

1 INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF MINEOLA

2
3 HEARING OF THE
4 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

5
6
7 April 12, 2017
8 6:30 o'clock p.m.

9 B e f o r e:

10 SCOTT P. STRAUSS,
Mayor

11 PAUL S. CUSATO,

12 GEORGE R. DURHAM,

13 DENNIS J. WALSH,
Trustees.

14 * * *

15
16 JOHN P. GIBBONS, JR., ESQ.
Village Attorney

17 JOSEPH R. SCALERO
18 Village Clerk

19 GIACOMO A. CICCONE
Village Treasurer

20 * * *

21 THOMAS V. SAVINO
President,
22 Vision Accomplished, Inc.

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24 PATRICIA A. TAUBER, RPR
25 Official Court Reporter

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1 MR. SCALERO: Ladies and gentlemen, please
2 silence all pagers and cell phones. In the event of an
3 emergency there are exits located in the rear of the
4 room.

5 MAYOR STRAUSS: Good evening, ladies and
6 gentlemen. We have two public hearings tonight before we
7 go into our work session. The first one is going to be
8 on Community Development Funding.

9 Mr. Scalero, you need to do what you do.

10 MR. SCALERO: Yes.

11 "Legal Notice, Public Hearing, Incorporated
12 Village of Mineola.

13 "Please take Notice that the Board of Trustees
14 of the Incorporated Village of Mineola will hold a Public
15 Hearing on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the
16 Village Hall, 155 Washington Avenue, Mineola, New York
17 11501, or at some other location to be hereafter
18 designated by the Board of Trustees, for the purpose of
19 giving all interested persons an opportunity to provide
20 written or oral comment with regard to the request for
21 Federal HUD CDBG Funds distributed through the Nassau
22 County Office of Community Development pursuant to its
23 43rd Program Year.

24 "The Village of Mineola does not discriminate
25 on the basis of handicapped status in administration or

1 access to or employment in its projects and activities.
2 Joseph R. Scalero has been directed to coordinate
3 compliance with non-discrimination requirements of the
4 Federal Revenue Sharing regulations.

5 "At this scheduled meeting of its Board of
6 Trustees reserved decisions from previous meetings, if
7 any, may be acted upon.

8 "By Order of the Board of Trustees of the
9 Incorporated Village of Mineola. Joseph R. Scalero,
10 Village Clerk.

11 "Dated March 21, 2017."

12 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you, Mr. Scalero.

13 Ladies and gentlemen, this is a standard annual
14 hearing that we have. We used to have former Mayor Hinck
15 be up here, but for the last year or so we've had
16 Mr. Savino.

17 So what is going to happen tonight, like every
18 hearing, Mr. Savino is going to make his presentation.
19 There's going to be an interaction with the Board. And
20 then we'll hear from anybody in the public that wants to
21 comment.

22 Mr. Savino.

23 MR. SAVINO: Thank you, Mayor and Board.

24 I provided you with packets of our application.
25 So I won't go through in too much detail. We're

1 essentially asking for \$533,000 broken down into three
2 categories.

3 The first being the Facade Improvement Program
4 that we're currently running. Based on projections going
5 forward, we do need more money for a continued program.
6 So we're asking for \$250,000 there. And putting in
7 another set of storefronts. This one along Main Street.

8 The second category is a new category for the
9 Village. It's called PF & I Streetscape Improvements.
10 It's essentially directional, way-finding, location signs
11 throughout the commercial area to enlighten the look of
12 the Village, the feeling, and give a sense of place for
13 the Village itself and the community itself. We're
14 asking for \$233,000 for that category.

15 And the final category is for improvements of
16 what are called Architectural Barriers. Those are the
17 handicapped accessible ramps throughout the Village, curb
18 cuts. We're asking for \$50,000 in that category. That's
19 something that's been done before, and it's done through
20 Public Works.

21 Mayor, I did get your message about the
22 possibility of adding another category. It was too late
23 to put in all the backup for that, but I did speak to the
24 County. We can compile the backup over the next month
25 and look to amend the contract once we know what's

1 covered.

2 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you. I appreciate that.

3 MR. CUSATO: And, Mayor, what category is that?

4 MAYOR STRAUSS: Looking to redo some handicap
5 accessible bathrooms here.

6 MR. CUSATO: All right. Thank you.

7 MAYOR STRAUSS: Just one thing I'd like to say
8 before I throw it to the other trustees.

9 I can't thank you enough for the work that
10 you've done, and the interaction you've had with the
11 businesses.

12 If you haven't seen Mineola Boulevard right by
13 the bridge on the west side, you got to go look at it.
14 It looks beautiful.

15 There's four stores that are done there?

16 MR. SAVINO: Four.

17 MAYOR STRAUSS: And then, of course, Franwin
18 Pharmacy was the first one to go. There's a couple of
19 others in the mix. And it just absolutely looks
20 fantastic. So kudos to you and the committee.

21 MR. SAVINO: Thank you.

22 MAYOR STRAUSS: We had a committee made up of
23 residents and Chamber of Commerce members, and it was a
24 collaborative effort, and it was a lot of hard work on
25 everybody's part, a lot of e-mails, and a lot of calls,

1 and a lot of looking at things. And it is absolutely
2 beautiful.

3 MR. SAVINO: I would just add to that: Today
4 they put up the hanging singings at those four stores.
5 They do look good. The lights are almost done. So that
6 project is almost complete.

7 MAYOR STRAUSS: All right. Stunning job.
8 Absolutely.

9 And this is a project, if we can keep it going
10 with the funding, that is literally changing the face of
11 the Village. It's just absolutely tremendous.

12 MR. SAVINO: I think it's important too for the
13 Board to know, those four stores represent a little bit
14 of a different approach than the Village is looking at
15 for the other stores. In those particular locations
16 there wasn't enough room to put a sign and a separate
17 awning. So we decided the best thing to do was
18 coordinate all four with similar larger awnings. The
19 larger size awning is not the new one. It will normally
20 be a sign and an awning where conditions are appropriate
21 for that to take place. We'll review that, but that's
22 not the norm.

23 MAYOR STRAUSS: All right. But again, it's
24 absolutely beautiful.

25 Mr. Cusato, anything?

1 MR. CUSATO: No. Just: Great job, and we're
2 really rolling along. Thank you.

3 MAYOR STRAUSS: Mr. Durham?

4 MR. DURHAM: My question was the removal of the
5 architectural barriers, could you just go into that a
6 little bit more?

7 MR. SAVINO: That's money that's available
8 through HUD CDBG funds for curb cuts, you know, sidewalk
9 curb cuts if you need ramps for wheelchair accessibility.
10 There's a lot of them in the Village that are either in
11 poor condition or need to be --

12 MR. DURHAM: Refurbished.

13 MR. SAVINO: -- redone completely.

14 MR. DURHAM: OK. So that's to take and bring
15 us up to standards, or whatever.

16 MR. SAVINO: Right.

17 MR. DURHAM: OK. I have no other questions.

18 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you.

19 Mr. Walsh?

20 MR. WALSH: Yes. Thank you, Mayor.

21 Thank you, Mr. Savino.

22 You know, I just think that that area where the
23 new awnings were placed down there is kind of a dark area
24 that's just transit-oriented. People walk by fast. And
25 all different signs there. It didn't look good at all.

1 It looks much better now. I'm glad you were able to
2 start in the downtown by the train. I'm glad that they
3 all complied. I was surprised that the Double H complied
4 also and went along with it, that was very nice compared
5 to the way it looked prior to that. And I think other
6 store owners are looking forward to this extending out
7 into other areas -- and you're now doing a confined
8 area -- because other store owners have asked me, and we
9 hope that it will move along in the future.

10 So thank you very much.

11 MR. SAVINO: You're welcome.

12 Just to let you know, too, that what's not been
13 done yet are scone lights on each building. So there is
14 going to be even more light now.

15 MR. WALSH: Yes. You know, I saw that and I
16 just thought that I'm glad that they were able to do all
17 the work, you know, the same two or three days in a row.
18 Makes the project faster, less expensive when you have,
19 you know, several in a row. And I just think it came out
20 very nice. Thank you.

21 MR. SAVINO: Thank you.

22 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you.

23 Anything else, Mr. Savino?

24 MR. SAVINO: No. I think we're good.

25 I will say this: I noted that we have a couple

1 of outstanding expenditures that we need to move fast on.

2 MAYOR STRAUSS: OK.

3 MR. SAVINO: What helps in your application
4 review is your showing your ability to spend your money.

5 MAYOR STRAUSS: Oh we'll spend it.

6 MR. SAVINO: So we have a couple of outstanding
7 ones that we just need to push through, and we need to do
8 that by June.

9 MAYOR STRAUSS: OK.

10 MR. SAVINO: We have to move.

11 MAYOR STRAUSS: All right. So we'll put that
12 on the burner. We'll kick up the flame a little bit.
13 Thank you.

14 Anything else, Mr. Savino?

15 MR. SAVINO: No.

16 MAYOR STRAUSS: All right. If you could have a
17 seat, I'll see if there's any public comment.

18 Anybody in the public wishing to make a comment
19 on these Community Development Funds?

20 Mr. Savino, come on back up.

21 Do you need a resolution passed?

22 MR. SAVINO: Yes, please.

23 MAYOR STRAUSS: All right. I'll entertain a
24 motion that we do these funding allocations as per
25 Mr. Savino's suggestion.

1 MR. CUSATO: I'll make that motion.

2 MAYOR STRAUSS: Motion by Trustee Cusato.

3 Second?

4 MR. WALSH: Second.

5 MAYOR STRAUSS: Trustee Walsh.

6 Mr. Scalero, poll the Board.

7 MR. SCALERO: Yes, sir.

8 Trustee Durham?

9 MR. DURHAM: Yes.

10 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Cusato?

11 MR. CUSATO: Absolutely yes.

12 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Walsh?

13 MR. WALSH: Yes.

14 MR. SCALERO: Mayor Strauss?

15 MAYOR STRAUSS: Yes.

16 Thank you, Mr. Savino. We greatly appreciate
17 your hard work and that of the committee. I know you had
18 a lot of input.

19 MR. SAVINO: Thank you.

20 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you very much.

21 OK. So one thing I should have mentioned is
22 Deputy Mayor Paul Pereira is unable to be with us this
23 evening. So that's why he's absent.

24 * * *

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1 MAYOR STRAUSS: Mr. Scalero, we'll go right
2 into the hearing for the budget.

3 MR. SCALERO: Yes, sir.

4 "Legal Notice, Public Hearing, Incorporated
5 Village of Mineola.

6 "Notice is hereby given that the Tentative
7 Budget for the Year 2017/2018 has been completed by the
8 Budget Officer and filed in the Office of the Village
9 Clerk in the Village Hall, 155 Washington Avenue,
10 Mineola, New York 11501, wherein same will remain open
11 for inspection by the general public between the hours of
12 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. until April 12, 2017 when a
13 public hearing will be held in the Village Hall of the
14 Incorporated Village of Mineola, 155 Washington Avenue,
15 Mineola, New York 11501 at 6:30 p.m. to consider said
16 Budget for final adoption.

17 "Pursuant to Section 495 of the Real Property
18 Tax Law, the Local Government Exemption Impact Report is
19 attached to the Tentative Budget for the Year 2017/2018.
20 The Report will be a part of the Final Budget for the
21 Year 2017/2018. The Report is on file in the Office of
22 the Village Clerk in the Village Hall, 155 Washington
23 Avenue, Mineola, New York 11501, wherein same will remain
24 open for inspection by the general public between the
25 hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The Report is also

1 posted on the Budgeting Authority's bulletin board
2 maintained for public notices.

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

6 "All those persons wishing to be heard
7 concerning this Proposed Budget will be given such
8 opportunity. Written Comments will also be accepted.

9 "By Order of the Board of Trustees of the
10 Incorporated Village of Mineola. Joseph R. Scalero,
11 Village Clerk.

12 "Dated March 24, 2017."

13 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you.

14 Before Mr. Ciccone comes up, I would just like
15 to say a couple of comments about the budget.

16 This year we're receiving \$282,000 in state
17 aid, which is \$2,000 less than last year. Not the end of
18 the world. This decrease is due to the state reducing
19 their per capita portion. However, we're receiving
20 \$278,000 from the Department of Transportation, which is
21 allowing us to increase our road maintenance project
22 lines to \$1.25 million. That's what we're going to spend
23 this year on repaving roads, \$1.25 million. This will
24 obviously allow us to repair more roads. And there's one
25 thing we can never do is pave enough roads every year.

1 So this year the two new residential buildings,
2 One Third Avenue and the Mineola Modera, will put
3 \$475,000 into the budget, which is up just a little over
4 \$4,000 from last year.

5 Some of the hits that we had to absorb on the
6 budget are: The health and medical insurance went up by
7 \$325,000. Our retirement contributions went up by
8 \$144,000. We increased our tax cert line by \$32,000.
9 Workers' Compensation went up \$25,000. And our
10 liability/fire insurance went up by \$15,000.

11 Even with these increases -- and the intent of
12 purchasing a new \$185,000 dump truck this year -- we will
13 not increase your taxes for the second year in a row.
14 We, the Board, and our department heads continue to do
15 smart budgeting. We continue to be fiscally responsible.
16 We continue to watch every penny and spend them wisely.

17 Folks, if you remember, back in 2004 the
18 Village of Mineola was almost \$46 million in debt.
19 That's \$46 million. We have continued what former Mayor
20 and Senator Jack Martins put in place. We continue to
21 pay down our debt to the tune of approximately 1.5
22 million a year. That's what we pay in debt, \$1.5
23 million. Our outstanding debt is now down to
24 ten-and-a-half million, down from almost 46 million.

25 The Village of Mineola is on financial footing

1 that is rock solid, and we plan to keep it that way.

2 Mr. Ciccone, the floor is yours.

3 MR. CICCONE: Good evening, Mayor and the
4 Board.

5 MAYOR STRAUSS: Good evening.

6 MR. CICCONE: I have a couple of changes from
7 the last budget session and this is due to the increase
8 in CHIP funding and state aid.

9 If you go to page 2, cell 91, the new amount
10 for state aid revenue is \$282,230, which is an increase
11 of \$18,085.

12 If you stay on that page, cell 93, which is the
13 revenue line for CHIPS, the new amount is \$278,186, which
14 is an increase of \$36,308.

15 If you move to page 5, cell 243, Contingencies,
16 the new amount is going to be \$368,683, which is an
17 increase of \$18,683.

18 Two more changes. On page 7, cell 307, which
19 is the load SAP contribution, the new amount is \$245,102,
20 a decrease of \$598.

21 MR. CUSATO: Mr. Ciccone, what's that number
22 again? 245 --

23 MR. CICCONE: -- 102.

24 MR. CUSATO: OK. Thank you.

25 MR. CICCONE: And the last change is page 8,

1 cell 373, which is the expenditure line for CHIPS. The
2 new amount is \$278,186, which is an increase of \$36,308.

3 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you, Mr. Ciccone.

4 Anything else?

5 MR. CICCONE: No. Thank you.

6 MAYOR STRAUSS: Great.

7 Again, before I open up to the Board, I want to
8 thank you for your efforts and that of your staff and all
9 of the department heads, as I mentioned the last time
10 about sharpening their pencils and keeping our money,
11 your money, being spent where it should.

12 Mr. Cusato, anything?

13 MR. CUSATO: I do, Mayor.

14 You know, the numbers speak for themselves.

15 You know, as the Mayor stated, we're on this Board for
16 all the taxpayers of this Village. So as a taxpayer, I
17 can't find fault in a budget that over the past three
18 years has basically been flat. And I'm certainly going
19 forward in favor of this new budget.

20 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you.

21 Mr. Durham?

22 MR. DURHAM: I agree. As a taxpayer and
23 resident of the Village, part of the reason coming on the
24 Board and helping out was to take and make sure that the
25 Village was going in the right way with finances. And

1 we've been doing that very well. The finances of the
2 Village are improving dramatically. And everybody worked
3 hard to take and get this to a zero percent tax increase
4 for the residents. And I think it was a good job done by
5 everybody who participated in that.

6 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you.

7 Trustee Walsh?

8 MR. WALSH: Yes. Thank you, Mayor.

9 And just the fact that we went from \$46 million
10 in debt to \$10 million in debt, that didn't just happen
11 easily. I won't get into everything, but quite a bit was
12 put into that happening. And also the fact that there
13 are hundreds of thousands of dollars -- hundreds of
14 thousands of dollars were added to the budget this year,
15 by the state not contributing and other factors that are
16 beyond our control. And to still maintain a zero percent
17 increase is due to the fact that we get money from the
18 buildings that are being built and various other things.
19 And you know, Mr. Cusato said in the past three years,
20 but actually in the past four years we have been very
21 close to flat because I believe over the past four years
22 we have increased the budget something like a little bit
23 more than one half of one percent over four years. So
24 that's very difficult to do, and other villages would be
25 happy to have the problems that we have.

1 That's all. Thank you, Mayor.

2 MAYOR STRAUSS: Thank you.

3 At this time I'll open up to anybody wishing to
4 comment on the budget.

5 Yes, ma'am. If you'd come to the podium and
6 state your name and address, please.

7 MS. JONES: Sure.

8 Hi. My name is Paula Jones. I've lived in
9 Mineola since June 2009. I lived at First Street, but I
10 moved over to Marcus Avenue, and I . . . Is the building
11 that was empty, the King Kullen, they were going to build
12 a mega supermarket there or something? Is that --

13 MAYOR STRAUSS: Ma'am, I will address your
14 question, but this is a hearing just on the budget. So
15 we're here just to discuss that. But there will be a
16 supermarket, hopefully, going into that building.

17 MS. JONES: I was going to say: We really need
18 senior housing according to income. And maybe they could
19 have taken that side place that was -- build a smaller
20 supermarket there. I think it was a Rite Aid drugstore?

21 MAYOR STRAUSS: Yes.

22 MS. JONES: Couldn't they make a smaller
23 supermarket --

24 MAYOR STRAUSS: They can do anything they want
25 to do. It's up to the people who bought it.

1 MS. JONES: Oh, I see.

2 MAYOR STRAUSS: So we do have senior housing in
3 the Village of Mineola. You live on Marcus Avenue --

4 MS. JONES: Yes.

5 MAYOR STRAUSS: -- in New Hyde Park, Garden
6 City Park?

7 MS. JONES: I'm just over the border, yes.

8 MAYOR STRAUSS: Right.

9 So we do have senior housing in Mineola.

10 MS. JONES: Oh, you do.

11 MAYOR STRAUSS: Yes, we do.

12 MS. JONES: Where is it?

13 MAYOR STRAUSS: It's on Front Street. It was
14 part of the process of this other building, the Mineola
15 Modera. So we do have senior housing in Mineola.

16 MS. JONES: How do you put your name on --

17 THE COURT: I'll speak with you after the
18 meeting, but this hearing is for the sole reason of the
19 budget.

20 MS. JONES: Oh. OK.

21 MAYOR STRAUSS: No problem, ma'am.

22 MS. JONES: Thank you.

23 MAYOR STRAUSS: You're very welcome.

24 Anybody else wishing to comment on the budget?

25 Fantastic.

1 I will entertain a motion to approve the budget
2 as presented with a zero percent tax increase.

3 MR. CUSATO: I'll make the motion.

4 MAYOR STRAUSS: Motion by Trustee Cusato.

5 Second?

6 MR. DURHAM: I'll second.

7 MAYOR STRAUSS: By Trustee Durham.

8 Mr. Scalero, please poll the Board.

9 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Durham?

10 MR. DURHAM: Yes.

11 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Cusato?

12 MR. CUSATO: Yes.

13 MR. SCALERO: Trustee Walsh?

14 MR. WALSH: Yes.

15 MR. SCALERO: Mayor Strauss?

16 MAYOR STRAUSS: Yes.

17 Great. Thank you very much.

18 I'll entertain a motion to close the public
19 hearing.

20 MR. WALSH: Motion.

21 MR. DURHAM: Second.

22 MAYOR STRAUSS: Motion by Trustee Walsh,
23 seconded by Trustee Durham.

24 All in favor?

25 MR. DURHAM: Aye.

1 MR. CUSATO: Aye.

2 MR. WALSH: Aye.

3 MAYOR STRAUSS: Aye.

4 Any opposed?

5 Carried.

6 * * *

7 This is to certify that the within and foregoing is a
8 true and accurate transcript of the stenographic notes as
9 recorded by the undersigned Official Court Reporter.

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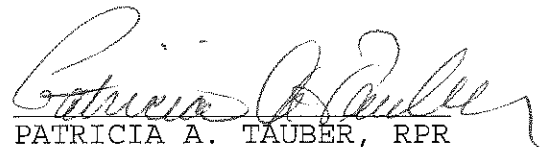
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PATRICIA A. TAUBER, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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