



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

February 06, 2024, at 7:00 PM

432 Route 306, Wesley Hills, NY 10952

Phone: 845-354-0400 | Fax: 845-354-4097

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marshall Katz, Mayor
Ed McPherson, Deputy Mayor
Milton Schwartz, Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ruth Ivey, Trustee
Yisroel Cherns, Trustee

OTHERS PRESENT:

Benjamin Selig, Esq. Village Attorney (Zoom)
Camille Guido - Downey, Village Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Katz opened the meeting at 7 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ITEM #1

RESOLUTION #09-24

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the minutes of January 2, 2024, seconded by Trustee McPherson. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #2

RESOLUTION #10-24

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2024 AGREEMENT FOR SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES, HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND STORM DRAIN MAINTENANCE BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RAMAPO AND THE VILLAGE OF WESLEY HILLS

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee McPherson:

RESOLVED, that the proposed agreement between the Town of Ramapo and the Village of Wesley Hills for snow removal services, highway maintenance and storm drain maintenance for 2024, a copy of which is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, is hereby accepted, and approved and the Mayor's execution of same on behalf of the Village of Wesley Hills is hereby authorized.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #3

RESOLUTION #11-24

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2024 INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF RAMAPO FOR SIDEWALK PLOWING SERVICES

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee McPherson:

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills has heretofore entered into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Ramapo for the year 2024, by which the Town agreed to plow the following sidewalks in the Village at a fee of \$1,820.00 each time the sidewalks are plowed:

1. Route 306 from Grandview Ave to Lime Kiln Road.
2. Forshay Road from Grandview Ave to Willow Tree Road.
3. E Willow Tree Road north side; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the said Intermunicipal Agreement for 2024 be and the same is hereby accepted and approved and the Mayor is authorized to indicate such approval of such extension by signing on behalf of the Village of Wesley Hills.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #4

RESOLUTION #12-24

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE VILLAGE OF WESLEY HILLS LEAD AGENCY FOR THE WILLOW TREE ROAD ADA-COMPLIANT SIDEWALK SYSTEM PROJECT

Trustee McPherson made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee Schwartz:

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills authorized and approved the Willow Tree Road ADA-Compliant Sidewalk System Project, and

WHEREAS, the Village’s consulting engineer, Creighton Manning Engineering, has advised the Village that the proposed Project is an Unlisted Action in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills is duly qualified to act as Lead Agency for compliance with SEQRA which requires environmental review of certain actions undertaken by local governments and in accordance with the coordinated review procedures of SEQRA, the Village of Wesley Hills wishes to be designated as the SEQRA Lead Agency for the proposed Project; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills indicated its wish to be Lead Agency for SEQRA review of the proposed Project and sent a copy of the Short Environmental Assessment Form Part I, to any and all agencies to which it must give written notice in accordance with New York State Village Law, including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and New York State Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, notice was provided to those agencies and over 30 days have passed, and the Village has received zero responses regarding the Village’s intent to become the Lead Agency for the action, and

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WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills is duly designated to act as SEQRA Lead Agency and, in that capacity, has reviewed the SEQRA Short EAF for this Project; now, therefore, be it.

RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills designates itself as Lead Agency for SEQRA review of the proposed Project; and be it further.

RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills determines that no significant adverse environmental impacts are likely to result from the proposed Willow Tree Road ADA-Compliant Sidewalk System Project and such determination is reached after careful consideration and analysis of the proposed action and the EAF for the proposed action; and be it further.

RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills hereby authorizes and directs the Village Mayor to complete the Environmental Assessment Form by checking the box indicating that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse impacts; and be it further.

RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills approves a SEQRA Negative Declaration - Determination of Non-Significance and authorizes and directs the Village's Clerk's Office to file any necessary documents in accordance with the provisions of the general regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation; and be it further.

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

**ITEM #5
RESOLUTION APPOINTING ELECTION INSPECTORS**

RESOLUTION #13-24

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee McPherson:

RESOLVED, pursuant to Election Law Section 15-116 that the following three (3) persons are hereby appointed Inspectors of Election to serve at the Village Election to be held on March 19, 2024: Robert Marble, Rita Joachim, and Edith Medina Cincu, and be it further.

RESOLVED, that Rita Joachim is hereby designated as Chairperson of the Inspectors of Election; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the compensation of Inspectors of Election shall be paid \$200.00 per day and \$225.00 per day for the chairperson all who shall serve on Election Day.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

**ITEM #6
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF ESCROW FUNDS FOR 475 ROUTE 306**

RESOLUTION #14-24

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee McPherson:

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2023, Station-Glo of New England Inc, posted the sum of \$1,500.00

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with the Village of Wesley Hills to be held in escrow for a Planning Board application for exterior signage located at 475 Route 306, and

WHEREAS, after discussions with the Planning Board and the Building Inspector it was determined that a Planning Board application is not needed, and

WHEREAS, there remains on deposit with the Village of Wesley Hills the balance of said escrow fund in the sum of \$1,500.00, and

WHEREAS, by email dated September 22, 2023, the Applicant requested a refund as the deposit was not required to be posted with the Village; and

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk of the Village of Wesley Hills is hereby directed to refund the sum of \$1,500.00 to be paid to the aforesaid Station-Glo of New England in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #7 **RESOLUTION #15-24**
RESOLUTION APPROVING ABSTRACTS OF AUDITED CLAIMS

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee McPherson:

RESOLVED, that the general fund claims, #21,538 through #21,616 in the aggregate amount of \$127,153.64 as set forth in Abstract #2/24 dated February 6, 2024, a copy of which abstract of audited claims is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, are hereby approved.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #8 **RESOLUTION #16-24**
RESOLUTION APPROVING TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee McPherson:

RESOLVED, that the transfers in the aggregate amount of \$150,000 as set forth in Abstract #2/24 dated February 6, 2024, a copy of which abstract of audited claims is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, are hereby approved.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #17-24
RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE FOA & SON CORP. INSURANCE RENEWAL REPORT FOR THE 2024-2025 TERM

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Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee McPherson:

RESOLVED, that the FOA & Son Corp. Insurance renewal report for the 2024-2025 term, a copy of which is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, is hereby approved, and adopted and the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute any document confirming said approval.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #18-24

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSAL FROM BELLEVILLE LANDSCAPING, INC. FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE TIMBER TRAIL CULVERT

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee McPherson:

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills has experienced major flooding on Timber Trail from August 2023 to current, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ramapo Highway Department has maintained the culvert and its adjacent structures and has noted that major restoration work is needed which is beyond the contract requirements, and

WHEREAS, the Village Engineer also inspected the culvert and its adjacent structures on Timber Trail and has advised the Village that this work is emergent as nearby residents are being flooded, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills agrees with the Village Engineer and wishes to declare this restoration work an emergency due to the flooding damage to certain residents on Timber Trail, and

WHEREAS, the Village has prepared a request for proposals and received two proposals for the requested restoration, and

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills declares this restoration work an emergency, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village awards the lowest responsible proposal to Belleville Landscaping Inc. and the Mayor is authorized to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the Village.

Discussion:

Mayor Katz noted that the funds will be taken from the contingency account.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #19-24

RESOLUTION REFERRING TO THE PLANNING BOARD AND OTHER AGENCIES THE PROPOSED ZONING LAW AMENDMENT REGARDING FACULTY HOUSING AT SCHOOLS.

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Trustee McPherson:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Wesley Hills deems it to be in the interest of the Village to consider the enactment of a local law amending the Zoning Law of the Village of Wesley Hills for Faculty Housing at Schools, and

WHEREAS, the Village Attorney, at the request of this Board, has prepared such a proposed local law entitled, “A Local Law Amending the Code of the Village of Wesley Hills to Revise the Zoning Law in Relation to Faculty Housing at Schools,” and be it.

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provisions of Section 230-76 of the Wesley Hills Code, such proposed local law is hereby referred for review and report to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Village Attorney, Village Engineer, Building Inspector, and Code Inspector of the Village of Wesley Hills, and pursuant to the GML of the County of Rockland Planning Department and all abutting municipalities, and be it

RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of such proposed local law to such Boards and Officials forthwith.

Discussion:

Mayor Katz stated that Frank Brown has drafted this final local law for review. Mr. Brown has incorporated the practical access definition that is missing from the Village code.

Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM #9-MAYOR’S REPORTS

219 Willow Tree Road

Mr. & Mrs. Gross have complained to the Village several times that they are experiencing pond issues from the Town of Ramapo pond and the downstream neighbors who have placed garbage and yard waste in the stream. Mayor Katz stated that a letter was sent to all the property owners along the stream on yard clean up and stream protection. Mayor Katz stated that he has also reached out to the Town Supervisor on getting the pond cleaned and dredged.

Willow Tree Road Flooding

Mayor Katz stated that we have an inspection report from the Village Engineer, and we can discuss this at our February 20 workshop when Trustee Cherns will be present.

Pomona Heights Speed Bumps

Mayor Katz stated that he is still waiting for the suggested locations from the Village Engineer.

Lime Kiln/Wilder Road Intersection

Mayor Katz stated that there were another two accidents at this intersection last week. Mayor Katz stated that he has reached out to County Legislator Soskin and will reach out to State Assemblyman Lawler for assistance with this intersection. Mayor Katz stated that he would like this topic revisited as soon as possible for a temporary traffic light or a permanent one till the County installs the roundabout.

ITEM #10-VILAGE CLERK’S REPORTS

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Camille Guido-Downey stated that the Village received ten complaints last month. The Village has also submitted the annual NYS building report for the Village.

ITEM #11-VILAGE ATTORNEY’S REPORTS

Ben Selig stated that he has been in discussions with the Monsey Fire Department and has invited them to the Village’s workshop on February 20, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel, seconded by Trustee McPherson. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

No action was taken during the executive session.

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to exit the executive session to discuss personnel, seconded by Trustee McPherson. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Schwartz made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee McPherson. Upon vote, Yea: Mayor Katz, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Schwartz, this motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Camille Guido-Downey