

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Board of Trustees of the
Village of Larchmont, New York,
held on **TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010**

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth Feld
Trustees Marlene Kolbert
Anne H. McAndrews
Richard Ward
Josh Mandell

Also Present: Deputy Clerk Rilley, Treasurer Brucciani,
Attorney Staudt (arrived at 8:25 PM)
Joanna C. Feldman, Esq., representing Village
Attorney's Office

Mayor Feld called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

The Mayor introduced six-year old Amanda Burns of 53 Sherwood Drive, who was named "Mayor for a Day" at Chatsworth Avenue School. Miss Burns was given a tour of Village Hall, as well as the Police and Fire Departments. The Mayor asked her to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Burns, Amanda
Mayor for a Day**

Mayor Feld made the following announcements:

1. The Police and Fire Chiefs will be giving assessment reports on the damage and clean-up from last weekend's storm. Mayor Feld thanked Con Edison for their efforts during this storm.
2. She asked everyone to fill out the Census 2010 questionnaire that is being mailed out.
3. She congratulated Jennifer Jensen, who won a Volunteer Spirit Award for her work on behalf of the Sheldrake Environmental Center, the "2010 Going Green Award". She will receive it in White Plains on March 23. WCBS-TV reporter and Larchmont resident Lou Young will be presenting the award.
4. Mayor Feld also extended congratulations to Monica Gray for winning the "Social Justice Award" from the Mental Health Association of Westchester County.
5. State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer will chair the Westchester Delegation of the New York State Senate. The Delegation will hold a hearing on the Governor's 2010 proposed Executive Budget, which will take place on March 19 at 9:30 AM in the Greenburgh Town Hall.
6. Mayor Feld advised that the new parking meter system has been installed in Lot #3 at the train station. Anyone having an old debit card has until March 31, 2010 to bring it to the Clerk's Office for a refund. The old metering system has been installed in Lots 4, 6 & 10. People wishing to park in a Village parking lot overnight will be able to pay \$4.00 and obtain a receipt for display on their car's front dashboard.

**Mayor's
Announcements**

Police Chief Poleway gave the following report:

Storm Update: The storm on March 13th left extensive damage throughout the Village, and many residents are without power. The Police, Fire and Public Works Departments are coordinating with Con

**Police Chief's Report
Update on 3/13/10
storm**

Edison to restore power. There are currently 219 customers without electricity.

Monroe Avenue was hit the hardest, with four telephone poles and two transformers knocked down by high winds. The oil inside the transformers contained PCB's and, therefore, needed an environmental clean-up. As of today, Con Edison has assigned a crew to begin restoring service.

The Police Department had to close Oak Bluff Avenue because a tree was hanging on a power line in front of 25 Oak Bluff Avenue. All the residents were notified, and a pedestrian walkway was created so they can get in and out of their homes.

The Chief requested everybody's patience until all electricity is restored. He added that there were no injuries or accidents reported. He commended the efforts of the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, along with the liaisons from Con Edison, Joe Liotta and Jim Feeney.

A representative from the Governor's office held a conference call today and stated the Governor is seeking Federal aid for storm relief. In order to receive Federal assistance, a threshold of \$2.9 million must be met. The Westchester County Office of Emergency Management is asking communities that were hit hard by the storm to send in estimates.

Thanks to Mayor Feld: As this was the last official meeting for Mayor Feld, Chief Poleway thanked her for all of the support she has given to the Police Department and him during her term. He added it was his privilege to work with her, and she will be missed. The Mayor thanked Chief Poleway and returned the compliment, saying she is proud of how the Police Department serves the Village.

Fire Chief's Report
Update on 3/13/10 storm

Fire Chief Rich Heine gave the following report:

Storm Update: During the most recent storm, the Fire Department responded to sixty emergency calls. He urged everyone to stay away from downed wires, and added that residents should stay indoors during violent storms.

Residents should not operate gas powered generators indoors. The machines need to be run in ventilated areas. There have been incidents where the Fire Department had to evacuate homes for high carbon monoxide levels because generators were being run inside.

The Fire Department is currently working closely with the Police Department, Public Works Department, and Con Edison to keep streets open and to restore power as soon as possible.

With this past weekend's events, Chief Heine encouraged everyone to put together a storm kit. He suggested going to the Red Cross' website for information on what contents should go in the kit.

Change Batteries in Detectors: The Chief reminded everyone that with the Daylight Savings Time occurring this past weekend, it is a good time to check the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Thanks to Mayor Feld: Chief Heine said it has been his pleasure to have served with the Mayor and to have known her for such a long time. Mayor Feld commended and thanked Chief Heine for his service and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

Trustee Mandell gave the following report:

1. During the recent storm, many calls to the Fire Department were from residents whose sump pumps were unable to turn on when their electricity went out. Trustee Mandell suggested that, if affordable, residents should get a battery-operated sump pump as a back-up.
2. Many Fire Departments in this area rely on mutual aid. Because neighboring communities had their own problems with this storm, the Village had to take care of itself. Many volunteers worked for thirty-six consecutive hours and performed duties in harsh conditions. He commended all emergency services personnel for their responsive actions to this storm.
3. The Shared Services Committee Report will be released shortly. A presentation will be done by the Chairman, Bill Dentzer, on April 20 for the League of Women Voters and elected officials.

Trustee Ward made the following report:

1. He attended the Westchester Municipal Officials' Association meeting in Dobbs Ferry last week, and the discussion topic was the Affordable Housing Lawsuit. Trustee Ward stated this issue should be closely monitored because of the expense it could bring to any affected community.

Trustee Kolbert gave the following report:

1. Larchmont has been named one of the five greenest towns in Westchester by Grassroots Environmental Education. In a county-wide assessment called "How Green is Your Town", the Village received one of the highest ratings. On March 24, a press conference and award ceremony will take place at Pace University in Pleasantville. Trustee Kolbert credited the Committee on the Environment for their efforts, and Mayor Feld for her encouragement.
2. The Sustainable Expo, originally slated to take place at Mamaroneck High School on April 24, will have to be moved to the Hommocks Middle School because of a previous commitment. The program will begin with a compost and rain barrel sale in the morning, followed by a variety of workshops like composting, landscaping, green living, etc. The fee will be \$15 if purchased in advance, and \$20 on the day of the event. Anyone who would like to be a sponsor of this event should contact the Sheldrake Environmental Center.
3. Due to the power outage from the storm, the Library has been closed since Saturday afternoon. She announced upcoming programs:

March 29 – 11:00 AM, reading of the children's story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt", followed by a children's "bear hunt" inside the Library.
March 31 – 3:00 PM, a program entitled "Elephants Cannot Dance."
4. Trustee Kolbert announced in a recent MRF Report, the Village had the second highest recycling rate in Westchester County. Larchmont was one of a few communities in the County to see an increase.

Trustee McAndrews made the following report:

1. The Beautification Committee has been working to replace the bulbs in the Christmas wreaths with LED lights. They will also start planting baskets around the Village including the Chatsworth Avenue Bridge. The Committee has been touch with the Chamber of Commerce about plantings in front of the empty storefronts.

2. Trustee McAndrews met with the Chamber of Commerce about the stress they feel due to the economy's downturn and the regulations that inhibit business in the Village. She will continue to work with the Chamber on a variety of issues that are of concern to local businesses. Trustee McAndrews is developing a welcome pamphlet that can be given to new businesses in the Village.

3. The new street sign project has begun. The project must be completed by January, 2012.

4. The Traffic Commission has raised questions about the widening of the sidewalks near Longford's Ice Cream in the Palmer Avenue Streetscape Project proposal. The widening would allow more benches and a mini-plaza to occupy the space. A meeting was held today in Poughkeepsie with the Village's architects and the Department of Transportation to finalize the plans for the project. On March 18, the Village will meet with its consultants to get an idea when the project may go out to bid.

Treasurer Brucciani was next to address the Board, and requested approval of the bids received on March 15, 2010 for the sale of Village-owned vehicles.

On motion of Trustee Ward, seconded by Trustee McAndrews, and unanimously carried it was:

RESOLUTION

Accept bids – sale of used Village vehicles
Hazelton Equipment
Market Management
Quintal, Inc.
Grace Quality Used
Cars, Inc.

RESOLVED, to accept the bids for the sale of the following used Village vehicles:

1989 Caterpillar Loader to Hazelton Equipment - \$13,376
1995 Chevrolet Pick-up Truck to Market Management - \$1,500
1997 Mack Garbage Truck to Quintal, Inc. - \$4,672
2000 Chevrolet Impala to Grace Quality Used Cars, Inc. - \$858

Treasurer Brucciani thanked Rick Vetere and John Ferraro of the Public Works Department for their help in this matter.

Mayor Feld stated that the Village is required by law to have the 2010 Tentative Budget on file in the Clerk's Office by 4:30 PM on March 20. Treasurer Brucciani said that since March 20 is on a Saturday this year, the Tentative Budget will be filed on Friday, March 19.

Treasurer Brucciani thanked Mayor Feld for giving him the opportunity to work in the Village. He said it has been a pleasure to work with her and the Board.

Mayor Feld next re-opened the discussion on the request by the Parks and Trees Committee to reprise the Memorial Tree Program. She noted that Jan Feinman, Chair of the Parks and Trees Committee presented a proposal on this program at the February 22 meeting.

Trustee Kolbert, who is the liaison to the Committee, said many members were in favor of bringing back this program because it would aid the Village in the cost of planting trees. She said the cost would be \$650 as itemized below:

Tentative Budget to be filed by 3/19/10

Tree - \$350
Delivery & Labor - \$175
Plaque - \$70
Planting Materials (mulch, compost, "roots") - \$30
"Gator Bag" (watering device) if needed - \$20

The trees that will be used in this program would be ones of substantial calipers. The Committee will do its best to plant canopy trees where possible. Trustee Kolbert added that because of Con Edison restrictions, it has been difficult for the Village to maintain the beauty of its tree-lined streets. Trustee Kolbert stated that the program would be beneficial to the Village and should be reinstated.

Mayor Feld said one of the questions raised was whether commercial establishments would be allowed to donate to this program. She read a portion of the Parks and Trees Committee's proposal, which stated that "The Parks and Trees Committee would prefer not to restrict donations of trees and plaques to residential residents, however information on plaques must be standardized as stated." All the plaques would be similar in size, dimensions, lettering, and material.

Trustee Ward said he welcomed the return of a program that would let residents donate a tree in someone's memory, but expressed concern with allowing commercial donors. He also believed there are many who would like to donate a tree, but the cost of \$650 may deter them.

Trustee Ward said that he understood residents' concerns about the eventual size of these trees and, in particular, that the shade from these trees may block sunlight from their front yards. Also, the extra work the trees could add to the Public Works Department's responsibilities may bring added expenses.

Trustee McAndrews said that the tree budget for the Palmer Avenue Streetscape Project was over \$1,000 per tree because of the calipers necessary. She did not believe that the \$350 cost would be too prohibitive. She also indicated that in Flint Park, an old plaque near the flagpole denotes the names of corporate donors. She suggested that the Board consider the integration of this new Tree Program into the Palmer Avenue Streetscape Project, as well as mention corporate sponsorship to the Chamber of Commerce.

Following further discussion, on motion of Trustee Kolbert, seconded by Trustee McAndrews, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, to reinstate the Tree Donation Program to be administered by the Parks and Trees Committee.

On motion of Trustee Ward, seconded by Trustee Mandell, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of September 8, November 21 and December 14, 2009; January 5, January 11, January 13, February 8, February 22 and March 2, 2010 as written or amended.

On motion of Trustee McAndrews, seconded by Trustee Kolbert, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Village Attorney's office, the Board hereby approves the tax certiorari settlement of Robert Pastore f/k/a

RESOLUTION
Auth. Parks and
Trees Committee to
reinstate Tree
Donation Program

RESOLUTION
Approve tax
certiorari settlement
Pastore, R.
Rubeo, M.
2047 Boston Post
Road

Mark Rubeo for the property at 2047 Boston Post Road, in the amount of \$22,238.27, as itemized below:

- Tax Year 2001 - reduced from \$47,700 to \$33,400
- Tax Year 2002 - reduced from \$47,000 to \$31,020
- Tax Year 2004 - reduced from \$35, 000 to \$25,680
- Tax Year 2005 - reduced from \$35,000 to \$25,970
- Tax Year 2006 - reduced from \$35,000 to \$24,750
- Tax Year 2007 - reduced from \$35,000 to \$22,380
- Tax Year 2008 - reduced from \$35,000 to \$20,660
- Tax Year 2009 - reduced from \$35,000 to \$20,910
- Tax Year 2010 - reduced from \$35,000 to \$20,910

On motion of Mayor Feld, seconded by Trustee Kolbert, and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, that Abstract Audit Voucher No. 10, dated March 16, 2010, in the amount of \$425,266.67, per copies filed with the Clerk, be paid, subject to confirmation and approval of Mayor Feld.

The Mayor said many of the higher priced items on this abstract were due to the Library renovation and the new Multi-Space Parking Meter System at the Train Station.

At 8:43 PM the Board recessed to await the results of the election held this day.

Election Results

The Board reconvened at 9:43 PM and the Mayor read the results of the election, as follows:

<u>For Mayor:</u>	Joshua Mandell	117 votes
<u>For Trustee:</u>	Marlene Kolbert	112 votes
	Jaine Elkind Eney	119 votes

The winners made their acceptance speeches, as outlined below:

Trustee Kolbert thanked all the voters for coming out to vote today, and thanked her husband, Gerry, for his support. She said she is looking forward to the next two years and to working with Mayor-Elect Mandell and Trustee-Elect Eney. She added she has enjoyed her years on the Board, and she has unfinished business in the environmental area. Trustee Kolbert said that Larchmont has been her home for forty-four years, which is a testament to her love for Larchmont.

Trustee-Elect Eney next spoke. She thanked everyone who voted for her, and for the opportunity to serve the Village. She said she is looking forward to working with Mayor-Elect Mandell and the rest of the Board, who are an incredible group of volunteers. Also, she is excited to be working with the dedicated Village employees. Lastly, she spoke of her children, Alex and Liz, and said she hopes they are as proud of her as she is of them.

Mayor-Elect Mandell said he is proud and honored to serve as Mayor of Larchmont. Although he has spent over twenty years in the business world, he is a newcomer to politics. He thanked Mayor Feld for moving him into public service. He expressed his appreciation to the residents, noting their kindness and generosity during last weekend's storm. He said there were dozens of volunteers standing in the terrible elements for hours, and many residents left the safety of their homes to come to the rescuers'

aid with hot chocolate, sandwiches and cookies. It is the people of the community that make Larchmont a wonderful place to live and work. He added that he looks forward to working with the Board, all the volunteers, and the Village employees.

Mayor Feld began her farewell address by saying that her husband Joel, daughter K.C., and son Matthew were in attendance.

Over the course of the next couple of weeks, the Mayor said she will try to contact as many people as possible to personally thank them for their help and support. She thanked past Mayors Miriam Curnin and Cheryl Lewy, along with Congresswoman Nita Lowey, State Assemblyman George Latimer, and County Legislator Judy Myers for their assistance and support during her term.

During her time on the Board Mayor Feld worked with seven trustees. She thanked Chris Verni, Mike Wiener, Jim Millstein, and the current members Anne McAndrews, Marlene Kolbert, Richard Ward and Josh Mandell. The Village is fortunate to have such dedicated members who volunteer their time on an everyday basis to improve the quality of life in Larchmont.

The Mayor thanked the Village Hall staff, starting with Treasurer Denis Brucciani. She said that because he handles the Village's finances, everyone can sleep better. She also extended her appreciation to the other office employees; namely, Deputy Treasurer Joanne Lanza, Laura Jean Orsino, Liz Imperato, Nancy Pagliaro, Augie Cristiano, Building Inspector Frank Blasi, Sandy Gironda, Deputy Village Clerk Brian Rilley, Recreation Director Joyce Callahan and Police Clerk Rita Wilson.

Mayor Feld thanked Village Clerk Eileen Finn for doing her work with integrity, sensitivity, and humor. She added that Mayors and Boards come and go but, without Eileen, the Village wouldn't run as smoothly.

On behalf of her entire family, the Mayor then thanked the Police and Fire Departments for all they do each day to protect the lives and safety of the Larchmont citizens.

Mayor Feld called the employees of the Public Works Department the unsung heroes of the Village. Their hard work often goes unappreciated. Under the leadership of past Manager, Joe Bedard, and current Foreman, Rick Vetere, the Public Works Department serves each resident twenty-four hours a day.

Mayor Feld also extended her personal thanks to Village Justices Thea Beaver and Jerry Bernstein for all they have done for the community.

The intermunicipal relationship between the Village and the Town of Mamaroneck has improved under the guidance of Supervisor Valerie O'Keeffe and Town Administrator Steve Altieri. Mayor Feld thanked them both for their cooperative and caring spirit.

The Mayor said she speaks at a program at the Hommocks School called "Real Work, School Work." Each time she tells the students to get involved. Whether it's in their school, church or temple, just get involved. She added that a way for young people to become more active is with good role models. Mayor Feld became involved in politics when she was eight years old because of her father. He was a Larchmont volunteer firefighter, he campaigned for others, and then eventually became a

**Mayor Feld's
Farewell Speech
and gift presentation
by **Board of
Trustees****

Village Trustee and Mayor. Her mother was active on the School Board and the PTA. The Mayor asked everyone to get involved by joining a committee or writing a letter.

Over the past couple of years, residents have told the Mayor that Larchmont has changed. Of importance is when changes are made for the good of the Village, she said. Of all the accomplishments over the past four years, the Mayor said the one she points to most often is how everyone has worked together. In the past, Larchmont was a place of partisan politics. During her first mayoral campaign she ran on the “People before Politics” line. It is that ideal that she and the Board have held on to, and what makes her the proudest as she leaves office.

Mayor Feld closed by referencing the movie “The Wizard of Oz”, where near the end of the movie, Dorothy is saying goodbye to the Scarecrow. The Mayor said that is how she feels saying goodbye to the Village Attorney, Jim Staudt. She called him decent, kind, and wise, and his love for Larchmont is true. The Mayor thanked Attorney Staudt and his associate, Joanna Feldman, for all they do for the Village, most of which goes unnoticed by the public.

Trustee Kolbert asked everyone to stay in their seats while she and Trustees McAndrews, Ward, and Mandell stepped out for a moment. When they returned, they were wearing t-shirts that said “LIZ!” on the front.

Trustee Mandell then read a proclamation for Mayor Feld, acknowledging all that she has accomplished in her political career with Larchmont, and thanking her for her service.

Trustee Kolbert said she has known the Mayor since she was a child, having served on the School Board with her mother. She added she brought a style and grace to the position of Mayor that had never been seen before. Because the Mayor loves to drink coffee, Trustee Kolbert presented her with a Starbucks coffee mug that was signed by each Board member.

Trustee McAndrews next read a fable called “The Mayonnaise Jar and Two Cups of Coffee.” It is a tale about a teacher using a visual aid of an empty mayonnaise jar to show his students what is important in life. She noted that Mayor Feld is well aware of what is important in life.

Trustee Ward recalled a night four years ago when he was standing in front of the American Legion in Flint Park with several firefighters holding up signs supporting Mayor Feld’s run for Mayor. Later they met to discuss the creation of more play space; and it was at that meeting he decided to become more politically active in the Village. He added that he admires her courage and tenacity, as well as her attitude and humor.

Trustee Mandell thanked the Mayor for introducing him to elected service, something that has changed his life for the better. He said that when he first met Mayor Feld, he was struck by her wit and knowledge. Trustee Mandell said as Mayor, he will seek advice from Mayor Feld but doubts he will be a match for her charismatic and effervescent personality. He added there is only one Liz Feld, so he hopes everyone understands. Mayor Feld responded and said she believes there is no better person to take the Village to the next level than Trustee Mandell.

The Board then removed their “LIZ!” t-shirts and handed them to Mayor Feld as a gesture of “giving her the shirts off of their backs”.

On motion of Trustee Kolbert, seconded by Trustee Ward, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.