

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, April 2, 2020 via Virtual Webex/Go To Meeting (normally held at Lawrence Village Hall, 196 Central Avenue, Lawrence, New York 11559) Convened by conference call-in.

To join by phone: 1-408-418-9388

Meeting number (access code): 790 868 469

Notice having been given, the public had access to the meeting and several members did participate.

Those members present were: Mayor Alex H. Edelman  
Deputy Mayor Michael A. Fragin  
Trustee Daniel J. Goldstein  
Trustee Uri Kaufman  
Trustee Syma F. Diamond

Also present were: Ronald Goldman, Village Administrator  
Gerry Castro, Deputy Village Clerk  
Lina Fusco, Deputy Village Treasurer  
Village Attorney, Peter Bee, Esq.  
Alison Cohen, Secretary to the BOT

**WORK SESSION** - Mayor Edelman called the work session to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Board Action:** No board action was taken.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Edelman called the regular meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

April 2, 2020, 8:05 p.m.

#### **Public Hearing #1 regarding the proposed 2020 – 2021 General Budget**

**Board Action:** A motion was made to open the Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2020 – 2021 General Budget. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued among the Board of Trustees (BOT). As the 2020 – 2021 General Budget was presented, the tax rate was \$89.50 per \$100 of assessed value, adjusted to offset the loss of revenue due to the lowering of assessments by Nassau County from

the prior year; so as not to dip into the Village's reserves to cover expenditures/costs. After much discussion and in deference to the financial stress caused by the Coronavirus, it was agreed by all that Deputy Treasurer Lina Fusco would lower the tax rate to \$87.00 per \$100 of assessed value. This was agreed on by all.

**Board Action:** Upon hearing no further comments a motion was made to close the Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2020 – 2021 General Budget. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Board Action:** Trustee Goldstein moved to adopt the proposed final 2020 – 2021 Tentative General Budget, as amended, with the following (discussed) changes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adoption of the 2020 – 2021 General Budget** (available at Village Hall and on the Village website)

**Board Action:** A motion was made, pursuant to section 5-508 of the NYS Village Law, to approve the final 2020 – 2021 General Budget as changed/amended (below and per the discussion), as the 2020 – 2021 General Budget of estimated revenues and expenditures of the Village of Lawrence for the fiscal year June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 (available on the Village website); and the same be approved and adopted as filed. The vote was as follows:

Mayor Edelman – Aye  
Deputy Mayor Fragin – Aye  
Trustee Goldstein – Aye  
Trustee Kaufman – Aye  
Trustee Diamond – Aye

All in favor. (The motion carried unanimously.)

**Set tax rate and authorize issuance of tax warrants**

**Board Action:** A motion was made to adopt the following Resolution regarding the collection of taxes under the approved/adopted 2020 – 2021 Budget:

WHEREAS,

(a) A budget of estimated revenues and expenditures of the Village of Lawrence for the fiscal year June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 was adopted by the Board of Trustees at this meeting following a Public Hearing thereon pursuant to Section 5-508 of the Village Law; and

(b) Taxes in the amount of \$2,635,950.00 are required for the purpose of meeting the proposed expenditures provided for in such budget; and

(c) It has been further determined that such taxes be apportioned against all of the taxable property in the Village of Lawrence as set forth on the 2020 assessment roll, at the rate of \$87.00 on each \$100 of assessed valuation thereon, except properties of the Long Island Railroad Company which shall be taxed in accordance with the provisions of the Real Property Tax Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the provisions of Section 1420 of the Real Property Tax Law, the Village Clerk be and he hereby is authorized and directed to extend and carry out on such roll the amount to be collected from the owners of properties listed therein as hereinabove specified.

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Edelman – Aye  
Deputy Mayor Fragin – Aye  
Trustee Goldstein – Aye  
Trustee Kaufman – Aye  
Trustee Diamond – Aye

All in favor. (The motion carried unanimously.)

**Board Action:** A motion was made to adopt the following Resolution which would set the tax rate of \$87.00 as reflected in the 2020 – 2021 Tentative Budget:

RESOLVED,

(a) That pursuant to Section 1420 of the Real Property Tax Law, the following funds necessary to meet the obligations of the Village of Lawrence for the fiscal year June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021 be raised by levy of tax on all taxable property in the Village of Lawrence as set forth on the 2020 assessment roll of the Village (being the assessment roll completed on April 1, 2020):

Total amount of budget for the fiscal year June 1, 2020 to and including May 31, 2021 as adopted by the Board of Trustees following the Public Hearing thereon held April 2, 2020	\$ 6,370,050
LESS: Appropriated Surplus	\$ 1,379,387
LESS: Estimated Revenues for 2020/21	\$ 2,354,713
Leaving a balance to be raised by Tax Levy of	\$ 2,635,950

(b) That the tax rate for the collection of said Village Tax Levy be fixed at \$87.00 per \$100 of assessed valuation on such taxable property.

(c) That said taxes shall be collected in two equal installments pursuant to the provisions of Section 1434 of the Real Property Tax Law, the first installment to become due and payable June 1, 2020 and the second installment to become due and payable December 1, 2020; and

(d) That the Mayor be and he hereby is authorized to execute and deliver to the Village Clerk a warrant directing him/her to proceed with the collection of such taxes, as provided in Article 14 of the Real Property Tax Law. (Template attached hereto as "Exhibit A")

The vote was as follows:

Mayor Edelman – Aye  
Deputy Mayor Fragin – Aye  
Trustee Goldstein – Aye  
Trustee Kaufman – Aye  
Trustee Diamond – Aye

All in favor. (The motion carried unanimously.)

#### **PUBLIC HEARING #2 - Public Hearing regarding the annual 2020 Stormwater Management Report**

Village Counsel Peter Bee explained that the 2020 Annual Stormwater Management Report is available for viewing on the Village's website and at Village Hall. He went on to explain that every year the Village is required to file an Annual Stormwater Management Report showing that it is meeting its goals as set forth in the SPDES Permit that was adopted in 2003. An annual Public Hearing is required prior to the annual filing of the aforementioned Report as well.

**Board Action:** A motion was made to open the Public Hearing regarding the annual 2020 Stormwater Management Report (MS4). The motion was passed unanimously.

**Board Action:** Upon hearing no further comment(s) or discussion, a motion was made to close the Public Hearing regarding the annual 2020 Stormwater Management Report (MS4). The motion was passed unanimously.

**Board Action:** Trustee Goldstein moved to adopt the annual 2020 Stormwater Management Report (MS4) as presented to the Board. The motion was passed unanimously.

Village Attorney Peter Bee commented that the 2020 Annual Stormwater Management Report can now be filed as presented to the Board.

**Approval of minutes:** BOT March 12, 2020

**Board Action:** Mayor Edelman moved the approval of the March 12, 2020 BOT meeting minutes. The motion was passed unanimously, with one abstention from Trustee Diamond, who was not in attendance at the March 12<sup>th</sup> BOT meeting.

**GOOD & WELFARE**

- 1) Mayor Edelman stated that he had spoken to the supermarkets Seasons and Gourmet Glatt (in Cedarhurst), directing them to implement “one-way aisles” in order to limit the number of people who come in contact with each other, traversing the aisles. This seemed to be working well to facilitate the new social distancing norm.
- 2) Mayor Edelman noted that the staffing of Village Hall is being kept to a minimum and consistent with the limitations (due to the possible spread of the Coronavirus), Deputy Village Administrator Gerry Castro had forwarded all of the phone calls coming in to Village Hall to their respective employee’s cell phones. This seemed to be working smoothly and keeping operations flowing in order to serve the residents.
- 3) Mayor Edelman had already discussed the placement of an emergency health facility at Shor Yoshuv during the Work Session.
- 4) Mayor Edelman stated that although the LY&CC was closed, golf was open (with precautions) on a limited basis; one person per golf cart; maintaining at least a 10 – 15 minute distance between golf carts that go out. There will be no congregating allowed and each golf cart is washed down/sanitized between each and every usage. So far it seems to be running smoothly, but remains open to continued reevaluation.
- 5) John Cheshire, of Kemper Sports Management, reported that the LY&CC golf course was open in a limited way and the grounds are being maintained in order to stay in good shape. He went on to say that, again, although the golf course was open, the carts were limited to one person at a time, and being spread out (for social distancing); and that there was minimal staffing in order to prevent the spreading of the Coronavirus. Mr. Cheshire added that they are continuing to support the community and communicate as best they can, and that only the golf course was open right now. Further into April the opening of any other portion of the LY&CC will be reviewed, at that time. Advertising was being slowed (due to

lack of interest during this Pandemic) right now and the use of social media was the primary source of advertising/marketing currently. Mr. Cheshire went on to say that when the backend of this Pandemic is nearer/in sight, the increase of advertising would be reviewed at that time. He added that due to the lack of interest currently, they are trying to be conservative and sensitive to that. This seems to be occurring with all clubs on Long Island and even more so in New Jersey, where the golf is closed. Hopefully as we move more toward the summer, this will change for the better.

Trustee Goldstein stated that he had seen golf carts being driven too fast and asked if the golfers could please be advised that due to the increased pedestrian traffic with people staying home (due to the Pandemic), to be more careful and drive more slowly with that in mind.

- 6) Trustee Kaufman noted that, being out on his bicycle and home/around as well, that he had observed that people were not maintaining social distancing on the LY&CC golf course. Mayor Edelman concurred and Mr. Cheshire stated that he would reinforce that as well.
- 7) Deputy Mayor Fragin wanted to remind the Village residents to fill out (and submit) their 2020 Census Forms.
- 8) Village Administrator Ronald Goldman requested, respectfully that the Board resolve to thank the staff who have been coming in to Village Hall and risking their own health to do so; Mr. Castro and Ms. Fusco in particular; commending the staff for their dedication. The Board agreed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Item 1 – Approve Abstracts #'s**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b># 993, 994, 995, 996, 997</b>
<b>Recreation Fund</b>	<b># 431, 432, 433, 434, 435</b>
<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b># 124</b>
<b>Payroll</b>	<b># 032020, 040320</b>

**Board Action:** Mayor Edelman moved the approval of General Fund Abstracts #993, #994, #995, #996 and #997. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Board Action:** Trustee Goldstein moved the approval of Recreation Fund Abstracts #431, #432, #433, #434, and #435. The motion passed unanimously.



**Board Action:** Trustee Kaufman moved the approval of; Sewer Fund Abstract #124. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Action:** Mayor Edelman moved the approval of Payroll Fund Abstracts #032020 and #040320. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Item 2 – Approval to go out to bid for E.V. Charging Stations**

**Board Action:** Trustee Goldstein moved the approval to go out to bid for E.V. Charging Stations. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Item 3 –Announce plans for revised Passover preparations**

Mayor Edelman announced that, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Village would be cancelling the public Chometz Burning/disposal, at the Lawrence LIRR train station, on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Village Administrator Ronald Goldman read aloud a letter that would be distributed to Village residents the following week, with the Chometz disposal update(s), following the recommendations of the clergy. "This year there will not be a public burning or drop off of Chometz. This year all Chometz is to be placed in plastic garbage bag(s) (not garbage cans that belong to you); between 7:00 a.m. and 11:51 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>; and placed curbside in front of your home, (thus declared Hefker/annulled/odorless); for collection by Sanitary District #1. All other garbage will be picked up at the regular time and at the regular location. We appreciate your cooperation and wish you and your family a happy, healthy and safe holiday." The letter would be signed by the Mayor. The synagogues will also send out the same letter to their congregants. The Village's DPW will make every effort to supplement the Sanitary District in terms of disposal throughout the week of Passover, because it is expected that the trash content will increase because of the use of paper goods by residents, who now have to remain home. The Mayor went on to say that the DPW staff scheduling has been adjusted accordingly.

## **Item 4 – LY&CC Status Report**

The LY&CC status report was addressed during the Good & Welfare portion of the BOT meeting, by John Cheshire of Kemper Sports Management.

## **Item 5 – Ratify Tennis resurfacing contract**

Deputy Village Administrator Gerry Castro presented (verbally) the three quotes/proposals received by the Village for the annual resurfacing of the LY&CC tennis courts: Northeast Suppliers was \$17,900.00 (the lowest responsible proposal/quote, who had already completed the work, to open the courts originally by May 1st; Century Tennis was \$23,285.00; and Championship Tennis was \$24,450.00). Discussion ensued at Trustee Diamond's suggestion and it was agreed upon that for next year's annual tennis court resurfacing, it would be discussed and researched with Kemper Sports Management to see if they could negotiate a better price.

**Board Action:** Mayor Edelman moved the approval to ratify the LY&CC tennis court(s) resurfacing by Northeast Suppliers, the lowest responsible proposal/quote, in the amount of \$17,900.00. The motion was unanimously passed, with the understanding that moving forward, Kemper Sports Management would be consulted to endeavor to obtain a better price.

Trustee Kaufman stated that tennis member Barry Borgen complained that the Village was allowing golf but not allowing tennis to open. Mayor Edelman stated that he had also spoken to Mr. Borgen several times regarding the same subject, and received a letter thanking the Mayor for his efforts and concern. There was considerable backlash from other members for the LY&CC not to open tennis on April 1<sup>st</sup>, as originally discussed, due to the Coronavirus concerns.

#### **Item 6 – Approval to go out to bid for Surveillance Cameras**

**Board Action:** Trustee Goldstein moved the approval to go out to bid for Surveillance Cameras. The motion passed unanimously.

Park Commission Vice Chairperson Jacqueline Handel stated that she has been contacted by some of the members concerned with their membership due to the possibility of reduced playing time. Ms. Handel said that she would discuss this further with Mayor Edelman and Trustee Diamond.

Nassau Herald Senior Editor Jeff Bessen had been on the virtual meeting.

Lawrence Civic Association President Paris Popack greeted the Board, having listened to the whole meeting and declared that "she's good".

Mayor Edelman, the Board, Village Administrator Ronald Goldman and Village Counsel Peter Bee thanked Bill DeWitt, Esq. (of Bee Ready) for facilitating the virtual meeting.

On motion by Mayor Edelman seconded by Deputy Mayor Fragin and unanimously approved, the Board adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

This is to certify that I, Ronald Goldman, read the preceding minutes, and they are in all respects a full and correct record of such proceedings.



Ronald Goldman, Administrator,  
Clerk/Treasurer



**EXHIBIT A**

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE

TAX WARRANT

TO RONALD GOLDMAN, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

RECEIVER OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to receive and collect from the several persons named in the tax roll hereunto annexed, the several sums stated in the last column hereof opposite their respective names, being a total of \$2,635,950.36 for Taxes and \$1,306,483.00 for Sewer Rents.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to receive and collect the first half of such sums without additional charge between the first day of June and the first day of July, 2020, both inclusive, and thereafter to collect with such of the sums as have not been theretofore collected, an additional charge of five percentum for the first month or fraction thereof and one percentum for each month or fraction thereof thereafter until paid.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to receive and collect the second half of such sums without additional charge between the first day of December and the thirty first day of December, 2020, both inclusive, and thereafter to collect with such of the sums as have not been theretofore collected, an additional charge of five percentum for the first month or fraction thereof and one percentum for each month or fraction thereof thereafter until paid.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to file tax roll and warrant in your office on or before the first day of February, 2021, and to deliver to the Board of Trustees at the same time an account of the taxes remaining due and unpaid, describing each parcel of real property upon which taxes are unpaid, showing the person or persons to whom the parcel is assessed and showing as to each parcel the amount of tax unpaid.

DATED \_\_\_\_\_ MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_