

**VILLAGE OF POMONA**  
**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2024**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

**Mayor Ilan Fuchs**

**Deputy Mayor Mendy Lasker**

**Trustee Raanan Zidile**

**Trustee Marc Greenberg**

**Trustee Joel Grunwald**

**ALSO PRESENT**

**Village Attorney Brian Nugent**

**Village Clerk Jenna Antoine**

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At 7:34pm Mayor Ilan Fuchs called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ilan Fuchs made a motion to open the public comment period. The motion was seconded by Marc Greenberg. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 5-0.

**Public Comment Period**

Joseph Churgin got up to speak to the Board regarding Tartikoff application. He thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to speak with them. On October 19, 2023 my office submitted on behalf of Tartikoff for a special use permit application, site plan application, a variance application, and a zoning change application. On December 11, 2023 the Building Inspector sent a letter to me saying that the EAF forms for each of the four different applications all has to have the same project description. We had submitted them with a description that was unique to each application. There was no substantive change requested merely the description of

the project on each of the four EAF's. We thought that was wrong, that they should be identical. However, in an effort to work with the village on January 19<sup>th</sup>, I came into the village with revised EAF forms. Per Mr. Zummo's request I came into Village Hall right here upstairs and I said to the Village Clerk I want to substitute them for the ones that were submitted previously. And she said that she would do the substitution. She took them from me and I left them at Village Hall, on January 19th. I submitted a letter by email to Mr. Zummo and cc'd to Mr. Nugent confirming the above and basically said I wanted to be on the agenda. I had not heard anything until today at 2:21 p.m. Mr. Nugent told me that none of the four applications would be on the agenda tonight. Because I didn't physically take out the old EAF's and put in the new EAF's, I was not put on a meeting agenda, but I heard nothing about this until today. I'd like to go upstairs tonight where the applications are and take out the old EAF forms and replace them with the new EAF forms. The Village Clerk said yes to Mr. Churgin's request to take out the old EAF forms and replace them with the new EAF forms after the meeting is over tonight. I want to be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Brian Nugent: The Building Inspector has to review the application, once it is fully completed and make his determinations. We will let you know a week before the meeting that you will or won't be on the agenda.

Ilan Fuchs made a motion to close the public comment period. The motion was seconded by Marc Greenberg. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 5-0.

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### **Treasury Report**

Trustee Marc Greenberg moved the resolution that the payment of General Funds Claims totaling \$173,284.37 set forth on page 9 in the Monthly Abstract Listing dated January 23, 2024 through February 26, 2024 as submitted is hereby approved subject to individual audits by the Board of Trustees.

The Payroll(s) of January 26, 2024, February 9, 2024 and February 23, 2024 as set forth in the payroll in the amount(s) of \$13,199.95, \$11,508.45 and \$12,861.06 respectively, are hereby submitted for approval, subject to the individual audits by the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Trustee Joel Grunwald. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 5-0.

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### **Meeting Minutes**

Approval of Minutes from the Village Board Meeting on 1/22/24. Mendy Lasker moved that the minutes be approved and was seconded by Marc Greenberg. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 5-0.

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## **Pomona Cultural Center**

Gde Arsa Artha submitted a report to the Village Board on the Pomona Cultural Center. In the report he wrote about an upcoming Spring Concert on May 4, 2024. Mr. Arsa Artha requested a sum of \$950: \$800 for the entertainment and \$150 for refreshments. Mendy Lasker made a motion to approve the above. Seconded by Marc Greenberg. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 5-0.

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## **Budget 2024-2025 Workshop**

Brian Nugent: Every municipality does things a little different, but the Mayor needs to prepare a tentative budget which goes to the Village Clerk by March 20<sup>th</sup> and gets filed with the Board of Trustees and basically becomes public at that point or before April 15<sup>th</sup>. We need to open a public hearing on that budget so the public can be heard. And then that public hearing if you decide to have another meeting has to be closed by April 20<sup>th</sup>. If you decide to wrap everything up on April 15<sup>th</sup> you'll have the public hearing open and closed and you would adopt the budget that night. The absolute deadline for the budget adoption is May 1<sup>st</sup>. So if you have a meeting April 15<sup>th</sup> and you feel that everything is where you need it to be you can accomplish everything on the 15<sup>th</sup> and then at any point along the way proposed additions or changes can be made to the budget by motion. Typically once we set the public hearing, we don't like to make changes this way the public is seeing the same budget that they're going to be talking about at the hearing. Once the hearing is open and the public has spoken you can then make motions, make changes, propose things, and if they're approved that will become part of the final budget adopted for the fiscal year, which commences June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Ilan Fuchs: As you know, we cannot have a quorum to work on the budget. You all have a copy of last year's budget, which can be used as a starting point. I encourage everybody to review last year's budget, to help come up with comments and ideas. Again, you cannot meet at all to discuss these items as a group for obvious reasons. So we will need to do this by email again, not as a group, just to me and we understand it's cumbersome, but it is what it is. So please review it. I know for some of you this is a new experience and it's extremely important. So your input is most important. So please take the next few days and think about it and what's on the table. Think about the numbers because we do have a deadline. So during early March, let's start bouncing the numbers you think are appropriate.

Mendy Lasker: Asks the Village Clerk to please email each Board Member individually and send them last year's budget

Ilan Fuchs: If any of the Board Members have any questions they can contact me or Mr. Nugent.

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### **Asking Governor to increase AIM Funding**

Ilan Fuchs: NYCOM has been organizing municipalities over the state to petition the governor to increase the revenue sharing stream between the municipalities and the state of New York as long as the amount there hasn't been decreased for the aim for several years. And this is again NYCOM who is organizing a joint appeal to the governor to increase that, this has been going on for 15 years. I think everybody would agree it's definitely appropriate. There is a sample of the resolution in your meeting packet.

#### **Sample Resolution Calling for an Increase in AIM Funding**

**Whereas**, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program plays a critical role in funding essential municipal services for cities and villages across New York State; and

**Whereas**, city and village officials share the same priorities as our state leaders which is to make New York safer and more affordable; and

**Whereas**, New York's local governments, who are on the frontlines of controlling property tax affordability and ensuring public safety, are integral to achieving those goals; and

**Whereas**, the State has not increased AIM funding in 15 years and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased by nearly 45% during that same period; and

**Whereas**, this neglect from the State has led to rising municipal tax burdens and harmful disinvestment in essential municipal services and staff; and

**Whereas**, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the services their residents need; and

**Whereas**, the challenges of rising inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid, only accentuate the need for an increase in AIM funding; and

**Whereas**, the Governor's 2024-25 Executive Budget proposes to keep AIM funding flat; and

**Whereas**, an increase in AIM funding would reduce the local tax burden and help revitalize communities across New York;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the Village Board urges Governor Hochul to work with the leaders of the Senate and Assembly and increase AIM funding in the 2024-25 adopted State Budget.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Bill Weber, Assemblymember Ken Zebrowski and the New York State Conference of Mayors.

Ilan Fuchs made a motion to approve the above resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Joel Grunwald. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 5-0.

Ilan Fuchs: The above resolution will be sent to NYCOM tomorrow.

DATED: FEBRUARY 26, 2024

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### **Buildings & Maintenance**

Ilan Fuchs: Finally after many years, the park improvements on Burgess Meredith Park started this week, now that the weather is much better.

**MOTION to authorize the Mayor to facilitate the issuance of an RFP for playground equipment and installation for Secor Park and to set dates for the issuance and return of such RFP upon receipt of specifications from the Village Engineer.**

Mendy Lasker made a motion to authorize the above resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Joel Grunwald. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 5-0.

DATED: FEBRUARY 26, 2024

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### **Trustees Period**

Mendy Lasker: We received 3 pages of pictures of the Burgess Meredith parking lot and all of the mud, from our Code Enforcement Officer. This has been going on because Colonnelli Brothers Inc. is fixing the pipes. Told the Village Clerk to notify Bill, the Code Enforcement Officer this is why the mud is there. The main thing is for the Village Clerk to notify our

Engineer, Harris, from Spence Engineering, who oversees this project and make sure it will be taken care of when the construction is finished.

Ilan Fuchs: Asked the Village Clerk if we have been receiving complaints from residents in regards to things being ruined from the snowplows.

Village Clerk: Yes. This happens every year. The Ramapo Highway Department is always very responsive when I reach out to them about broken curbs and mailboxes. If any other residents do reach out to any of you, they can email me pictures of whatever needs to be fixed and I will have it taken care of right away.

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### **Office Period**

Thank you Trustee Marc Greenberg for making us all aware that 15 Hidden Valley Drive in Suffern had a lot of garbage sitting by the street. After a few attempts at contacting the owners of the property and violations letters being issued, with the help of our Code Enforcement Officer, I am happy to say that all of the garbage has now been removed. Village Clerk thanked the Village Board for being on top of everything and always listening to the residents and the office staff, we really appreciate it.

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Brian Nugent: Earlier we agreed to accommodate the applicants to go upstairs and prepare their application for submission. I just want to note that the Building Inspectors determination rejected the ZBA application as premature because there have been no determinations from which to appeal. So I just want to clarify that I'm not suggesting we're going to disregard his determination, but the other three applications can be accepted as it stands now. The ZBA application has been rejected, not on the merits, but as premature because there's no determination from which there can be an appeal yet.

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Deputy Mayor Mendy Lasker made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:01 pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Marc Greenberg. Upon vote, the motion was carried by all present, passes 5-0.

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Minutes respectfully submitted by

Jenna Antoine, Village Clerk