Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held on September 17, 2019 at 8:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Anthony Colavita
Councilman Glenn Bellitto
Councilman Joseph Dooley
Councilwoman Theresa Nicholson
Councilman Luigi Marcoccia

Present: Town Clerk Linda Laird
Town Attorney Louis Reda
Town Comptroller Dawn Donovan

IV. OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2019 Town Board Meeting as prepared by Town Clerk Linda Laird.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

VI. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A) POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Board reviewed and approved for filing the following reports for August 2019 of Parking Summons, Citation Activity Report, Patrol Activity Report, Statement of Accounts and the Traffic Accident Report.

Chief Bonci reported on an arrest of an individual that had taken place earlier in the day. During a routine stop for a suspended driver’s license, the individual fled the scene in the proximity of the Eastchester Middle/High School and the Anne Hutchinson School. Exercising caution, a “Lock-Out” at the schools was enacted, preventing anyone from entering or exiting the buildings. Councilman Bellitto and Chief Bonci clarified the event was not a Lock Down of the schools. A Lock Down would have required students to stay in place during the Lock Out.

The Chief reported the individual was apprehended and property was recovered. In closing he commended the members of the Police Department and reported there were no injuries.

B) HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT for August 2019 was received for filing.

Superintendent DiLeo reported a new drain system, catch basin and piping was installed on Hewitt Avenue and that the leaf pick-up equipment has been serviced and is ready to go.

C) RECEIVER OF TAXES REPORT for August 2019 was received for filing.

D) TOWN CLERK’S REPORT for July 2019 was received for filing.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A) MEMORANDUM FROM COMPTROLLER RE: BUDGET TRANSFERS/REVISIONS

Councilman Bellitto offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to approve the following Budget Transfers:
On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

**B) MEMORANDUM FROM TOWN CLERK RE: CREDIT CARD PROCESSING SERVICE**

The Town Clerk’s Office has received numerous inquiries regarding the acceptance of credit cards for fees and permits. I’m requesting authorization to conduct a Pilot Program to accept credit cards in the Town Clerk’s Office using VPS.

Value Payment Services (VPS) provides an electronic payment processing service that would enable the Town Clerk’s Office to accept credit cards on site at no cost to the Town. This system works directly with Business Automation Services (BAS) which is the software used to process payments of cash and checks in the Town Clerk’s Office.

VPS would provide a credit card acceptance strip that connects directly to the office computer. All collections can be imported into BAS for a daily reconciliation. Further, VPS has the ability to accept credit card payments on line by creating a site that is linked to the Town website. The Town will not receive any credit card information. All information goes directly to VPS which owns, operates and manages the system.

Per a request from Town Clerk Linda Laird, Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Dooley to approve a RESOLUTION to authorize the Supervisor Colavita to sign an Agreement with VPS to conduct a 1 year Pilot Program to accept credit cards in the Town Clerk’s Office.

On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

**C) MEMORANDUM FROM POLICE CHIEF – PRISONER TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT**

Per a request from Police Chief Tim Bonci, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Supervisor to sign a Prisoner Transportation Agreement between the Town of Eastchester and the County of Westchester. The terms of the Agreement commence January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020 and provides the town with a higher reimbursement as well as addressing reimbursement for extended delays, and the need for a matron when there are female prisoners.

On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

**D) MEMORANDUM FROM ASSESSOR RE: TAX REFUND APPLICATION - 34 DOWNER AVE**

Per a request from Assessor Todd Huttunen, Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Colavita to approve a 2018/2019 Enhanced STAR refund in the amount of $1,697.94 for property located at 34 Downer Avenue (Section 63.F/Block 3/Lot 65). This refund has been approved by the Westchester County Tax Commission and is due to a clerical error on the 2018 Assessment Roll. An Enhanced STAR Exemption was approved but entered as a Basic STAR Exemption, thereby producing an incorrect 2018/19 School tax bill.

On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

**E) MEMORANDUM FROM ASSESSOR RE: TAX REFUND APPLICATION - 209 GARTH ROAD**

Per a request from Assessor Todd Huttunen, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve a 2019 Veteran’s Exemption refund in the amount of $1,191 for property located at 209 Garth Road (Section 49.A/Block 2/Lot 6.A-006F). This refund has been approved by the Westchester County Tax Commission and is due to a clerical error as a Veteran’s Exemption was approved but then removed therefore producing an incorrect 2019 County and Town tax bill.

On the roll call, all voted “AYE.” Motion carried.

**F) MEMORANDUM FROM ASSESSOR RE: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE/TOWN OF SCARSDALE AND THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER FOR THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW FOR TAX ASSESSMENT GRIEVANCE**
Per a request from Assessor Todd Huttunen, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Bellitto to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Supervisor to execute an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Village of Scarsdale with respect to a Tax Assessment grievance.

Supervisor Colavita explained the purpose of the agreement is to afford a current member of the Board of Assessment Review the opportunity to file a grievance. The matter will be heard by the Village/Town of Scarsdale Board of Assessment Review, at no cost.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - none

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilman Marcoccia announced the Lake Isle Annual Meeting will be held on September 18, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. at Lake Isle, and reported the Club had a "strong year across all segments."

Councilman Bellitto announced The Community Fund speaker’s series; Community Conversations – Supporting Communities in Your Essential Role in Youth Substance Use Prevention. The first in a series of events to be held at the Concordia College Somers Center will feature Dr. Robert Dupont and Dr. Caroline Dupont to discuss the critical role of parents, community leaders, community members and youth themselves in supporting substance use prevention on Tuesday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. Further, Mr. Bellitto reported of the success and growth of the Stronger Together Coalition and the CARE Coalition over the past few months.

Councilman Dooley announced September is Library Card Month at the Eastchester Library. Residents who sign-up for a Library Card will receive a key chain.

Mr. Dooley congratulated the Eastchester Environmental Committee on the success of the 11th Annual Green Day Festival.

Councilwoman Nicholson invited students, ages 12-18, to an Interact Club Meeting on Tuesday, September 24th at 7 pm at the American Legion Hall. The Interact Club, a student organization of the Rotary Club, brings together young people to develop leadership skills and learn about the world through service projects and activities.

Supervisor Colavita announced the Tax Office will offer extended hours to accommodate the collection of the first half of School Taxes on Saturday, September 28th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and on Monday, September 30th from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

In addition, the Supervisor congratulated the Tuckahoe Police Organization on the success of their annual dinner honoring former Tuckahoe Mayor Steve Ecklund, and the Blue Devils Organization for their ‘energetic’ and very well attended opening day at Haindl Field.

X. SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Michael Denning spoke in support of the Prisoner Transport Agreement, assigning Student Resource Officers in our schools and the Police Department’s Child Safety Sear Program.

Michael Denning inquired about the progress of the Community Center Project to which Supervisor Colavita explained the Design Phase is nearly complete and the floor will soon be poured. Once that has been completed the rest of the project should be completed in 5 weeks. Further, Supervisor Colavita confirmed rent payments from the caterer at Lake Isle are up to date.

David Levy inquired about the definition of an ‘unimproved’ lot, according to the Zoning Code, to which Supervisor Colavita explained it is a vacant lot that does not include a structure. In addition, Mr. Levy spoke in support of a renovation to the Highway Yard.

There being no further public business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by;

Linda Laird
Town Clerk