

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Village of Kensington, 2 Nassau Drive, Great Neck, NY
November 20, 2024
8:00pm – Village Hall

Present: Mayor Susan Lopatkin

Trustees: Deputy Mayor Greener, Brent Greenspan, Andrew Bloom

The Board meeting was brought to order by Mayor Lopatkin at 8:00pm.

Mayor Lopatkin made a motion to approve the October minutes, all in favor.

Mayor Lopatkin opened the ongoing discussion regarding building a pickleball court at the village pool area. We have three bids; One from Creating Landscaping by Cowboy at \$57,500. The second one from My Backyard Sports at \$43,488.60 and the third from Five Star Courts at \$40,800. The board went over all the details of each bid as they were not apples to apples. A question also arose what would be best practice as far as asphalt or concrete. Deputy Mayor Greener will be making some calls. The discussion has been tabled and will continue next month.

Mayor Lopatkin explained that we have been paying \$18K a year for police dispatching and the five- year contract was due to expire. Lieutenant Giraulo has been in contact with the Manhasset Lakeville Fire District negotiating on behalf of the village. The mayor explained that we will now have a 10-year contract at \$20K a year and will be going up 3% every year thereafter. Our police depart has been very happy with their service, Mayor Lopatkin agreed that they provide a great level of service and suggested we continue the contract. Mayor Lopatkin made a motion to accept the new dispatching contract, seconded by Deputy Mayor Greener, all in favor.

New Country Lexus rents parking lot space from the Village at our pool area. Their contract is due to renew so we are looking at the amount of monthly rent the village is receiving and will decide if we will be raising their rent. The mayor will speak with JR Buchbinder and will report back at next months meeting.

Mayor Lopatkin read the following resolution into the minutes regarding our attorneys and tax certiorari proceedings:

**VILLAGE OF KENSINGTON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP's (FDT) Tax Certiorari Practice Group has historically defended the Village in tax certiorari proceedings without the participation or input from the Village Attorney; and

WEHREAS, FDT acquired Koeppl Martone Leistman LLP (KML) which is now a part of FDT's Tax Certiorari Practice Group. KML is a boutique law firm that solely handles tax certiorari cases and has several pending tax certiorari cases in the Village thereby giving rise to a conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS, the Village can waive the conflict provided the FDT Tax Certiorari Practice Group no longer defends the Village in tax certiorari cases and also screens the Village Attorney any other attorneys previously handling tax certiorari cases from participating in the negotiation or settlement of these tax certiorari cases; and

WHEREAS, FDT's Tax Certiorari Practice Group agrees to withdraw as counsel to the Village and also agrees to implement proper safeguards to ensure there is no conflict with the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees previously adopted a resolution appointing John C. Farrell and his firm, Sahn Ward Braff Koblenz PLLC, to defend the Village in all tax certiorari proceeding challenging real estate tax assessments for commercial properties in the Village;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board hereby resolves to waive the conflict of interest for tax certiorari proceedings that FDT's Tax Certiorari Practice Group handles in the Village.

Mayor Lopatkin made a motion to approve the resolution.

VOTING:

SUSAN LOPATKIN, Mayor AYE
JEFFREY GREENER, Deputy Mayor AYE
BRENT GREENSPAN, Trustee AYE
ANDREW BLOOM, Trustee AYE
CAREY YE, Trustee ABSENT

On a motion of Mayor Lopatkin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Greener, accept the Police and Treasurers reports.

On the motion of Mayor Lopatkin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Greener, the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.