Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION To Approve December 2, 2024, Board of Trustees Reorganization Meeting Minutes was moved by Trustee Alpert, seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

MOTION To Approve December 2, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes was moved by Trustee Osborn, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consider a Local Law Amending Section 205-3(6) of the Code of the Village of Suffern regarding Vehicle Parking in the Village of Suffern

Mayor Curley said that the public hearing would continue, and it will be adjourned to February 3, 2025. He told the Board that he discussed the local law with the Village Planner and the Village Attorney this past week. They are still moving ahead with the local law to stop people from parking vehicles with car covers in the Village. The Board wants this local law so that the license plates will be displayed and not be hidden behind the car covers. Mayor Curley said that there were legal concerns with parking on street with car covers.

Mayor Curley explained to the Board that the Village has not gotten Live Music Permit Applications in some time and the Village wants to keep the businesses on track. We want to

control how late the music/DJ's/live entertainment goes until. The Police Department can control what is going on late at night.

MOTION – Direct Village Clerk to refer to the Planning Board for comment for Special Use Permit for Live Entertainment for American Dream Restaurant Corp as business owner of the property located at 21 Lafayette Avenue, moved by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

MOTION – Direct Village Clerk to refer to the Planning Board for comment and to publish hearing to authorize a Special Use Permit for Live Entertainment for Agave Restaurant and Lounge as business owner of the property located at 100 Orange Avenue, moved by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

MOTION – Direct Village Clerk to refer to the Planning Board for comment and to publish hearing to authorize a Special Use Permit for Live Entertainment for Moon 59 Restaurant & Bar as business owner of the property located at 26 Lafayette Avenue, moved by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

MOTION – Direct Village Clerk to refer to the Planning Board for comment and to publish hearing to authorize a Special Use Permit for Live Entertainment for Curley's Corner as business owner of the property located at 84 Orange Avenue, moved by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Fred Rella, Village Grant Writer, explained about two grants. Most grants are reimbursement grants. Grant for Lot A was for \$200 thousand. The Village spent about \$190 thousand and now we will be reimbursed. Mr. Rella told the Board that we will not get reimbursed for the total because we did not spend the maximum amount. This was a Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG").

Mayor Curley asked if the Village will be compensated for all the work that they have done. The Village removed the islands of curbing and grass in the parking lot. He asked Mr. Rella to please put in for reimbursement of those expenditures. He stated that this was done to make it safer for the public.

Mr. Rella told the Board that the Village received the new garbage truck. That was a grant was in the amount of \$200 thousand; the Village's portion was \$50 thousand. This grant was through DASNY. The Village received the paperwork, Mr. Rella will submit for reimbursement.

CDBG 2025 - just started the initial stages. The County will let the Village know if we still have an area in the Village that qualifies based on census track data (low to moderate income). They have changed the criteria, and the Village is unsure if we even have a qualifying area that is low to moderate income. The Village will be notified this month.

Mr. Rella reported to the Board that all training for CDBG was done by all, and the Citizen's Committee will have their two required meetings, if the Village is still eligible for the grant and where the area in the Village is going to qualify.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Vinny Mastrullo presented the following board resolutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 001 OF 2025

ACCEPTING BRIAN BLOCK AS A TRANSFER TO VOLUNTEER HOSE CO. 1 FROM HOOK & LADDER CO. NO. 1

RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees accepts Brian Block, as a transfer member in the Volunteer Hose Co. 1 from the Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 002 OF 2025

ACCEPTING MICHAEL CARR AS A NEW MEMBER IN VOLUNTEER HOSE CO. 1

RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees accepts Michael Carr, as a new member in the Volunteer Hose Co. 1, with the approval of the Village Attorney.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Osborn, seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 003 OF 2025

ACCEPTING IVANIA CORDOVA AS A NEW MEMBER IN VOLUNTEER HOSE CO. 1

RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees accepts Ivania Cordova as a new member in the Volunteer Hose Co. 1, with the approval of the Village Attorney.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Osborn, seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 004 OF 2025

ACCEPTING HIDEKI TOYAMA AS A NEW MEMBER IN HOOK & LADDER CO. NO. 1

RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees accepts Hideki Toyama, as a new member in the Volunteer Hose Co. 1, with the approval of the Village Attorney.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 005 OF 2025

ACCEPTING DAVID TORRES AS A NEW MEMBER IN HOOK & LADDER CO. NO. 1

RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees accepts David Torres, as a new member in the Volunteer Hose Co. 1, with the approval of the Village Attorney.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

**RESOLUTION NO. 006 OF 2025
ACCEPTING KEVIN JIMENEZ AS A NEW MEMBER IN HOOK & LADDER CO. NO. 1**

RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees accepts Kevin Jimenez (Under 18 years old), as a new member in the Volunteer Hose Co. 1, with the approval of the Village Attorney.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

**RESOLUTION NO. 007 OF 2025
ACCEPTING MANUEL GARCIA AS A NEW MEMBER IN HOOK & LADDER CO. NO. 1**

RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees accepts Manuel Garcia (Under 18 years old), as a new member in the Volunteer Hose Co. 1, with the approval of the Village Attorney.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Loughlin presented the Police Department statistics for the month of December 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 008 OF 2025
AUTHORIZING THE NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER FRIEDMAN TO THE POSITION OF POLICE OFFICER PART-TIME**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees hereby nominates Christopher Friedman to the position of Police Officer Part-Time, pending final certification of qualifications by Rockland County Personnel.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

Mayor Curley said that he spoke with Mr. Friedman, and he understands our concerns with our downtown area. Besides being an expert at trucks and illegal vehicles, he said that he is looking forward to patrolling the downtown area and doing other duties.

RECREATION

Ms. Cathy Mills reported the following:

- January 29th at 12pm – Movie & Pizza - Community Center
- February 14th – Seniors' Valentine's Day Luncheon

PUBLIC COMMENT (limited to 4 minutes per speaker)

MOTION to open the public comment period was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Wendy Frankel, 19 Riverside Drive– Issue with 22 Riverside. Complaining about parking, bright lights from their property into her property, they played loud music, claimed that they used a shed as a garage, and they have six or seven cabs.

Trustee Alpert asked if the music playing from the vehicles is also at 2am.

Ms. Frankel was not sure. She asked another woman from the audience. Ms. Frankel, after hearing the other woman’s answer, turned to the Board and answered that yes, “we” hear it. She claimed that the home across the street was a business and not a residence. She told the Board to have them “thrown out.” She said that it was “disgusting” and “they shouldn’t be there.”

Margaret Ghosio, 17 Riverside Drive – Complained about 22 Riverside Drive vehicles and how they re-arrange cars on the street. She also complained that they are utilizing a shed as a garage.

Trustee Alpert asked about the address of the house that they were referring to.

Mayor Curley stated that it was 22 Riverside Drive. He informed both members of the public that he would answer their comments during the Mayor Section of the meeting.

MOTION to close the public comment was made by Trustee Osborn and seconded by Trustee Hogue.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Charles Sawicki presented the board resolutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 009 OF 2025

AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2024 ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

WHEREAS, all jurisdictions within Rockland County have exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County and local economy; and

WHEREAS; proactive mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre and post disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

WHEREAS; a coalition of Rockland County municipalities with like planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within Rockland County; and

WHEREAS, the coalition has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that the Village of Suffern:

- 1) Adopts in its entirety, the 2024 Rockland County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (the “Plan”) as the jurisdiction’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and resolves to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction.

- 2) Will use the adopted and approved portions of the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
- 3) Will coordinate the strategies identified in the Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
- 4) Will continue its support of the Planning Partnership as described within the Plan.
- 5) Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
- 6) Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
- 7) Will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

**RESOLUTION NO. 010 OF 2025
APPOINTING DANIEL GUTIERREZ AS LABORER**

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Curley hereby appoints Daniel Gutierrez to the vacant position of Laborer in the Street and Refuse Department and said appointment is hereby confirmed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern, subject to and contingent upon approval by the Rockland County Department of Personnel.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Hogue, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

TRUSTEES

No comments.

MAYOR

Mayor Curley stated that the Police Department has been to 22 Riverside Drive at least 30 times in the last few months. The Police have issued tickets. The Mayor and the Chief and he have met regarding 22 Riverside Drive and the Chief had told the Mayor that the Police go past the property at different times and sometimes there are no violations.

Mayor Curley told the public that he has personally makes it a point to go past 22 Riverside, most, every day to check on things. He said that he has never seen more than two taxis there.

Mayor Curley told the public that 22 Riverside currently has violations from our Building Department that are pending in Court, right now. He said that they have two new violations. They also received a violation from the Police Department on January 1st. He told the public that the Police and Building Departments are doing their jobs.

Mayor Curley said that he will not throw someone out of their home. He does not do that. He said that he does not have the authority to throw someone out. He said that people have rights, and they have their civil rights. He said that he respects rights and civil rights, but he will enforce the law.

He told the public that 22 Riverside is a two-family home. When the people first moved in, the Building Department gave a violation for people living in the basement. The people in the basement have been removed.

Mayor Curley told Ms. Frankel that most of the telephone reports to the Police Department were from her. He said that no one from the Village minds her calling and reporting these things, but he wanted her to know that Village of Suffern is doing their job. The violations are being written, the matter was in Court, but he will never throw people out of their home. He invited her to keep calling and reporting things to the Police.

Mayor Curley thanked the DPW and Joe Hunt for doing an excellent job for the Village in this cold, cold weather. He gave them a round of applause.

**RESOLUTION NO. 011 OF 2025
ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF MELISSA REIMER AS VILLAGE CLERK**

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

WHEREAS, Melissa Reimer has diligently and capably served the residents of the Village of Suffern as Village Clerk for more than three years; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Reimer is desirous of resigning from that position, effective at the close of business on February 4, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Suffern Board of Trustees hereby accepts with regret the resignation of Melissa Reimer, effective at the close of business on February 4, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees expresses its heartfelt thanks and appreciation for her exemplary service to the Village.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Osborn and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

**RESOLUTION NO. 012 OF 2025
CONFIRMING MAYOR CURLEY'S APPOINTMENT OF HEATHER FORD AS
VILLAGE CLERK OF THE VILLAGE OF SUFFERN**

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

WHEREAS, Melissa Reimer has resigned as Village Clerk of the Village of Suffern, effective at the close of business on February 4, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Curley hereby appoints Heather Ford as Village Clerk of the Village of Suffern (part-time), effective February 5, 2025, for a term expiring at 12:00 noon, on December 1, 2025, at a yearly compensation of \$40,500, and said appointment is hereby confirmed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Alpert and seconded by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

**RESOLUTION NO. 013 OF 2025
AUTHORIZING MAYOR CURLEY TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH HEATHER
FORD AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR FOR TRAINING PURPOSES**

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

WHEREAS, Melissa Reimer has resigned as Village Clerk of the Village of Suffern, effective at the close of business on February 4, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Heather Ford has been appointed as Village Clerk, commencing on February 5, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees deems it to be in the best interest of the Village of Suffern for Ms. Reimer to provide training and guidance to Heather Ford on a short-term basis while Ms. Reimer is Village Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the most feasible manner in which such training can be accomplished while Ms. Reimer is Village Clerk is to enter into a short-term independent contractor agreement with Ms. Ford.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern that Mayor Curley is authorized to enter into an independent contractor agreement with Heather Ford for the period January 7, 2025, to and including February 4, 2025, with compensation at the rate of \$30.00 per hour, in form and substance acceptable to the Village Attorney.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Hogue and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

**RESOLUTION NO. 014 OF 2025
APPOINTING MELISSA REIMER TO THE POSITION OF CONFIDENTIAL
ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR**

BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Suffern as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees deems it to be in the best interests of the effective functioning of the Village government to create the position of Confidential Assistant to the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has undertaken the process of creation of the position of Confidential Assistant to the Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Curley hereby appoints Melissa Reimer as Confidential Assistant to the Mayor, effective February 5, 2025, at a compensation of \$84,000, subject to and contingent on the creation of the position by the Rockland County Department of Personnel and clearance of Ms. Reimer for the position by the Department of Personnel, if necessary.

A motion to approve the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan and seconded by Trustee Alpert, with all in favor.

Adopted: January 6, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 P.M. was made by Trustee Meegan-Corrigan, seconded by Trustee Osborn, with all in favor.

Respectfully,

Melissa B. Reimer, CPA
Village Clerk