

## 1 INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF MINEOLA

2 HEARING OF THE

3 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

4 April 14, 2021  
5 6:30 o'clock p.m.

6 B e f o r e:

7 SCOTT P. STRAUSS,  
8 Mayor,9 PAUL A. PEREIRA, (Via Zoom)  
10 Deputy Mayor

11 PAUL S. CUSATO,

12 GEORGE R. DURHAM,

13 DENNIS J. WALSH,  
14 Trustees.

15 \* \* \*

16 JOHN P. GIBBONS, JR., ESQ.  
17 Village Attorney

18 \* \* \*

19 JOSEPH R. SCALERO,  
20 Village Clerk

21 \* \* \*

22 KELLY CULEN  
23 Official Court Reporter  
24  
25

1 MAYOR STRAUSS: Good evening folks. Thank you  
2 for coming out tonight. We have a couple of hearings  
3 before we get into our work session. The first one is  
4 on repealing our tax law.

5 Mr. Scalero.

6 MR. SCALERO: Legal notice, public hearing  
7 Incorporated Village of Mineola. Please take notice  
8 the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of  
9 Mineola will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April  
10 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 155 Washington  
11 Avenue, Mineola, New York 11501 or at some other  
12 location hereinafter designated by the Board of  
13 Trustees in order to receive public comments upon the  
14 following:

15 Proposed Local Law repealing Local Law No. 1  
16 of 2021 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of  
17 the limit established in General Municipal Law Section  
18 3-C.

19 The Village of Mineola does not discriminate  
20 on the basis of handicapped status in administration or  
21 access to or employment in its projects and activities.  
22 Joseph R. Scalero has been directed to coordinate  
23 compliance with non-discrimination requirements of the  
24 Federal Revenue Sharing regulations. At this scheduled  
25 meeting of the Board of Trustees, reserved decisions

1 from previous meetings, if any, may be acted upon by  
2 the Board of Trustees.

3 At the aforesaid time and place, all  
4 interested persons will be given an opportunity to be  
5 heard.

6 By order of the Board of Trustees and the  
7 Incorporated Village of Mineola, Joseph R. Scalero,  
8 Village Clerk, dated March 19, 2021.

9 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you. Mr. Gibbons.

10 MR. GIBBONS: Good evening.

11 MAYOR STRAUSS: Good evening.

12 MR. GIBBONS: Back on March 10 this Board  
13 prophylactically adopted Local Law No. 1 of 2021 which  
14 was a local law amending the code to authorize property  
15 tax levy in excess of the limit established in General  
16 Municipal Law Section 3-C.

17 I am happy to report, based upon my  
18 discussions with the Village Treasurer, Giacomo  
19 Ciccone, that it will not be necessary to pierce the  
20 cap and, therefore, I would ask the Board to adopt the  
21 local law repealing the prior local law which would  
22 have authorized the Board to exceed the cap if it was  
23 necessary.

24 MAYOR STRAUSS: Any questions from the Board?

25 TRUSTEE CUSATO: That's great.

1 MAYOR STRAUSS: I will entertain a motion to  
2 approve.

3 TRUSTEE WALSH: I'll make that.

4 MAYOR STRAUSS: Motion by Trustee Walsh.

5 TRUSTEE CUSATO: Second.

6 MAYOR STRAUSS: Seconded by Trustee Cusato.

7 Mr. Scalero, poll the Board.

8 MR. SCALERO: Yes, sir.

9 Trustee Durham?

10 TRUSTEE DURHAM: Yes.

11 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Cusato?

12 TRUSTEE CUSATO: Yes.

13 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Walsh?

14 TRUSTEE WALSH: Yes.

15 MR. SCALERO: Deputy Mayor Pereira?

16 DEPUTY MAYOR PEREIRA: Yes.

17 MR. SCALERO: Mayor Strauss?

18 MAYOR STRAUSS: Yes.

19 MR. GIBBONS: Thank you.

20 MAYOR STRAUSS: Okay, next one, Mr. Scalero.

21  
22 MR. SCALERO: Legal notice, public hearing  
23 Incorporated Village of Mineola. Please take notice  
24 the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of  
25 Mineola will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April

1 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 155 Washington  
2 Avenue, Mineola, New York 11501 or at some other  
3 location hereinafter designated by the Board of  
4 Trustees for the purpose of giving all interested  
5 persons an opportunity to provide written or oral  
6 comment with regard to the request for federal HUD CDBG  
7 funds distributed through the Nassau County Office of  
8 Community Development pursuant to its 47th program  
9 year.

10 The Village of Mineola does not discriminate  
11 on the basis of handicap status in administration or  
12 access to our employment in its projects and  
13 activities.

14 Joseph R. Scalero has been directed to  
15 coordinate compliance with non-discrimination  
16 requirements of the Federal Revenue Sharing  
17 regulations. At this scheduled meeting of the Board of  
18 Trustees, reserved decisions from previous meetings, if  
19 any, may be acted upon.

20 By order of the Board of Trustee and the  
21 Incorporated Village of Mineola, Joseph R. Scalero,  
22 Village Clerk, dated March 5, 2021.

23 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you. Tom Savino who  
24 handles our Community Development Funding is  
25 unavailable to make it this evening so Mr. Scalero is

1 going to stand in for him.

2 MR. SCALERO: He has submitted the following:  
3 There are three categories for funding this year. The  
4 first is a project for handicap accessible public  
5 bathrooms in the municipal building that's here at  
6 Village Hall, \$250,000.

7 Commercial rehabilitation for various  
8 addresses based on pending and proposed applications,  
9 \$246,000, and the residential rehabilitation Village  
10 wide 15,000.

11 I'll just throw some notes, the bathroom  
12 handicap accessibility is self-explanatory.

13 The commercial rehab is to continue our very  
14 successful downtown storefront facade rehabilitation  
15 program. I'm happy to say that you can go along  
16 Mineola Boulevard and down by Station Plaza you can see  
17 some of the projects already completed. The most  
18 recent being Spaghetтини and Bruno Boulevard on the  
19 corner of Second and Mineola Boulevard. This provides  
20 signage, lights, the whole facade and more and more  
21 business owners are opting in. Tom has gotten  
22 additional funding from Community Development so that  
23 he can now boost the amounts up to 95 percent paid for  
24 by grants with the owner only having to contribute 5  
25 percent. It is a fantastic deal, and I'm glad to say

1 more owners and businesses are opting into it. So I  
2 would like to continue at this amount.

3 And the residential rehab is for home  
4 renovation. It is being tested and there are income  
5 limits but it does help people of limited means,  
6 especially seniors, stay in their homes.

7 MAYOR STRAUSS: Obviously we have seen the  
8 benefits of the storefront rehabilitation and we will  
9 see the benefits of the handicapped bathrooms here at  
10 the Community Center as they are certainly in dire need  
11 of revamping.

12 Any comments from the Board? Mr. Pereira,  
13 anything?

14 DEPUTY MAYOR PEREIRA: No.

15 MAYOR STRAUSS: I would like to entertain a  
16 motion to approve.

17 TRUSTEE DURHAM: Motion.

18 MAYOR STRAUSS: Motion by Trustee Durham. Do  
19 I have a second?

20 DEPUTY MAYOR PEREIRA: Second.

21 MAYOR STRAUSS: Seconded by Deputy Mayor  
22 Pereira.

23 Mr. Scalero, poll the board.

24 MR. SCALERO: Yes, sir.

25 Trustee Durham?

1 TRUSTEE DURHAM: Yes.

2 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Cusato?

3 TRUSTEE CUSATO: Yes.

4 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Walsh?

5 TRUSTEE WALSH: Yes.

6 MR. SCALERO: Deputy Mayor Pereira?

7 DEPUTY MAYOR PEREIRA: Yes.

8 MR. SCALERO: Mayor Strauss?

9 MAYOR STRAUSS: Yes.

10 Great, thank you. And the last hearing.

11 MR. SCALERO: Notice of taxpayers of the  
12 Incorporated Village of Mineola, notice is hereby given  
13 that the tentative budget for the year 2021 and 2022  
14 has been completed by the Budget Officer and filed in  
15 the office of the Village Clerk in the Village Hall,  
16 155 Washington Avenue, Mineola, New York 11501, wherein  
17 the same will remain open for inspection by the general  
18 public between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
19 until April 14, 2021, when a public hearing will be  
20 held in the Village Hall of in the Incorporated Village  
21 of Mineola, 155 Washington Avenue, Mineola, New York  
22 11501 at 6:30 p.m. to consider said budget for final  
23 adoption.

24 The maximum compensation proposed to be paid  
25 to each member of the Board of Trustees shall not

1 exceed:

2 For Mayor from the general fund, \$24,166;  
3 water fund, \$4,834;

4 Trustees, \$12,083, general fund and the water  
5 fund, \$2,417;

6 As far as the budget summary, general  
7 government, \$4,968,236;

8 Public safety, \$1,777,956;

9 Health, 60,000;

10 Transportation, \$3,271,840;

11 Culture/Recreation, \$472,450;

12 Home/Community Services, \$2,801,406;

13 Employee Benefits, \$4,480,000;

14 Debt Service, \$1,209,593;

15 Water Fund, \$2,916,408;

16 Swimming Pool Fund, \$657,334;

17 And the Library Fund, \$1,836,041;

18 Total, \$24,451,264.

19 Pursuant to Section 495 of the Real Property  
20 Tax Law, the Local Government Exemption Impact Report  
21 is attached to the tentative budget for the year  
22 2021/2022. The report will be part of the final budget  
23 for the year 2021/2022. The report is on file in the  
24 Office of the Village Clerk, in the Village Hall, 155  
25 Washington Avenue, Mineola, New York 11501, wherein the

1 same will remain open for inspection by the general  
2 public between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
3 The report is also posted on the Budgeting Authority's  
4 bulletin board and maintained for public notices.

5 The Village of Mineola does not discriminate  
6 on the basis of handicapped status in administration or  
7 access to or employment in its projects and activities.

8 All of those persons wishing to be heard  
9 concerning this proposed budget will be given such  
10 opportunity. Written comments will also be accepted.

11 By Order of the Board of Trustees of the  
12 Incorporated Village of Mineola, Joseph R. Scalero,  
13 Village Clerk, dated March 26, 2021.

14 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you. Mr. Ciccone, any  
15 changes in the budget?

16 MR. CICCONE: No.

17 TRUSTEE CUSATO: It's 1.9?

18 MAYOR STRAUSS: Yeah. Gentlemen, we have  
19 before us a budget proposed for 1.9 percent increase.  
20 As I mentioned last week, I'm greatly in debt to the  
21 department heads as well as to all of you gentlemen to  
22 make sure we keep this budget as low as possible for  
23 our are residents an business owners. These are some  
24 difficult times and Mr. Ciccone and his team worked  
25 magic and, also, the funding that we're getting from

1 the federal government is certainly beneficial to us in  
2 keeping these numbers down.

3 Any comments from the Board, Deputy Mayor?

4 DEPUTY MAYOR PEREIRA: Mayor, I think I said,  
5 I believe, everything I had to say last week. I  
6 handed, in comments a couple of months ago. We were  
7 contemplating the much higher numbers and as was  
8 expected, but we did manage to, along with help from  
9 the federal government but, also, from our department  
10 heads to, once again, bring in a responsible budget  
11 under the tax cap and still being able to provide the  
12 same level of services that our residents have come to  
13 expect. So I am happy with the budget, and I am  
14 prepared to approve it.

15 MAYOR STRAUSS: You're absolutely correct,  
16 Deputy Mayor, thank you.

17 Trustee Cusato.

18 TRUSTEE CUSATO: Mayor, you know I want to  
19 thank Mr. Ciccone and the other department heads for  
20 acting appropriately and keeping our numbers down while  
21 providing a great service to our Village.

22 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you.

23 Trustee Durham?

24 TRUSTEE DURHAM: Thank you. I do want to  
25 thank them for the job that they did, but I do have a

1 question for Mr. Ciccone, if you can come up, please.  
2 My question is not this year's budget but towards next  
3 year's budget. With this past year we did not spend  
4 the million dollars on the roadways, and we used that  
5 money plus the million dollars that we got from the  
6 federal government to cover the budget. If we have  
7 shortfalls, I understand that the federal government is  
8 approximately \$110 a resident, so the sum that the  
9 Village would get which would be close to \$2 million.  
10 If we come up with a shortfall again, we have that sum  
11 to fall on but what are our plans for the future if we  
12 are not going to get the revenue that we expect?

13 MR. CICCONE: We're hoping that the revenue,  
14 you know, in some of the lines like justice court,  
15 meters and stuff to bounce back a little bit, and then  
16 we're hoping in the future that the Harrison Garage  
17 goes on line, and we'll get some revenue from there.  
18 That's what we're hoping for.

19 MAYOR STRAUSS: We're expected to -- we're  
20 expecting to get back to normalcy probably by the end  
21 of the summer, if not before that, so the revenue  
22 should be continuing to increase. It's something that  
23 we're not able to budget on. We can only budget on  
24 what we've had.

25 TRUSTEE DURHAM: Yes, I understand that, and I

1 know that we reduced several lines, but do you think  
2 that going into next year we're going to have the same  
3 issue or are we going to be close?

4 MR. CICCONE: I'm hoping not. I think we'll  
5 be okay.

6 TRUSTEE DURHAM: So you think we will be okay,  
7 that is my main concern for -- I understand we got  
8 through this year, but budgets are all about the future  
9 too. So --

10 MR. CICCONE: Right.

11 TRUSTEE DURHAM: -- just making sure that  
12 we're making the right move.

13 MR. CICCONE: Yes.

14 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you. Anything else,  
15 Trustee Durham?

16 TRUSTEE DURHAM: That's it.

17 MAYOR STRAUSS: Trustee Walsh?

18 TRUSTEE WALSH: Yes, thank you mayor. I'm  
19 prepared to vote on this tonight. Thank you, Giacomo  
20 for all of the work you did, and nobody has a crystal  
21 ball; we can't predict what's gonna happen next year,  
22 but, like you said, the garage coming on line is gonna  
23 help. Hopefully, the COVID problem won't come back, so  
24 the summonses that were not issued for about five  
25 months will be issued, and the Building Department that

1 was unable to give out permits for five months will be  
2 able to give out permits, so things, like the Mayor  
3 said, will come back to normal, and, you know, we're  
4 very fortunate to be able to offer 1.9 percent, and the  
5 federal government certainly did help, but that's their  
6 job also to help. And, you know, I just -- I see a  
7 bright future for the Village.

8 That's all, thank you.

9 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you.

10 Mr. Ciccone, anything else?

11 MR. CICCONE: No.

12 MAYOR STRAUSS: Any comments from the public?

13 Okay, great. I'll entertain a motion to  
14 approve the budget.

15 TRUSTEE WALSH: Motion.

16 MAYOR STRAUSS: Motion by Trustee Walsh.

17 TRUSTEE CUSATO: Second.

18 MAYOR STRAUSS: Seconded by Mr. Trustee  
19 Cusato. Mr. Scalero, poll the Board.

20 MR. SCALERO: Yes, sir.

21 Trustee Durham?

22 TRUSTEE DURHAM: Yes.

23 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Cusato?

24 TRUSTEE CUSATO: Yes.

25 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Walsh?

1 TRUSTEE WALSH: Yes.

2 MR. SCALERO: Deputy Mayor Pereira?

3 DEPUTY MAYOR PEREIRA: Yes.

4 MR. SCALERO: Mayor Strauss?

5 MAYOR STRAUSS: Absolutely yes. Mr. Ciccone,  
6 thank you and your team and the department heads and  
7 the Board here, thank you very much for your diligent  
8 work.

9 I'll entertain a motion to close the hearing.

10 TRUSTEE WALSH: Motion.

11 MAYOR STRAUSS: Motion by Trustee Walsh. Do I  
12 hear a second?

13 DEPUTY MAYOR PEREIRA: Second.

14 MAYOR STRAUSS: Seconded by Deputy Mayor  
15 Pereira.

16 All in favor?

17 TRUSTEE DURHAM: Aye.

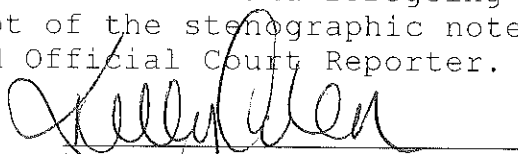
18 TRUSTEE CUSATO: Aye.

19 TRUSTEE WALSH: Aye.

20 DEPUTY MAYOR PEREIRA: Aye.

21 MAYOR STRAUSS: Opposed? Carried.

22 \* \* \* \* \*  
23 This is to certify that the within and foregoing is a  
24 true and accurate transcript of the stenographic notes as  
25 recorded by the undersigned Official Court Reporter.

  
KELLY CULEN  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER