

**VILLAGE OF TUXEDO PARK
SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2005
7:30 P.M.**

Present: Mayor David C. McFadden
Deputy Mayor Russell Vernon
Trustee Christopher Hansen
Trustee Nancy Hays
Trustee Oliver Parker

Clerk: Deborah Matthews

Also: Deputy Chief Culhane, Richard Morrow, Kenneth Sanford, Guests: Chief Carlin (Town), Robert March (Town-2nd Assistant Fire Chief), Joseph Hamamji, Doug Berkowitz (Rockland Paramedics), Karen Alstrup (Ambulance Corps Captain), William Lemanski (Town Councilman), Peter Dolan (Town Zoning Board Chair), Residents: Susan Goodfellow, Mary Graetzer, Jim Burger, Celeste Gebhardt, Lucy Edwards, Jim Hays, Peter Regna, Alan Heywood, Alan Barnett, Philip Lobkowicz, Claude Guinchard, Kathy Norris, Michelle Lindsay, and others.

Mayor McFadden called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VILLAGE DISASTER PLANNING

INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor McFadden stated that it is time to update the Village's Emergency Plan with input from all the emergency agencies in the Village and Town. There needs to be an awareness and educational campaign to determine who the first responders might be and where to take people in the event of a disaster. Mayor McFadden welcomed the emergency agency guests to the meeting and asked them to introduce themselves.

Joe Hamamji is a consultant who has volunteered his expertise and time to work on the disaster plan. He worked with IBM as a business continuity and a disaster recovery consultant. Joe stated that FEMA also has a wealth of information and a depository of a database of processes and procedures that could be integrated in our society and in all communities.

Bill Lemanski, Town of Tuxedo Councilman, works in the nuclear power industry and has a lot of training and experience in nuclear emergencies. He stated that the Town's emergency plan does not mention the Village and Town in terms of relationships and communication.

Mayor McFadden stated that there is a total of three components of the existing plans which include the portion of the Village plan as prepared by the Police, a separate emergency plan dealing with the Tuxedo Lake Dam, and then there is the Town's emergency plan.

Rick Marsh, 2nd Assistant Fire Chief in Tuxedo Fire District, currently a Village of Suffern Police Officer and formerly a Police Officer in the Town of Tuxedo and the Village of Tuxedo Park. He's educated in fire service including swift water rescue, ice rescue, etc. He recently returned from assisting in the hurricane relief in Mississippi-Louisiana.

Karen Alstrup, current Captain of the Tuxedo Ambulance Corps. She's also a dispatcher for the Town of Tuxedo Police Department, a part time Traffic Guard for the Village of Tuxedo Park, and active Army.

Doug Berkowitz, Rockland Paramedic Services, responsible for the medic station in Tuxedo, which services the Town and Village. Has worked in numerous rural, city and municipal systems and with both privately run and municipal disaster preparedness plans.

Denis Miller, Village resident and Hematologist and Oncologist with Johnson & Johnson. He has a lot of experience in environmental contamination of water supplies by chemicals and other toxic materials. He is also knowledgeable about radiation and its effect on the human body, as well as microorganisms and their effect.

Alan Barnett, experience in working on a Washington based Homeland Defense team.

Town of Tuxedo Police Chief Dan Carlin, many years of experience in the field of law enforcement in New York City, etc.

PRESENTATION BY CONSULTANT

Joe Hamamji distributed copies of documents from his presentation regarding various aspects of disaster planning, including the CERT Program. He briefly explained the contents of each segment.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of having a command structure in place and coordination between Orange County Emergency Management and the various emergency agencies in the Town and the Village so that everyone is on the same page.

It was noted that the Tuxedo Public School has its own disaster plan and procedures and the school should be consulted when updating the Town and Village's plans.

GOAL

Deputy Mayor Vernon stated that over the next few months the goal will be to review the existing plans and make needed changes. The four areas of concentration will be: Risk Assessment and Risk Mitigation, EAP Activation and Notification, Resident Safety and Accountability, and Recovery Operations. He stated that part of the existing plan included distributing data information forms to residents in order to collect information for emergency purposes. Less than 50% of the residents responded. He further discussed the various types of possible disasters and Village egress areas. In addition, the Emergency Disaster Plan needs to be revised as appropriate, tested, validated and continuously updated. One area of progress is the existence of a viable and operational emergency operations center, which is in the new Police

Station building at the front gate and includes communication capabilities in place as well as a functioning generator.

VOLUNTEERS

The following people volunteered to serve on an Emergency Disaster Advisory Committee (EDAC): Denis Miller, Alan Barnett, Philip Lobkowicz, Karen Alstrup, Doug Berkowitz, Rick Marsh, Jim Burger, Bill Lemanski, and he volunteered Nils Gerling (Town Emergency Manager).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE

Deputy Mayor Vernon reported that the Committee met on September 23rd. The co-chairs are Alan Barnett and Sheila Pompan. Other members are Sally Spooner, Chauncie Rodzianko, Caroline Roberts, Jane deCasteja, John Moon, Sally Sonne, Richard Fuller, and Alex Salm as an honorary member. Trustee Hays and Deputy Mayor Vernon are the Trustee liaisons to the Committee. At the meeting on the 23rd, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the deer culling continue, and initially target about 25 deer a month with a few caveats – the Committee will get a report of where each deer is culled, the time, the date, and the disposition. They will try to coordinate with local residents (Village and Town) who may want the venison for their personal use. They will also try to distribute to local food pantries, but the process is difficult since the pantries don't have the means to take a carcass that is not fully dressed. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for October 22nd.

Trustee Hays raised her concern regarding disposition as problems were encountered last year. Many deer were being dumped in the racetrack and dogs were bringing carcass parts up from there. She feels 25 deer is a lot to be culled.

Deputy Mayor Vernon stated that the deer study done by the Committee under Kent Kroeber and Sally Sonne determined 18 deer a square mile was an appropriate level. Studies have brought that down to 10 and Philip Lobkowicz has provided the Village with some of those studies. However, the current Committee voted to cull 25 per month.

Mayor McFadden suggested the discussion would be more appropriate at the Committee's next meeting and in the meantime, the Trustees could cut the number down a bit until the Committee meets. In addition, he suggested the Committee continue to discuss the per head cost as this is an issue as well. He stated that since it was a unanimous vote of the Committee, then it should proceed. Other issues are obviously going to come up along the way and the Board will work those out.

BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michelle Lindsay stated that Bob Curry put together a steering committee to reconstitute the Beautification Advisory Committee and they have met. One half of the Committee will be old

members and one half will be new. They are looking for a total of eight volunteers to serve. In order to have continuity, they will ask members if they want to serve a two or three year term. Trustee Parker, as liaison to the Committee, is in agreement with the staggered terms. The Committee will hold 10 meetings per year, none in August or December. The Committee will meet in November and review the matrix created by the former Committee. The new Committee will determine the priority of the projects.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Trustee Hansen reported that the Committee members are Doug Benedict, Todd Yannuzzi, Chris Sonne, and Mary Jo Guinchard. The goal of the Committee is to review the current budget and oversee the budget on a regular basis. They will also meet with the Town regarding their budget, and attend the public hearing that will be held. A discussion followed.

TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor McFadden announced the members of the Committee. They are Celeste Gebhardt, Jo Ann Hanson, Charlotte Worthy, Claude Guinchard, Claudio Guazzoni, Paula Tocci, Paul Brooke, Susan Boyle, and William Mincey.

VILLAGE WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Trustee Hansen reported that he and Trustee Hays will meet to review the policy and make sure it conforms to the website.

NEW BUSINESS

SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX REFORM

Mayor McFadden stated that a letter was received from the Town of Cornwall referencing School Property Tax Reform. They are asking other municipalities to pass and forward on a resolution to NYS requesting them to come up with a better solution than relying so heavily on property taxes, to lower school taxes across the state. Deputy Mayor Vernon stated that he is opposed to the way it is written. Mayor McFadden stated that it will be tabled until the next meeting.

TUXEDO CLUB DOCKS

Mayor McFadden stated that the approved application was sent to the BAR for review and in turn Chairman Bornstein sent him a letter that stating that PB/BAR is not sure whether the proposed docks are identical replacements of the docks which are saved by Local Law or whether they are new. He is asking for guidance from the Trustees. The Mayor also received a letter today from Mr. Sichol of the Tuxedo Club asking what is going on.

Deputy Mayor Vernon stated that it's clear that some of the docks are new and weren't always existing. Trustee Hansen stated that other letters were received regarding the docks. One was from Geoff Isles in which he points out in the code that the Club docks cannot be expanded.

Deputy Mayor Vernon stated that prior to granting approval, the issue was raised as to whether the docks were pre-existing prior to 1987. A discussion followed.

SECURITY

Deputy Mayor Vernon raised the issue of TP tag expirations and re-issuance. Discussed were length of expiration dates for residents, TP School, and Tuxedo Club members and employees, numbers of tags issued, and fees. A discussion followed. Mayor McFadden asked that the discussion be tabled until there is a plan to present to the Board.

PB/BAR APPOINTMENT

A motion was made by Mayor McFadden that Celeste Gebhardt be re-appointed as a member to the PB/BAR for a term of years, expiring June 2011, filling her term that expired in June and was held over.

Vote of the Board: Trustee Hansen – aye
Deputy Mayor Vernon – aye
Trustee Parker – aye
Trustee Hays – aye
Mayor McFadden – aye

The motion was passed by a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Mayor McFadden that Celeste Gebhardt be appointed as Chairwoman of the PB/BAR, replacing Sam Bornstein, with her term expiring June 2006.

Vote of the Board: Deputy Mayor Vernon – aye
Trustee Hansen – aye
Mayor McFadden – aye
Trustee Parker – nay
Trustee Hays – nay

The motion was passed by a 3-2 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Town Budget: Peter Dolan, Town Supervisor Candidate, stated the Town filed its budget on September 30th and spoke with the Town bookkeeper. He suggested that Trustee Vernon meet with the bookkeeper to see where the money is going.

Docks: Susan Goodfellow stated that the reason the local law was passed regarding the expansion of docks was because the Board was concerned about the possibility of docks springing up like mushrooms around the lake. The legislation was very specific about the docks that were in existence in 1991.

Tuxedo Dam: Susan Goodfellow stated that she hopes the Village is engaging the Tuxedo Club in working to develop a management contract for the dam and asks that a Trustee be assigned to get on that with Mr. Sweeney.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Vernon that the meeting be adjourned to Executive Session to discuss Village employee and legal matters. The vote was 5-0 to adjourn to executive session at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mayor McFadden that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The vote was 5-0 in favor of adjourning.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Matthews
Village Clerk-Treasurer