

1 VILLAGE OF GREENPORT

2 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK : STATE OF NEW YORK

3 -----x

4 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

5 SPECIAL MEETING

6 -----x

7 Third Street Firehouse

8 April 28, 2023

9 5:30 P.M.

10  
11  
12 B E F O R E:

13 KEVIN STUESSI - MAYOR

14 MARY BESS PHILIPS - DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE

15 PATRICK BRENNAN - TRUSTEE

16 JULIA ROBINS - TRUSTEE

17 LILY DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON - TRUSTEE

18  
19  
20 JOSEPH PROKOP - VILLAGE ATTORNEY

21 JEAN MARIE ODDON - VILLAGE DEPUTY CLERK

22 STEPHEN GAFFGA - TREASURER

23 PAUL PALLAS - VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR (Not Present)

24

25

1 (The Meeting is called to order at 530 p.m.)

2 (Pledge of Allegiance).

3 MAYOR STUESSI: I would like to make a motion  
4 to open the public hearing regarding proposed Local  
5 Law 2023, authorizing a property tax levy in excess  
6 of the limit established in General Municipal Law  
7 Section 3-C. May I have a second, please.

8 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Second.

9 MAYOR STUESSI: All in favor?

10 (ALL AYE).

11 Any opposed?

12 (Negative response).

13 MAYOR STUESSI: Motion carries.

14 Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 (Pledge of Allegiance is recited).

16 MAYOR STUESSI: I would like to open the  
17 meeting to any comments from the public. Is there  
18 is anybody here that would like to speak?

19 (No response).

20 Okay, I will open it up to Board comments then, if  
21 anybody would like to speak from the Board regarding the  
22 matter that we were considering this evening.

23 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Could you just summarize  
24 briefly what the excess is?

25 MAYOR STUESSI: Yes. I'll have Stephen do it

1 for us.

2 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Okay, thank you.

3 MAYOR STUESSI: I think it would be better  
4 served if the Treasurer --

5 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Yes.

6 TREASURER GAFFGA: So the excess amount that  
7 we are looking at is \$150,000 to go above and beyond  
8 what the state 2% permitted tax levy is. That  
9 amount will be filtered through various funds.

10 We are going to be looking to add it to our  
11 operating budgets for the Road Department, for  
12 Mitchell Marina, for McCann's, for our various parks  
13 in the Village, and to supplement some of our  
14 administrative costs, as well as enhancing some of  
15 our code enforcement and safety inspection line  
16 items to help them be able to operate and function  
17 in a better manner than they have been able to under  
18 the tight budgets over the past several years.

19 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Thank you.

20 MAYOR STUESSI: And then the intention, too,  
21 is to potentially bring on another individual onto  
22 the Village team to serve as an economic advisory  
23 position or an economic administrator position  
24 working on grants --

25 MR. GAFFGA: That is correct.

1           MAYOR STUESSI: (Continuing) to try and drive  
2 additional revenue and income into the Village on a  
3 full-time basis, like we discussed at our budget  
4 meeting.

5           TREASURER GAFFGA: Yes. And what we are doing  
6 for it to make that position is we are re-allocating  
7 some General Fund payroll lines from a marina office  
8 worker that was full time, that we've had in the  
9 budget for a couple of years, that we don't feel is  
10 a need, we haven't filled that position in a couple  
11 of years, so we are going to re-allocate the General  
12 Fund portion of that over to this new position, and  
13 then we are also going to increase our revenues from  
14 transferring from reserves from light, water and  
15 sewer to be able to fund the payroll lines and  
16 health insurance benefits for that new position.

17           MAYOR STUESSI: So to be clear, we would be  
18 eliminating a position from the marina department,  
19 which is currently slated and budgeted as a  
20 full-time assistant role to Rick, which he doesn't  
21 need on an annualized basis, he needs the help  
22 during the peak summer business but not during the  
23 winters when things are closed, correct?

24           TREASURER GAFFGA: That's correct. There is  
25 less of a need to have a full-time marine office

1 worker in the winter because there is just not as  
2 much going on down at the marina. Often times we  
3 would send help from the Clerk's office at Village  
4 Hall over there to help. On numerous occasions  
5 that's happened.

6 Typically we fill that role with part-time  
7 help in the summer, and it seems to work well. Rick  
8 feels, our marina manager, feels that it's going to  
9 be just fine without having a full-time person and  
10 filling that position.

11 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: So my question is, and I  
12 don't think it's for you, Stephen, it's probably for  
13 the Mayor. The goal for this new economic  
14 development administrator, or whatever the title  
15 ends up to be, do we have goals for that person as  
16 what we want them to accomplish so we know what the  
17 money is being allocated for?

18 MAYOR STUESSI: That is something we would  
19 bring forward in a follow-up meeting with a complete  
20 job description as well as goals for the individual.

21 My belief and hope would be that that person  
22 will frankly pay for themselves well within their  
23 first six months on the job.

24 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: So you are looking for this  
25 person also not to just deal with the General Fund

1 but also be looking for opportunities for sewer and  
2 electric department?

3 MAYOR STUESSI: Everything across the board;  
4 state, federal and other grants that are available  
5 to the Village from a variety of sources, as we  
6 discussed at our budget meeting.

7 And then, Stephen, could you also address one  
8 of the discussions we've had in the Village  
9 regarding a possible consolidation within the  
10 Treasurer's department, if we potentially look at  
11 eliminating one of the clerks, the one clerk role,  
12 yet to be determined, you know, based upon how  
13 things play out with potentially on boarding the  
14 system to deal with electrical billing and the need  
15 for possibly not having that role.

16 I know it's not yet determined but I think  
17 it's important to bring up for everybody.

18 TREASURER GAFFGA: Yes. So, with bringing an  
19 online billing, we are hoping to alleviate some of  
20 the work requirements that are right now very  
21 tedious, as the Deputy Clerk can attest to  
22 downstairs. There is, we get a lot of paper that  
23 comes in downstairs. There is a lot of bills, we  
24 take a lot of payments over the phone, we take  
25 payments in person, we have checks that are sent to

1 us.

2 So by having online billing and proceeding  
3 with trying to get online billing for our utilities,  
4 we should be able to alleviate some of that stress  
5 and pressure.

6 Within the Treasurer's department, we're, you  
7 know, currently trying to train one of the account  
8 clerks to potentially pick up the role as a Deputy  
9 Treasurer which, you know, that is something that we  
10 are working on, you know, we are not there yet so,  
11 we'll see how far we go along those lines.

12 We've typically operated with three people,  
13 you know, for a number of years, because we've had a  
14 lot of turnover in our department. And there could  
15 be some potential for some personnel savings by not  
16 having to fill that position right away. So that is  
17 what we are looking at right now.

18 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: So you are talking about,  
19 in the Treasurer's department, decreasing the  
20 account -- an accounts payable clerk?

21 MR. GAFFGA: Down the line that could be a  
22 potential option.

23 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay, so downstairs in the  
24 Clerk's office, we, don't we have a position open  
25 for an accounts, an account clerk and an office

1 clerk? I can't think of the proper name.

2 TREASURER GAFFGA: We do. That is correct.

3 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: And we are going to fill  
4 those spots, correct?

5 MR. GAFFGA: That is my understanding.

6 MAYOR STUESSI: There are a total of two clerk  
7 positions open now, and then one Deputy Treasurer  
8 position open within Village Hall.

9 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

10 MAYOR STUESSI: And so the hope is that we end  
11 up in a position where one of those three positions  
12 potentially is not filled because of some of the  
13 onboarding of technology to our system.

14 And you are bringing that over to us in the  
15 next meeting, you'll have that information from the  
16 three companies you are evaluating?

17 MR. GAFFGA: That's my hope. I have a meeting  
18 scheduled for Monday with one of the vendors to get  
19 some price points, and then I can, once I have that  
20 I can run some calculations and see how it falls  
21 within our procurement policy and see, obviously  
22 I'll bring in attorney Prokop to take a look at some  
23 of these, some of the options before us, and  
24 hopefully we'll be able to present something and  
25 move forward without having to go out for an RFP or



1 a bid.

2 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Can I just  
3 clarify? So you are saying possibly down the line  
4 the treasury -- it will be just a Treasurer and a  
5 Deputy Treasurer?

6 TREASURER GAFFGA: No, we are going to need  
7 three people, you know --

8 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Right now it's  
9 three people, but there is an open position.

10 TREASURER GAFFGA: It really depends. We'll  
11 need to see this utility billing system, we'll need  
12 to see how it functions and how much, you know, what  
13 kind of work alleviation there is.

14 You know, I don't want to commit to  
15 eliminating positions without really seeing how it  
16 works. But it's certainly an option.

17 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: So right now there  
18 is four positions, it's just that one of them is not  
19 filled.

20 TREASURER GAFFGA: That's correct.

21 MAYOR STUESSI: No, we have three positions  
22 and one is not filled currently.

23 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Well, I'm talking  
24 about just in the Treasury, I'm talking about.

25 MAYOR STUESSI: Okay.

1 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Thank you, now  
2 it's clear to me.

3 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: I have a comment to make on  
4 this. So my take on this is that we've have just go  
5 gone through a long period of low to no tax growth,  
6 and certainly less than inflation. And this has  
7 both a benefit and a detriment. So on an individual  
8 basis, to a resident of the Village, it's a benefit  
9 to have lower taxes. Of course everyone approves of  
10 lower taxes because it helps keep their cost of  
11 living expenses down. But it's also a detriment to  
12 the Village as a whole because it can leave the  
13 Village underfunded, undercapitalized and  
14 financially constrained.

15 So that problem with the Village being  
16 underfunded is exhibited in a couple of ways right  
17 now, and we can see that in deferred maintenance on  
18 our facilities. So I think we have seen that some  
19 of our facilities are not kept as well as we would  
20 like, right, and we are kind of going through some  
21 projects right now, we're trying to reroute things,  
22 and do all that, and that's great.

23 But we have also been challenged to either  
24 attract key village staff or retain them. And that  
25 is also, you know, there is some pressure on that by

1 the tax revenue being lower.

2 And we have also been spending down reserves  
3 for projects. Now, there is nothing wrong with  
4 spending reserves, that's what they are there for.  
5 But you can't spend reserves without having a  
6 strategy to also replenish reserves. And as far as I  
7 can tell there has not always been a commensurate  
8 strategy for replacing reserves. And so I think we  
9 are still talking about spending reserves even with  
10 this tax cap pierce that we are coming to, right?  
11 Because I think I understood that some of the  
12 enterprise, the utilities, you are going to be  
13 drawing from reserves on some of those?

14 TREASURER GAFFGA: Yes. We are going to need  
15 to, obviously we are currently working on the rate  
16 study, to look at all three of the funds. We'll be  
17 able to, I believe it's a 14-week from that rate  
18 study, once we give them all the data, the time  
19 period is 14 weeks to turn that around. I think it  
20 can be done faster but I'm not going to speak for  
21 them.

22 And then once we have that proposal, we'll be  
23 able to alleviate some of the stress from those  
24 enterprise funds.

25 As to your point about the general fund,

1 every time we come here and we take from reserves,  
2 that is less money in our general fund reserves to  
3 put toward capital projects. It's just less  
4 building, you know, and by piercing the tax cap and  
5 by allowing yourself to put some of that money back  
6 into your operating budget, that alleviates the need  
7 to then tap into your reserves for small projects  
8 like, you know, a small repair, or, you know, a  
9 couple of thousand to purchase, you know, a lawn  
10 mower or something down the line.

11 You no longer have those funds available in  
12 your operating budget because they have been tapped.

13 MAYOR STUESSI: Right.

14 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Well, I think the other  
15 positive for this is that in these line items there  
16 is a truer picture of what their expenses are going  
17 to be. Instead of coming in and doing budge models  
18 on a case-by-case situation and keeping your  
19 reserves, and hopefully we don't have anything come  
20 up that causes that issue to happen. And I think  
21 that that has been, you know, the last couple of  
22 years, the line items have been cut close to  
23 actually what the activities have been.

24 But I think as we get busier they are going  
25 to be, we've have to move things as the Village has

1       become more visited by people, the residents are  
2       here more year-round than they have been. COVID  
3       kind of did us in a little bit with services that  
4       needed to be provided that we were not planning on.

5               I think we were lucky this year we didn't  
6       have a major snow storm, or any major storms. So a  
7       line item budget for me, it makes sense to put money  
8       into it so that we are not hampering the staff from  
9       completing their jobs. I mean, the money is  
10      watched, it has been closely watched by the Treasury  
11      Department for years, they've done a great job. You  
12      and Robert did a great job.

13              But I think that one of the advantages right  
14      now is we've made the decision that the ice rink for  
15      next year is just not going to be because we have to  
16      re-evaluate that. And I think that is money that  
17      probably is incorporated along with this \$150,000 to  
18      kind of re-allocate stuff. Am I right on that?

19              TREASURER GAFFGA: Yes. So we took the ice  
20      rink out of circulation. And that's going to allow  
21      us to also, you know, we pumped a lot of money with  
22      budget amendments into the ice rink, and taking it  
23      reserves, and that could have been used to set  
24      aside, you know, over time, for a more comprehensive  
25      plan to grow.

1           The one thing that the state did when they  
2       put the cap in is that they didn't allow for the  
3       percentages of bills that you have to pay. You  
4       know, your insurances, your health insurance,  
5       payroll costs. Those grow every single year. So  
6       every year the Treasury Department, and Robert  
7       before me, would have to go through and cut,  
8       constantly cut the lines to make sure that we can  
9       pay those that we have to pay, that Rob would have  
10      to pay, and then also function on a yearly basis.  
11      And it's been very tight for years.

12           Obviously the benefit has been lower taxes,  
13      but we have not been able to maximize the services  
14      to the point where, you know, we can put money away  
15      for capital projects and also operate and function  
16      in a better manner.

17           TRUSTEE BRENNAN: So, to the extent that we  
18      have not approached the tax cap in prior years,  
19      that's money kind of lost. We cannot recoup. My  
20      understanding is that there is a calculation that  
21      allows us to kind of claw back a third of the prior  
22      year's deficit? Is that right?

23           MR. GAFFGA: Yeah, it's a calculation, I think  
24      you can do, it's whichever one, the state tells you  
25      which one you can choose, basically, but it's like

1 one-and-a-half per cent of what the total budget  
2 was, they allow you, you know, you can take that  
3 much more, along with the two per cent in that year.

4 And I mean, over the course of the years, and  
5 I think I stated it at the budget hearing, is that  
6 we left about \$160,000 behind by not increasing  
7 taxes over those years.

8 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: So this \$150,000 proposed  
9 tax cap pierce is a way to reset the tax cap  
10 calculations in a sense going forward, right?  
11 Because we are getting a small bump up.

12 TREASURER GAFFGA: Correct. It will get us  
13 closer to where we would have been had we been  
14 taking the limit every year.

15 So it's one way to get it a little closer and  
16 to give us a little breathing room.

17 MAYOR STUESSI: But still won't make up for  
18 what inflation was over that period of time,  
19 correct?

20 MR. GAFFGA: Correct.

21 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: But also our debt service,  
22 Mitchell Park is paid off this coming August?

23 MR. GAFFGA: Yes. This year is the last year.

24 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: So that's the last year for  
25 that, and we really have, our debt ratio is not that

1 large, if I remember correctly, compared to other  
2 municipalities. So our interest rates, hopefully we  
3 can keep them, by doing this, we can keep together  
4 and not having to go after bond. We are going to  
5 have to do something with the bulkhead. That's  
6 going to be -- that is going to be something that we  
7 are definitely going to be looking for help for  
8 that. But there is going to be some amount of money  
9 that is probably going to have to come out of  
10 somewhere.

11 MAYOR STUESSI: Without a doubt. And as I  
12 mentioned during our budget hearing at the last  
13 worksession, that we're putting together a capital  
14 plan for all assets of the Village, and we'll be  
15 looking for each of you to assist with, too, as far  
16 as literally listing every single building by  
17 building, and anything else the Village owns,  
18 together with then prioritizing, which is the  
19 immediate priority, hence the Mitchell Park marina  
20 bulkhead being a big one. And we are going to go  
21 through all of that, and do what we can, obviously,  
22 to get state and federal funding and grants, but if  
23 we do have to look into bonding, that will be  
24 obviously something that we have to do.

25 There are a number of things that are highly



1 critical. Mitchell Park is a big one. The other  
2 thing we learned just the other day, I walked all of  
3 the paving with our contractor together with Rick  
4 from the marina, and there is a number of areas  
5 where it's not just the grout between the stones  
6 that is failing, but water damage which has gotten  
7 underneath all of those and is making it  
8 significantly worse. So it's not a simple thing of  
9 just replacing grout. It's literally resetting all  
10 of that.

11 So there may be a number of things like that  
12 that we obviously are going to be spending the next  
13 few months working on and prioritizing what needs to  
14 be done.

15 TRUSTEE ROBINS: Yes, those bluestone pavers  
16 over the last three or four years have really taken  
17 a beating. And you are right, literally cracking  
18 and picking up, things like that. Exactly.

19 The other thing is we have that ferry project  
20 and the fact that we've bonded for that, I mean,  
21 that money will come back if the DEC ever kind of  
22 moves forward with this, but, you know.

23 MAYOR STUESSI: Yeah, that's a challenge. We  
24 have a meeting next week on it because there is a  
25 time horizon on some of the existing funding, which

1 is going to run out, and I'm hopeful will  
2 potentially solve that. But we may need to find  
3 ourselves going back for a year, in due course.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINS: Make sure that bond doesn't  
5 just get dumped in our lap without, being  
6 re-enforced by the --

7 MAYOR STUESSI: No, and one of the other  
8 things is, I saw that the North Ferry is looking to  
9 potentially increase their rates. I know the  
10 Village went down the route several years back and  
11 looked to see if we might be able to purchase, and  
12 somehow and was not able to at that time. It's  
13 something I intend to bring back in front of this  
14 Board to see if we are able to do so, because  
15 obviously there is a significant amount of traffic  
16 and wear and tear on the Village from the ferry. So  
17 I want to do whatever we can to explore possibly  
18 looking into that has a Board, together with the  
19 County and the North Ferry.

20 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: So we are anticipating that  
21 we'll be bonding things in the future and so our  
22 credit rating is key to our bonding ability.

23 MAYOR STUESSI: Without a doubt. Yes.

24 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: And I think you had  
25 mentioned to us at the last meeting that one of the

1 key aspects of maintaining a good credit rating is  
2 having adequate capital reserves.

3 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Correct.

4 MR. GAFFGA: That's correct. There are two  
5 aspects to it, and I just want to address what  
6 Trustee Robins said. We have not actually borrowed  
7 the money from the North Ferry. We've authorized to  
8 borrow the money but we have not actually borrowed  
9 it.

10 In regards to our credit rating, there's two  
11 important things. You want to have, they look at  
12 the, they do look at our budget and our reserves.  
13 They look to see how healthy our finances are in  
14 terms of how much money we have in reserves and how  
15 we are keeping it like that.

16 But they also look at how much debt we take  
17 on in certain timeframes. So there is a delicate  
18 balance there. We don't want to take on too many  
19 large projects at once because that will end up  
20 hurting your credit rating, and as we know right  
21 now, interest rates are very high, and that can  
22 increase exponentially if you allow yourself to get  
23 too stretched with debt.

24 So you want to make sure that you have plan  
25 where as you are borrowing, you are paying off, you

1 know, over the course of time. It's really the best  
2 way to do it.

3 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: So this proposal in a way is  
4 going to help bolster or at least protect our credit  
5 rating, correct?

6 MR. GAFFGA: Yes.

7 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: So I think people,  
8 residents, the public, would think, well, we don't  
9 want to pierce the tax cap so that the Village has  
10 too fat of a budget, because most individuals,  
11 especially small business owners, know that they'd  
12 like to see a lean operation, right, and the Village  
13 is already burning kind of lean. But the Village  
14 has obligations and we have to be able to fulfill  
15 those obligations. And we can't be too constrained.

16 I would like the public to know that as  
17 Trustees we have a fiduciary obligation to make sure  
18 that this tax revenue is spent wisely and deployed  
19 wisely, so I'm sure we'll all be doing that, and  
20 have been doing that, and will continue to do that.

21 So, I would like to reassure you that we'll  
22 try to be prudent and wise with this additional tax  
23 revenue.

24 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I think that the Village  
25 residents look at the Board as taking the

1 responsibilities, which we have for the last couple  
2 of years, there were some tough years way back when  
3 I first got on the Board in 2009, and there was some  
4 hard decisions that were made as to what we could  
5 provide service for and what we can't.

6 We've come a long way from that, and that  
7 theme has always been look at the money responsibly.

8 I think on the other hand we have a community  
9 that is looking to us to provide services for them  
10 that they feel that we should be providing. And I  
11 think that this budget will help us move that along  
12 into the next stage.

13 And, yes, the Moody rating is very important.  
14 When you refinance Mitchell Park, it helped us  
15 completely get into a new mode of being in a  
16 different direction. That money that was saved with  
17 the interest was able to go back into the line items  
18 over the years. But that has come to an end.

19 So we do need to think about, number one,  
20 generating more revenue, which I think we all are  
21 thinking about down the road. That is one thing.  
22 But we need to keep the capital reserves in a  
23 position where our Moody rating stays at, what is  
24 it, Al? What is our Moody rating.

25 TREASURER GAFFGA: AA3.

1 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: AA3. Which is a good  
2 rating. We've worked hard to get to that. So that's  
3 the one thing that I'll be looking on continuously,  
4 as I have in the past.

5 MAYOR STUESSI: Good. And then I'll also make  
6 note that Treasurer Gaffga added in the mini train  
7 to the budget, and that's something we'll be  
8 discussing further at our next work session, to make  
9 certain that there is a plan to run and manage it  
10 efficiently and effectively so that the children of  
11 the community and those visiting can enjoy it. But  
12 that we are also maintaining it properly, which is  
13 important.

14 With that, I'm pleased to say that the group  
15 that has been working on the skate park has done  
16 some great fundraising. They've got matching grants  
17 from somebody who is going to donate a very  
18 significant amount of money if they can raise the  
19 money publicly. So that's a wonderful thing to see,  
20 and will certainly be helpful to getting the skate  
21 park back in the condition so people can enjoy it  
22 the way it was meant to be, with less burden on the  
23 Village because of some of this fundraising, which  
24 is nice to see the community has done that.

25 Does anyone else have any questions on this,

1 or comments?

2 Lily? Good? Mary Bess?

3 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I'm fine.

4 Patrick? Julia?

5 TRUSTEE ROBINS: I'm good, thank you.

6 MAYOR STUESSI: With that, I'll make a motion to  
7 close the public hearing. May I have a second, please?

8 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Second.

9 MAYOR STUESSI: All in favor?

10 (ALL AYE).

11 MAYOR STUESSI: Any opposed?

12 (No response).

13 The public hearing is closed. And with that,  
14 I will make a motion to open the public meeting of  
15 the Board of Trustees on Local Law of 2023,  
16 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the  
17 limit established in General Municipal Law Section  
18 3-c. I'll make a motion to open it. May I have a  
19 second, please?

20 TRUSTEE ROBINS: Second.

21 MAYOR STUESSI: All in favor?

22 (ALL AYE).

23 Any opposed?

24 (No response).

25 Motion carries. The meeting is open.

1 Joe, would you like to us to do a vote on  
2 this or should we move on to the Resolution first?

3 MR. PROKOP: The Resolution would be adopting  
4 the Local Law. I just wanted to mention a couple of  
5 things about this Local Law.

6 It's my recommendation that the Board  
7 determine this a Type II action for purposes of  
8 SEQRA and therefore no SEQRA review is required.

9 And the law is, as it states on its face,  
10 it's a law that's provided for under the General  
11 Municipal Law Section 3-c, which allows Boards of  
12 Villages to exceed the limit of taxation that is  
13 imposed by that section.

14 So you could adopt this now with a motion to  
15 approve it and adopt the Resolution that we provided  
16 to the Board.

17 MAYOR STUESSI: Okay, is there anything else  
18 you would like me to say beyond that?

19 MR. PROKOP: No, I think that's it.

20 MAYOR STUESSI: Okay. As Mayor, I would like  
21 to make a motion to approve the Local Law 2023  
22 authorizing property tax levy in excess of the limit  
23 established in General Municipal Law in Section 3-c.

24 May I have a second, please.

25 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Second.



1 MAYOR STUESSI: Any discussion?

2 (No response).

3 All in favor?

4 (ALL AYE).

5 Any opposed?

6 (No response).

7 Motion passes.

8 Deputy Mayor, would you like to read the

9 Resolution regarding the LGBT parade?

10 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

11 MAYOR STUESSI: Then we can discuss the map  
12 that has been provided with a little more clarity.

13 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Resolution approving tabled  
14 Resolution 04-2023-22 amending Resolution number  
15 01-2023-14 for the approved Public Assembly Permit  
16 application as submitted by Robert Vitelli on behalf  
17 of the New York LGBT Network and amending said  
18 Resolution for the following road closures.

19 Road closure from Center Street down Main  
20 Street and Front Street to Third Street from 9:00 AM  
21 to 5:00 PM. The parade route street closure from  
22 Broad Street down Main Street, Front Street to Third  
23 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. so moved.

24 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Second.

25 MAYOR STUESSI: Any discussion?

1 (No response).

2 All in favor?

3 (ALL AYE).

4 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Sorry, can I ask a  
5 question? Is it still going to 4:00 and the 5:00 is  
6 just for clean up?

7 MAYOR STUESSI: Correct. And then you'll note  
8 with the color-coordinated map, which was very  
9 nicely done by the team in the office earlier today,  
10 they talked to Linda Kessler who offered some advice  
11 based upon the Maritime Festival schedule that  
12 everything is laid out very clearly and there is  
13 enough time for all of the set up and then break  
14 down post parade, and then post the event itself in  
15 the small enclosure area.

16 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: The only comment that I  
17 will make is that perhaps tomorrow, Mary, you should  
18 call Chief Flatley to inform him of this because  
19 they'll have to be, because it happens to be  
20 graduation weekend in Southold and in Mattituck high  
21 school graduation weekend, so I'm sure that he will  
22 be trying to put staffing together.

23 MAYOR STUESSI: Yes, one of the things the  
24 Chief and I discussed at breakfast last week is that  
25 moving forward, the Village will be providing a

1 monthly calendar to them, which will be updated  
2 every time we have a meeting with anything, you  
3 know, in the following months as it comes up. So  
4 this will absolutely be on there and we'll have a  
5 discussion regarding the needs and emergency  
6 services, too.

7 I'll mention one other thing. We will have  
8 two bicycle and foot patrol this summer from the  
9 police department. We've only had one the past  
10 couple of summers, so I thought that was very good  
11 news for from the Chief. One of them in fact is a  
12 Greenport high school basketball star.

13 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Ryan Creighton.

14 MAYOR STUESSI: Yup. Should be wonderful.

15 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: I do have a question on  
16 this. So I'm glad we have a lot more information  
17 than we had yesterday, and the information is  
18 correct. Thank you.

19 I'm still unclear about what is happening  
20 during the street festival part. I know there was  
21 some talk about having local vendors. Do we know  
22 any more about that?

23 MAYOR STUESSI: So the group, it's an outside  
24 group working together with Lori who owns The Craft  
25 Hair, who is the one who sponsors it. And they are

1 engaging with the BID, and Linda Kessler is playing  
2 a role with the BID to bring in the local  
3 restaurants and retailers to participate in that.

4 Do you know anything else beyond that, Julia?

5 TRUSTEE ROBINS: That was the conversation I  
6 had with Linda this morning as well.

7 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Are they charging  
8 for the like spots in front of stores?

9 TRUSTEE ROBINS: That, I don't know.

10 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Would you mind, the e-mail  
11 that was forwarded to me with the further  
12 description for everything, not all the Board  
13 members got that this morning. Can I send that on?

14 MAYOR STUESSI: Yes. Absolutely.

15 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: That will explain to you,  
16 Patrick, what their whole goal is.

17 MAYOR STUESSI: I don't think it spoke  
18 specifically about the vendors though, right?

19 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: No, but that was in their  
20 pamphlet that I e-mailed -- the PDF that I e-mailed  
21 to you.

22 I think though that you had heard at the BID  
23 meeting that it was to, it was really to be for  
24 local --

25 MAYOR STUESSI: Yes, what they told us in the

1 BID meeting was that they were very much looking to  
2 engage the local retailers and restaurateurs and  
3 there would be a much more limited group of  
4 outsiders.

5 TRUSTEE ROBINS: That's what I have in my  
6 notes from the meeting yesterday.

7 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Yes. So I would like to  
8 encourage that. My concern is that the local  
9 retailers are largely already present in the  
10 streetscape, right? They have their space. I know  
11 there are some, there are people outside of these  
12 two streets that are also local.

13 It seems like a large area to fill with local  
14 vendors and I would just hope that they can  
15 accomplish that. Because, first, I'm not really  
16 that interested in having vendors that come from too  
17 far away. I think I kind of would like to support  
18 the local community.

19 MAYOR STUESSI: Yeah, I mean, my whole  
20 preference would be to see the Maritime Festival do  
21 more of that than I have seen in recent years, and  
22 utilize more of the local vendors.

23 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Yes, my concern is  
24 there are some issues sometimes at Maritime with  
25 vendors being in front of local stores, you know,

1 businesses are there year-round feel a little left  
2 out.

3 MAYOR STUESSI: I will say, at this point, I  
4 feel comfortable that that is not only their  
5 intention but they are committed to doing it,  
6 because Linda Kessler is involved and then also Lori  
7 who owns Craft Hair has made it very clear that that  
8 is their intention, too. So I think we can hold them  
9 accountable to it.

10 So I'll make a motion for approval of this  
11 Resolution.

12 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: I'll second it.

13 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I would say we have already  
14 had a first and a second. We just need to vote.

15 MAYOR STUESSI: So you made the first, who  
16 made the second? Just for the record.

17 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Lily did.

18 MAYOR STUESSI: All right, all in favor?

19 (ALL AYE).

20 Any opposed?

21 (No response).

22 Motion carries.

23 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Do you want me to read the  
24 second one?

25 MAYOR STUESSI: Yes.

1 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Resolution authorizing the  
2 suspension of the open container law of the Village  
3 of Greenport per sections 35-3B and 35-3C of the  
4 Greenport Village Code, within the Festival  
5 parameters of the New York LGBT Network Festival,  
6 from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on June 24th, 2023.  
7 So moved.

8 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Second.

9 Can I ask a question about this, which is  
10 just in the discussions did we, for the health,  
11 Board of Health requirement, and all that discussed,  
12 that they know that they need to get those. And  
13 whatever other.

14 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I'm assuming Linda --  
15 Mayor, you mentioned that Linda is involved. I'm  
16 sure she's mentioned to them they have to get to the  
17 State Liquor Authority and the Suffolk County Board  
18 of Health if they are going to have food vendors.

19 MAYOR STUESSI: The only thing I'm questioning  
20 on this is the 9:00 a.m. time for the open  
21 container. It would seem to me that there is no  
22 reason for that until the parade actually starts at  
23 noon. So I would like to make an amendment to this  
24 and change it to noon. Noon to 5:00 PM.

25 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay, I'll second that.

1 MAYOR STUESSI: All in favor?

2 (ALL AYE) .

3 Any opposed?

4 (No response) .

5 Motion carries.

6 MAYOR STUESSI: With that, I would like to --

7 MR. GAFFGA: We have to approve the Resolution  
8 changing the times and we have to adopt the budget  
9 as amended.

10 MAYOR STUESSI: Okay, that's not on here.

11 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Here it is.

12 MAYOR STUESSI: Where?

13 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: (Indicating).

14 Joe, do we need to read all of these  
15 Resolutions?

16 MR. PROKOP: You don't need read them.

17 MAYOR STUESSI: So all we need to do is  
18 approve the Resolution adopting, so I'll make a  
19 motion to approve the Resolution adopting the  
20 2023-2024 tentative budget as amended.

21 MR. PROKOP: Excuse me. I think that you  
22 should -- the first motion should be to amend the  
23 tentative budget pursuant to the schedule. Amend  
24 the 2023-2024 tentative budget pursuant to the  
25 schedule that is contained in today's agenda. And



1       that agenda will be made part of the record so we  
2       don't have so read each one.

3               MAYOR STUESSI: Okay.     Seeing as this is not  
4       in here, I would respectfully ask you to repeat that  
5       so I can restate it and call for a vote.

6               MR. PROKOP: Yes, sir.   The motion that I  
7       recommend is motion to amend the 2023-2024 tentative  
8       budget pursuant to the schedule of amendments that  
9       are contained in the agenda for today's meeting,  
10      which will become part of the record.

11              MAYOR STUESSI: Okay, I would like to make a  
12      motion to adopt the 2023-2024 tentative budget with  
13      the Resolutions that are listed herein, to be  
14      entered into the record.

15              Can I have a second, please.

16              TRUSTEE ROBINS: Second.

17              TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Julia seconded.

18              MAYOR STUESSI: Any discussion?

19              (Negative response).

20              All in favor?

21              (ALL AYE).

22              Any opposed?

23              (No response).

24              The motion carries.

25              Is there anything else I need to say, Joe,

1       beyond --

2               MR. PROKOP: No, you combined the two into one  
3       Resolution, which is fine. You just took one vote to  
4       combine the two. You did the amendment, you amended  
5       it and you approved it in one Resolution, which I  
6       think is fine. Or would you like a separate?

7               So the final vote is -- I'm sorry?

8               MAYOR STUESSI: No, go ahead.

9               MR. PROKOP: Why don't we have a separate vote  
10       just on the adoption of the tentative budget as  
11       amended.

12              MAYOR STUESSI: I would like to make a motion  
13       to adopt the 2023-2024 budget as amended. May I  
14       have a second, please.

15              TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I'll second that.

16              MAYOR STUESSI: Any discussion?

17              (No response).

18              All in favor?

19              (ALL AYE).

20              Any opposed?

21              (No response).

22              The motion carries.

23              MR. PROKOP: Thank you.

24              MAYOR STUESSI: Anything else?

25              MR. PROKOP: No.

1           MAYOR STUESSI: All right, with that, I'll  
2       close the meeting. I'll make a motion to close the  
3       meeting. Do I have a second, please?

4           TRUSTEE ROBINS: Second.

5           MAYOR STUESSI: All in favor?

6           (ALL AYES) .

7           Any opposed?

8           (No response) .

9           MAYOR STUESSI: The meeting is closed.

10          (The time noted is 6:07 PM) .

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1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

2

3 STATE OF NEW YORK )

4 ) SS:

5 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK )

6

7 I, WAYNE GALANTE, a Court Reporter and  
8 Notary Public for and within the State of New York,  
9 do hereby certify:

10 THAT, the above and foregoing contains a true  
11 and correct transcription of the proceedings taken  
12 on April 28th, 2023.

13 I further certify that I am not related to  
14 any of the parties to this action by blood or  
15 marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the  
16 outcome of this matter.

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
18 hand this 1st day of May, 2023.

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Wayne Galante  
Wayne Galante