

Minutes of the Regular Hearing
of the Board of Trustees of the
Village of Larchmont, N.Y.
held on Monday, April 19, 2021

The Board of Trustees held this meeting via Zoom with Mayor Walsh calling the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. Instructions to join the meeting were published on Village website calendar and meeting agenda.

PRESENT: Mayor Lorraine Walsh
Trustees Carol Casazza Herman
Peter Fanelli
Sarah Bauer
Brigid Brennan

Also present: Dep. Clerk Riley, Attorney Staudt, Administrator Datino, Treasurer Gutwein

Mayor Walsh welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:32PM.

The Mayor made the following announcements.

1. Village of Larchmont residents and others who may be watching our meeting on the television or on YouTube. You may have noticed the installation of pay stations around the Village. This is the culmination of four years of study work and public discussion to better manage parking in Larchmont's downtown. Larchmont Village website has a lot of information about the process that we've followed. It has links to newsletters, many links to the comprehensive parking study that was performed. Maps of where the different zones are going to be a flyer about the equipment that we're using. So please go there for some facts and some details. Prior to the meters going on-line, there will be a press release.
2. The current Covid-19 active case numbers are 12. Vaccinations are not available to all so everyone should get the vaccine. As of today, 47% of Westchester County residents have been vaccinated or has received one shot.
3. "Larchmont Arts on the Avenue" will begin on April 24th in Addison Park and continuing through May 30th, local artists will display their work in various places around the Village.

Mayor Walsh made the following Trustee liaison appointments.

Trustee Bauer: Architectural Review Board, Historic Preservation Task Force, Library Board of Trustees, Beautification Committee.

Trustee Brennan: Planning Board, Human Rights Committee, Environmental Committee, Traffic Commission.

Mayor Walsh said the Historic Preservation Task Force survey has been completed. It will be presented at June Board meeting.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED,** to appoint Amada Burse as a member of the Historic Preservation Task Force.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Brennan, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED,** to appoint Karen Zimmerman and Susan Healy as members of the Parks and Trees Committees.

Trustee Herman stated with the addition of Ms. Zimmerman and Ms. Healy the Parks and Trees Committee are now up to 7 members.

Administrator Datino began to discuss the 2021-22 Tentative Budget. The 2021 budget is a responsible budget. It precisely accounts for the known and anticipated expenses in the ensuing year while being cautiously optimistic on the receipts of non-property tax revenue sources. In its current form, the FY 21-22 tentative budget maintains all programs and services

provided by the village at a level of residents have come to expect allocates sufficient resources to all departments to successfully accomplish their missions, as well as investment in many areas of village infrastructure to ensure maintenance improvements and repairs are attended to. I'd like to discuss the impact of this budget as it pertains to Larchmont police department. I understand there may be a conversation in the community with regard to the allocation of resources and the Village's Police Department. Over the last 10 years there have been no reductions to staff or operating resources. Although the belt has been tightened, the village has maintained these numbers in this level allocation. Prior to 2016, capital costs were allocated within the department's general fund line. Subsequent to 2016 projects over \$5,000 were moved into the capital fund. As after that change had happened. There has actually been an increased funding or allocations made to the police department on the average of approximately \$75,000 a year so if you'd looked prior to 2015, and you did a five year average, it would be X amount of dollars that went into capital expenses and contractual costs.

On motion of Trustee Brennan, seconded by Trustee Herman, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to open the Public Hearing the 2021-22 Tentative Budget.

Michael Gottfried of 16 Ocean Ave addressed the Board on the Tentative 2021-22 Budget. I just want to ask a couple questions on bond refinance, and also on the field permits. So if we are refinancing, and we have a present value of \$130,000, is it possible to front load more of the savings? Because when you when generally restructure notes like this, you can order it any way you want? Within reason, of course, but I'm wondering if the later in the refinancing savings can be moved up? Treasurer Gutwein said she would ask the village's financial advisor.

Mr. Gottfried added and maybe before you vote, you can get an update as to those field permits. One other point that I didn't raise two weeks ago, Mayor was the \$205,000 or \$204,000, from the sanitation and whether or not that could form for tax relief. I see now, why Justin, and you suggest that there may be it not be used for tax relief. However, it really should be considered going forward when you're dealing with the sanitation issues that maybe that \$205,000 number is on the low end of the range of what should be returned to the village. Because of the overcharges of prior years that the town's money was supposed to be was supposed to be our buy in for the single disc Correct. And so, you know, if that's not going to happen, I would hope that that money could make its way back into the budget, even if it's not in this fiscal year budget, that at some point, you know, that, that this money makes its way back in as a credit for the village of watch my residence for prior years. And with that, I want to thank you, I really think that the number can come down a little bit, and I hope you will do that. But my one ask, from each and every one of you is to, to really consider the question about the format, the issues that I raised about the format of the benefit department, it's really important to have transparency. I have been advocating for transparency at the Town for the last couple of years. And I think if we are able to move those benefits into the line items that are in existence, as of now, it'll be very, very helpful not just for our own residents to understand the classes services, but also to make headway into getting into the morass that constitutes the town budget, and I thank you very much for the opportunity to be heard.

The Board then discussed items in the Tentative Budget.

To watch the Public Hearing in its entirety, go to the link below, click Item #3:
<https://lmcmmedia.org/show/village-of-larchmont-board-of-trustees-4-19-21/>

On motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Brennan, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to close the Public Hearing.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to adopt the FY 2021-2022 Village Budget.

The Mayor thanked the Board, Administrator Datino and Treasurer Gutwein for their efforts in the creation of this budget.

Chief Poleway made the following report.

1. On April 11, 2021, at approximately 2:37 a.m., two officers from the Village of Mamaroneck Police Department, Sergeant Colletti and Officer Fraioli, were conducting a vehicle stop in the area of Boston Post Road and Weaver Street when they heard a loud crash in the vicinity of 1380 Boston Post Road. They called out the accident and responded to investigate. Upon arriving at the scene, they observed a crashed vehicle that was beginning to burn. Sergeant Dispenza, Officer Pennella, and Officer Field of the Larchmont Police Department also responded and deployed fire extinguishers in an attempt to put the fire out. They then observed the driver still pinned in the vehicle and attempted to remove her but were hampered by the driver's door being jammed and the steering wheel and dashboard had collapsed around her legs. Officer Pennella entered the rear seat and found a second victim and, through numerous attempts, removed her to safety. At this point, the fire erupts again from under the hood and begins to burn the driver. Officer Field once again tries to knock down the flames with the fire extinguisher but had limited success.

Sergeant Dispenza was desperately attempting to remove the driver when Sergeant Colletti and all those at the scene assisted his efforts and they are finally successful in removing her from the burning vehicle. The two victims that were inside the vehicle were removed to a safe location where medical assistance was rendered when the officers discovered a third victim that had been ejected from the vehicle, but unfortunately she was declared deceased at the scene. Both surviving victims made it to the hospital alive thanks to the truly heroic efforts of the officers and their conditions remain guarded at this point. Sergeant Dispenza received second degree burns on his hands and forearms and Officer Pennella suffered from smoke inhalation, abrasions on his hands, right elbow and right knee.

The actions of all the officers involved were indeed brave and heroic and were performed without regard to their personal safety. Absent their tremendous efforts the two unconscious victims that were trapped in the car would have surely burned to death. I am so proud of all the officers involved and their selfless actions and their sheer determination to succeed truly epitomize what a first responder is and should be. All of the officers involved in the rescue have been put in for the Macy Award for their lifesaving activities. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the victims and their families during this difficult time.

2. I have previously discussed reports of residents being victims of unemployment benefits fraud and we continue to receive multiple reports of this activity still taking place. You don't have to be unemployed to fall victim to unemployment fraud. Many unemployment insurance victims do not know they have been affected until they file for unemployment insurance benefits—and some may not know until tax season rolls around.

Fraudulent claims are contributing to major backlogs at state unemployment offices. This is creating delays for people who are legitimately attempting to claim their unemployment benefits and those trying to clear any fraudulent claims from their name.

When someone collects unemployment insurance (UI) benefits by lying to the Department of Labor, he or she is committing fraud. It is a crime that affects businesses and workers. It drives up UI costs to law-abiding businesses, and it leaves honest workers unprotected.

Any person who commits fraud will have to pay back the money and he or she will be penalized, and may be arrested and prosecuted. If you have reason to believe that someone committed unemployment insurance benefits fraud, please contact the New York State Department of Labor. You may remain anonymous.

You can report UI benefits fraud three ways:

- Visit the NYS Department of Labor website at www.labor.ny.gov/agencyinfo/uifraud.shtm
- Call the fraud hotline toll-free at **(1-888) 598-2077**
- Report by mail to:

*NYS Department of Labor
Office of Special Investigations
Bldg 12 - Room 200
W. Averell Harriman Campus
Albany, NY 12240*

3. Throughout the month of April, our village police cars will have an Autism Awareness patch affixed to them in support of National Autism Awareness month. This effort was initiated by 'The New Rochelle Autism Patch Challenge' that was started by the New Rochelle PBA on February 9, 2017. It was created by a New Rochelle detective who is the father of an Autistic child. The primary goal of the Autism Patch Challenge is to promote Autism awareness in every community throughout the country by attaching a custom Autism Awareness Police Patch to at least one patrol car within each community's police department during the month of April. It is our hope that the nation will see that America's police departments joined forces to demonstrate its' continued support and concern for all those living with Autism. This is the fourth year we are supporting this worthwhile cause.

4. Project Lifesaver is a program designed to help individuals with Alzheimer's, Autism, and other developmental disabilities who may wander or get lost. It is a partnership of Westchester Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Safety, and Westchester Jewish Community Services. The program uses state-of-the-art technology, employing wristband transmitters to locate lost children and adults. It is now being used in all 50 states and Canada. Individuals who are part of the Lifesaver Program wear a personalized bracelet that emits a tracking signal. The signal can be tracked on the ground or in the air over several miles. The bracelet is water resistant and can be worn in the bath, shower, or pool and it is made out of a strong plastic material that is difficult to remove without the use of scissors.

After caregivers call 911, their local police department will be dispatched to the area to begin the search for the missing person. Westchester County Police will also be dispatched to the search area with a mobile locator tracking system. As each bracelet has a unique radio frequency, the search team is able to positively locate and identify the missing person, reducing search times from hours and days to minutes.

Project Lifesaver is administered by Westchester Jewish Community Services and their trained staff will work cooperatively to ensure that a participant's bracelet is safe and effective. They are available to answer any questions or discuss any concerns. Additional information can be obtained by calling Lee Englander at (914) 761-0600 ext. – 2228 or Isabel Pettersen at ext. – 2230 or by visiting the County website at Westchestergov.com

5. Please remember that beginning in 2022 the use of gas powered leaf blowers will be banned in the Village and the use of electric leaf blowers will be limited to the month of April and from October 15 to December 15. During 2021, before the full law goes into effect, both gas and electric **leaf blowers may be used ONLY during the month of April**, and from October 15 to December 15. All leaf blowers are banned during the rest of the year.

Also be advised that both the property owner as well as the person operating a leaf blower and the contracted service company are held responsible for violations and are subject to fines. I would encourage people to please review the new code and explore different alternatives to leaf blowing with your service provider or client so everyone can be in compliance.

6. I recently had the pleasure of speaking with Juliet Zucker, who is a student at Mamaroneck High School and her English class was studying the criminal justice system. They were tasked with doing an action research project on police reform in New York, and she interviewed me as a source as we discussed what steps were being taken in New York to ensure accountability for police officers. I was pleased to hear that her class was studying the criminal justice system as it is important for young people to have an understanding of how the system currently works and what our communities expect in terms of public safety. It was a timely conversation given the recent actions that have been taken on police reform and the legislative changes that are occurring in New York State. I believe she gained some meaningful insight as to the policies and procedures that are in place to ensure police officer accountability and I wish her and her classmates success and safety during the remainder of the school year.

7. Spring is here and as the weather continues to get warmer and as more people venture outside, I would like to remind pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists alike to be aware of your surroundings when traveling throughout the Village. Pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle safety is a paramount concern of the police department and we want everyone to please abide by the local and state traffic laws that govern the use of our public roadways. This includes but is not limited to: inspecting and wearing proper equipment, completely stopping at traffic lights and stop signs and using designated crosswalks and sidewalks as necessary. Working together, we can promote safety and prevent avoidable accidents and injuries.

8. I would like to remind everyone to stay vigilant in reporting any suspicious activity that may be observed. If you observe something that may be suspicious, please, do not keep it to yourself – call the 24 hour NYS Terrorism Tips Line at **866 SAFE-NYS (866-723-3697)** or call the Larchmont Police Department at **(914) 834-1000** or simply dial **911**.
That concludes my report for this evening. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Chief Caparelli gave the following report.

1. Fire Safety inspections began on April 1, 2021. Fire Department personnel will be scheduling inspections daily for all places of businesses, assembly spaces, schools, clubs, houses of worship and multi-family dwellings. Please ensure your fire suppression system, fire alarm, fire extinguishers and emergency/exit sign lights are inspected and in working order. Please call 914-834-0016 to schedule your inspection.

2. The volunteer staff sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt in Constitution Park on Easter Weekend. I will ask trustee Fanelli to tell the Board about it in his report.

James Shanahan, our newest firefighter, is in his 5th week of an 18 week fire academy at the WCCC Fire Academy at the WCDES in Valhalla. James has been chosen as president of his class due to his leadership and quick grasp of all aspects of his training. He will graduate with 33 of his fellow firefighters from all over Westchester as well as from depts in Putnam County, Dutchess County and Long Island.

3. Lt. John Adams and LT. Richard Valentine have been instructing skills and conducting classes at the Fire Academy as part of the instructor staff along side instructors from all departments having a recruit in class. This is the first time Larchmont has been able to provide personnel with the proper credentials to teach in the Fire Academy. Our presence is greatly appreciated and the valuable networking and recognition for Larchmont will solidify relationships with our mutual aid partners.

4. PPE acquired through the COVID Supplemental Grant from the DHS has all arrived. As per the PEHEP mandated by NYS we now have PPE for all employees of the Village, contractors and visitors for a 6 month period should another public health emergency emerge in the future. I also have distributed PPE kits to all departments for immediate use as well as for the Summer Camp Program from this allotment.

5. A new piece of equipment has been added to Engine 33. An Elkhart Ram Rapid Attack Monitor. This is a stand alone hose and nozzle appliance capable of flowing 500 gpm on a fire basically unattended. This will free our limited manpower up to perform more needed functions while applying large amounts of water on a fire simultaneously. This new equipment was acquired through funds from the AFG Grant for the recently installed turnout gear washer and dryer.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

1. I have been working with the Public Works Supervisor, Rick Vetere as well as Administrator Datino and you Mayor on the Spring Outdoor dining. Placing barricades, ensuring compliance and answering questions from restaurant owners so we can continue to enjoy the public space this Spring and Summer.

2. I have been also working on sidewalk defects, painting, photographing and notifying homeowners of Village Code 245-19 to 22 outlining the owners responsibility for the sidewalks and the procedures for repair.

All Apparatus and equipment are in service and fully operational.

Trustee Herman gave the following report.

Thanks to the Finance and Budget Committee for all their work on this year's adopted budget.

1. The Parks and Trees Committee are currently performing an inventory of the benches and garbage cans in the parks. A master spreadsheet will be developed for review of the condition of all the benches and cans.

2. Arbor Day celebration will be held on Friday April 23rd at 3PM in Addison Park.

3. Spring tree planting around the Village has been completed. Thanks to Andrew Sage and James Hutson stepping in where Ann Mangone and Toni Porter left off.

Trustee Fanelli made the following report.

1. 2021 Flint Park Day Camp will be held July 6th to August 14, 2021. To register go to the website.
2. Flint Park Tennis permits are still available on the website.
3. Flint Park Paddle Tennis can be purchased on the Village website.
4. 2021 Flint Park Day Camp is looking for counselors. Candidates must be 16 by July 6th. Go to the Village website for more information.
5. The Volunteer Firefighters held the Great Spring Egg Hunt in Constitution Park on April 3rd. Thanks to all the participants and volunteers.
6. The Fire Department needs volunteers. If interested contact Trustee Fanelli at 403-2387.
7. The volunteers responded today to a mutual aid request from the Village of Mamaroneck for a fire on Mamaroneck Avenue.
8. On May 5th there will be four concerts in Constitution Park starting from 11AM to 10PM.

Trustee Bauer thanked the Environmental Committee for all their efforts and for making her time as liaison a pleasure.

Mayor Walsh said the Environmental Committee hosted an Earth Day celebration on Saturday and Constitution Park. They had all sorts of fantastic information to help educate our residents on ways that you can help our environment and it was really well organized, really well done and a lot of fun to participate in.

Administrator Datino said that the annual MS4 Stormwater Report will be up for adoption at the May 17th Board meeting. Any resident who would like to review the report prior to its adoption can go to the Stormwater Management page on the website. All comments on the report should be sent to villageclerk@villageoflarchmont.org.

On motion of Trustee Brennan, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, the following policy was adopted:

Introduction

The Village of Larchmont's vehicle fleet accounts for a large percentage of petroleum use in the government, which petroleum use can exacerbate local air quality and result in increased Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Fleet management and Improving vehicle efficiency not only results in a cleaner local environment but can lead to a reduction in operating expenses.

Larchmont's Green Fleet Policy is intended to establish a means of continuing the effective delivery of municipal services while at the same time choosing vehicles, equipment, fuels and practices that consume less fuel and emit less GHG and air pollution, and are sustainable and economically viable.

Larchmont's Green Fleet Policy establishes a framework to address the management, operations and procurement of its fleet vehicles. Through this policy, Larchmont will give preference to the purchase and use of fuel efficient and lowest emission vehicles and equipment that both meet the intended use for such vehicles and are reasonably cost competitive over the life of the unit. Through implementation of this policy, Larchmont shall seek to decrease total emissions and the environmental impact of its vehicles and affirmatively act to reduce GHG emissions produced by municipal vehicles.

Fleet Inventory

To assist in the management and implementation of the Green Fleet Policy an inventory of all vehicles shall be maintained and updated annually.

The inventory shall include:

1. Number of vehicles classified by model year, make, model, engine size, drivetrain type and the rated vehicle weight and classification (passenger vehicle, light duty, medium duty and heavy duty)
2. Estimated miles per gallon of each vehicle based on EPA fuel economy data.
3. Type of fuel or power source.
4. Average cost per gallon or gallon equivalent of fuel for the past 12 months

5. Estimated annual fuel cost based on EPA fuel economy data.
6. Estimated annual miles driven.
7. Vehicle function/department

Green Fleet Policy Statements

- I. It shall be the policy of the Village to purchase, lease or otherwise procure the most energy efficient vehicle, to meet the operational needs of the department for which the vehicle is intended.
- II. As part of the procurement process the Village will aim to actively model and promote best green transportation practices for the community and will “right size” vehicles for the purpose they are intended.
- III. The Village’s vehicle fleet shall be managed by the Village Administrator and shall be operated in such a way as to reduce emissions and maximize energy efficiency.

Green Fleet Implementation Strategies

- I. In order to accomplish the goals of the policy, the Village staff will review and modify where necessary purchasing procedures and conduct regular reviews of vehicle purchases.
- II. Establish minimum efficiency standards in miles per gallon for each class of vehicle. Such standards are to be applied when evaluating vehicle purchases.
- III. Establish standards to evaluate the use of alternate fuel and/or zero emission vehicles. The evaluation shall consider cost of purchase; anticipated use/purpose of the vehicle; expected useful life; availability of re-fueling / re-powering infrastructure; cost of operation and estimated surplus value assuming a regular replacement schedule on the initial purchase costs.
- IV. Review all vehicle procurement specifications and modify them where applicable to ensure that the vehicle class is appropriate for duty requirements that the vehicle will perform.
- V. Annually review the fleet inventory to identify older vehicles that are used infrequently, increasingly costly to maintain and to identify those vehicles that are disproportionately inefficient and schedule their elimination or replacement.
- VI. Implement anti-idling policies for Village-owned vehicles limiting idling to no more than five minutes. Exceptions to this strategy would include vehicles at an emergency scene actively involved in response and vehicles that require engines to idle to operate supplementary equipment.
- VII. Maintaining vehicles at optimal efficiency by meeting or exceeding maintenance intervals set forth by the manufacturer.

Monitoring the Green Fleet Policy

In order to ensure compliance with the goals and strategies of the policy, during each capital budget cycle, a Green Fleet checklist will be submitted to the Village Board for review along with the CIP request. The checklist will be prepared for each vehicle under consideration for purchase for the following budget year and identify green options, if applicable. The checklist will incorporate fuel efficiency and cost of ownership metrics identified above to ensure the recommended vehicle is in compliance with the Green Fleet Policy.

The Mayor opened the meeting for those who wished to address the Board.

Michael Gottfried: I wanted to say I am one of those happy residents. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to this board, as a little disappointed with some of the stuff in the budget. But for this makes it up. What you have done is put Larchmont on the map of being you know, pro-environment and in favor of it. And so this is a really an amazing achievement. I do think you should look at the Tesla police cars. But that's all I'm going say. Thank you again, much. Appreciate it. Happy Earth Day to everyone.

Lisa McDonald: I just wanted to say thank you as well and echo what Michael said. Last week, we happen to speak with Bedford 2030, which is their sustainability group up in Bedford. And they have shifted their focus what they're going to address in the next few years to strictly buildings and transportation, because they estimate that in a community like there's the vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions come from those two areas. So I imagine if we did a greenhouse gas inventory, we would find something similar. So I think that you know building and transportation in particular are like the areas that we should be looking at. So this green fleet policy is very welcome and really exciting. So thank you.

Ian Post: Mayor and Board thank you for the opportunity to address the public session. There's a variety of issues and concerns residents like it likely have regarding the implementation of paid parking in the village. And I'd like to address three primary points that as both a resident and a member of the village's finance committee, may have some insights that might be a value. To residents who are concerned about the new initiative. First, as a village resident, it's important to recognize that the paid Park initiative is a result of a deliberative, multi-year effort by the mayor and board that included a professional parking study, several public presentations and stuff, substantial time and effort directed toward understanding the impact of paid parking on many of the different village stakeholders. And I want to thank the mayor and board for all the work they put into this.

Secondly, I'm sure I share a concern with many residents that anytime a governmental entity or entity seeks to generate a new source of revenue that the money could drift off into some sort of bureaucratic black hole never to be seen or heard from again, and without any tangible benefits to residents. To their credit, the word dresses concern and in my opinion in the most appropriate way, by setting a policy that at least 90% of the net revenue from paid parking should be used for village infrastructure projects, including streets, sidewalks and parking lots. These are areas where residents understand that substantial resources are needed to improve conditions. And that well, they're well where they will see tangible benefits from the money spent on street parking. Just want to put one final point is that paid street parking is consistent with the basic premise that users of the village infrastructure, both residents and importantly, non-residents should bear some of the costs of maintaining the village infrastructure so that the burden doesn't fall entirely on taxpayers. And in conclusion, I fully support the village's paid parking initiative and look forward to seeing the benefits bear out in future years through improved village infrastructure that residents could be proud of.

Thank you for the time. And thank you for all that you do.

On motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Brennan, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to approve the minutes of March 15, 2021.

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to approve the minutes of the Budget Hearing held on April 15, 2021.

On motion of Trustee Brennan, seconded by Trustee Fanelli, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to approve the minutes of the work session held March 29, 2021.

Mayor Walsh said the Board received a letter from a resident concerning the tentative budget who asked that his comments be added to the record.

SEE ATTACHMENT

On motion of Trustee Herman, seconded by Trustee Bauer, and unanimously carried, it was: **RESOLVED**, to approve the list of bills in the amount of \$267,984.26.

On motion of Trustee Fanelli, seconded by Trustee Herman, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:03PM.